



男なら一國一城の主を
目指さなきゃね

born a man, then aim to be the king

2



Fujimishobo novels
Presented by SANDOGASA

★三度笠
SANDOGASA

✠椎名優
You Shiina

Otoko Nara Ikkokuichijou no Aruji o Mezasa Nakya, ne?

Arc 2

by Sandogasa

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Chapter 55: Chance Meeting

Year 7442, Month 4, Day 14

Everyone started on the trip home this morning. I'm already alone. For the time being I'll hang my sword on my waist and try wandering around Keel for today. Since it's my first time entering the city I'm restlessly looking around showing how far off in the countryside I came from but that can't be helped right? In any case, he said that the inn was already paid for 10 days worth, I'll take my take to look around here and there.

I aimlessly look around the main street. It seems like there's quite a few street stalls. I tried doing some window shopping but it seems they're mainly selling daily necessities so there wasn't anything particularly interesting. Ah, that's right. Since I'm in the city I want to try taking a look at a blacksmith. I wonder if weapons and stuff are left laying around? Or is there something like a weapon shop? Also, if there's something like a magic tool shop I want to try going there.

Come to think of it older brother said that if I'm going to do some shopping that the knight group would introduce me to some places.

If I use the name Greed and then show them my Status then he said they would introduce me to shops that can be trusted wasn't it? It's too troublesome to go to the knight group's guardroom or station or whatever right now. Yeah, then I'll take care of stuff like that tomorrow. I want to slowly enjoy the aroma of the city for at least today.

Even if you say Keel is the city after window shopping at various stalls down the main street it didn't even take 30 minutes. I guess that's only obvious. It's not like there's a town like that even in Japan. After taking a different path and returning back to near the inn I think it was still around 7 in the morning.

Somehow...I imagined it as being more... lots of people wandering around and stalls lined up along the streets with almost no space in between. I guess there's no way that would be the case. I have way too much time to waste, guess I'll

show my face in the knight group and have them introduce me to some shops. If there's any jobs suited for adventurers it might be good to see about having them introduce me to those at the same time.

I return to Bins Manor once and replenish my wallet with 2 gold coins before heading to the knight group. After arriving at the knight group's station this time I was challenged by the soldier that seems to be the guard. I guess the free-pass was because I was with father, I guess it's only obvious they wouldn't remember me after only coming once. I politely give my name, tell them that I'm here to confirm if there's any jobs suitable for a new adventurer and since I don't know the name I say I want to greet the Sendhel the Webdos knight group leader and just in case they confirmed my identity with Status Open. I'm sure they can't let anyone who they don't know the identity of on to the property, so there's not much choice other than quietly obey.

I don't know if it's because of the influence of rubber or my older brother but someone came to call me after about 10 minutes. I was lead by the squire that came to call me into the knight group building. It's the same splendid stone construction as the Bins Mansion that I've been staying at for the past few days. I was brought into a reception room near the entrance and told to wait for a bit so I just quietly wait for a bit. The room is about 8 tatami wide and there's a table and four chairs in the middle.

I can't help but to show off my Salary-man nature so instead of touching the chairs I spend a short while staring at the flag of the Webdos Knight Group on the wall.

After a few minutes knight group leader Sendhel appeared in the room accompanied by a few squires. The female squires seem to have brought tea, after placing it on the table they stepped back.

"It's been a while, Lord Webdos, thank you very much for meeting with me today even though it was so sudden."

"Yeah, since Shani's wedding. Well, take a seat. I've heard about you since the other day. They say you're going to become an adventurer? It can't be helped since you're the second son. Give it your best."

I sit down at the table facing knight group leader Sendhel.

“Yes, and, today along with greetings I came to ask a bit of a favor. You might have already heard but I’m a countryside person who hasn’t left Bakkudo village since the time I was born. So, knowing it’s impolite I decided to endure the embarrassment of asking if you could introduce me to a blacksmith that can be trusted?”

“Yeah, about introducing you to a shop right, I’ve heard. If you have time for today then I’ll have one of the squires show you around but is it convenient?”

“Eh...That certainly would be of great assistance but is it okay?”

I’m sure the squires have jobs and training to do. I don’t want to be a hindrance to that.

“Yeah, I don’t know mind. Since you’re the brother-in-law of Shani after all. You’re almost like a son to me. And as the leader I’m allowed to mix work and private this much.”

Is it that sort of thing? I guess it’s true that it wouldn’t make a huge difference for a new squire that’s not used to things yet. After that we had a conversation about current affairs and the leader told me about some current adventurers he knows as the conversation just kept going but it seems that we’re almost time.

“Then, I have some matters that I have to take care of so I’ll take my leave here. Ah, the jobs suited for adventurers are posted at the reception desk near the gate so it would be good if you try asking there. They aren’t very often but I think there’s about one monster subjugation job per month. I’ll send a squire to accompany you right away so wait in this room until then. Then, give it your best and stay healthy.”

Knight group leader says that while shaking my hand as I thank him and leaves the room. There’s a monster subjugation job once a month huh? In Bakkudo village father would make groups to patrol around defeating monsters every 10 days or so, so there was no need to request subjugation jobs but I heard that was just because father and mother were ex-adventurers and used to fighting monsters.

If I remember correctly sister-in-law was surprised as well that there was almost not damage from monsters even though Bakkudo is such a remote region. I’ve heard that other villages spend a considerably amount of money on

defeating monsters as well. I don't know how much the compensation is but there's over 30 villages and towns in Marquis Webdos territory so I'm sure there's a decent number of villages and towns that can't defeat monsters on their own or even if they could don't want to risk taking any damage to the villagers.

I wait for a few minutes while thinking about things like that and a young female squire about the same age as me enters the room. Since she's about the same age as me I'm sure she's a new squire or a position close to that. It was a bit of a disappointment that it was a young female squire but after introducing ourselves and leading the property of the knight group, I decided to have her show me to a food shop that deals in preserved food. It's a store I'll definitely be in the care of when I go to leave Keel after all. After that I had her bring me to a blacksmith. The blacksmith wasn't in the middle of the town but near the edge a bit of a distance away. I guess they're at the edge away from the center of the town because they're always using fire.

I thought that if it was a blacksmith then they would be "come from any type of metal product" but just as expected from a store introduced by the knight group it felt like there was a wide variety of weapons and armor. There was about 10 swords in stock and there was even armor made of metal. Hohou, so this is the so called split mail. It's my first time seeing it. I tried talking to the blacksmith a bit but this shop didn't have the thing I was looking for and I found out that they don't seem to be able to make it as well so it was a bit disappointing.

It's not like I particularly wanted armor at this point. If anything the things I wanted are more related to daily life. For example thin wire or small springs. Even if I were to try and make something like that in Bakkudo I didn't have the tools and even if I put some effort into making them it takes a tremendous amount of work so I gave up on mass production. I was able to guess that I'd have to start making the tools from the jig but I thought if there was a jig in this shop then I could use it as an example.

However, I found out that these sorts of blacksmiths that produce metal products get small metal parts made by the gold smiths rather than making it themselves. I see, gold smiths huh. Only a bit but I had known there were

craftsman that manufacture gold and silver into accessories but since I've never left Bakkudo and it seems that because I was focused on mass production I was limiting my outlook.

After politely saying thanks to the craftsman I had her show me to the goldsmith this time. The goldsmith's store is located on the main street and it was a place I had glanced at earlier and passed by thinking, "I have no interest in accessories." After entering the store I thought there would be a lot of accessories but the store itself was more like a workshop and there was only a countable number of sample products in the corner. Since I didn't come for accessories they don't matter though I felt like if they had more stuff I'd be able to tell what kind of things they can make, and I'm getting myself disappointed with them already.

The owner of the store is a middle-aged male dwarf just like the blacksmith from before and at first he was making a moody expression but after realizing that we're potential customers he softened his expression and went into business mode. I couldn't help but make an awkward smile at how quickly he changed his expression but I politely ask if he can make wire or springs. I wonder if he can understand my explanation? For example even if I say spring, there's also the type of board spring that is used for crossbows so while he might know but if you don't have the knowledge of coil springs then trying to explain it could be difficult.

Just as expected it seems he didn't know about coil springs so I ended up having to explain compression springs to him where the coils are spread apart at a fixed distance and pulling springs where the coils are completely making contact. However, the response I received was that as long as it's making it using an iron wire when manufacturing it then it should be possible but trying to make it into a coil would be difficult it seems.

The reason is because it's too difficult to try and bend it while heating it. It's only obvious but putting aside metals made through magic, normal iron purified from iron ores eats up a lot of MP when heating it. I was thinking that even without magic he would stick a wire into a furnace and after it was heated wrap it around some kind of circular material but it seems that only the blacksmith has a furnace that can produce such high heats.

Since their primary products are accessories made from gold and silver it's fine as long as they can reach temperatures high enough to melt gold and silver and don't need a furnace that burns that hot. In Keel the blacksmith and goldsmith are separate stores but if you go to the capital then it seems there are blacksmiths where they are integrated into one as well. I guess I should consider it good just that I know that the craftsman could possibly be able to make it. When it comes to coil springs then if you use a large one then it can be used for suspension on a carriage and the smaller they become the applications they can be used increase quite a bit even to things like scales. If I could make something even smaller and more durable then...Yeah, it's fine for now.

I want to try confirming about *Osmunda Japonica** as well but since I would have to try explaining starting from the appearance of it I gave up quickly. I politely say thanks to the craftsman and buy a small polished brooch from 5 silver coins. Since it seems this store is fine and I needed to get change from one of my gold coins so I paid with that. It was a slightly expensive purchase but I intend to give this as thanks to the squire for accompanying me later.

After that we ate lunch at a restaurant the squire suggested where the meals are cheap and pack a lot of food on to the plate then I had her take me to a store where I can buy underwear and clothes. Since I have several pairs of clothes I'm not troubled for them right now but I wanted some underwear and socks. Particularly, I haven't really experienced wearing shoes all that often until now so I didn't have any socks. Though I'm wearing my knit boots, my feet are bare on the soles and I desperately want some socks. The store I was brought to had a decent stock of socks, it seems that there's a considerable demand for socks for the boots they wear in the knight group as well. It's probably the merchant that they use. I immediately purchased 6 pairs, one weeks worth of socks, it was a bit embarrassing but I put them on right away.

It seems that the squire noticed my boots for the first time then and was curiously looking at them. I'm sure that boots that completely use strings that aren't just decorations don't exist. I used plenty of ebonite and hard rubber for the soles and taking into consideration the possibility that the tiptoes could be stepped on I made them ebonite tipped. Since I plastered rubber all over a double-layered pig skin with holes for the strings, they're strong against water

but the ventilation is pretty bad. It would be good if she doesn't realize my feet smell from how stuffy they are. Ah, I'm using healing magic everyday so there's no need to worry about athlete's foot. In order to take into consideration my future growth I made them considerably big and I've wrapped my foot in a worn-out cloth to fit so she was surprised by the difference in size of my feet.

The next place I had her lead me to was the general goods store where they sell a variety of daily necessities. I thought I would try buying something if there was anything convenient that I didn't know about. However, I didn't see anything in particular I wanted and ended up not buying anything in the store. I think it's probably around 2 pm now. Ah, that's right. I want a clock magic tool. Along with the light magic tool I've heard that the clock magic tool is one of the top two cheapest magic tools. Even if I say cheap since it's still a magic tool I'm sure it'll still cost quite a bit but if it's way too expensive then it'll be fine if I just give up on buying one.

I had her lead me there right away but the cheapest of both the light and clock magic tools we're 20 silver coins. The clock magic tool we had at our house was pretty simile and when I used identify on it the value was around 12,000 so they're pretty expensive. It can't be helped, I guess I'll give up. Come to think of it, mother said you can sell magic stones at the magic tool shop. I guess I'll try bringing in several types that have different values tomorrow. I want to know how they measure the value of them as well.

After walking the squire back to the knight group station (It seems that call it the headquarters. I asked if that's the case then are there branches, but there weren't any. What's that?) and as thanks for showing me around various places today I gave her the brood. I say thanks once again to the squire who seems a bit troubled but happy and return to Bins Manor. After leaving the luggage I purchased today in my room I intend to ask the clerk where a bar with cheap alcohol is. My objective isn't alcohol but gathering information. You can't forget. One of my largest objectives in staying in Keel, getting rid of Begulu.

Since the clerk of Bins Manor was out, I tried asking a kid that seemed to be an apprentice what kind of places the ruined adventurers and hoodlums go so I can avoid the dangerous areas, and he told me. There's two bars that in seriously dangerous slum like areas. After that, there's one restaurant. Both of

them are cheap but there's really a lot of hoodlums and it seems you can tell just by looking that it's difficult for a newcomer to enter. Also, in an area that's a bit of distance from the slum there's one bar and restaurant. It seems it's not all that dangerous there and it seems that a lot of the customers are commoners. I guess I'll try going there first. I return to my room for a bit and take the gold coins out of my wallet and make sure there's only 3 silver coins, 2 Silver Shu, and some copper coins in it. I'll be holding roughly 40,000 yen. I'm sure if I have this much then there's no problem with ordering some food and drink.

.....

Just as I was taught there was a restaurant already open along the bank of the central river. It's a restaurant with an atmosphere like those in Southeast Asia though. The front is wide and there's tables both inside and outside, it has a mixed feel to it but just from looking from a distance the customers don't seem all that rough. Yeah, the name matches as well, it might be good to hang around in here for a while today.

After passing by the sign that had "Binsil's Food & Alcohol" in patchwork I sit in an open seat. I look around inside the restaurant but there's no menu written anywhere. I thought these sorts of places would be like the pubs in Japan with a menu stuck to the wall.

Even though it's still only about 4 pm it seems like half of the seats in the restaurant are filled. It doesn't seem like there's any customers covered in dirt from farm work so I guess it's restricted to the townspeople inside of the town. I'm sure the farmers are all doing work in the fields until close to when it gets dark and since it would take time to walk through the city I guess it's only obvious they wouldn't eat out at a place like this.

After I take a seat a courteous old lady cheerfully came to take my order. After asking what kind of things they have in addition to the usual brewed alcohol of beer, ale, and wine, they also have distilled alcohol like wheat vodka. Since I'm not here to get drunk I order a beer and ask what kind of things they have to eat and she says that they'll make anything I ask for. She said that the ingredients they've got today are two types of fish, pig meat, and several types of vegetables.

I tried asking for pork and vegetables and boiled fish.

Boiled fish is a big hint as to what kind of taste a restaurant has to offer after all. Even in my past life I liked boiled fish. When I was young I thought it was a boring food but after I passed 40 years old it suddenly started to taste good. Putting aside sugar, I didn't think I would ever be able to eat it again in Orth where there's no soy sauce or sake so I'm moved. My beer and meat and vegetable stir-fry came out quickly. It seems that you pay in this restaurant when the food comes out. I pay a few copper coins just as the old lady asked and get right to picking away at the stir-fry and washing it down with beer while listening to the conversations of the surrounding customers.

I don't know if it's because the time is bad but the only customers are normal people talking about vague topics. I hope my boiled fish comes soon. I throw some food in my mouth with my hand and wash it down with some lukewarm beer while waiting in anticipation and a customer entered the restaurant. It's a man with black hair and black eyes similar to me. I guess he's about the same age as me as well but the young man entered the restaurant and after sitting in an open seat told the old lady "the usual". I wonder if he's a regular? After losing to the temptation to identify him I ended up using it.

【Kroft.Baladik/11/6/7440 Kroft.Baladik/13/4/7429】

【Male/14/2/7428 • Human • Kingdom of Rombert Marquis Webdos Territory Registered Free Person】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 14 Years Old】

【Level: 4】

【HP: 70(70) MP: 12(12)】

【Strength: 10】

【Speed: 13】

【Dexterity: 10】

【Endurance: 10】

【Unique Ability: Charm (Lv.3)】

【Special Ability: Small Magic】

【Experience: 13827(18000)】

His level is just a bit higher than average for his age. However, all of his physical abilities like strength considerably stronger than his level. And above all 【Unique Ability: Charm (Lv.3)】!? Is this guy a reincarnated person the same as me!?

I guess he realized that I was staring in his direction, or a little bit off (the identify window), in surprise, he started looking over here as well. After exchanging stares for a bit we both look away. Even though I came here to gather preliminary information about Begulu but I feel like I've caught a completely different bastard. I timidly return to looking at him and he also returned his sights to me.

No wait, since he's entering a restaurant like this while his appearance is pretty worn-out it's still well within the range of normal and not as unclean as the hoodlums I imagined but this is a restaurant that I heard ruined adventurers come to. In the worst case, I don't think I would lose if it comes to a fight but it's possible he could have other troublesome allies. For the time being I'll try opening the sub-window of the Unique Ability which I've never heard of.

【Unique Ability: Charm; Ability to charm the opposite sex of the same race as the user. It is common for the one that has become the target of the Charm to good favor like sexual love towards the user. The duration of the effect is the level of the ability to the power of 2 number of days. It's possible to use Charm again during the duration of the effect. In that case, the continuing time of the duration is invalidated and it isn't added to the new duration of the Charm used. Also, it's possible to use Charm on another target when someone is already under the effect of it. If the target completely enters an area where mana is neutralized or invalidated the remaining duration of Charm will be canceled out. Even after the duration of the Charm completes the target will still retain the memories and feelings of the time during the duration. Furthermore, in order to exercise Charm on the target the user must be within 1 cm of the target, make sure the target's attention is on the user, and the user must appeal to the target in a language that the target understands. Simultaneously it is necessary to specify the use of the ability in thought. The

effect the Charm has on the mental state and it's depth depends on the content of the appeal used when exercising Charm. The target that is captured in the effect of this ability will not be able to recognize that their mentality is under the effect of some sort of magic influence.】

What in the world is this? It's an amazing~ Unique Ability but I don't really get where you would use it. It's a relief for now that it doesn't seem like it would have any effect on me though. Ah, it's probably convenient if you were trying to gather information or just simply trying to hit on someone I guess. It's an extremely enviable ability as a man but it's close to harmless. And even though the level of his ability has gone up, it's not at a very high level, I guess he hasn't really abused it very often? I can understand that he at least has enough cautiousness to restrain himself when testing it out. After further opening the window which shows the experience points for it, it's at 74(80), it seems he's used it over 70 times though.

Though we're both glancing at each other back and forth, nothing decisive happens, and we didn't even speak to each other. And when the boiled fish was carried out I was even more surprised.

“Sorry for the wait.”

The waitress who said that while bringing out my boiled fish had black hair and black eyes. Again! This waitress wasn't here until now. Was she in the back of the restaurant?

“Y..Yeah.. Thanks. How much is it?”

“1400 zenì.”

I somehow was able to reply and take the plate of boiled fish. The boiled fish is considerably expensive. I pay in silver Shu. And after the waitress started at my face for a bit she went over to the guy with black hair and talked about something while glancing at me. Hey, where's my change? Since that guy seems to be a regular it makes sense that they're acquaintances. I forget to identify the waitress and poke at my boiled fish with my finger while drinking beer but I couldn't calm down. I guess it's only obvious but the boiled fish wasn't like the ones in Japan with sake and soy sauce but western style where it was made with salt and some kind of bouillon used as stock for flavor. However, I wonder

what this stock is? There's no way there's seaweed or katsuobushi in Keel but somehow it reminds me of Japan.

Suddenly I realize that the waitress is approaching me. I was too focused on the boiled fish that I didn't realize the waitress got up from the table with the man.

What is it? Ah, change. It would be nice if we could talk a bit though.

"Here's your change."

After saying that she puts 11 copper coins next to my food in front of me. And gently takes out some chopsticks. After putting the change away and receiving the chopsticks I poke at the boiled fish.

Chopsticks? Chopsticks!?

I was about to let it float by for a moment there but after realizing it I looked up at the waitress. I might have been staring with my eyes wide open.

"Thanks."

I reply with that in Japanese and,

"You're welcome."

Just as expected a response comes in Japanese.

"I want to talk a bit but do you have time?"

I try asking.

"Would you switch your seat over to the one over there? I want to open up the table."

The table that the waitress designated was the one that man was sitting at. If I remember right it said Baladik. Since she's telling me to sit with him each though more than half of the seats are available I guess she's saying OK.

"Sure."

After saying that I pick up my beer and plate with a bit of stir-fry remaining and the waitress brought the boiled fish and chopsticks for me.

I sit across from the man and think about what to talk about while going to

drink my beer quickly realized it was almost empty and it suddenly feels awkward.

“Is beer okay?”

The waitress probably realized my cup is almost empty.

“Y..Yeah, I’ll take some more.”

After losing my cup right away she took it and left the seat. The guy I’m seating at the table with just keeps looking over here and isn’t saying anything. It can’t be helped, I guess I’ll start talking here. Thinking that I went to open my mouth but the guy started to talk to me.

“What’s your name?”

“Eh? Ah, Alan Greed.”

He nods at my words and,

“So that one comes first huh, I’m Kojima Masashi, over here it’s Kroft Baladik.”

Ah, that sort of meaning.

“Ah, sorry about that. I’m Kawasaki Takeo.”

“So you were Japanese after all. It’s better not to carelessly talk in Japanese. There’s no one around here that understands it but since there’s no one smart enough to speak foreign languages you might thought strangely of. If there’s less people then it’s fine though.”

I see.

“Here’s your order. It’s 200 zeni.”

The waitress brought out my beer. There’s 3 cups. One is mine but after that I guess these two will drink as well. In other words this waitress is a reincarnated as well. I’ll try identifying her later.

“Mary, he’s Alan Greed supposedly. We’ve already finished introductions.”

Kroft Baladik says to the waitress who is sitting next to him.

“Oh, is that so? I’m Sutou Yayoi. In Orth my name is Marissa Binsil.”

“I’m Kawasaki Takeo. Over here I go by Alan Greed. Al is fine.”

“I see, then it’s fine to call me Kuro.”

“I’m fine as Mary as well.”

We introduce ourselves to each other. Now then, since we’ve finished the first meeting ceremony, if possible I’d like to have a conversation where I understand their personalities but I should start with information gathering first. I guess I’ll see how they move.

“Then, Al. I’ve never seen you in Keel but did you come to Keel with a caravan or something?”

“I was born in a remote village in the Marquis territory. This is my first time leaving the village. Obviously, it’s my first time in Keel.”

I want to hold back on exposing as much of my information as possible. I don’t want to lie but I still don’t know what kind of people they are.

“The same as me. I was born in Bafuku village. I came to Keel two years ago.”

“I was born and raised here. I’m the daughter of this restaurant after all.”

I see, after all there’s no reincarnated people in the same area.

“Ah, sorry, I forgot to mention but my village is Bakkudo village.”

“Bakkudo...I feel like I’ve heard of it somewhere..Ah! The one who made rubber was you?”

“That’s right. Since there was unexpectedly rubber trees near the village.”

“I’m using the sandals.”

“He~ Thanks for the business there.”

The conversation between Mary and I gets started.

“It seems like you’re profiting quite a bit. I can tell from your appearance. Those clothes look pretty expensive after all.”

Kuro says while looking at me like he’s evaluating me. While they’re worn-out it seems like you’re properly washing your clothes as well right?

“I received a bit of money when I left the house after all. I got new ones after

arriving in Keel.”

“Left your house...I doubt it’s running away from home but what do you mean? Did you have some sort of job in Keel?”

Kuro asks curiously.

“No, I have an older brother and older sister. Since my older brother is married and children were born he’s inheriting the household. That’s why I thought the hindrance of a second son should aim to become an adventurer so I received some money and left the house. My older sister left the house about three years ago too.”

After I responded like that the two of them exchanged glances and started laughing. I wonder if I said something strange? Is it strange to become an adventurer? No, father and mother were both adventurers after all and even when I said I would become an adventurer for a while they weren’t opposed to it at all. Older brother and sister-in-law weren’t opposed to it either. I wonder what’s so strange?

“..Did I say something strange? I don’t really get why you’re laughing.”

“A? Ah, no sorry. For the most part I’m also technically an adventurer. Right, Mary?”

“Yeah, I guess so...But..pu..A, I’m sorry, I guess all men aim to be adventurers? I didn’t have any interest in stuff like that so I’ve never even thought of it though.”

After all it seems that they were laughing at the “aiming to become an adventurer” part. Even though the knight group leader and squire that accompanied me today didn’t even react when I said I was aiming to be an adventurer, their reaction is way too different. I’ve suddenly started to worry about it.

“I just came out of the countryside and I don’t really know, so I can’t say much but my parents were former adventurers. Today, when I met the leader of the Webdos knight group and I said was aiming to be an adventurer“Wa??!? You met the knight leader..”

Why are they snapping at that bit so much?

“..Yeah, that’s right. Until 3–4 years ago my older brother was in the Webdos knight group. He met the daughter of the knight group leader then and after retiring married her.”

“Ah, I think I’ve heard about that. Since she’s the daughter of the knight leader that means she’s the grand daughter of the Marquis right? And your older brother was in the knight group...are you a noble?”

It somehow seems they hate nobles.

“If you say nobles, then I guess you can’t say I’m not a noble but my household was a Viscount, which is the lowest rank of noble, and I was the second son so it’s not like I inherited anything, it’s the same as a commoner? My house was pretty old and damaged in various places, since we didn’t have enough rooms I ended up sleeping on a dirt floor in a storage closet.”

It would be good if it sounds a bit like a story of my hardships.

“The dirt floor of a storage closet, that’s even worse than me. Even in my house we had a floor..Ah, I was originally part of the serf standing but it seems Al has gone through quite a bit of hardship as well.”

No, it wasn’t miserable at all. I was able to properly eat every day and I’ve never been troubled over something to wear. I’m sure my living situation wasn’t as bad as Kuro is thinking. However, there’s no need to resolve the misunderstanding, if they pity me for my living situation then that’s fine.

“Well, I don’t think I went through that much trouble myself.”

“I see, no, you’re serious about aiming to become an adventurer huh.. I ended up hitting a setback with it after all.. It’s not as if I can’t teach you about various things, but it’s not like I’ve ever precisely done a job perfectly myself...”

“I’m sorry for laughing. But, Al, as a warning from me I think you should abandon your dream of becoming an adventurer and just work normally. Only a small handful of people succeed at it and they’re all strong.... or rather they all have a power strong enough to defeat monsters. It seems that you have confidence but honestly speaking, I wouldn’t suggest it.”

It seems that while Kuro is progressively supporting it he’s pretty much in a position of letting me do as I please and Mary says that it’d be better to just

take up an occupation. I guess they won't so easily become my allies. Since reincarnated people's abilities increase three times that of the average person on level up I think we're pretty suited to becoming adventurers though. After saying "Don't reincarnated people get all sorts of bonuses when they level up?" their response was, "That might be true but the only thing we have that levels up is our Unique Abilities and since we can't use magic it's no joke facing monsters." Even if it comes to fighting monsters if you select your opponent then I don't think it's all that difficult. Ah, that's right, I'll try identifying Mary.

【Marissa.Binsil/24/6/7429】

【Female/14/2/7428・Human・Kingdom of Rombert Marquis Webdos Territory Registered Free Person】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 14 Years Old】

【Level: 3】

【HP: 65(65) MP: 16(16)】

【Strength: 8】

【Speed: 13】

【Dexterity: 11】

【Endurance: 10】

【Unique Ability: Resistance(Poison) Lv.8】

【Special Ability: Small Magic】

【Experience: 7082(10000)】

Somehow it seems both of them are pretty salty. No, I guess I'm just the strange one. However, Mary's Unique Ability sure is high. I wonder how she polished her resistance to poison? After confirming in the sub-window it seems that the experience is already close to MAX.

"A, that's right. It's a bit difficult to talk about but if you know I'd like you to tell me. In this town...I guess so, I think there's something like a boss of an illegal organization, but do you know of a guy named Begulu?"

“If it’s Begulu then he’s famous around these areas. I guess if you were to put in Japanese terms it would be, “rampaging group or punk, or the head of the Yakuza, well, the leader of a DQN group so to speak”. Just, it seems that he’s reasonably intelligent as well.. Al, you, do you want to enter Begulu’s organization? If that’s the case then don’t get involved with us anymore.”

“That’s right. I’m sorry but could you please leave..”

Kuro put emphasis on it with a bit of Japanese. I guess he couldn’t think of a word to compare it to or rather he probably just doesn’t want anyone hear the content of what he was saying, I guess. It seems that neither of them wants to get involved with Begulu. I see now.

“No, sorry for letting you misunderstand. Rest easy since I have no intention of that. I just heard a few rumors about him and thought I didn’t want to get near the territory of a guy like that.”

After that we continued talking about vague things as time passed. Since I realized that they were avoiding topics reincarnated people would wonder about like Unique Abilities I was careful not to touch on there. Probably, unless I become intimate with these two I won’t be able to have an honest conversation with them. I would be troubled over how to explain my Unique Abilities as well, it’s better to have some time to think. I ate and drank an adequate amount as time passed by. It seems that Kuro has a break from his job today but he’ll be leaving Keel for a job tomorrow and the after that. When I asked Mary if I could come again tomorrow she said it was OK so I think I’ll use this restaurant as a base for a while as I gather information.

.....

After returning to the Bins Manor the clerk said there was a message for me. It seems to be something they were entrusted with and wanted to hand to me sometime after the evening of today.

It’s not like I have any acquaintances in Keel. I wonder what in the world it is and ask who requested it and it was older brother. What is it~ Seriously~ Wouldn’t it have been fine for him to just give it to me in person~ However, while I’m wondering what it is and I receive the goods I felt like I was about to fall over. It was 10 packs of rubber products with 10 in each pack. After that

there was a memo list with what appears to be various stores names, there's a couple of words written on the thing enclosed. Older brother....

...Seriously thank you very much.

Chapter 56: Where's Begulu?

Year 7442, Month 4, Day 15

After returning to my room while preciously holding the gift from older brother I touch the light magic tool and turn it on. I quickly organize all of the luggage on the bed that I purchased today, take off my shoes and lay down on the bed. There's no where on the walls where the plaster is peeling and there's a board on the roof as well so putting aside the retro feel it's an extremely comfortable hotel. It's worth the cost of 50 copper coins per night. Though I say that it's limited to just what I know about Orth so far.

While enjoying the luxury of having a hotel room all to myself I think about the two I just met today. One is male and says he's a failed adventurer. Judging on the reaction when I mentioned the name Begulu he might have some sort of connection to him. No, I don't know that for sure. However, it seems they knew a reasonable amount about Begulu. Whether or not Begulu knows about him or not I still can't decide.

The other one is a female and she says she was born and raised in the restaurant and bar of this town and just like that started working there. It seems that she knew about Begulu as well but how much she knows about him or what their relationship is I can't determine just the same as the guy. However, both of them refused getting involved with anything related to Begulu. And it was a refusal that seemed to be based in fear. Was Begulu someone who is that feared in this area?

7 years and a bit ago or rather 8 years ago is fine, I killed a person for the first time. The spy adventurer that came to receive information from Myun. If I remember correctly he said, "Boss Begulu". A man who's the same age as my father using the term "Boss" allows me to imagine what Begulu would be like.

1. His age should be at least in his late 20s (I think most likely much older) 2. Gender is male.

3. He's normally in Keel.

4. He doesn't normally appear on the surface and only when there's a job related to spying does he directly appear where the subordinates are and give orders based on the content.

Going off of this info I thought he would be a man in his 30-40s, maybe even 50s, that normally has an honest business or front that he wears a mask or using illegal methods he's integrated into the underworld of Keel. To the point where I was thinking that Begulu could even be a fake name he uses only for jobs. Since he's acting as the manager of spies I made mental image of him as being a vigilant and prudent person who is very crafting in how he conducts himself. That's why at first I thought the reaction of those two was a bit unexpected.

I couldn't imagine at all that Begulu is boldly showing himself on a normal basis and is the leader of an organization of hoodlums. That's why thinking it was impossible on purpose and tried asking about it but both them knew about the existence of the man named Begulu and furthermore say he's famous among the lower social caste in Keel. It could be possible there's two Begulus and the manager of the spies is using the name of the famous one in order to avoid attention.

Since the famous Begulu seems to be feared by everyone I'm sure he stands out quite a bit and has garnered quite a bit of attention. If he was captured or some kind of investigation was performed I'm sure that information would travel around quickly. There's a high probability the information that he's being investigated for being a spy could even start to spread. It's even possible that could be a safety method for the real Begulu to protect himself.

In that case it's hard to lay a hand on the famous one. In other words after all it's probably better to follow the connection starting from the contact agent that was temporarily hired by that construction company. Honestly speaking, I was resolved to talk to that contact from the start so I already had returning to Doritt in my calculations. Since it's about 100 km one-way to Dorrit, putting aside a normal horse, I'm sure the war horse older brother used has a lot more stamina and endurance and has been trained so it should take around 1.5 to 2 days I guess. I'll stay at the inn for the time it's been paid for then depart after

that. Eh? Even if I depart tomorrow I'll just end up overtaking father and the others.

It's not like it's tremendously urgent as well, it should be fine if I don't hurry that much.

.....

The next morning after waking up before sunrise I put on my protectors and leave the inn to go running. It's also because I want to quickly get used to my protectors and boots that I made a big larger than my size, it's best to keep my stamina in as top shape as possible as well.

As the sun rises I'm satisfied with my training after running for a total of 2 hours. It seems I'm being looked at as strange for running with my protectors on but it can't be helped worrying about the looks of strangers. It seems that the morning sun has already risen and since I haven't eaten breakfast at the usual time I'm hungry. Returning to Bins Manor to take my protectors off is a pain so I'll go to eat breakfast just like this.

I head to Binsil's restaurant while cooling down. Since I'm wearing my protectors today I probably seem imposing but it can't be helped. I call Mary and along with ordering a breakfast set I bring her to a table outside saying I want to talk for a bit.

"What...is with that outfit? How amazing. You're almost like a knight."

"Yeah, it's protectors I made with rubber. It's like armor. More importantly, there was something I wanted to confirm so let me talk for a bit."

"I don't really mind though. What is it?"

I guess it's because my protectors is unusual she's touching the shoulder and forearm guards checking the texture. Please do, with that sort of feeling I take off the forearm and place it in front of her.

"What's your age? I'm 59 years old this year. Honestly speaking, I'm a bit envious of Kuro and your relationship. After talking to you guys yesterday I knew it but you two aren't bad people... No, I think I was able to confirm that you haven't been completely taken in by the common sense of the lower caste of Orth or rather of a large city like Keel. I felt like there was still a portion that

was Japanese that remained and I almost felt like crying several times.”

“I’m 53 years old. Right, we were happy we met another Japanese as well. You said you’re envious of us but we both are envious of you as well. Unlike you we haven’t been able to make any sort of influence on Orth. Particularly me, I never thought of trying to make something that everyone would find convenient to use... Though, both Kuro and I feel like we’ve been giving it our somewhat best. But, we didn’t succeed like you. Kuro is acting like he doesn’t care but even like that it seems he put a considerable amount of effort into things in his village way back. Everything failed though it seems. And then when he first came to this city he started to go down the wrong path. Now he’s working his hardest though.”

She continues talking while tampering with my new forearm guard.

“Yeah, we’re both a considerable age. Also, in regards to rubber I think I just had good luck though... ‘I’m going to talk in Japanese from here on out. I’m going to ask you outright but would you tell me anything you know about Begulu? Honestly speaking, I can’t believe the stuff I heard from Kuro yesterday. Ah, no, I don’t think that Kuro was lying but the impression I got from him about Begulu was far too different from how I imagined.’”

“Why do you want to know about Begulu? I think it’s better if you don’t get involved with him. He’s the leader of the gangs around here.”

After raising her eyes from the forearm guard she stares at me while asking. Since I’m scooping up oatmeal with the spoon if you stare at me that much it’s difficult to eat.

“My benefactor is troubled by that Begulu guy. After gathering information from various places I found out that Begulu seems to be giving information to the Kingdom of Devas. In other words, something like a spy. It’s not like I particularly have any great attachment to the Kingdom of Rombert so that doesn’t matter at all.

However, all of the circumstances surrounding that and the conjectures I made based on information I had gathered until now was completely unexpected for the type of person Begulu is that I heard from you two. At first when I asked I tried to make a bluff to get more information but since he was

far too typical of a villain that it was unexpected. And rather than you two not wanting to get involved it sounded more like you're afraid of him. But, I can't overlook the fact that he's troubling my benefactor."

"Can't overlook, huh? Then what do you want to do about it?"

"I want to erase the cause of my benefactors trouble without letting anyone know that I did it."

I return the spoon to the oatmeal while saying it.

"You don't mean like you want to chastise or beat him up right?"

"If I could erase the trouble with that then that would be fine as well. However, it's easy to imagine that things won't go as simple as that."

Mary returns to looking at the forearm guard again while saying.

"I don't mind telling you. But, I probably can't tell you anything more than just rumors that are around the street. It's not like I'm particularly hiding it I just don't know anymore than that. If you're fine with that then I'll tell you, but honestly speaking, I don't think you could manage to do anything about Begulu. He has a lot of allies, or rather subordinates, and if you mess with him in a bad way you'll end up in a bad situation. You might be killed. Even if you say they're failed adventurers it's certain that they're strong. Supposedly he's defeated several orks all on his own and I think he originally had enough ability to make it on the low end as an adventurer."

I can't say anything since I don't know how strong orks are.

"I see, how strong of a monster are orks? Since they aren't in the area around Bakkudo I've never fought them so I don't know. About as strong as a Horned Bear?"

"Eh? There's no way they'd be as strong as a Horned Bear. I don't know because it's not like I've ever fought against monsters either but. If you say Horned Bear it's the strongest monster around this area it seems. It's impossible for a normal adventurer to defeat it and usually the knight group all goes or several of the top class adventurers in Keel go to defeat it. What are you saying? I'm amazed you could say you're going to become an adventurer like that.. Putting aside Horned Bears it seems that Orks are about the same

strength as Hobgoblins. Since they move around in groups of families it seems if you don't have the strength of an adventurer the best you can do is drive them away. It seems they don't come out around Keel though. If you're saying things like that then it's 10 years too early for you to take on Begulu. I won't say anything bad so forget about him."

"What the, just that much huh. Then the subordinates are weaker than that right? As long as I don't take a surprise attack, no, if I can surprise attack them then it seems like there's no problem. I'm not trying to brag but I don't feel like I would lose at all one on one. Or rather, it seems I was deceived by the term failed adventurer. I thought adventurers were way stronger. My parents are ex-adventurers but after all they were considerably strong ones."

Mary looks at me like she's looking at an idiot and opens her mouth.

"You, saying lies that will quickly be exposed, are you making fun of me? Even if you can see Status or use magic in Orth it's reality. Even if you don't lie to put on airs I won't make fun of you so talk about things honestly."

I wasn't putting on airs though... there's no point in trying to insist on it here. In the first place, let alone other people you normally can't even tell your own level, abilities, and HP after all. You can only confirm the level of your Special Skills of just yourself.

"No, sorry, sorry. I thought if I didn't say that much you wouldn't tell me about Begulu. Really, I'm sorry. I apologize. Just like this."

After saying that I put both of my hands on the table and lower my head.

"Wouldn't it have been fine if you had asked with that attitude from the beginning? It's not like I've said I wouldn't tell you after all."

After saying that she fixed her posture.

"It seems that Begulu was an adventurer that drifted along from somewhere in the past. He was doing reasonably well in Keel at first but discord happened with the group he was always working together with. And thanks to that he ended up leaving the group it seems but as expected he couldn't do any decent jobs by himself so he ended up falling to the end. However, his skill is true and since he's strong he quickly was able to become the leader of the other failed

adventurers wandering around this area. After that he started doing whatever bad stuff he wanted. Putting it simply.”

“Why are they ignoring someone like that? Does the Marquis and Knight Group not capture Begulu? They’re doing things like the police right?”

“The same reason as the Yakuza in Japan. They suck up to the knights that are in charge of these areas and give them bribes. I’ve heard that they occasionally offer up some subordinates at sacrifices as well. It doesn’t seem like anyone has directly seen them committing crimes like robbery or murder and they haven’t left any evidence as well. Putting aside bribes, I think the knight group can’t arrest him because there’s probably no evidence.”

I see now. It seems he isn’t a complete idiot. Though it’s still strange that a small-time villain like this would be the manager of spies after all. As expected I feel like he’s different from the Begulu that I’m searching for. But, it’s still too soon to decide for sure. Mary continues to say as I’m nodding to myself.

“In any case, if you defy him you’ll be unable to properly do business and Kuro used to be together with Begulu but it was difficult for him to leave the group... It was really difficult..That’s about all that I know.”

I’m sure that Mary knows what kind of treatment he received when he left Begulu’s organization. She’s grasping her fist while looking down.

“I see, I won’t ask what kind of things happened. That would be better to ask Kuro about. I still haven’t confirmed it so I can’t say for sure but I’m praying that villain Begulu isn’t the Begulu I’m searching for.”

“Listen to the rest from Kuro. I think he’ll return tomorrow night and he’ll definitely come to this restaurant when he returns. I think it’ll be past 5 pm in the afternoon.”

I scoop up the oatmeal that’s cooled down considerably and say thanks for taking up her time, then returned to Bins Manor. I take off my protectors go to the well near the stable behind the inn and pretend to start pouring water on myself while using Shower to refresh myself and return to the room.

It’s still the morning after all and it seems that Kuro won’t return until tomorrow night. I wonder what I should do.

.....

I'm heading towards the knight group to confirm if there's any jobs for adventurers. After confirming if there's any jobs in the shed near the gate and currently there were no jobs. I try asking the servant or official in charge of the reception desk how the job system works. Fundamentally the jobs that the Webdos knight group receives are the leftovers from the government office it seems. In the Marquis territory if you want to request a job of adventurers then you fundamentally request the job at the government office it seems. Among those it seems that the majority of them are subjugation type jobs but the jobs that seem difficult end up being turned over to the knight group. It seems that they post the jobs in the knight group for 2–3 weeks but if there's no adventurers who take the job then instead the knight group finishes it.

I see, in the case of subjugation, if you think that you don't have enough skill to take care of it then most people won't accept it. Although, just because of that doesn't mean they can ignore the problem so after it exceeds the limit the knight group takes care of it huh.

Then it seems likely that there's a variety of jobs if I go to the government office instead. I say thanks for teaching me and head towards the government office.

I didn't know where I could confirm the jobs at the government office so I grabbed someone that seemed to be a staff member and asked them. And it was good that they kindly showed me the way but it seems that they always disclose jobs in the afternoon. It seems that all of the jobs are disclosed on a large board with the job details. Since they're writing the details on the board in the morning they might only do reception for it in the afternoon. It doesn't matter though.

There's a number written on the board for each job and if you tell that number to the official standing near the board then you can accept that job. On that occasion your Status is checked and your name is recorded. Simultaneously you're issued a note and you take that note with you to meet the one who posted the job it seems.

The compensation is paid directly from the one who requested the job when

the job is completed, and there's cases where a certain portion of it is paid in advanced, it varies heavily on the situation but you always return here when you complete the job and return the note you received at the start. It seems that only after you've done that is the job treated as completely done. It seems that they're imposing taxes on the one who requests the job based on if the note is returned and the job is completed.

If the note never returns then the job is seen as incomplete and the reputation of the adventurer who accepted it gets worse. Also, since the government office is unable to take taxes from the one who requested the job they don't want to offer jobs to people like that, seems to be the case. If you return the note without completing the job then it'll definitely be exposed when they request the taxes so the result is the same.

Just like this they are weeded out and I'm sure the ones known as failed adventurers occur. I see now. Incidentally, that income tax is applied to the adventurer as well. They become like someone running their own business it seems. That's double taxation. In the first place the one who requests the job is paying a special tax, I was about to rage over the clear case of double taxation.

Nevertheless, it seems that taxes are only taken on commoners. As long as the adventurer that is a noble isn't the family head them self or own any territory then they aren't charged any income tax. Since they're paying a 60% tax on the head of the household. Free People pay a per head tax to the territory that they're registered in so they don't pay income tax as adventurers as well. Since slaves can't maintain their lifestyles all on their own in the first place, slaves can't take jobs on their own, and since their owner is seen as the one paying the tax just the same as others they don't pay taxes. It probably ends up coming down to them taking the job along with their owner.

Since it seemed like commoners had quite the disadvantage there I tried asking about it but it seems that the moment a commoner leaves their household they're seen as a household all on their own and thus have an income tax of 10%. It's not 60% because they don't own any land and it's not agriculture, it's taxed as business it seems. I guess it's fine about the special privilege of nobles. It's easy to imagine just from the fact that they're nobles that there are some special privileges and since I'm the one receiving the

benefit from it, I have no complaints at all. Free Peoples are only allowed to act freely within the territory and they're paying a per head tax so it's not like they're paying no tax at all so this is fine as well. And unlike commoners and nobles they aren't allowed to own land in different territories so it seems they can't do farm work.

The reason why only commoner adventurers have an income tax is because of slaves. The amount of per head tax that commoners and nobles pay per slave is 1–2 silver coins a year so it's an amount that can be ignored. However, when it comes to Free People this isn't the case. Free People aren't prohibited from owning slaves but when a Free Person owns a slave of all things the per head tax is the same as the Free Person, 1 gold coin per year. That's why regardless of whether they're an adventurer or not it's probably fine to think that there's no Free People who own slaves.

Unless there's some reason why a certain number of people is specified for a job for adventurers it doesn't matter how many people you accept it with. If you take it alone then you can monopolize the reward and if there's two people then you can split it evenly or based on skill or how much work was done. However, what about commoners and nobles that own slaves? If there's a difficult job that definitely can't be achieved alone then they can accept it using slave power. Obviously they can monopolize the reward.

If I were to use one example then let's say there's a job to guard a caravan. The condition for accepting it is 6 people and each one gets a reward of 10 silver coins. If it's a normal Free Person adventurer then they have to gather 6 people and the reward will be 10 silver coins per person. In comparison if the slave adventurer that has 5 people is a commoner then they can take all 60 of those and then pay a 10% tax of 6 leaving them with 54 silver coins. As long as they can buy equipment and food for their slaves enough to maintain their stamina then you could say it's considerably tasty. Even food as long as you don't make it luxurious you can get it considerably cheap so as long as you can do something about the initial investment of buying slaves and their equipment then you could say there's few problems.

I didn't hear all of the details but the adventurer who returned back to Bakkudo, Desdan might have brought back several slaves with him when he

returned. Ah, the reason why father gave me a lot of money might have had the meaning of buying slaves huh? But, wait a minute. If I remember correctly I thought my parents were adventurers with just the two of them. I haven't heard that there were slaves with them.

Since I was able to confirm the posting place there's no other choice than to kill some time until the afternoon.

.....

I guess I'll randomly wander around as I walk around Keel. I think it's probably still around 10 am so I have plenty of time. Come to think of it, it might not be half bad to try visiting the store that was listed on the memo from older brother. But it's a pain to return to Bins Manor so I'll put it off for today.

Chapter 57: Information

Year 7442, Month 4, Day 15

Having nothing to do puts a surprising amount of mental pressure on you. Up until now I've had sword and magic training and the development and production of rubber products so I've never even thought of having time to spare. I can't swing the sword around in the middle of the town and I can't carelessly use magic either. I can't do anything about rubber products since I don't have the raw materials. Since I have a considerable amount of money I guess I could go enjoy myself somewhere but in the first place I don't even know what to do to start enjoying myself. I feel like going to the store that older brother suggested to me in the middle of the day, rather before noon like this and forming the bond of true brothers is somehow different as well. There's probably no discounts for early morning and the daytime.

It can't be helped so I enter the first eatery I find and somehow pass the time sipping at bean tea until noon then go to the government office. I go to where I just heard the bulletin board should be but let alone the bulletin there's no one there. I guess I was a bit early? When I'm standing around there bored I think it's the receptionist in charge of taking jobs but two of them bring out a wooden stand. After placing the stand down the two of them go off somewhere and bring out another stand sort of thing again. I wonder if this is a stand to put the job board on? If it's a wooden board that can fit on this sort of stand then it should be about 3

m wide.

I don't know how high it will be but I can only hope there's a considerable number of jobs. After a while the two from just now return carrying a board. So that's the job bulletin board? While waiting for them to set it up I excitedly approach the bulletin board.

There's several jobs written on the bulletin board. It seems they're done by directly writing with charcoal or something on the board.

2/10/39 Employment Viscount Dangut Territory Defense Piecework Some Travel
22/2/40 Employment Viscount Betts Territory Defense Piecework Some Travel
25/1/42 Gathering Byorg 100,000 Young Dalgil Fruit 10kg

11/2/42 Escort Viscount Rushmore 1,000,000 43 Send/Return Baarag to Keel
by 1/7/42

20/2/42 Gathering Byorg 120,000 Bakklai Leaves 500 count

10442 Escort Mins Company 400,000 /2 Belus Roundtrip by 20442

13442 Delivery Zulaid Metal-smith 80,000 3kg sword to Bessh in 15

14442 Escort Mal Company 200,000 /2 Bendol Roundtrip by 24442

14442 Delivery Zulaid Metal-smith 100,000 3kg sword to Doritt in 20

14442 Escort Webdos Company 5,500,000 /10 Rombertia Roundtrip by 24442

There seems to be a lot of abbreviations. I don't want to understand so I should probably confirm what the abbreviations mean with the official. Since I'm the only one here right now it's not like I'd be a hindrance for their job.

There fundamentally wasn't anything difficult with it. For the sake of my own review I'll explain them in order. The numbers on the left edge of each job is the day the government office accepted was requested the job. Next is a simple explanation of the job content. After that is the name of who requested it. The next number after that is the compensation paid on job completion and the amount is in (Z) zeni. After that differs depending on the job.

The first two jobs are special cases and it seems they're contracts for a certain period of time. The content of the job is patrolling and defense of the territory.

In other words it kind of like the patrol the squires did in Bakkudo village but it's necessary to confirm the content of the job directly with the requester. After having the official explain it to me it seems that the Some Travel portion is suspicious. I somehow understand that the reward will increase or decrease based on the number of monsters defeated but it seems that the majority of the people who make the requests have a certain threshold and if you don't defeat a certain amount of monsters a reward of zero is even possible. That's why the jobs been ignored for several years since it was accepted.

In other words the real jobs are starting from the second one. The content of the job is gathering. Byorg is the name of a doctor that lives in Keel so it's probably gathering the materials for some medicine. Dalgil produce fruit in the fall. Around this period it would be after all of the fruit have fallen and there's probably still not flowers. Though 10 silver coins (100,000 zeni) for 10kg is a good deal you can't accept it even if you want to.

The fourth one is Escort. The requester is Viscount Rushmore of Baalag Village and since it says Send/Return Baalag you have to go to Baalag village and then escort Viscount Rushmore them self or whoever they designate to Keel. Then return them back to Baalag village again. It seems that the number on the far right edge is the day they want to depart Baalag village. In other words you have to get to Baalag village by this day. I skipped over it a bit but there's two numbers written after the compensation. The number on the left means that's the minimum number of people the requester thinks is necessary. The number on the right is the number of people still required. In other words the total compensation of this job is 1 gold coin (1,000,000 zeni) but in order to have enough guards you need four people and there's already one applied for it, so there's still three people that can receive it.

Skipping over the fifth one to the sixth one. You already know right? It's a job from Mins Company and you have to escort round-trip to Belus village. The reward is 40 silver coins (400,000 zeni). However, you need more than 2 people in order to accept it.

The seventh one is carrying luggage. Zulaid Metal-smith is the blacksmith that makes all of the equipment for the knight group that I went to yesterday. For a reward of 8 silver coins (80,000 zeni) you have to deliver a sword to Bessh village. The weight is 3kg. When you deliver it you have to return with the payment for the sword. Also you have to return within 15 days of accepting the sword to deliver. If it exceeds that then you become a criminal. Delivery fraud huh?

There's no need for explanation for the ones past the eighth right? You already know. Now then, among these a job that I can receive is...and there is one. Right, the ninth one I skipped explaining. It's a delivery but the destination is Doritt. The reward is 10 silver coins (100,000 zeni). It's fine as long as I return

within 20 days of accepting the job. Since I have a war horse if I hurry I should be able to do it in 4 or 5 days I'm sure. I should have plenty of time to achieve my objective over there as well.

Alright, I'll try accepting this. I go to the official and say that I want to accept the ninth job. And then the official hands me a wooden tag and asks my name.

After replying with my name they quickly recorded the information written on my Status Open. It seems that this is all you need to accept a job. A line was immediately put through the ninth job. I guess this is the symbol that a job has already been taken. I was instructed to go and meet the person in charge at Zulaid Metal-smith within one week (six days).

When I looked at the tag I noticed a weird symbol was written and it seems that's the tally. I guess this is proof that the one who accepted the job is an Adventurer (Handyman). I put the tag into my pocket and as I was about to return I heard several voices talking as they approached. It seems a group of adventurers has come to confirm the jobs. I guess I'll take a look at them for a bit.

"Oh, five jobs were added and...one was taken huh?"

"Since we just returned can we rest for a bit?"

"I'm hungry~ I wanted to come after eating first."

"There's a fixed trip to Rombertia, isn't this fine?"

"Ah, that sounds good~ All thanks to rubber right. 500,000 in two months is delicious right?"

"There's no point in choosing right?"

"Hey, the price is going up. And it's 10 people this time."

"It's good we weren't beaten to it this time."

"Ha~ Five carriages huh? Webdos Company sure is making a profit~"

"It was worth coming here in a hurry. Then, I guess the rubber escort is fine right?"

It seems to be a group of six. They're noisily quarreling but it seems they're

going to accept the most expensive escort job to Rombertia. By the way, that rubber, I made it~ When I tried identifying them they were all Free People and over level 10, the leader looking guy in his mid-30s was at level 14. Amazing~ So that's a real adventurer huh. I'm sure they've left their heavy luggage and armor at the inn. They're all wearing light outfits of pants and shirts and some of them aren't even armed. A number of them are wearing rubber sandals. Ah, those sandals as well, in fact I made them~

Since I was even able to see real adventurers, my business here has ended. I guess I'll return to the inn one. Zulaid Metal-smith? I won't go until the last minute.

My inn has already been paid for after all.

.....

I stopped by the clothes shop when I was returning to the inn and bought some wrinkled long cuff pants and a worn-out shirt. After wearing the pants long enough to hide my boots and changing shirts I put my sword on my waist. And without taking along my wallet I put two silver Shu and 10 copper coins in my bare pants pocket before preparations to depart are complete. It looks extremely unnatural because I don't have a scabbard for my sword but I've hidden it by wrapping the blade with a leather string. It's {OK} as long as I look like a poor failed adventurer so this is fine.

I head out to the bar in the slums that the apprentice told me about yesterday. I want to collect information about the famous Begulu (he's fine as Begulu A).

Honestly speaking, if this Begulu A is also the same person as my objective Begulu B then it would be convenient for me. Since I can just use magic to take him out when he's in a place with no people around.

Just, since I don't know the face of Begulu A I'm going to have enter the bar for a while and just keep identifying the names of every one who enters while gathering information on Begulu A. I'm not taking into consideration the possibility that Begulu A is using a fake name. Since he's a failed adventurer his real name should be exposed through Status Open.

Alright, I'll head out.

I'm not dirty but with an appropriately seedy appearance I curl up my back and start walking. Hmhn, with this no matter how you look at it I look like a failed adventurer. In order to make it seem like I came from a different town when no one is watching I should roll around in the dirt on the road a bit I guess. Since this area is still the area of living for the upper layer of people there's not very many people walking around so I should do it right away.

I enter a path that it doesn't seem like anyone would enter and roll around. And around my thigh I felt a disgusting sensation and a disgusting smell. This smell is...the smell of shit.. it seems I crushed the shit in the middle of the path by rolling around. It stinks~ I guess the surface was dried because I couldn't smell it until I crushed it or my nose has broken because of the smell of sewage from all over the place, whenever I roll around in the middle of the streets from now on I'll need to be careful. I might do it again tomorrow after all. I quickly try to wash it off with water magic but it didn't completely come off. I tried to hide it by drying it after but I wonder if this is okay? Well it's fine.

Really though, don't take a shit in the middle of the street. Since Keel is clean town where there's a lot of sewage streams made that flow into the large river that flows through the center. Not to mention this is the area where the reasonably rich people live as well. God said that the culture level was up to the 15th century of Earth but isn't the toilets around here at the lowest 7th century level? It doesn't really matter much at this point but still. What's unpleasant is unpleasant.

After preparing myself again I head towards the bar in the slums. This time I really started curving my back while restlessly looking around. After all, I don't want people to think I stink. I can see a bar close to the corner of a crossroad. I wonder if this is the place? It seems that this place has several tables sticking outside just like Binsil's restaurant. If I look at the customers all of them look similar and are unclean, it feels a bit dirty as well. There was a small table on the border of the outside so I sit there and shortly an unsociable middle aged man came to take my order. I asked for beer and some cooked beans. It seems he didn't notice the smell of shit coming from my thighs, or he realized and ignored it.

The beer was 70 Z and the cooked beans were 30 Z for a total of 1 copper coin

= 100 yen, idiotically cheap. However, the beer doesn't just have some remaining sourness to it but it's considerably cheap, and the cooked beans were boiled too long so the majority of them didn't even retain their shape, and frankly put not good at all.

I start drinking with a grim face as I observe the store. I grab some of the strongly salted beans while washing them down with sour beer and start identifying all of the people in the store one at a time. All of their levels are low and let alone a unique ability there's not even a single person with the special skill magic.

At best there's a couple of non-humans who have their characteristic special skills.

I sit back on the crude wooden train just like the other customers while spending my time identifying. I endured drinking this cup of beer while listening to the conversations of the customers for 30 minutes but I didn't hear anything in particular about Begulu. As I was preparing my resolve to stick around until night I asked for an additional order of beer from the unsocial middle aged man and he said "use at least 300 Z per hour" as returned 3 large Shizu in change. I see, it's not just cheap it has that sort of system.

I added a couple of additional orders and entered into the posture to persevere for a while and then a new group of customers came in. The group this time all had swords and spreads. They weren't wearing anything like armor but their clothes aren't any different than the rest of the customers. I wonder if these guys are the so-called failed adventurers? It's a group of seven so I start identifying them one at a time but there's no one that seems like Begulu and their levels are only 4 -

6, nothing significant. Since the highest level guy is 25 years old I'm sure their skill is really not much at all. Since they're all making sour faces I'm sure they don't have much money as well.

However, I'm sure there's a possibility that if they're failed adventurers they might have some information about Begulu. I decide to concentrate on just them while listening in.

"This beer is disgusting as usual."

“Don’t say that, we’re not making anything after all~”

“The jobs that come from above are all just stingy transportation jobs after all, I want to make it big here pretty soon~”

Above? Someone above them I guess? I wonder if it’s some sort of organization?

“It sucks that we can’t take on proper jobs right~?”

“Ha...you reap what you sow there”

“That’s true though~ The looks of those officials at the government office gradually get openly worse. I don’t feel like going anymore~”

“The one who fails jobs countless times is the problem.”

“It’s not like you can take on jobs anymore because you’ve failed so many as well~ Don’t say it so arrogantly~”

“If I hadn’t teamed up with someone like you then even I would have been able to manage one or two escort jobs~”

“Stop it, you guys. It’s boring even if you fight.”

“I sometimes think I’m going to return to my village already.”

“If you open your legs~ you can earn something right? Ah, with that ugly face I guess it’s impossible huh. Kehheee~”

“What was that? You just did me last year after you were infected with crabs didn’t you! It was terrible after that.”

“That was a~ moment of stupidity. As long as I have money there’s no way I’d touch you.”

I reflexively tried identifying the two of them but both of their conditions were Good. I guess since parasites are different than diseases they aren’t shown in Identify or because they’re already finished removing them, I wonder which? I have a feeling it’s probably the ladder but I have no way of being sure on it.

“Aaahh~ Isn’t there some kind of big chance laying around?”

“No way, like there’d be somethin like that.”

“But you know~ We can’t keep up like this forever right~?”

“...Yeah, that’s right. If I had 4 — 5 gold coins...No, 2 — 3 would be fine, I’m sure I could make some kind of business~”

“Yeah, really though. But business is impossible for you right? Since you’re an idiot.”

Since they’re all having such an idiotic conversation I’d say both are bob. Hm, after all it seems like it’d be okay to think of these guys as the base level of failed adventurers.

“But ya’ kno~ Wer still several levels better than Azzas and dos guys that cudn’t pay properly pay taxes, got thrown our of Keel and hav ha to camp for several years. It’s them right, that attacked some caravan last month and was chased off by the guards?”

“Ah, I’ve heard about that as well. Azzas face looks good but he has no brains, and since he’s weak.”

“I’m sure if Jild hadn’t grouped up with Azzas he wouldn’t have died~”

“Trash groups up with trash~ How many are in their group now? If there’s too many of them a subjugation job will appear, gyahaha.”

“I think it was 4 or 5 of them? They can’t even attack a small single carriage caravan~ Since there’s at least 2 guards. If one of them gets done in then there’s no next time after all.”

“Then why did they attack a caravan?”

“Well Azzas is an idiot after all. Most likely he tried taking one out with a surprise attack even though if that fails there’s no other choice than run~ That’s the limit of Azzas idiocy right.”

“Even though it’s better to think that if they’re a proper guard they can use magic, it’s because idiots all think using themselves as the standard~”

Ah, I’ll order one more cup of ale.

“Come to think of it, what was it, that brat?”

“Like we’d know with just that”

“That one that did it well, the guy who got hired by Mizbel Company.”

“Ah, Kuro huh?”

What? The chair creaks.

“Playboy Kuro huh. We all say that exclusive escorts are just small groups but you know. He did it well right~ In reality, even if the pay for a single time is cheap I’m jealous he always has a job available to him~”

“Yeah, everyone says he’s a failure as an adventurer but, that’s just everyone jealous of him~ Really, I’m envious.”

“I thought he had seduced the old woman of Mizbel Company but I guess it’s different. A while back I saw him getting yelled at.”

“He~ I could have sworn he had seduced the old lady. Even for him I thought his interests were too bad~”

“Only his interest in women was good after all. It’s no surprise he would just ignore Jelil.”

“What was that? I would refuse that myself. The black hair and eyes are creepy.”

I’m the same, sorry about that, you ugly bitch.

“Recently ya know~ He seems to be infatuated with that pretty daughter of Binsil. That’s a good woman right~”

“Binsil huh~ So the great exclusive escort-sama can enter a store as expensive as that~”

There’s no way Binsil is expensive.

“Hmph, that woman is black hair and black eyes right? Don’t they suit each other being creepy.”

“She ain’t that creepy right? Well she has no luck being targeted by Kruo though. Isn’t she going to have money sucked out of her like all of his women until now?”

“I wonder about that? She’s not falling into his lap like they usually do it seems~”

“He has enough fixed income to go to Binsil’s restaurant and he’s seducing that beauty, really I’m envious~”

It seems that Kuro has going through some trouble. It’s a pun though. But, he, managed to escape from here it seems.

“Speaking of Kruo, he left Boss Begulu’s place right?”

Oh..

“That’s right. It seems he was burnt quite a bit. According to the story I heard his body is messed up pretty bad~”

“What’s that?”

“That’s why when he left the Boss’ place, that, what was it again, he was done in by the magician at the Boss place.”

“Eh? It’s my first time hearing that~ What was done to him?”

“It seems he was burnt with {Flamethrower}~”

“Eeh...Are you serious?”

Eeh..Are you serious.

“And? And?”

“Obviously it’s a huge burn. Supposedly he has a huge burn mark from his back to his stomach. As a bonus it seems Begulu’s name was carved into his back with a sword. Well, several days after that he crawled into and had healing magic used on it so it seems the sword wound was fixed though. But it seems that the burn marks are amazin~ Remember, when I screwed up and broke my arm, I heard from the healer that time.”

“The burn didn’t recover?”

“It was supposedly too late. Since he quickly was able to use magic on it he was able to recover without a trace but. Supposedly the longer the time passes the more of the wound or burn can’t be fixed.”

I know that. I had a scar remaining on my leg when I scratched after being bitten by a mosquito until it bled. I never thought of trying to use magic after being bitten by a mosquito after all. I realized after it started to scab and used

healing magic, the scab immediately came off but the scar remained. After growing up when I started training with healing magic I went all out and tried gouging out that scar with a knife and after using healing magic it completely disappeared.

“He~ then, no woman will go near him because it’s disgusting huh. I guess no matter how much of a playboy Kuro is no woman would have sex with a guy with a body like that.”

“That’s right. Maybe a cheap prostitute.”

“Then, I wonder if that Binsil girl doesn’t know about it?”

“I’m sure, if she knew there’s no way she would pay attention to him.”

It seemed like Mary knew.

“Come to think of it, if we’re talking about Boss Begulu, it seems like he’s trying do some big job wasn’t it?”

“Big job?”

“I don’t know that much, but it was going to earn a lot right?”

“I guess that’s true. But ya know, if he’s gonna profit I’d like to get on it too, right~?”

“Right, but, I’m afraid to go to Janlud’s shop. That place is dangerous. Since I’m a weak girl I might suddenly get attacked.”

“Not happening~ Are you sayin that knowing your face, retard.”

“Anisa, you’re saying that but the other night ‘Shut the hell up~’”

It seems that Janlud’s store is Begulu’s base. It’s the other bar that I heard was dangerous that’s further in the slum’s center than here. What the, I heard good information from the first day. Then, I guess I’ll head home soon. I’ll show my face at Mary’s place. I guess I’ll head out when I finish off my food.

“But ya know, I wonder what in the world that big job is?”

“No idea. Is he going to attack a caravan or something with all his followers?”

“Unless they manage to kill everyone it’ll get exposed and they’ll be on the course to being in the care of the knight group. I wonder if the Boss would do

somethin like that?”

“If they can kill everyone then there’s no way to tell who did it so it’s possible.”

“Since there’s close to 20 people~ Last year the one who attacked Gelufn’s caravan was the Boss right? Can’t he manage it if he tries?”

“Hey, don’t go running your mouth. If someone from Boss’ place hears ya, yer... this.”

It seems that after all Begulu A is a pretty bad person. When I stood up from my seat and went to leave the store, I was told by the ugly bitch.

“What the, I thought something stinks~ but it was you~ Don’t go leaking shit you, poor ass~”

“Ey, Sorya abou’ tha, sis. But, I din’ leak it~ So forgive me~”

Damn it, but just as I thought I still stink.

“Shut up~ Don’t talk to me virgin brat.”

Viviivii...I’m not a virgin! Ah, no, I’m a virgin in Orth aren’t I?

“Hey now, don’t pick fights over stupid shit. Sorry about that bro.”

“It’s no prob, then, lyl be headin out now..”

I try to use the tone of a small fry as best as I can imagine while leaving the store but somehow it pisses me off. I can hear them saying, “That guy’s black hair as well, that shit bastard is the same as Kuro with black hair right?” “Hey Jelil, you’re saying black hair, black hair an awful lot but unexpectedly you were after Kuro weren’t you?” “Ah~? When did I try to get Kuro’s attention?” “Haven’t you been talking about him since earlier.”

Jelil huh? I’ll remember you. Ugly bitch.

.....

Since the smell was bothering me I didn’t go to Binsil’s restaurant. I’ll hurry back and wash my pants.

When I returned to the Bins Manor the clerk made a disgusted face.

I washed my pants near the well in the back while half-crying.

Since no one was looking I tried washing them with a hot water shower but the smell got even worse so I ended up throwing away my newly purchased pants. It pissed me off so I burnt them all at once.

Trash must be sterilized.

I'm already sick of everything, I don't want to go anywhere else today.

Chapter 58: Invitation

Year 7442, Month 4, Day 16

Now then, it's a different day, I'll change my feelings and head out. First I need to get some new pants. After that I'll go to Janlud's shop that Begulu A is using as base and gather information for breakfast. I've heard it's dangerous and that they'll pick a fight with me or all sorts of troublesome things but for the time being I still haven't done anything for Begulu A to think of me as an enemy so if I go in the same poor person appearance as yesterday I doubt it'll be very dangerous.

Even if they do pick a fight with me I can use that as a leverage point to bite into him. It's fine if I discipline anyone not related to Begulu A, and if they are related to him then I might be able to make contact. Since I have magic even if it becomes a slightly bad situation I should be able to cut my way out, I think...

I'm a bit too easy-going. According to the conversation I heard yesterday there's a magician on Begulu A's side as well. If it were a matter of persistence then it'd be no problem but if I take a surprise attack, it could be bad. Since it's my first time, I guess it would be safer to stop at just taking a look. It's probably best not to overestimate my power too much.

If I look at the results of Identify then it's true I'm strong because my level is high. However, this is limited to "for a 14 year old". I'm sure there's adventurers and failed adventurers the same level as me and I'm about the same or a bit behind them. It's amazing that a 14 year old brat can match up with a 30

year old adventurer but putting aside sword technique, mana amount, and magic if it just comes down to the power of my body I'm at the same level as a normal adventurer or a bit weaker. I've only ever done Judo or those sorts of hand-to-hand combat in the far past when I was in the self-defense force after all, it's no good to get self-conceited. It's better to think that I have no advantages.

After preparing my resolve once again, I change after buying some more pants and then head towards Janlud's shop. The normally clean scenery of Keel gradually becomes worn-out and filthy. There's still uneven portions of the ground remaining along with sludge and mud, trash that you can't tell what it was is laying around along with an increase in the number of dirty human and non-human vagrants sitting and laying around (to be more accurate there shouldn't be vagrants around so they're probably the super lower earners|). If you were to ask then the majority of them are either extremely young or old. I guess people of a good age to work don't have that much trouble finding it. Since children younger than five and elders over 50 are exempt from taxes it seems to be mostly those ages.

I walk while making sure to step on the decent areas in order to prevent my boots from getting dirty and enter Janlud's shop calmly as if "I've come to eat breakfast". While this shop is facing the road there weren't any tables outside. Although, since the road is cramped there just might not be enough room to put tables outside. It was surprisingly wide inside of the shop and there were 12 tables. The entrance facing the road was open and if you go further in from the left of the entrance it's the kitchen.

I sit down at a seat close to the entrance and immediately start identifying the customers. I guess it's only obvious but because it's still early morning there's not that many failed adventurers or yakuza-like hoodlums yet. I order the breakfast set of black bread and soup for 50Z and slowly started eating. I dip the black bread that's as hard as a rock into the lightly salty soup with almost no vegetables and slowly eat the soup while sipping it. Yeah, it's bad. Even if it absorbs the soup the black bread isn't getting very soft, and the soup itself has almost no stock used so it's just like lightly salted hot water.

I'm aware of the fact that I'm gradually making a bitter expression as I continue a useless fight with the hard bread and soup and somehow manage to finish eating.

Hmn, since sunlight is valuable in Orth, fundamentally people wake up with the sunrise and start activity and go to bed with the sunset, and since my habits are pretty much the same I wonder if I misunderstood? Since light magic tools are pretty common in a city the size of Keel, it's possible there's a lot of stores

open at night.

We had a lighting magic tool in my house as well. However, since it uses magic stones, we almost never used it and whenever we absolutely needed light at night we just used the type of lamp that burns tallow. Since magic stones are a source of income after all. In the 14 years since I reincarnated the only times I've stayed up late when I'm going to hunt at night and for that I just went to sleep right away then wake up once in the middle of the night, exhaust my mana and then sleep until morning again. That's why I thought it was good that it was pretty healthy for that portion but it might be good to give up on sleeping more than 10 hours a day as an adventurer.

Since that's all settled I'll head to the magic tool shop and check the retail and selling prices of magic stones and if necessary ask the way to manufacture them as well. Putting aside a clock it might be a good idea to purchase a lighting magic tool. I leave Janlud's shop that I went to the trouble of going to and return to Bins Manor. After changing in to high-quality clothes I head to the magic tool shop.

.....

I enter the magic tool shop that I was brought to by the squire the other day. It says "Magic Tool 7-9 Shop" on the doorplate. As I identify the value of the magic stones decorated along the counters in the store the prices are roughly nine times the value listed using Identify.

Since I brought along several types of magic stones I immediately ask the store clerk to buy them and the middle-aged master of the store brought something out from the back. It seems like a scale. It seems he prepared a lighting magic tool as well. I wonder what in the world he's going to do with those? When I'm curiously watching he sets the magic stones I brought in into the lightning magic tool and lights it up one after another. What meaning is there in this? I was thinking that so I tried asking and it seems he has to be cautious of fakes being brought in so in order to prove they're real magic stones he tests them out.

It seems this lightning magic tool for the sake of testing is special and the place which is like a battery box in the stand of it is larger than normal so any

size of magic stone can fit, also it was adjusted so the sensitivity of it is kind of bad as well it seems.

After testing all of the magic stones to see that they lit up this time he places them on the scale. The scale is a balance scale the type where you place a magic stone on one side and a weight on the other side. It seems that the weight is precisely different proportion of the amount of mana packed into the magic stone. Even if they're the same size if one has a lot of mana in it then the weight will increase and if it's low then the weight will decrease. Even if the size of magic stones that have completely exhausted their mana are different they all weigh the same it seems.

The sizes vary heavily from ones as small as the nail of the little finger on an adults hand and the big ones up to the size of a child's fist, but if you keep using the mana in them they all end up the same weight in the end. It seems that this is the same even if you fuse several magic stones into one. How mysterious. Also it seems that the maximum amount of mana they can have depends on the size of them, the larger one is the more its maximum mana amount is and the smaller the size the lower the maximum amount of mana.

Since you can measure the amount of mana based on the weight, if you subtract the weight of a magic stone that's exhausted it's mana from the weight of a magic stone that still has mana then while there's a bit of measurement error you can almost precisely guess the amount of mana in the magic stone. That becomes the value of the magic stone. So the reason why the sensitivity on the testing lightning magic tool is intentionally made bad is this. He was making sure that the magic stone didn't have anything stuck to it or was covered in dirt to falsify the weight.

However, it's not like they can make perfectly accurate weights in Orth so I still feel like you could fake it if you tried. Though I do think they are weights made as accurately as possible. I guess he realized that I was staring at his hands so seriously that he made a bitter smile and said to me.

"It's fine, I won't fake the weight. Since faking the weight of magic stones is a felony on the level of murder after all."

I see, I guess it's fine to relax a bit. I was able to sell the magic stones at

roughly seven times the Identify value. The ones lined up in the shop are roughly nine times. The total profits are about 22% huh. I guess that's about right. Ah, buy at 70% and sell at 90%. I guess that's why it's the 7–9 shop.

.....

I started running again until close to lunch and head to Janlud's shop again. It feels disgusting but I intentionally didn't take a shower. I smell like sweat but I figured it would raise the reality. It should dry by the time I get to Janlud's shop so it's not like I'm entering soaking wet, it should be fine. I walk down the road of the slum in a seedy outfit.

It seems that Janlud's shop is open for business the same as this morning and I order a beer and some cooked beans as I sit at the same table as this morning. I slouch over while looking around the shop with just my eyes and the customers are different from this morning, the number of hoodlums of both genders has increased.

I wonder if these guys are Begulu's subordinates? I start Identifying them from the seat nearest to me and check their name and abilities one after another. Every single one of them resembles the guys from yesterday and their levels aren't very high and they don't have any special skills.

And then he was there. In the back of the store sitting the two of them were sitting at a table drinking something while talking to each other.

【Begulu · Godbitt 147/7423 Begulu · Godbitt 259/7402】

【Male/11/3/7401·Human· Kingdom of Rombert Marquis Webdos Territory Registered Free Person】

【Condition: Good】

【Age: 41 Years Old】

【Level: 14】

【HP: 112(112) MP: 9(9)】

【Strength: 20】

【Agility: 15】

【Dexterity: 22】

【Endurance: 19】

【Special skill: Small Magic】

【Experience: 379214 (450000)】

【Zakkwaiz · Begulu 611/7426 Zakkwaiz · Begulu 55/7403】

【Male/19/3/7402·Human· Kingdom of Rombert Marquis Webdos Territory
Registered Free Person】

【Condition: Good】

【Age: 40 Years Old】

【Level: 11】

【HP: 93(93) MP: 32(32)】

【Strength: 14】

【Agility: 14】

【Dexterity: 22】

【Endurance: 13】

【Special skill: Water Magic (Lv.4)】

【Special Skill: Wind Magic (Lv.4)】

【Special skill: Void Magic (Lv.5)】

【Experience: 201825 (210000)】

Don't fuck with me. Aren't they both Begulu? Going off their levels and age the one who can't use magic seems to be the boss. I properly engrave both of their faces into my heart. Hmn, I think there's no mistake that guy is Begulu A, but which is Begulu B? Or is there someone else as well? Hmm, this is troubling. They're both past 40

years old, and let alone adults they were past 20 years old in the year 7426 when Myun said she came to Bakkudo so it's not unnatural.

I intended to kill Begulu B so that's fine but it's not like I have any sort of

grudge against Begulu A. At most how he lynched Kuro for leaving the group? It seems he's doing bad things in various places as well but it's not like I'm a police officer. It's true it pisses me off that he's causing trouble for Japanese the same as me but I feel like it's misplaced for me to get revenge for just that.

Even when I tried opening their names up in a sub-window there was nothing at all related to the Kingdom of Devas or the Sagual family. At most that they were Free People who were born in a different territory of the Kingdom of Rombert. The one that can't use magic was born in Viscount Penlaid's territory and the one that can use magic was born in Count Farlelgaz's territory.

It's close to being a situation where my hands are tied. It seems it would be faster to just go to Doritt and tie up that contact agent. I guess I'll just be satisfied that I was able to confirm their faces for today. I guess I'll head out.

.....

That night I departed to Binsil's restaurant. Obviously I changed. I took a shower as well. I wonder if Kuro is already here? Ah, that's right, tomorrow is Kuro's day off. If I want to have a complicated conversation then we need a place we can talk without reservation. If it's after noon then Mary should have some time as well. Three days ago that restaurant I went with father and the others the day before they departed should be good. It had private rooms after all.

I enter the restaurant and make a reservation for a private room for tomorrow afternoon. Since the clerk remembered my face I had no problem making the reservation.

After arriving at Binsil's restaurant, Kuro was already there. He's taken position in the corner quietly eating and drinking again. Since the restaurant is reasonably packed I guess Mary must be busy. I sit across from Kuro and call out to him.

"Yo."

"Ah, Al huh. What's up?"

Kuro looks at me with a calm face.

"I heard you have a day off tomorrow. Do you have time in the afternoon?"

“Yeah, I’m open. Is coming here fine?”

He said with a curious face. That’s right isn’t it. If I have something to talk about then I should just do it now. Though you know, since I don’t want anyone to hear it, I want to talk in Japanese.

“No, I reserved a restaurant. I wanted to talk in {Japanese} after all. If possible it’s better if Mary can come along as well.”

“Hmn? But I don’t have the money for too expensive of a place.”

It seems he’s worried about the fact that I reserved a place.

“You don’t need to worry about that. Think of it was my treat. Let’s meet at the restaurant tomorrow at 2pm or so. It’s a restaurant with the name “Dakkuluton”. Do you know it?”

“! How would I not know of it, it’s a super high-class restaurant on the central street! Is it okay?”

Eh? Is that so? Since it’s the restaurant I had my final meal with father and the others before separating, it has private rooms, and it was good so I chose it though. I wonder if it was a bad idea? Well, I’m sure I can pay for it, I guess it’s fine.

“Yeah, I don’t mind. Since we managed to meet in Orth I’m sure it’s some kind of fate. I want to have a bit of complicated conversation as well, let me treat you the first time at least.”

“I see, I’ve never been to “Dakkuluton”. I wonder if it would be better to skip lunch tomorrow?”

This guy is adorable. I knew that Mary was around the same age as me when I talked to her but Kuro might be young.

After that I talked about Kuro’s escort job and the delivery job I accepted yesterday, and some random conversation before I returned to Bins Manor. It seems that Mary will come tomorrow as well. She was delighted hearing it was my treat as well but didn’t say anything about skipping lunch before coming.

As expected of an adult I guess.

Chapter 59: Exchanging Information

Year 7442, Month 4, Day 17

When I'm waiting in front of "Dakkuluton" the two of them quickly appeared.

"Yo, Al, thanks for today."

"Really, thanks for the meal."

"Yeah, It's fine. Let's enter?"

While talking we enter the door of the restaurant. Just as expected of a high-class restaurant enough for Kuro to be surprised, even though it's already afternoon they don't leave the door open. After opening the heavy Oak door and there's a carpet right away, the restaurant is lit up by lighting magic tools. The brightness isn't set very high but rather a refined slightly dim light. After telling the clerk at the counter near the entrance that I have a reservation and the young 20

something clerk said courteously.

"Customer, the clothing that they are wearing is, um.."

Kuro and Mary's facial expressions change. My expression changes as well. Ah, it's true that while Mary and Kuro's appearance isn't unclean, but they're clothes are ONLY not dirty. The frayed sleeves stand out, the collar of the shirt is stretched out. Even the cuffs are like the head of a worn-out mop. Mary is using rubber sandals and Kuro isn't even wearing anything. He's barefoot. I guess it can't helped being that it was mentioned.

However, there was a dress code? I didn't know. It's true there's character to a restaurant, and clothes that match the place are necessary. But, I've reserved a private room today. Since we won't be seen by other customers, I wonder if he'll let us go?

"Al, umm...we're fine."

Wait just a second.

“Ah, umm, I’ve reserved a private room so we shouldn’t attract the attention of other customers, is it no good?”

“I’m very sorry, it’s the rules of this establishment, I can’t do anything...”

“Don’t say such stiff things, how about it?”

I put some silver coins into the clerk’s hand. If this doesn’t work then I’ll have to use my heirloom treasure sword, the Marquis Webdos plate I received from sister-in-law. Even in the worst case I don’t want her to know I used it for something as insignificant as this though. However, in any world bribes, no, gratuity works. After the clerk confirms the silver coins I handed him and, “It’s special for just today.”

Said that and let us go. Fu~ Good.

“He says it’s fine. Let’s go.”

I say after looking at the two of them and they followed right after me. We were shown through the store the private room but there wasn’t a single customer at a table in the restaurant. Since it’s not dinner, I guess this is about right for a high-class restaurant. However, the last time I came I was too excited since it was the night before I was on my own, I didn’t pay much attention but it’s really a high-class restaurant. The space between the tables is extremely comfortable and those tables themselves are high-quality goods. Come to think of it both the table and the chairs are made of wooden but the surfaces are properly processed and they’ve been plastered with varnish or something so they shine. There’s no tablecloths that cover the tables but there’s something like a luncheon mat at every table, and unusually there’s knives and forks all present. This is bad~ I should have confirmed the fees.

I’m sure it’ll be fine though.

After entering a private room in the back and the table in the room was large enough for 8 people to comfortably fit and there was something like a decorative plant in the corner of the room, in the middle of the table there was also some flowers. The walls have a white wallpaper like thing just like the halls of the restaurant.

Lighting magic tools are set on the roof of the four corners of the room and

are giving off a soft light. I immediately take a seat and Kuro and Mary line up sitting across from me.

“It seems that for the menu you can only choose today’s course so let’s order drinks. What would be good?”

“Uah~ W..Wi..Is it fine to ask for fine?”

“Really, relax a little bit, I want wine as well.”

“Then, I guess I’ll ask for a bottle of wine to match the course.”

I get up from my seat and ring the small bell on a stool near the entrance. When I came last time I saw them call the bellboy with this.

The boy quickly appeared with a knock so I ordered wine for three that matches the course today. Ah, don’t worry about it, there’s no brands like in modern day Earth. There’s nothing but red, white, and rose. There’s no foaming wine either.

“Thanks for coming today. Now then, before the food comes I want to explain a bit of the reason I asked you to come today. Is it fine?”

Both of them quietly nod.

“No matter what I didn’t want anyone to interfere with the conversation today. That’s why I made it a restaurant with a private room and being cautious just in case I’m going to do the entire conversation in Japanese. You get why right, I want to exchange information about the reincarnation. If there’s some personal circumstances that you don’t want to talk about then I don’t mind.”

The two of them are still paying attention to me. Their faces are considerably serious.

“Then I’ll start things off. Once again my name is Alan Greed. In Japan my name was Kawasaki Takeo. I was 45 years old when I died. I was a Salesperson for a Foodstuff company. I was married but unfortunately I didn’t have any kids. In Orth I was born in Bakkudo village and until the other day I had never left the village. In order to become independent I left the village aiming to be an adventurer, ah, no, I am an adventurer. I think you already know about God, but I met God quite a while ago, when I was still a baby.”

“Eeh..”

“While you were still a baby..”

The two of them are surprised. Well, since you can't meet it unless you manage to level up. Depending on your Unique Ability then it's possible it could take quite a while, and God said that among the reincarnated people I was the third one so I was probably one of the faster ones I'm sure.

“First off, try using Status Open on me.”

I say that and stretch my right hand across the table. Mary and Kuro quickly touched my right hand and said {Status Open}.

“..You've already done, magic training.”

“..Amazing! You can use all types of magic?”

Almost simultaneously they both raise their voices. It seems that even reincarnated people can't see Unique Abilities. Also, level as well. I'm a bit relieved. After all the red character portion can't be seen by anyone but the person them self. With this I can say the things I've been planning to for a while.

“You already know right? My Unique Ability is Magic Acquisition.”

I said a huge lie. However, if we end up working together from here on out the fact that I'm good at magic will quickly be exposed, and anyone with slightly good intuition will quickly realize the fact that I have a lot of mana. Rather it would be more difficult trying to hide my magic. Even if we don't start working together I'm sure the fact that I'm skilled at magic will eventually be exposed, but if I say it like this then it shouldn't cause any damage.

“During the naming ceremony when I learned Status Open I was amazed. After that I quickly started my own method of training magic. My magic special skill leveled up quickly and I was able to meet God.”

Kuro gulps down some saliva. Mary is still surprised it seems.

“Well, since that's the case I'm considerably skilled in regards to magic. I think I should be able to use it as well as any magician.”

At that moment, the door was knocked, and the boy carries in an ice pale with the wine and some water. A different boy brings in the wine glass and a basket

with the tableware. The wine glass is thick glass with a green tint, something which is considerably expensive in Orth. I wait for the boys to return and I take out the wine out from the decanter in the ice pale and pour some wine in everyone's glass, then do a toast. I could have sworn that the wine would come out in a bottle.

"Going back to the conversation. Since that was the case I met God when I was still a baby. I'll talk about the information I was able to confirm at that time.

You're interested right?"

The two of them nod.

"I think I talked about the level up bonus the other day. That time you guys said the only thing that you have that levels up is your Unique Ability right?"

The two of them nod again.

"That's a mistake. According to what I heard there's at least three types of level up. Depending on your way of thinking you could say two as well."

This time the two of them are making a confused face.

"First, you know that there's skills other than Unique Abilities right?"

"Yeah, of course. Small magic and magic right?"

"After that is the skills that non-humans are born with."

It seems that they know, obviously though.

"Among those pretty much the only ones with a level are magic. Since magic is a skill just the same as Unique Abilities you could think of them as the same type, so there's one more type of level. Do you know it?"

The two of them think for a bit but quickly shake their heads.

"For convenience sake I call it the body level. The two of you, at some day, some moment have you ever felt your body suddenly feel lighter?"

"Hmn, I don't know."

"Me too, I don't know."

"I see, but, according to God it exists. It seems that if you gain experience

through jobs, training, practice, and combat this body level goes up. I've experienced my body getting lighter countless times. Since I had heard something like that existed from God I've never skipped out on sword training since I was an infant."

"Body level huh, it's almost like an {RPG}.. Uwa, how many years has it been since I said the words {RPG}..."

"What's an {RPG}?"

"It's an abbreviation for {Role-playing game}. Like Dragon Quest or FF, don't you know? Those."

"Ah, video games huh. I know the name but I've never played them. My son got absorbed into it but, Pokemon I think it was."

"I'm not familiar with them as well but I don't think Kuro's understanding is far off. Since I used to play the Famikon {NES} and those sorts of old ones. And, Kuro, try to remember back to it. There's level ups in those sorts of games right? What happens when you level up?"

When Kuro was talking to Mary he was surprised that I suddenly interrupted but immediately replied.

"Your abilities grow and you get stronger. Depending on the title or what game you're playing you might learn new techniques or incantations but fundamentally you get physically stronger. Strength goes up, speed goes up, and stamina and mana increase..Ah."

"It seems you've realized. That's right. It seems that when you level up it's the same in Orth. However, it seems that it's a very minuscule thing but supposedly we reincarnated people have a higher degree of growth. Though since there's no way to confirm the body level I don't know for sure."

"He~ You heard that from God?"

Mary curiously asks.

"Yeah, that's right. According to God the growth rate of us reincarnated people is three times that of the people of Orth. It seems that this is the level up bonus we get."

While the two of them are quiet I continue talking.

“Just as you know, 39 people died in that accident and reincarnated in Orth. And it seems that in the order we met God I was the third one. Before I met God two other people already had. And God said that one of those had already died by the time I met it. Other than that seven people, in total eight people, were supposedly already died by the time I met God.”

“E..Eight people died while still a baby..”

“Since medicine isn’t developed it’s understandable that a lot of babies die soon but...it’s still terrible.”

The two of them are surprised.

“Yeah, it’s a terrible story. I forget the exact causes of death but starvation, disease, and what was it after that...I forget.”

“That seems possible.”

“Putting aside starvation, disease is possible.”

The two of them are making unusually understanding faces while nodding and Kruo says.

“I’m sure there’s starvation as well. It doesn’t happen very often in the Marquis territory but when I was still a kid I heard that the development of wheat was bad and a lot of people died from starvation in another territory.”

He~ I didn’t know about that.

“Yeah, that sounds possible. It’s just my thinking, but I think that the Marquis territory is considerably blessed. The climate is good and there’s not much trouble with water. Since the area of flatland is considerably high it should be one of the tremendously blessed places in Orth. I don’t know much about other territories so it’s just my image though.”

After I say that Kuro agrees with my opinion.

“I see..Since I’ve always been in Keel I don’t know much about farming villages..”

Mary said.

“And then. In other words that would mean that there’s only 31 Japanese left in Orth for the time being. There might be people who died after I met God as well.. I think it’s possible that there’s a lot less.”

After I said that far, Kuro says.

“Wait just a minute. The two of us have already exchanged information. We knew from that but the amount of time we had to ask questions from God was only one minute.

Al, you, why do you know so much?”

Huh? One minute?

“One minute you say? It was close to 20 minutes for me? It was to the point where it said that the time is decided so in order to not waste any time I should ask things quickly.”

“Eh? You had 20 minutes?”

Mary said surprised. Kuro is looking suspiciously at me. Somehow this is bad, is what I thought but I can’t helping something I’ve already said. Just when I was about to open my mouth there was a knock on the door, after replying the boy carried in the food.

Until the food was finished being carried in and lined up on the table we quietly waited. I effectively use the short time I earned to think but since I had already planned to talk about things truthfully to some extent I should just continue as planned from here. After the boys leave the room I start talking.

“That’s right, I had close to 20 minutes. I don’t know the reason. At first I asked about things related to me or that I can’t return anymore and about my wife that I left behind but since I was afraid of wasting any time I started to gather information. Thanks to that I found out several important pieces of information. Though you might already know.”

“I’m interested in the important information, but Al, sorry I don’t have any guarantee that you’re just trying to deceive us “Kuro, stop doubting him so much. Why don’t we listen to Al’s story first? It’s not like we’ve just lived without thinking about anything until now right? I think it’s better to decide if what we hear is the truth or a lie ourselves.””

“But you know, doesn’t it suck to be tricked? I hate being ticked.”

After all Kuro is a kid. I guess he only sees the surface.

“..What do you want to do? Should I stop?”

“No, please continue. I’m interested.”

“I understand. There’s several things but first off about the culture of this world. I think you already have realized but in Earth it would be about the 7th century to the 15th century, and in terms of AD it would be the era from 600 AD to 1400 AD it seems. Even then the Kingdom of Rombert is considerably high on that ranking in Orth. As far as I know in terms of farm work, fishing, forestry are at best 10–12 century. Manufacturing and production are about the same but these might even be as low as 7–10 century. Though when it comes to just woodwork if you look at this table you’ll know but it might be even further. However, if you look at the stalls in Keel and the service industry might be close to the highest level. The political structure is also pretty high since while it’s feudalistic with noble rankings the bureaucratic mechanisms are done properly. Going off of my feel for it, it might be a bit past the 15th century. Of course, it’s still the 7th century in some weird places. Since I can’t remember much from world history that I learned in the past I can’t say too much. Just think of it as a probably.”

“I guess so. I agree with that.”

Kuro is listening to the conversation while eating the thick soup and soft white breast.

“But, the military level is considerably poor compared to that, I think it’s probably not past 10th century. Since there’s knights and a knight group, if you just look at that then it seems to be 14–15 century or maybe even greater, but I still think it’s about that. I came to this conclusion based on gathering information from various sources along with what I heard from God.”

“From other sources...Ah, since you’re a noble, you might know various things we don’t know.”

“That might be the case. Since my father is a viscount I’ve heard a reasonable

amount about the war with the Kingdom of Devas and since my brother retired from the knight group and returned to the house I've heard various stories. My sister-in-law is the granddaughter of Marquis Webdos as well so I was able to hear some things about the noble rankings that were good references. Well, if there's anything strange then ask as I get there. It's not like I know everything myself."

"I'm envious of guys with such leeway. I had to give it my best just to eat so I didn't have that much free time."

This guy...he's gotten quite rebellious. I wonder if Kuro was born in a rich house in Japan and his friends were like this as well? No, I should stop thinking with prejudices. I'm sure it's just an inferiority complex because he had an unfortunate upbringing. He said he was born as a serf after all.

"Well, don't say things like that. It can't be helped. It's like I'm the one in the wrong. Is it fine if I continue?"

"Yeah, of course. Kuro, stop doing that already."

"After that is, I guess so. The plants and animals. It seems they fundamentally have the same characteristics as Earth. However, there's a lot that's different as well. The distribution is all over the place as well. It's not a plant or animal but no matter how you look at it there was no volcano near my village but there was sulfur. There's also a lot of plants and animals that didn't exist on Earth. It's probably safer to just use the knowledge from Earth as a reference point. If anything I think that the animals have the biggest difference from the ones on Earth. God said that the foundations of evolution are fundamentally different. A good example of this is monsters. They're someone that definitely wasn't on Earth. There's a lot of monsters that come out in legends and myths, literally all over the place. And non-humans as well."

"That's right, I remember being surprised about that as well. Kuro, what about you?"

"I wasn't actually all that surprised..I knew about it from novels and manga after all. And games as well. All of the characters of the monsters that appear are the same as those as well. Non-humans are as well. They were the same. They are slightly different but it's roughly the same as a monster with the same

name coming out in a different game. I thought of it as a difference at that level.”

I see, I’m jealous of that. I was troubled over how many unexpected things there were without that sort of knowledge.

“Next is the dates and seasons. There’s 24 hours in one day. This is supposedly the same as Earth. But, one week is 6 days. One month is 5 weeks and 30 days. One year is 12 months and 360 days. You already know this right?”

“Yeah, though it was mostly just that I thought it was probably 24 hours in 1 day. I know that much.”

“Me too.”

Well, I guess that’s only obvious. It would be inconvenient if you didn’t know.

“After that is magic. For this it would probably be faster to ask how much you guys know first.”

I finally start eating my soup. Just as it looks it’s a soup with a deep flavor. There’s a lot of stock and it’s already at the level of one step before becoming stew. It’s good.

“It’s a special skill where Earth, Fire, Water, Wind, and Void all have levels. Due to something related to mana amount you start training with it once you become an adult and those with talent can use it. It’s said to be roughly one in ten. That’s why magicians aren’t uncommon but in order to use it practically you need at least level 2 and in order to get it that far you have to train a bit. It seems that Free People and commoners with a high skill level of magic become adventurers or enter the army.”

“I see, anything else?”

“If you combine magics you can get effects like in games. There’s also names like, {Flame Arrow} and {Wind Cutter}. Also, there’s a healing type where you speak an incantation to recover injuries. However, they’re all not that much different. In the past I’ve seen {Flame Arrow} used but the speed was about as fast as you can throw a stone, and if you miss that’s it, if it’s an adult then unless it hits a bad spot you can’t defeat them so easily.”

“Yeah, anything else?”

“I guess so, other than that is... I’ve heard that you can control the elements that you’ve made. Not the stuff that already existed but only the stuff that you create.”

“After that is.. there’s various troublesome things if you use magic too much and run out of mana, I guess. I don’t know what happens though. I’ve never seen it after all.”

“I see. It’s somewhat correct until now. However, there’s several things that are incorrect and several things that aren’t sufficient. Things in relation to magic is knowledge that comes from my experience. That’s why it’s probably not perfectly correct but even then I know a lot more than that. Then I’ll tell you the things I know about magic.”

I pick up some of the relishes that came out with the soup. What is this? It’s an unusual flavor but it’s good.

“First off, you said that you have no experience of running out of mana from overusing magic. Is that the case for both of you?”

“Neither of us can use magic. Want to check our Status?”

After saying that Mary stretches out her left hand. Kuro stretched his hand out as well. While stopping that I said.

“Yeah, Status is fine later. I understand, I’ll have to digress a bit but listen to what I say. You guys said you met God when your Unique Ability leveled up right.

I’m the same but at the start when you use your Unique Ability don’t you get tired?”

“I did.”

“That’s right.”

The two of them respond simultaneously.

“When did the two of you meet God?”

“When I was 8 years old.”

Kuro said.

“I think it was when I was 5 or 6 years old.”

Mary said.

“I see, after that have you ever gotten tired or noticed a change in your body from overusing your Unique Ability?”

“Just at first. Since I would immediately start to feel tired or feel hungry I only used it once a day or so.”

“I also started to be careful using it after I noticed that I would get tired from overusing it, so it was just in the period after I first started using my Unique Ability.”

“That’s running out of mana. If you overuse magic you get symptoms similar to that. By the way, as far as I’ve analyzed, when you run out of mana the desire that adapts to the situation you’re in is the one that you become most unable to control. Primarily the three great desires of humans. Hunger, sleep, and sexual desire.

According to what you said since it was when you were still kids first off is the desire to sleep. If it’s when you’re a bit hungry then your appetite will completely come out and you’ll find it difficult to endure. When it comes to your age right now then sexual desire might come out as well.”

Both of them were dumbfounded.

“In other words, the usage of your Unique Ability and mana are in a close relationship. Unique Abilities aren’t magic but they use mana. Since I’ve tested this out quite a bit I’m pretty sure it’s true. For a short while after I use my Unique Ability Magic Acquisition it becomes considerably easy to learn magic. I kept record of the number of times I could use magic without using my Unique Ability at all and after I used my Unique Ability so I had quite a bit of trouble analyzing things.”

After saying that I drink the soup with a indifferent face and eat some of the oeuvres.

Kuro seems to be nodding as he opens his mouth.

“I see. I get it know. My Unique Ability is.. it’s embarrassing but the so-called Charm. I can Charm the opposite sex, Human women. It’s kind of like a love drug. If I use this Unique Ability then for a short while after that I can make the woman’s feelings directed towards me. It’s no good against different races and men it seems. I don’t know for sure since I’ve never tested it though. Ah, of course I’ve never used it on Mary as well. Let alone that, I haven’t used it at all recently.

In order to use Charm there’s some procedures I have to follow but I had God teach me that...aa, I see, God came out that time because my body level had gone up!

Since I was too happy I must not have heard it. Sorry, Al. I doubted you.”

Hmph, so he has enough discretion to recognize his own mistakes and apologize for them.

I felt a bit of admiration. I just nodded as if to say not to worry about it.

Mary was quietly listening to what Kuro said but since it seemed that Kuro reached the end of talking about his Unique Ability, Mary started to talk.

“My Unique Ability is Resistance, there’s Poison in the parentheses. In the past when I was cutting a fish that had poison I stabbed my finger on it’s fin that was the first time I used my Unique Ability. Up until then I didn’t know how to use it. It’s not like I could try drinking poison after all and I couldn’t get my hands on poison. After that I trained it by stabbing my finger with the poison fin. Now it’s level 8 and most poisons don’t work on me.”

She properly looked at my eyes while talking. There’s no poison in the food here so relax. However, Resistance (Poison) is somehow amazing. Since there’s parentheses there might be something other than poison.

“He~ Both of you have amazing abilities. Charm is amazing and resistance to poison is amazing. Well, putting that aside and returning to the conversation on magic and while you can’t confirm it in your Status, mana definitely exists. You’re using that as a fuel to materialize magic. Even if you use up your mana if you eat some food or rest then it’ll recover. Even if you don’t use it all up and a bit is remaining it will slowly recover as well. That’s about it regarding mana.”

At that time, there was another knock and the boy carried in some food. It seems to be some sea food. There's a boiled fish that I've never seen before. It looks delicious.

After the three of us enjoyed the food for a bit, I started talking again.

"There's five types of magic but if you generally classify it then there's three types. Water and earth quite literally create those elements. The amount you can create is based on the level of the magic of those elements. It's also possible to reduce them. If you were to try and make even more of the element then if you put more mana into it, it's possible but it's inefficient. If you just use these two types of magic on their own then you create water or dirt and that's the end. Ah, the water tastes bad but it's safe to drink. I think it's probably pure water. The dirt you can make is a fixed dirt quality as well. I've never tried using it in fields so I don't know what kind of effect it might have. I don't there would be any probably?"

The two of them are focused on me.

"Next is fire and wind. Fire magic level you control the temperature in an area based on the level of your magic. It's possible to raise the temperature and the opposite of lowering it is also possible. I use it in combination with water magic the most. If you use it on its own without thinking then fire comes out. I think it's probably burning some flammable gas in the atmosphere but I don't know for sure. The composition of the air in Orth might be different from the air on Earth."

It seems they were a bit surprised at my guess.

"Wind is also a bit different. If you use on its own then you create air. And quite a bit I think. Even if you inhale this air it's not something bad for you. But, you might hurt your lungs or throat if you use it for breathing for too long. Since it doesn't seem like there would probably be any moisture included in this air.

Wind magic is the same as fire magic in that you use it in combination with other magics a lot."

I guess they've already gotten used to my unexpected story so the two of them are nodding to themselves.

“Lastly is void magic but this is the most important. It’s mostly used to apply some sort of power to the elements you’ve created with elemental magic. Firing off, changing shape, or controlling. It’s also possible to use it on its own. Since it’s the magic you use the most even if it’s a magician that can use several types of elemental magic the level of their void magic is almost always the highest.”

“He~ The magician adventurer that I did jobs with for a bit in the past didn’t teach me that much. By the way, Al, how do you do magic training? There’s a possibility that I could be able to use it as well right?”

Kuro’s eyes are sparkling. It seems that Mary is hoping for it the same as Kuro. I guess that’s only obvious. Since you can’t use magic on Earth. I know those feelings.

“Yeah, I’ll teach you later. It’s nothing particularly hard. Between the method my mother taught me and the normal method, which would be better? The result is probably the same for both. The method my mother taught me is probably more difficult but you might understand the result right away. I think there’s a bit of time required to get used to the normal method.. I guess about one week or so but it’s probably not difficult.”

“Either way is fine. I want to try both methods.”

“Me too.”

The two of them are leaning towards me.

“That’s why I said later. I still have a bit more to talk about in regards to magic. And like I just said, it’s common for magic to be used as a combination of various types of magic. Since the applications are limited with using a single type. For example, using fire and water magic to make ice. I’m sure the ice that’s cooling this wine down was made with ice magic.”

After I say that the two of them were looking at the ice pale. The rough rock ice has already mostly melted. I take the decanter out of the ice pale and put my left hand above it then made a bit of ice. After the palm of my left hand shines with a bit of blue light some rock ice like ice falls into the ice pale and splashes water in it around. I return the decanter to the ice pale before opening my mouth again.

“Just like this you make ice. Just now was an example of using fire and water magic. I didn’t use void magic. If I use the appropriate void magic along with them I can make the ice sharp and shoot it and I can make not just ice but hot water and take a shower as well. Depending on the combinations and your imagination the applicable uses get quite a bit wider.”

After saying that I eat the boiled fish again. This is delicious.

“My story is about that much. After that I want to hear what you guys have to say.”

The two of them exchange glances but Kuro nods and looks at me. It seems that Kuro is going to talk first.

“Just like we said, we only had one minute to ask questions. In my case I was only able to ask how to use my Unique Ability and it ended. It seems to be the same for Mary. Sorry, but I don’t think we have much useful information that we can tell you.”

I somehow had that sort of feeling but it really was just that much. I guess it can’t be helped. If they had some more important information about Orth then I honestly doubt they would be living here like this after all. If you just are aware of the fact that leveling up exists then you definitely know when it happens after that. And after that you should be able to recognize a lot of things. I guess you could say the fact that the two of them are still low level is a valid point itself.

Depending on how they train these two can become much stronger than a normal person. There’s no better person than this for my first comrades. However, since both of them have an occupation and Mary is living with her family. On top of that they both are prejudiced towards adventurers. I wonder how I should go about it.

“I see, don’t worry about it the two of you. I’m not worried about it after all. Well, isn’t it good luck that we were able to get to know other Japanese? It’s valuable to all of us with just that I’m sure.”

There’s another knock and the boy carries in more food. It seems to be a meat dish this time. There’s a mysterious sauce on top of a saute of pork. I’ve stopped using Identify on food so often since I came to Keel. Since the surprise

disappears. I'll use identify after I eat it. Ah, of course if it's obviously rotting or suspicious then I'm obviously still using identify though.

"It helps that you're willing to say that. We don't have much of any information about Orth. That's why about the only things we could tell Al are about the society in Keel or the common sense of a city."

"No, just that is helpful. I'm estranged from those sorts of things. That's why it helps a lot."

Even if the appearance of the two of them is worn-out they skillfully use the knife and fork to cut the pork saute and bring it to their mouths. You can feel that they've lived in modern society from that area.

"Now then, I still have two more things to talk about. First off is regarding adventurers. Do the two of you have any intention of partying up with me as adventurers?"

After looking at the faces of the both of them and they were both looking at me with awkward expressions.

"Al, since I was aiming to be an adventurer in the past and have tried it for a bit so I know, but only a small handful of amazing guys can properly earn as it. I know that you can use magic but I doubt you can match up with monsters. Ah, don't take what I said the wrong way. Since I've seen monsters in the past as well but those are the lukewarm things like in RPGs. They seriously come at you to kill. You have to always take them on with your full ability. If they come at you in succession then you'll eventually run out of mana right? I know several guys who were killed by fighting monsters with that much confidence."

"That's right, and Kuro can use the sword a bit but I can't fight. I haven't used any blades other than a kitchen knife. I have a family and I can't leave alone the restaurant. I said it the other day but there's no way to succeed as an adventurer. It's better to search for a job and live normally."

The two of them say various objections. Yeah, I expected that.

"I already get that it's difficult being an adventurer. I have no intention of forcing you, since I don't have any authority to do so after all. However, I want comrades I can trust. Monsters... Speaking honestly in regards to monsters, I've

fought and defeated every type of monster in the surroundings of my home town. I've killed four Horned Bear up until now. Putting aside Horned Bears, if it's Kobolds, Goblins, Hobgolbins, Brown Slime, Giant Leech, or Green Crocodiles, then at that level even if they come at me in groups of a bit more than ten then I can annihilate them all myself. I have that much experience fighting."

After the two of them made a dumbfounded expression from hearing my story they immediately said, "Don't lie" just like before. It's not like it's necessary for them to believe my achievements just from talking but I decided to keep talking.

"Well putting that aside, even though I've reincarnated, even if the 14 year old I am in orth says that I know it's hard to believe. But, that I really want allies, particularly allies that I can trust is true. It seems that it's common for an adventurer to buy combat slaves and complete jobs with them. That's fine as well but I don't have any experience using those sorts of slaves myself so I thought it would be unlikely to get lucky enough to get my hands on a slave I can really trust. In the first place, I have a bit of mental rejection towards buying and selling slaves as well. Ah, obviously, it's not like I want to use you two as a substitute for slaves. Believe me on that."

"I wouldn't particularly think something like that. If you really have the strength you say then there should be plenty of people who want to be your ally. And if you're that strong isn't it fine alone?"

"That's right. We want to go without getting involved with that sort of world as much as possible. I know it's weird coming from that's an exclusive escort for a caravan though. The company that I'm working for just does round-trips to safe places. But if you're really that strong then.."

"Wait just a minute, Kuro."

Mary talks to Kuro worried about him.

"Ah, sorry. But if he's really that strong then shouldn't he be able to become top class in Keel right away?"

Kuro apologizes as if to parry what Mary said, it seems he has some admiration for it.

I guess I'll leave this topic around here. I bite into the saute while saying.

"Then let's stop with this conversation for now. Finally is about Begulu. Did Kuro hear why I was searching for Begulu?"

"Yeah, I heard from Mary yesterday. I also heard that it might not be the Begulu I know about as well."

"I see, as a matter of fact yesterday I tried going to a shop called Janlud. I used quite a bit of time but I was able to take a look at Begulu's face. There's two of them. Since I don't know which one is the one I'm searching for I didn't try talking to them and they didn't try to make contact with me as well."

They two of them flinched after hearing what I said but quickly calmed down. Kuro stands up from his seat and slowly lifts his shirt. There's a celluloid like large burn scar on his stomach. After Kuro saw that my facial color changed he showed me his back. When I'm eating such delicious food don't show me such weird things.

"This is the literal branding that was done to me when I left Begulu's group. It's horrible right? I thought I was going to die when it was done. I had all my money stolen from the healer old man as well. Do you understand why we don't want to get involved with that guy?"

Yeah, I know.

Mary is looking worried up at Kruo while holding the knife and fork.

"How cruel. So you had something like that done to you.."

I said it with pity.

"Yeah, I won't say anything bad. I think it's better for you to avoid getting involved with him."

"I see now. I get it well. However, I won't stop following Begulu. No matter what if I don't find and kill him there's a person that can't sleep in peace after all.

Ah, I'm sorry for saying something like killing. Of course, I think it might not be the two I saw yesterday. Just, even if it was just one of the two of them I intend to do it. And I think I can probably manage it after all."

Mary sighs and looks at me as she opens her mouth.

“Al, it’s good that you have confidence but you know. Begulu’s group is really unreasonable. Even the knight group has their hands full dealing with them.”

“I see, come to think of it there was no proof of their crimes right... I don’t know if the one I’m looking for is one of them or maybe someone different but I think it’s only a matter of time before that’ll become obvious. If it’s one of them, then I’ll definitely kill them. It’s best if I can wait for them to be alone before killing but if they never are alone then I’ll kill them both at once. I should know that probably within another three weeks or so.”

Since I was saying I would definitely kill them with a serious face it seems that Mary got scared. Kuro says to Mary to try and help her relax, “It’s not like Al is saying we have to get involved with it right” and said to me “It would be good if you can do it. I feel bad for you but I’m hoping that the Begulu you’re searching for is that Begulu. There’s a lot of people that would be glad if you could do something about that Begulu. I have no intention of helping but even if it’s just feeling I’ll be rooting for you.” Well, he was done something would make him hold a grudge so I guess it’s only obvious.

.....

After leaving the restaurant when we were about to split up I decided to ask something I’ve thought for the past few days.

“Are you guys dating?”

Since they were just looking at each other without confirming or denying it I gave them a pack of older brother’s present as a gift. Neither of them knew what it was at first but Mary quickly realized and violently threw it back at me while saying “We’re still 14 years old!”.

Ku...she treated the crystallization of us siblings so roughly.

Chapter 60: Sales Promotion

Year 7442, Month 4, Day 17

I return to the inn and organize the things I talked about today.

..It was mostly just me giving handouts. Is what I thought for a moment, but since the things I heard about Keel's common sense were of pretty good reference so the 42,600 Z I paid for "Dakkuluton" wasn't a complete waste. Ah, I paid an extra 10,000 Z for bribes. I guess that doesn't matter. And I think I got a bit closer to those too as well, I guess it would be better to be satisfied with that for today.

Also, that as well. The dessert at the end. That was delicious. Of course, sweets exist in Orth as well but until now I've eaten a difficult to make sweet like Western confectioneries like that until now. Things like frozen fruits made into gelatin or sweet bean jelly, after that at best it was something like failed pancakes. I didn't think there were sweets as delicious as that in Orth. It was a fruits bavarios that had sour-sweet gelatin like mousse on the surface and there was something like fresh cream used for decorations. Kuro and Mary let out a sigh just looking at it and even I was about to let out a sound.

In my past life I didn't really care for western confectioneries so I rarely ate them and don't know them well, but I still think that "Dakkuluton"'s dessert falls behind the sweets you can buy at a convenience store. However, it still feels like the first time I've eaten a delicious dessert as good as that since my past life so for a moment I still felt like I was going to rise into the sky. Ah, just remembering it makes me start to drool.

Oh~ I should stop there in regards to the food. I want to make those into my allies but it's already seeming impossible. Their aversion towards adventurers is too strong after all. Maybe I should just think about of hiring them with some reasonably high compensation. They say you can earn a ton of money by entering the dungeon near the capital and getting out of it with loot. I'm sure it's still impossible with how weak I am though. It seems that the top class

adventurers of various territories challenge it in large groups, end up being defeated instead, and only a portion of them return. They also say that among the guys that return alive another handful find enough treasures and magic stones to live comfortably their entire life as well.

I'm aiming for that as well. I'll challenge it a number of times and build a fortune, and using that as funds I'll start a country somewhere outside of the kingdom.

According to a story I heard Kolakut Kingdom in the east was founded 100 years or so ago by an adventurer and there's a lot of countries that have similar stories.

And the borders between various countries are pretty vague so I could aim for the gaps and declare the foundation of my country, and have a country that's not far from mine recognize that as a country, as long as I can glare back at other countries with effective military action most countries will recognize it a bit at a time it seems.

It seems that in the end a lot of the small countries around Rombert were founded like that. Since it's just going off of the information I gathered and guessed from a remote region I doubt it's that simple but if I remember correctly there was a powerful family in Japan that was made in the same way. In the end you can get the Emperor to say "I'll leave that territory to you" then it's your win, and even if he doesn't say it there were a lot of local clan leaders that made it to feudal lords. If I possess power then it's not incorrect to say that somewhat little by little it'll become a country.

No matter what I do, I need money to start. The amount of wealth that can be amassed by selling rubber products has its limits. At best it's enough for a regional Viscount territory to profit reasonably. It would be different if you could increase the area of the rubber trees planted by more than 100 times but that sort thing will take decades. It's suspicious if I'll even still be alive by then. That's why I have to rush with my life. In order to do that I need money. Obviously power as well. If I get too impatient and fall into a careless train of thoughts and end up failing it's shameful as well so I need to be careful, I'm sure there will be many times where I need to proceed with patience and discretion. Of course I'm sure there will also be times to aim for a large and bold hand to

play as well. Yeah, I have a lot to think about. I guess I'll sleep already for today.

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Year 7442, Month 4, Day 18

I head to Binsil's restaurant from the morning. In order to teach Kuro and Mary the way to train with magic. Obviously since there's a lot of customers in with the sunrise I'm sure it's busy with preparations of breakfast so I just need to go in between 8 am and 9 am. Until then I'll do some running and sweat a bit. Ah, Kuro won't be there today or tomorrow because of his job. Having two days of work and one day off isn't that the work schedule of a prostitute, it doesn't really matter though. Eh? Why do I know something like that? Isn't everyone forgetting that my occupation used to be a salary-man in my previous life? I did some business entertainment I couldn't tell to the company. There's no way I wouldn't know about it.

I arrived at Binsil's restaurant after 8 am. It seems that Mary is here. I sit at the edge seat that Kuro is always sitting at and order a breakfast set. Mary quickly brought out a breakfast set.

"Thank you for the meal yesterday. It was very good. It felt like it's been decades since I had food as good as that."

"I see, I'm glad you liked it. And, if you have any time right now I can teach you the magic to train with magic but what do you want to do?"

Different from the way home yesterday Mary is smiling as I say it so I immediately got to the point.

"Right now is fine but how long will it take? If it takes too long then I have to start preparing for lunch.."

"Hn? The first time takes a few minutes up to a bit more than ten minutes I guess. And if I teach you once then after that if you want you can try to do it yourself whenever you want."

After hearing what I said Mary leaned forward towards me.

"It's that short!? Then teach me, right now!"

"At least let me eat first. Also, just as I said yesterday, there's two types of

methods. Which is better?”

Mary thinks about it for a bit before saying.

“The method that gets results faster is better.”

“I see, then, prepare a thin stick that you don’t need. I’ll eat quickly.”

After hearing past “quickly” Mary left the seat and ran to the kitchen. You can tell from her back how much she’s anticipating it. I bite off some bread and come to think of it how much MP did Mary have again? And I use Identify on her back as she crouching down at the stove in the kitchen. 16 huh, it’s plenty for starting out. Ah, I guess I should look at the explanation for Resistance (Poison) as well?

【Unique Ability: Resistance (Poison); A type of resistance ability. It activates via resistance or feelings of fear felt towards poisons that have entered the body through absorption or other factors. Therefore, if the user isn’t conscious of the poison or is in a mental state where they accept the poison the ability doesn’t active. Also, the poisons that are possible to resist must be poisons before they enter the body of the user. Inside refers to the surface of the body. In other words, there’s no effect against poisons that are produced within the users body. All poisons that this ability has no effect on are processed in the same way the body normally treats poisons. If the ability activates the effect of the poison doesn’t disappear, the effect of the ability manifests by weakening the effect of the poisons. Level 0 the effect of the poison is reduced by 55%, every level after that the effect of poisons are reduced by 5% more. At the maximum level there’s a 100%

reduction. Also, regardless of whether the poison is produced inside or outside of the body in the case that it’s a poisonous substance that has a negative effect on the body it will be decomposed and ejected. At Level 0 it takes at most 20 days after the ability is activated to completely decompose and eject the poison, for every level after that the time required will reduce by 1 day. However, it is possible for that to activate the ability through resistance and feelings of fear as well. Furthermore, because the poison listed above is any substance regardless of organic or inorganic that provides a negative influence to the vital activity of the owner of the ability, it doesn’t take consideration the

selective toxicity of other living things】

He~ This is certainly amazing. As long as the person them self is conscious of it they can become almost invincible against all types of poisons. I wonder if you can understand the strength of the poison you absorb? For example, this isn't much at all, or if you take this you'll normally die.

She brought a thin wooden stick that seems to be something like a fire lighter from the kitchen as she heads over here. Then, I guess I'll start.

“Alright..and just as you can see I just lit it up with fire. Hold both of your hands over the sides of this and try to pass mana through the gap of your hands. If you succeed then the flame will sway and you'll have completed acquiring void magic. Since even if I say that you probably won't know what to do I'll help out for just the start.”

After saying that I place both of my hands on the outside of Mary's hands that are surrounding the fire and start sending in mana. I guess she felt the flow because Mary raised her voice with a “hya” while still properly looking at the flame swaying in the wind.

“If you can cause the sensation from just now on your own then it's perfect. However, if you try too hard then you'll end up overusing your mana so be careful. I guess so, I think it would be good for Mary to try practicing 10 times in the morning and 10 times in the afternoon. If your talent with magic is high then you should be able to do it in a few times. However the trick to it is difficult. If your talent is low then it takes quite a bit of time. I'll come again tomorrow so if you still haven't done it by then we can try doing the normal method.”

“..Yeah, I understand.”

Mary couldn't make the flame move before the time I finished eating. There's no helping it just watching Mary get lost in training with magic so I left the restaurant. When I left the restaurant the poor people who were all checking out the food inside faced downwards.

If you work you can eat it. It's not that expensive after all.

.....

Well then, it's not like I have particularly anything to do but there is one thing that I must do. After returning to Bins Manor I took a shower, changed my clothes and cleaned up my appearance then grabbed one of the apprentices and asked where the store called "Ritton" listed on the memo from my older brother is located.

I whistle as I head towards "Ritton", check the bond between brothers that's in my pocket and think about how to conquer it. I think it would be better to get a hold of someone as high up as possible at first. I shortly arrived at my location and was a bit disappointed that it wasn't a building as extravagant as I thought it would be. The first floor is made of stone and the second floor seems to be wood. It's not extravagant but the surroundings of the building are clean and tidy and there's no dirt anywhere. Hm, it seems they've put work into training the employees.

After confidently opening the door and entering there was a counter in front of me. Both halls that go further in from there are hidden by a black curtain like cloth. There's a middle-aged man with good posture that you can only call a gentleman standing at the counter in a coat and after he realizes me he lowers his head and calls out "Welcome.". I held out my hand while saying, "It's my first time here but I heard rumors of this place."

The gentleman gently grabs my right hand with his left hand and uses Status Open. Hm, it's just as I thought from the store's appearance. That's great. After confirming my status the gentleman smiles lightly and asks, "Welcome to our store. Greed-sama, who were you referred to us by?" since I wanted to make his impression of me as high as possible I secretly showed him the plate I got from sister-in-law.

After getting a glance of the plate the gentleman made a face as if he understood everything, quietly nodded, and guided me through to the back through the curtain on the left side. Further behind the curtains was a hallway just as I thought but a few meters further than that there's another curtain blocking it. The gentleman slips through past me and opens the door on the left side of the hallway as he lowers his head. I guess he's saying to enter.

I enter the door and sit down on a chair in what seems to be a conversation room. The gentleman disappears after saying, "please wait just a moment". Hm,

as expected of the power of the plate. It's VIP treatment. After waiting for about 10 minutes the door was knocked and opened. After the gentleman from just now politely opens the door the person behind him slowly enters the room. While feeling like my chest is going to burst with expectation I look at the person.

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Oh my, it was too much of a happening that my brain stopped for a moment there.

The {OS} in my brain takes as much time to restart as s {VAX} machine in a certain university. The {VAXstation 3100} in my brain is somehow able to activate {VMS}.

The person who just gently sat down across the table from me is truly a being not of this world. While clad in garments that seem to be silk, with a shining gentle smile on their face, the pair of blue eyes are shining as they stare prudently over here, making me feel as if they can even see through my body itself. The gentleman closed the door without making a sound and is already no longer here.

For the next dozen minutes, no depending on the situation several hour period, I'll be challenging this opponent to a fight. This is a crusade. I close my eyes for a short period of time and once again look at the person in front of me. Now then, I wonder if the crusade will take place here or we'll move this battle to another place. At that moment, the opponent opened their mouth.

"Welcome to our shop, Greed-sama. I am the owner of this "Ritton", Yoshilmil Haritaid. For what business are you here for today?"

It's a voice almost as if the gates of hell themselves have opened. The person in front of me opens their mouth that's wide like a toad, and the skin that's covered in pimples jiggles as they talk. Ah, it's my first time seeing a human as negligent of their health and unsightly as this. It reminds of that {Jabba.the}

something or other. Why did this happen? Damn it. I...I really... I had such expectations. What's this? Is it a candid camera? Quickly bring out the signboard Akaheru-sa~~n!

I'm confused over the truly unexpected situation. Older brother~ Save me?! Older~ brotherrrrr! Older brother? Ah, that's right.

"U...Umm, that is... I....I..I..I..I have a product that I would like to be used here. I'm here today to introduce it to you."

I was in a bit of a panic but I somehow managed to smooth it over and talk. I showed the power of a top salesman.

"Ho~ Since you visited in possession of the Marquis plate, I thought that as the owner I should greet you first, but.."

After saying that Haritaid snaps his fingers. While snapping his fingers his cheeks jiggled again.

The door quickly opened and the gentleman says, "Now, show him your faces." and invited several women who were waiting in the hall into the room. However, Haritaid opened his mouth once again.

"Ah, it's fine. Sebastian. Have the women step back. Also prepare two drinks."

Are you serious.

I made a huge mistake~ What was that about top salesman. Being smeared in shit matches me perfectly.

"Now then, what kind of product is it? In order to respond to all sorts of requests I believe that we have a perfect collection of articles though.."

I hold back the fact that I want to cry with a will of steel and somehow pretend to remain calm while I take the condom out of my pocket. I put it on the table and start explaining while smiling.

"I hear that the, umm, gentlemen who are in search of a social life fall into a passionate relationship with the employees of this store. I'm sure that is because the gentlemen are very charming, I also heard that the employees are caught up in that passion with a high probability."

Haritaid was staring at the condom in my hand with a dubious look but after

looking at me with an expression as if he read what I was saying he opens his mouth.

“H~m. Greed-sama uses very refined expressions. However, that expression is splendid indeed. It’s true, I’m sure that the gentlemen who visit this store are very charming. It does seem that the employees get engrossed with them.”

Alright, the catch was {OK}.

“And, when you want to develop a passionate relation there is a problem that absolutely cannot be ignored I’m sure.”

“Ho~? A problem that can’t be ignored..What in the world is it?”

At that moment along with a polite knock the gentlemen entered the room with a tray with tea on it.

After politely placing the tea, he closed the door without noise again and left the room.

“It’s the problem of population that the gentlemen and employees don’t wish for and the disease other than love that a portion of imprudent gentlemen bring in.”

“Hohou, I see now. However, in order to avoid those sorts of problems our store has already prepared the highest quality of goods. The goods prepared at this store are all products that were prepared from only healthy subjects that were slaughtered the day before and of a high quality where there is no need to worry about mold or drying. In order to guarantee the quality we hold back on business the day after the slaughter house is closed.”

Haritaid said with full confidence.

“I see, I’m sure that’s true from the “Ritton” that I’ve heard about. However, I wonder if you can still say such things after you’ve tried using this product that I’ve brought in today?”

This is the place to make the push. For older brother’s sake I can’t afford to pull back here.

“Mu.. It’s a back and forth way of putting it, can I take that as a challenge towards the quality of goods prepared at our establishment?”

How annoying~ Jabba.the something raises one his eyebrows while looking at me. I'm scared.

I drink down the cup of tea that was prepared for me and reach out to the pack of condoms.

And I cut the seal on the pack. Though it's just tearing the edge with my nails.

A bit of the seaweed lotion that was sealed overflows and fell onto my cup but I guess it's fine. I emptied my cup for that reason.

And along with the lotion in the 10 slits I squeeze down on the opening to one of those slits and take that out.

"This is made from a material called rubber. Do you know about rubber?"

Jabba who was making a displeased expression says, "Of course I know of it. It's something that's started to appear on the market recently. I've purchased the shoes and cushions myself." with a slightly proud expression. Since rubber products are expensive I guess just owning them is a bit of a status. Especially the cushions are considerably expensive so I can understand wanting brag about it.

"This is a hygiene product created using rubber. Please try holding it in your hand. Ah, that liquid is not something that is harmful to the body. Depending on the case...I guess so. It's a completely harmless substance which the lubrication is high so that even the employees who can't get into the mood can easily accept the gentlemen. Since the raw material for it is a food product even if you put it into your mouth or swallow it there's no negative effects at all."

Jabba was staring at the circular rolled up hygiene product that was covered in an unknown liquid as if it was creepy but timidly reached out to it was it was on my hand. I hold back the nauseous of seeing the caterpillar like fingers coming towards me as I continue.

"This is rolled up so that the gentlemen can easily put it on. You equip it just like this."

I take the hygiene product being pinched by the caterpillars and start spinning it onto the caterpillar in the middle of Jabba's hand. This is somehow an unpleasant picture, is what I'm thinking while I'm making sure not to forget my

smile. Obviously it's really loose.

"Now, have you been able to understand the thickness and durability of this rubber? Try touching it. It's fine if you try pulling on the rubber as well."

After staring unpleasantly at his finger covered in the lotion Jabba touched the cup while it was still covered with the hygiene product. Then he made a surprised expression and started touching the surface of the table and the surface of the cup other than the handle. Also, he tried touching the caterpillar on his other hand while checking the sensation and started pulling it to check the strength. It seems to have greatly grasped his interested.

"Hmm...This is..The temperature passes through extremely well..Not to mention this thinness... A proper sensation still remains..Hm..mm..It stretches well...And it doesn't tear as well, huh.."

He touches various things while grumbling and in the end was playing with the cup through the condom while thinking. Just one more push from here.

"Haritaid-sama, I'm always thinking. That a first-class establishment needs first-class products available. Of course I already know from local popularity that this establishment is super first-class. Starting with the clerk and the education of the employees, the appearance of the employees themselves as well, this is only obvious but an important point. Obviously the gentlemen that are the customers are thinking they're going to receive a first-class service as they knock on the door.

This product still hasn't been introduced to any other place. It's precisely because I thought your establishment was first-class that I had the pleasure of bringing it in to your shop first."

Jabba makes a shocked expression as he looks at my face and nods.

"Greed-sama, just as Greed-sama has said, this Haritaid has been extremely deeply impressed. A first-class establishment needs to provide first-class products and first-class service, I see that is exactly true. Please definitely let me purchase this product. How much is it?"

He fell. Now then, from here on out is the real fight.

"Not at all, Haritaid-sama, that sort of impatience decision will hurt the

judgement of an owner of a first-class establishment such as yourself. I offer this pack that I've brought in today to you as a free promotional sample. I've already opened the package but if you put it over ice water without letting the water get inside then it can be used with no problem at all for the next two days. It's better to have the best customers of your store who come during that try using it and listen to their thoughts on it first. Otherwise, I think it would be best if Haritaid-sama should try testing it out yourself and check the abilities of it. I'll try coming again in the evening the day after tomorrow. We can decide on the cost on that occasion..”

Haritaid opens his eyes after hearing what I said. The fact that I gave a pack of a supposedly expensive rubber product to him for free his eyes opened wide but after hearing me say to ask the customers their thoughts on it he opened them so wide I thought his eyes would fall out. It seems he received a deep impression from super basic marketing. It might be different though.

“Oh~ For you to be concerned about things such as that, this Haritaid, will definitely meet up to the expectations of Greed-sama, I'll carefully select the gentlemen who test it out. Also, if I am able to find the chance I promise that I myself will test it out.”

He's completely fallen. I'm the one who gained victory on this crusade.

“Please don't be bothered over it. I just want you to know this is a portion of my feelings that I wish for your establishment to prove that it is a first-class place even more so.”

After this I just need to leave right away. There's not much meaning in talking here anymore than this.

Haritaid snaps his fingers to call Sebastian and tells him politely lead me out.

I feel like tears are going to come from my eyes as Sebastian lowers his head deeply to see me off, but I endure that and returned to Bins Manor.

.....

I bury my face into the buy while thinking, “What was that? There was an amazingly~ good women there! What in the world was I doing?” while rolling around until I realized that I was starting to get hungry so I went to Binsil's

restaurant.

I enter the store while avoiding the poor people that are watching from a distance as usual and sit down at a seat while ordering some wheat vodka. I guess she saw my expression in a bad mood Mary didn't come near me.

The alcohol today is bittersweet and covered in feelings of regret.

I shouldn't have pretended to be a guest of honor while showing the plate I got from sister-in-law.

After all, I'll never use it for something insignificant again.

I swore in my heart as I returned to Bins Manor drunk and fell into bed.

Ah, wouldn't it have been fine if I just went to a different place? But you know, that one girl I got a glimpse of was just my type~

If I went to a different place at that point then I would just end up discontent that there's no women on that level.

Either way I'm going again the night of day after tomorrow. I guess it's fine at that time.

Chapter 61: Magician

Year 7442, Month 4, Day 19

The next morning when I woke up my head hurt from a terrible hangover. I know that I can recover from it with detoxification magic but a simple resolution is bad for the health, or rather if I get strangely used to it, I just don't want to get into a habit of heavy drinking. It's not like there's an urgent crisis I have to take care of either, if I go running and sweat a bit I'm sure it'll calm down. I drink plenty of water before going for a slightly long run, after taking a shower just as I thought I felt refreshed so I decided to go and get some breakfast. I thought for a bit about where to go but since I promised to help with magic training I decided to go to Binsil's restaurant. If you say I have no taste then it's true but being able to talk in Japanese is valuable and I want to leave Mary and Kuro with as good of an impression of me as I can so I'm not particularly discontent. The food is good as well.

I head towards Binsil's restaurant and break through the encirclement of poor people staring at customers that are eating then sit at the usual seat on the edge and order a breakfast set. Black bread and soup, with some pickled vegetables on the side. Mm, it's the usual menu. However, you can normally drink the soup and the content of the vegetables always changes so there's no getting bored of it. I think it's profit to get this for 250 Z. I always ask for an additional parched egg for 50 Z though. If you add some salt and seasonings then place it on the black bread it goes together quite well.

After keeping an eye that I finished eating Mary sat across from me.

"I tried doing the magic training for the day yesterday but... I wonder if I have no talent? It was no good."

Mary said sadly.

"Then it might take some time but do you want to try the normal method?"

"Eh? The normal method..Yeah, would you teach me?"

Why is she getting red and embarrassed? The fidgeting disease?

“Do you have a kindling magic tool?”

“We have one. I’ll bring it.”

I was looking at Mary who went to the kitchen while somehow disappointed and started searching through my pocket. I thought there might be one magic stone or so left but of course that wasn’t the case.

“According to what I heard this is the normal training magic. I think there are other methods but I don’t know them. To explain it simply you leave the flame from a kindling magic tool running. And you use the small magic {Cantrip} mana detection and just keep repeating detection. If you do it enough times then it seems you’ll be able to use the void magic mana detection.”

“Eh? Leave the flame running, won’t that use quite a few magic stones?”

“Of course. Since it uses mana from the magic stone while the fire is going after all.”

Mary bites her lower lip and a crease appears in her eyebrows.

“If that’s the case then it’s a bit impossible. I can’t waste magic stones.”

“I see, then, I’m sure it’s difficult but there’s no choice than to do as I taught you yesterday.”

Hmhn~ This might be the reason why only the people more wealthy than commoners can use magic in the city. In Bakkudo it was a custom for the lord to give serfs a small magic stone when they become adults in order to practice acquiring magic. Even then only about one in ten was able to acquire magic.

If you don’t have a magic stone then there’s no choice other than to buy one but even the cheapest ones from Goblins cost over 1000 Z. Especially when the only way to obtain magic stones is a magic tool shop in a large city like “Magic Tool 7–9 Shop” and it’s rare for a low value magic stone taken from a single goblin to be lined up as well I’m sure. Even if you had a lot of low value ones managing the stock would be annoying after all, if you’re taking stock at fixed periods it would just increase the amount of office work as well. I doubt they count the inventory though.

I'm sure it's only nobles and wealthy shops that purchase magic stones. It's easy to imagine it's all corporate* youths. That's why the magic stones that it's possible to buy are all valued at several 10,000 or 100,000 Z in price. Of course they're using both lighting and kindling magic tools at Binsil's restaurant but that's using it as a business. Since it would take too much effort to often go and buy cheap magic stones and I'm sure changing them out is annoying as well. They probably only go and buy a reasonably expensive one when the mana in the magic stone runs out.

Even a magic stone production family like mine where we went out hunting monsters on a daily basis and collected magic stones I was taught to avoid wasting magic stones as much as possible. If they're a consumer then I'm sure they would be far more stricter than my house with the usage of them.

If you were to use a kindling magic tool, which is said to consume a small amount of mana from magic stones, with a magic stone with a value of about 100 (900Z

selling price at 7–9 shop), then it can make a flame for about 100 seconds. So it uses up 9Z per seconds. It's understandable that it would be considered a waste. Even in our village the magic stone father gave to serfs when they became adults was one combined from about 7–8 goblins. That means it would be able to make a flame for about 1000 seconds. Hm, I wonder how many times you can use small magic in 1000 seconds. I'm sure you would have to split it into several days but around 200 times I guess. If you do it about that many times then you can for the first time know whether or not you can learn void magic.

“Will you show me an example one more time?”

“Sure. Let's try doing it.”

Mary brings the thin stick used for kindling the furnace. After setting fire to it I put my hands around Mary's hands around the flame and start passing mana through them. Mary's making a serious face she tries to feel the sensation of the mana passing through. Honestly speaking, I think there's only about a 10% chance that Mary will be able to use magic so don't think it can be helped expecting too much. Well, I think it should be fine if she does it until she's satisfied. I can really understand the feeling after all. I guess I'll give her a bit of

a hint.

“There’s a bit of a trick to passing mana through. This is my method so it’s not definite but try matching an opened hand in your imagination. While you remain aware of the mana circulating through your body. Probably..I guess so, just try to imagine as if the mana has melted into your blood. And then, in your imagination connect your hands and think that the blood vessels in both of your hands are connected together. While making sure that the point where you’ve matched your hands together in your imagination overlaps the flame. After that it’s patience and frequency I’m sure. If you have talent then you should be able to do it by today.”

“I understand. I’ll try doing it. Thanks.”

“It’s fine, I have plenty of time to spare for the time being after all. Give it your best. I’ll try coming back again tonight when Kuro should be here.”

On my way home from Binsil’s restaurant I remember how it’s been over 10 years already since I started training magic for the first time. If I remember correctly older brother, older sister, and I were all able to do it within the first 10 minutes. It’s probably no good for Mary. I feel it’s a bit of waste even though she has 16 MP.

.....

Just like that I headed towards the headquarters of the knight group. I had something I wanted to ask about the Begulu A that they have their hands full with. I go to the cabin on the side of the gate and check the jobs for adventurers while asking the 20 year old or so receptionist about it.

“It seems there’s no jobs today as well.”

“Of course. If there were always subjugation jobs it would be terrible.”

“That is true isn’t it. By the way, does the knight group not exterminate or arrest the outlaws in the town?”

“Exterminate... They’re not monsters..Well, I guess they’re similar.”

Just like this I lead the conversation Begulu as if it’s social chat. And then it comes out and just keeps coming out, one after another crimes that Begulu was

supposedly involved with came out. It seems that the knight group really wants to take him out but can't catch his tail. It seems that Sendehel the leader was called out once to face down Begulu but there was no definite evidence, and he just acted as if he was a good citizen who was properly paying taxes, so blood vessel came out in his head and went into a rage against him. It's true that the knight group that protects the order and rules in Keel can't arrest someone without evidence.

"But, if he's just doing that all over the place won't he buy someones resentment and get killed?"

I tried asking that but,

"You'd think so right? But you know, he's extremely careful and almost never alone it seems. Since he's always acting together with his partner the magician, so supposedly they can't manage a surprise attack on him."

And replied with that. And then,

"It seems that the magician with him has quite a bit of skill as well. Since he isn't working as an adventurer no one seems to know his real name as well. No matter if it's a criminal or otherwise the temple definitely won't tell us the status information as well. Since they're always together it seems he's called small Begulu though. Well, since that's the case if you want to surprise attack him it takes the resolve to make some sacrifices. Even though he's obviously a villain because we have no evidence we can't go after him with force as well. Since the opponent is a skilled magician we can't do anything that would make victims on our end as well.

I'm sure it's painful for the leader as well."

And added that. I see, though he's called small Begulu, it's not known that magicians name is really Begulu. Depending on the circumstances he might really be Begulu B.

"It seems the knight group has it tough. By the way, I've heard that they're using the lower parts of Keel as a base but the hoodlums around that area are usually doing various bad things. Since picking fights is an everyday occurrence. Isn't the Boss Begulu doing things together with them? Wouldn't there be a lot of evidence?"

“Yeah, that seems to be the case. But, he really won’t let us catch his tail. The ones who do the robbery and forcing protection fees out of shops is always the underlings. We’ve done as much as we can to block it but it’s impossible to do perfectly. When it’s a more large-scale trick it seems that Begulu takes command of the underlings himself.”

The official says with a difficult face.

“He~? Large scale trick..”

“Ah, that’s right, like attacking a caravan and stealing the goods. In that case, he kills everyone so there’s no witnesses remaining.”

How do they know it was Begulu if there’s no witnesses?

“He kills everyone that could become a witness huh... That’s cruel isn’t it. By the way, how do you know it was Begulu that did it?”

“Circumstantial evidence. Though they all hide their location all the time but every time there was an attack the day before they all disappeared from Keel, and after that they start spending money wildly. Also, the goods that were supposedly being carried are being sold by the underlings.”

“Even though he’s a villain he must be quite cautious and intelligent I guess.”

After hearing my impression the official sighs and says.

“Yeah, really. But, it seems that the one who is intelligent is his partner the magician. Well, it doesn’t matter which but it’s true we’ve got our hands full with him. You should be careful as well. They probably won’t attack any caravans from Bakkudo. Since the luggage is too unique they’ll get caught trying to sell it. And the caravan from your place has Lord Greed and the young miss together as guards, so I’m sure they’d be afraid of the damage they’d take as well. It should be fine to rest easy I think?”

Oh~ Until I was told it I didn’t think about the possibility that a caravan from Bakkudo could be attacked. But, it’s true that it’s just as this official says.

Since there’s someone from the Marquis direct bloodline with them so if they were to take some damage it would be a huge uproar, I doubt leader Sendhel would care about evidence in a raging frenzy as well.

“Hmn, I guess so. Well then, I’ll take my leave here. I’ll stop by again sometime.”

I make a bitter smile while giving salutations.

I was able to gain several pieces of important information. Probably no one other than me would realize. It’s still not enough to be completely sure but I was plenty satisfied with feeling the progress of a step forward.

.....

Evening, I walk through the messy road along the central river and look at the poor people that I’m used to seeing as I head towards Binsil’s restaurant and Kuro and Mary were doing something.

It seems that Mary is teaching Kuro the magic training method I taught her. I order a beer from the older lady, call out to the two of them and sit at the same table.

“Al, will you really be able to use magic liek this?”

Kuro says discontent probably because he wasn’t able to get any results.

“Yeah, you’ll be able to use it. Should I show you an example?”

After saying that Kruo said “Then please do” while looking at me.

“Here, you hold your hands up like this to the sides of the flame. The distance is fine like that. And then like this.”

After I put my hands outside of his and send mana through and he said “muo” in reaction to the mana.

“It’s {OK} if you can cause the feeling from just now yourself. Did you hear about the method to get a hold of the sensation from Mary?”

“Yeah, that thing about imagination palms of a hand and connecting the blood vessels?”

“That’s right. Well, try doing it.”

While holding his hands to the side of the tree branch that Mary is holding with a serious face, Mary and I are watching Kuro. And then, what about it. After just concentrating for a bit over 10 seconds Kuro’s face distorted and his

hands shined with blue light for a bit!

When I identified Kuro in a hurry his MP had decreased by 1. The movement of the flame was close to a measurement error but the light of magic appeared and his MP

decreased. Yeah, I'm sure you can definitely say he was able to use magic.

"Congratulations, Kuro. If you put a bit more effort into you'll probably be able to use void magic."

I said that while smiling at Kuro.

"..That just now was...Just now was magic huh...Ffu. Fufufuffu. Aha. Alright..Mary, you saw it right. I, did it. Even I was able to use magic."

Kruo is grinning while chewing through the joy as he reports happily to Mary. I'm sure she knows since you did it right in front of her.

"Your hand...shined? Your hand shined just now... Amazing, so you can really learn to use magic with this method."

It seems Mary is a bit happy as well but, "this method" and "really" I heard some things that can't be ignored. So she was doubting it.

"Kruo should...I guess so, you should do it another 2-3 more times so you don't forget the trick to it. Don't try to do it in a hurry. It's fine if you take time so slowly, concentrate as you do it. And Mary, you said that almost as if you know a method other than the one I told you that is more believable but for reference tell me the method you know to train with magic."

I said it to Kuro with a smile and a grimace to Mary.

"Eh? Ah, since the two methods Al taught weren't the normal method.. A bit, umm, I couldn't believe it... I'm sorry."

Mary raises one hand as if begging while apologizing. Well it's fine though. But, it sounds like she already knew the normal method to train with magic. I only know the method that Sharl thought up this method and the method that uses a kindling magic tool that I heard from Sharl? So there's another method...

"What kind of method is The normal method that Mary is talking about? Is it different from the method I told you about?"

The method that Mary told me about to train magic seems to be the method that the citizens of Keel use. When I tried asking I understood just how inefficient of a method it sounded.

Eh? You're interested in it? Then I'll say. I think you already know but the method that Sharl created to move the flame is a training method to gain the void magic special skill. Making a small flame sway is something that can be done simply physically. It can be done with just a small movement of the air. It will sway from electrical differences and depending on the type of fuel it's burning on it will sway from magnetic fields. The mass of a flame is extremely small and thin so it is easily influenced. That's the same if you use mana to shake it. It'll easily be influenced by a small flow of mana.

After organizing up to there and thinking about it again, but Sharl might have really thought it through quite a bit when she created this method. It's unfortunate while the flame will easily be influenced, since it's not a flame that you created yourself it requires a considerable amount of concentration to influence it.

Though objects (I'll intentionally use object for the expression here) other than ones you've made yourself require consuming more mana than normal in order to influence them, if it's something as small as a flame on a tree branch it only takes about 1 MP to shake it. It's a magic training method that only uses 1 MP and you can quickly confirm the results and simultaneously use mana (MP), so I think it's a truly rational and good method for training.

Compared to that, the other method I said. The method I heard from Sharl in the past about feeling the mana in the flame from a kindling magic tool, this is a method of acquiring void magic as well. At first you use the small magic {Cantrip} to detect mana and once you've gotten used to that you just keep on using it over and over.

If you repeat it several times a day for several days then there's a possibility you could acquire void magic. If I were to explain the trick, this is getting used to the small magic {Cantrip} to detect mana and while getting used to touching the flowing mana countless times you wait until you awaken to the special skill of magic, that sort of passive method. I thought that this was the normal method.

However, the method that Mary told me about with her face red wasn't a method to learn void magic but a method to learn elemental magic. What they all have in common is that you go to sleep early the day before and take plenty of sleep, after waking up the next day you carefully clean your body, have sexual intercourse with your partner, eat plenty of breakfast, and then do it in a quiet environment where you're alone it seems. It seems that sexual intercourse or masturbation is fine but since this is thought be necessary they say it's a method that you can only start training once you become an adult. Well, up until here there's things like a secret ceremony involving sex and masturbation but I can feel the consideration over running out of mana so it's not that I can't understand.

After making such preparations the next thing you do to actually start the training is what I say next.

You hold something small and burning (you pour a bit of sperm or juices gathered in the morning on to a paper) in your hand and stare at that while just repeating "burn" in your mind or put your clenched fist above a cup or something and just keep thinking "sperm/love juices come out" and that sort of thing that would make you wonder if they're developing a love potion or training ESP? Or at least it's a method that's close to that. I wanted to ask about earth magic and wind magic as well but I was told "stop with the sexual harassment already" so I gave up. In other words, if you were to ask me, if you can learn to use magic like that aren't you a genius? was my opinion.

For the most part, I think they're all active methods of acquiring magic like shaking the flame but I don't think it's even worth a comparison in how difficult they are. Furthermore, the method of learning void magic that Mary said was to materialize void magic using the small magic {Cantrip} Reservation. I think that's a pretty high hurdle to do from the start.

However, since there's actually people who can learn the special skill magic using that method it seems it's normally believed in. Mary was saying that this is a method that was made more efficient and polished over a long period of time it seems. Of course, since the Japanese that reincarnated in this world won't have used magic so if you were to say that this is the correct way to learn magic and there's actually been people who learned it using this method, if

several people were to say that there's no option other than to believe it. I'm sure even I would have believed it. Since it's a content where you have sex and use your own body fluids as a intermediary for the magic, cabaret was it? Since it seems like a secret art I think it's easier to believe.

Most likely, in order protection against mana exhaustion to some extent, in order to make sure they're older than an adult they probably used sex and masturbation to leave an impression, since there's not much other amusing things they probably made sure the content was connected with sex. When I tried imagining a young couple of 15–16 years old holding a piece of paper with their fluids stuck to it staring at it with a serious face and saying "Come my!/Burn!" and I felt this somehow inexplicable helpless feeling.

At the very least I've never heard of this method in Bakkudo, and I've never heard anything like that talked about in the indecent conversations between rubber production so it must be a difference between what they're told in the countryside and city. If it's a city other than Keel, for example the capital Rombertia I'm sure it was handed down quite a bit different. Well, culture is something that develops with roots in the customs of that area and the majority of people will never move from that land so even if it's the same it will be different based on the area I'm sure.

By the way after concentrating for another hour until he was exhausted Kuro used up another 3 MP and was safely able to get void magic to level 0. I think there's a 90% chance that Mary can't use magic but it seems she'll put a bit more effort into it.

Well, do as you please. I'll be rooting for you from the shadows.

Chapter 62: Details

Year 7442, Month 4, Day 20

The next morning, I run as usual after waking up and after changing into a some worn-out clothes I had some breakfast in a random store before going to Janlud's store. I doubt I'll run into Begulu at this time. After keeping an eye out for a while from outside I enter the store after all of the tables are full.

Obviously I'll have to share a table but that was originally my objective so there's no problem. I sit at a table with an especially rough looking bro and order that disgusting breakfast set. After handing over the 5 large Shizu coins to pay I smile once at the bro in front of me eating this shitty bad food as if it was the best thing ever and bite into the hard black bread.

"I somehow feel full."

I whisper with a grim face after eating about half of it.

The bro that hadn't paid much attention to me until then hears my whisper and his pointed ears move a bit. An elf huh. I continue to whisper.

"I need to earn some around here~"

The elf bro stops eating and is paying attention to me as I hold my cup of soup while talking to myself.

"Hey, bro, don't be grumbling while making such a gloomy face. By the way, about that bread but are you not planning to eat it?"

I make an expression as if I just noticed the elf bro that started talking to me with a face as if he wanted the bread.

"Hn? Ah, you're saying to me huh. Did I say it out loud, sorry about that. I couldn't help but let it escape from my mouth."

"Yeah, it's fine, don't worry about it. And, that bread, are you planning to eat it?"

He was eating this places food that deliciously. I'm sure he's gluttonous after all. It doesn't particularly matter though. But, it seems he jumped on the conversation well.

"Hn? Ah, do you want to eat it?"

I intentionally make a vulgar grin while saying it.

"Ah, no, if you're not going to eat it, that is. And, what about it?"

I'm sure my expression was the same unpleasant face as the poor people who wander around here. The bro was a bit overawed but still looked at my black bread while saying it. I make sure not to change my unpleasant expression while saying.

"I don't particularly mind giving it you but do you know of any kind of job? If it's one I can make a lot of money all at once then I'd have nothing to say."

"If there was a job like that then I'd be doing it myself. No way there would be one. It's already fine. I'm leaving."

After saying that the elf stood up from the seat and left. Hmn, I guess it won't go that easily. I guess I should think about it a bit more. Since he seemed pretty rough I thought he might be one of Begulu's underlings so I tried testing him but it seems to be different. I guess that's true. According to what I heard Begulu's group is only about 2-30 people it seems so I won't be able to meet them that easily. See, you already understand as well right? I'm trying to gather information about the things I heard from the failed adventurers who called me a shitty bastard the other day, "Come to think of it, speaking of Boss Begulu, it seems he's going to do something big".

Ah, just remembering it pisses me off. I haven't forgotten that ugly bitch Jelil.

That ugly bitch doesn't matter at all but I have interest in the "something big" that Begulu is about to do. Well, it's something that those failed adventurers who are the losers of life were saying in analogies so I think it's most likely attacking a caravan somewhere. I want to confirm the date and location of it. If he's going to do "something big" then Begulu will probably directly take command and if that's outside of Keel then it's convenient for me. If I can confirm which Begulu is my target until then I can snipe him outside of the city

where no one can see me right?

In another few days I'll go to Doritt and tie up that contact agent and take his information and determine which Begulu I'm searching for. Even if it's neither of those two if I follow the line from the point of contact then I should be able to find the real Begulu that is Begulu B. That guy always had his mouth half open with a spaced out face and no matter how you look at it he doesn't seem like he has any loyalty towards Begulu or an organization (though I don't think there is one).

When he honestly came to say thanks to me I'm sure it was just because he had a favor towards me. It was for an accident I caused myself though. Come to think of it appearance and loyalty aren't related huh.

However, it's certain that point of contact lives in Doritt and he seems to have been born there so I doubt he has contact with Begulu all the time. I think it would be best to just think he is connected by money. I regretted it when I couldn't kill him in the first place but I guess it's good I left him alive. I can't seem to hate him though. However, if it's for Myun's sake even if it's just for sealing his mouth that's plenty of reason for me to kill him.

He seemed like an idiot but when we faked Myun's death he properly came back once more to confirm it so I'm sure Myun's death was told to Begulu B. There was nothing after that as well. Well, it's better to do it just in case. You shouldn't stray far from your initial resolution. I'll return my debt of gratitude to Myun.

Just like this I put some more resolve into it and ate some food that wasn't good and pointlessly treated others while gathering information but in the end I wasn't able to gather any new information at all.

I mostly just got more support that Begulu has some kind of plan to earn big.

.....

I changed as it gets closer to evening and started on my way to "Ritton". Hehheee, I'll definitely take one shot at that good looking girl that's just my type that I couldn't get more than a glance of last time. I carefully use my hand to brush my hair before opening the door to "Ritton". I'll quickly finish the conversation with that Jabba bastard and finally get the real deal of VIP

treatment with some ultra first-class service.

After opening the door, the gentlemen named Sebastian was standing at the front desk with a good posture so I greeted him. After immediately realizing me Sebastian brought me to the conversation room like, ah, is it a waiting room? invited me in, and asked me to sit and wait as he disappeared. It seems he went to call for Haritaid. After waiting for more than 10 minutes, though it was considerably faster than last time, Haritaid appeared.

“Oh~ Greed-Sama, welcome and thank you for coming today. I had been waiting for you.”

Jabba is saying something with a creepy smile stuck on his face.

“No, not at all. And how was the results? Will you start using them?”

In order to not lose to him I returned the smile.

“Yes, yes, of course please let us start using them! I won’t forget the favor of letting me a product as wonderful as that! I definitely would like to sell them! Our establishments good customers “instinctively made a noise” and that was itself a great delight! I myself couldn’t hold back from testing it out but in comparison to that product I couldn’t help but think that what I’ve used until now was less than trash. I ended up getting excited beyond my age!”

Hm, of course that’s the case. Jabba continues on,

“That product will without a doubt become greatly popular. I am really grateful to you. Ah, that’s right, about the price but..”

Mu, come to think of it I was promoting the condoms, or rather “Scabbard”.

“How about this much?”

After saying that he raised up 8 of his caterpillar fingers on both of his hands. 8000 Z huh. It’s slightly cheaper than what older brother guessed but it’s a lot more expensive than the amount I predicted. However, I couldn’t help but for my blood from my sales days to boil.

“Mwu, no matter if it’s a small product, 8000 Z is...That is something that takes a considerable amount of work in the production. Thinking about that I’d like 10,000 Z.”

After I say that, Jabba says with a respectful expression.

“Certainly, certainly everything that Greed-sama says is completely right. I’m very sorry. I’ll purchase it for 10,000Z. However, while I know it’s a wonderful product, I know that the limit of that product is 10,000 Z. While I’m running a humble establishment such as this, in order to manage it proper and honestly, I must pay my employees compensation, I must pay the government taxes as well.”

“Of course I’ve thought of adding a service fee on top of the cost of that product but not all of the good customers that come to our establishment are nobles or extremely wealthy like Greed-sama. As far as I can imagine, you eventually plan to spread this product to shops other than ours right? In that case, if it’s that expensive I don’t think other shops will be able to purchase it. I really want to hold a monopoly on that product as this store but I doubt you’re aiming for that sort of thing.”

Mu, as expected of a manager. Going off of Jabba’s appearance and occupation I had decided that he was honest with his desires, greedy, and had a petty personality.

However, the statement just now had enough persuasion to overturn all of those. It might just be me seeing things favorably but it seems he’s doing a reasonably serious job of management and it seems he’s thinking about the spread of the condoms. I want to poke at him a bit and confirm things.

“Then, what kind of thing do you think we are aiming for?”

After hearing my remark Jabba opened his eyes a bit and immediately replied.

“You say some unusual things. Things that are already obvious. You have two large goals. One is known without being said improving the quality by putting it on the high-quality route. Of course this has a variety of meanings included within it. Even if you compare it to the bowels of a pig, the looks and sensation of putting it on, the sensation of touch during the act itself is important as well but above all the feel of luxury that you’re using such a high class good as rubber for such an act is an important point as well.”

“The other one I was certain of after actually trying it but is to prevent the spread of illnesses among the employees of this establishment and the

gentlemen that are our customers, is it not? I believe it's as expected because the raw material of that product is different, unlike the bowels of a pig, while it's extremely thin and easily exceeds its ability to relay the sensation and warmth but what isn't even worth comparison is the durability. I have foolishly guessed that the durability of this product is its primary characteristic. Since the bowels of a pig go bad just from being even the slightest bit intense. In addition to that if you were to allow me to express my thoughts the amount of rubber actually used in this product being extremely small is also big."

Hmm, I had actually thought that the durability of the pigs bowels might be a bit higher though it seems that's wrong. Even if I identify the pigs their status just shows up as Pig (Selectively breed for livestock use) so I thought they were the same as the pigs on Earth but I guess they are different things that resemble each other. Or rather I didn't know about using the bowels of pigs for anything other than sausages. Also hormone cooking. Ah, if I think about that then the bowels of pigs on Earth were probably less than rubber as well. The amount of power put into biting a sausage won't be able to tear that condom, or rather thin rubber.

However, there's various meanings hinted in Jabba.the.Toad's statements until now.

In the first place my objective, or rather, he's pretty much perfectly guessed the original characteristic of condoms. With just that you can guess the height of his observations. And the second. It's only obvious that after using it you would be able to tell they're better than a pig's bowels but not just confirming the improvements in comfort from there but the ability to prevent the spread of disease from the increase in endurance shows he has a considerably high ability to think.

I'm sure he also heard some opinions from customers but the fact that he can use his own experiences as a base and give an impression that is organized like that is worth high points.

I guess it's only as expected of the one who manages a shop older brother suggested to me. I don't think older brother is related to this though.

And the largest point of them all is that he doesn't try to take a monopoly on

them. Monopoly itself isn't a bad thing but the degree with its relation to life, in other words it's demand and use as a necessary product and the supply power for it and depending on the price decided for it the macro economics could end up causing it be only a temporary profit making it into a limited item.

Particularly in an industry like this, the most important thing obviously is the product that is the quality of the employees so it's difficult to make a huge mistake in regards to the synthesized service offered and the price the service is offered at. The condoms are limited to an additional service offered and it's not the thing the clients are coming for. Even if there was that would probably just be at the start. Since the amount of rubber used isn't a lot he references the fact that we should be able to create a reasonable amount as well...This guy... he's good.

Honestly speaking I made light of him. I thought it would be fine if I just sold the few I had on hand, write older brother an appropriate letter and have some tea but I feel that we would profit the most in the end if I properly interact with this guy. Even if it's an occupation I guess you could say as expected of the mouth of a chicken*. I wonder what the owners of other places are like? Do they all think on the same level as this guy? I've only heard a bit but it seems that this guy brought "Ritton" to this point in just his generation. In other words this guy must be special. I guess I'll listen to a bit more of his story.

"As expected of Haritaid-sama. You see very well. The fact that you've understood that far, this Greed is in great admiration. Just as you said we have no intention of selling them in monopoly to just this "Ritton". And that you were able to see through their original intention, I respect your great insight. This is just my prediction but Haritaid-sama doesn't intend to continue with just this "Ritton" right?"

I tried baiting him. If it's just as I'm imagining them he's not just planning to make his store bigger. A second store, or third store, or depending on the situation he might even try to develop it into a chain...can't be right..I guess it probably wouldn't go that far. Even if Orth's culture level is all over the place if he was able to think as far as making a chain store it'd be some abnormal that I'd have to start doubting if he's a reincarnated person.

It's the same as about Earth's 16th century on Orth and there's disciplines and

apprentices that work for shops and craftsmen and after the employees become independent they are treated as a completely different store. Obviously it's normal for them to have some connections to the store of their origins but it doesn't go as far as the "shareholding businesses" on Earth. I think it was just that Japan was unusual in using the same name for reputation purposes early on something like a voluntary chain. Even that Japan only started establishing voluntary chains on a high level around the 20th century and there was no sign of franchise chains until Old Man Colonel brought in his fried chicken place. Normally when someone goes independent they only have their own to rely on.

"Mu..It seems that I can't keep any secrets from Greed-dsama. Even though I haven't talked to anyone about it yet I feel as if the inside of my head has been peered into. Just as you were able to discern. Fortunately I'm a commoner so there's no obstacles with moving around within the kingdom. In the vicinity...I guess so, I want to make another "Ritton" in Viscount Penlaid's territory and leave it to someone."

Mwu, after all. I guess as expected it's not a full-on voluntary or franchise. However, he had the idea of stores after a second store. But, it seems that after all this guy is abnormal. The toad continues,

"I want to make it common sense that if you go to the store "Ritton" you will receive the finest service. That's if you only sell that product to just this "Ritton" then it's inconvenient for me as well."

And said that. Depending on how things go it could be a long relationship with this guy. He's a too valuable of a talent to just leave in the sex industry.

"I see now, "Ritton Second Store" "Third Store" is it... It's certainly a splendid idea."

Just like modern day Earth, there's no bank or organization like that in Orth yet. Even on Orth banks were created around the 15th century I think it was. There were syndicates from further back than that but it was limited to just the model, I think it's core was a city state government. I don't know if there's syndicates in Orth or not but even for large companies that do transactions all through the Kingdom of Rombert like Webdos company I've never heard of

them holding branch stores.

The currency is being made by the temple as they watch the circulation and it seems that there's a common currency for all countries so there's no such things as money exchange.

"!! Second Store..It has a good ring to it. It seems that Greed-sama is clever in the expression of things. No, as expected of someone born in Bakkudo which produces rubber it seems you have an extremely high level of education."

Huh? Come to think of it, did I mention where I was born? I guess he read my confused expression, the toad says.

"Ah, if you're mentioning rubber then it's produced in Bakkudo right? And the lord there is Viscount Greed. Since you're in possession of a plate with the emblem of Marquis Webdos it was simple to guess."

I guess that's true. Sebastian saw my status when I first came to the store as well so he should already know I'm the second son of Viscount Greed.

"Well then, about the cost, I'll convey to the family to sell it at 10,000Z per unit. The first delivery will be after July, after that a caravan will come to Keel from Bakkudo once every three months. What kind of quantity of the product would you need for each delivery?"

"I guess so, if it's every three months then...Hmn, please wait just a moment."

After saying that the pseudo-frogman started doing math with his caterpillar fingers. Like I could wait.

"Around how many customers do you get per day?"

"Eh? A, Ah, around 30 people per day.."

"Then I guess it would be around 6000 units. Then I believe that around 600 packs would be good. If it's too many then you can just reduce the orders for the next time by a bit but if it's too few you'll end up having to be patient without them for a while."

Don't open your big mouth so widely it's ugly. He was shocked and opened his mouth again.

"As expected of Greed-sama, your calculations are fast. But, for what reason

is it that amount?”

“There’s 30 people in one day for three months, in other words you can think of it as 90 days. This means that there’s a total of 2,700 customers per 3 months.

However that’s just that the number of customers is 30 and the “strong” ones could end up going several rounds on their own, so taking that into consideration I thought double? or so would be.”

“Hmm, it’s just as you’ve said. I believe that your predictions and thoughts are correct. Particularly if we use that product then we won’t have to take into consideration the days the slaughterhouse is closed, so we’ll be able to operate everyday.”

I nod while smiling. I thought as far as that. The toad continues

“Then, 10,000Z for 600 packs worth, 60,000,000 Z it is.”

And said confidently. Huh? Can this guy not do calculations? Ah, I was thinking of it as one pack. If it was 10,000Z per each individual condom then no matter how much you think about it, it’s excessive profits and spreading it is just a dream. Older brother said that the cost of a pig’s bowels is 1,000Z or so for one. If I don’t make the price the same as that then it won’t spread. Even if I increase the price at most it’s be 10% or so.

“No, the cost is 10,000Z for one pack. So it’s 6,000,000 Z. We are thinking that we want to supply it at the same price as the bowels of a pig.”

“!! What! So that was the case. I’m very sorry for trying to haggle the price down without confirming this! It seems that this establishment will be able to go without hiking up the price. I’m truly very sorry!!”

He started apologizing while rubbing his head to the table. Ah, no, even with this cost it’s still blowing up the price considering the amount of raw materials used to make them. In the first place I thought it would be a huge profit if we sold them for 500 Z each after all. Honestly speaking it doesn’t take much effort at all to produce them and the only work is drying them out. Even with that if it’s just this quantity then if everyone makes them it should only take a few hours. Since we are doing production with about 15 people now. 40 packets per

person. All they have to do is roll up 10 condoms and put some lotion with it into a rubber bag and close the opening. For an operation that doesn't even take a day getting 6 gold coins is an insanely good trade.

“No, not at all, please don't mind it. Please forgive me as well for my rudeness in objecting to it without confirming first.”

After that I mentioned that I wanted him to come to the knight group every three months to pick up the deliveries and I was finally about to switch over to the thing I really wanted to talk about.

“Now then, Greed-sama, since we've safely finished our business, as a sign of our friendship please definitely let me offer you with the greatest service I can offer, do you have the time?”

And he said that. Uhhyaaaoo~~

“That is, for an inexperienced person such as me..I'm greatly indebted for your consideration (grin).”

“Then..Sebastian! The preparations from before!”

Oh~ He said preparations. Does this mean he had already prepared for it in advance! As expected of Haritaid-san, he can see beyond just business. Well done!

I follow after Sebastian who quickly appeared. Haritaid-san is following after me with his flabby body as well. Yeah that's right, the owner himself is going to give out the order for no omissions in the service. It can't be, for him to go that far for my sake..Sorry about that.

H..Huh? Huhuh? That should be the direction of the exit? Sebastian? Huh? We left. Haritaid-san is smiling without showing any sort of strange place. Ah, I'm sure this is, we'll leave once, and enter again through the back? There's no way that'd be the case.

Right now I'm...eating together with Sebastian and Haritaid in a private room in “Dakkuluton”.

In other words...It's serving (food).

Chapter 63: Thread

Year 7442, Month 4, Day 21

Today it's exactly one week since I accepted the job. I pulled it out to the last moment but it's already at the limit. I need to go to Zulaid Metal-smith. I take a shower after going running and head towards Zulaid Metal-smith with my full rubber protectors equipped and my bayonet. I was being careful so they think I'm a proper adventurer doing their job properly.

I go to Zulaid Metal-smith and show the receptionist that tally thing and even though it was at the time limit I wasn't particularly scolded or told any sarcasm, they just handed me the sword for the job along with the scabbard. It seems that the receipt address is Viscount Kindou. I see, I guess he bought a new sword, and as I was thinking that I tried identifying it but it's nothing particularly special. The price is 1 gold coin, 1,000,000 Z. It's a standard long sword.

After receiving the sword for delivery and I was also given a receipt document at the same time which I put into my pocket and then left Zulaid Metal-smith. After this I just need to deliver this to Viscount Kindou in Doritt and then when I receive the payment I get him to sign the letter of receipt and then if I can return to the government office by May 11th I'll have completed the job.

I immediately return to Bins Manor put down the luggage and take off my armor changing to a casual appearance and head towards Binsil's restaurant. Since Kuro was on his day off and hanging around in Binsil's restaurant for most of the day I figured I would just be intruding so I held back. Just lying. I was kidnapped by Haritaid and imprisoned in "Dakkuluton" until late so I just couldn't go.

After arriving at Binsil's restaurant I sit at the usual table in the corner and order a breakfast set. I chatted with Mary for a bit but it seems she still has an attachment towards magic so she's going to keep training while hearing the trick from Kuro. It's nothing for me to comment on so I'll just leave her to her own.

It's still only the 2nd or 3rd day after all. Since she was actually shown Kuro being able to use magic in front of her I'm sure it's not so easy to give up on. I taught her the trick to it a bit more and showed her how to do it get but since it was approaching the busy lunch period I left.

I've already given up on having fun at "Ritton". Somehow it feels like after going that deep into it I can't enjoy it anymore. I had the feeling like my type would end up being found out by the toad owner as well. And if he knew I still had a bit of stock the "Scabbard" he would probably bite on pretty hard. Last night he almost persistently kept asking me if he would really have to wait another three months, or telling me how he wouldn't be able to face the good clients.

Ah, that's right, about "Ritton" though, it seems that one play there costs 3 silver coins. It was 30,000 Z. It was a lot more expensive than I thought. Since Kuro's weekly wages are 40,000 Z after all. If you take into consideration about half from there is used for the per head tax then he would have to live the bare minimum lifestyle for two weeks or so in order to go once. If you go off buying food and other daily necessities then you would be able to take it at the face value of about 30,000 yen but if you follow back from the income of an average farming family then in Japan of my past life it would be a price of over 100,000 yen. It changes a bit in the city but even then it's an imagine close to 100,000 yen. It was an insanely high class shop. It's not a store you can go to casually.

If he had really hopped on at 8,000 Z or 10,000Z for 1 "Scabbard" then wouldn't his customers have really started to disappear? After doing the math if he has 30

customers or so a day that's 900,000 Z in sales, 27,000,000 Z in a month, and 320,000,000 Z in sales in a year. I'm sure the employees the prostitutes are mostly of the slave ranking so the majority of the sales will enter Haritaid's pockets. From the 320 gold coins if you take out the 10% tax and various expenses even if it reduces to just 2/3rds it's still 210 gold coins.

He's earning my entire fortune right now on a monthly basis.

Suddenly I remember Kuro's Unique Ability. Charm huh. It's valuable. I'm amazed he can endure. It's the same as a beast at 14 years old. Since the

mental age and body age are different so when it builds up, umm, it's difficult, various things. Even if my MP is super human level it doesn't mean that my desires disappear just from controlling them. There's a limit to just controlling myself from hastily giving into my desires though.

It's an extreme conversation but if there's a feast in front of your eyes, it's difficult to starve to death just looking at that. But, I can probably endure longer than normal people thanks to my MP. Just the same I can probably resist the desire to sleep and keep staying awake as well. But, along with the breakdown of my body my MP will eventually run out and even if someone tries to stop me I'd devour a meal down and go to sleep. There's a limit to holding things back with just the power of your will. And it's just enduring it, your desires don't disappear. It's like only pretending to endure for the sake of pride.

It's a serious conversation but I know what it feels like to experience the desire to sleep or eat when your MP hits 0, I have experience with it after all. You're hit with strong desires that are hard to resist even if you're enduring like your life depends on it. If both of those were satisfied but you were pent up when your MP hit 0 what do you think would happen?

It's frightening just imagining it. That's why that training method that Mary told me about is logical.

I'm thinking about such idiotic things while wandering down a road off of the central street while trying to find a store other than "Ritton". Come to think of it, it's a bit early but it's a good time to have lunch. I guess I'll go after having some random lunch.

Thinking that I asked the apprentice boy at Bins Manor about another high class shop than "Ritton" and he told me about "Pink Monsoon" when I went there, a toad was there. Why in the world!? Obviously I ended up being found and in the end I was forced to have the same conversation with the owner of "Pink Monsoon" about the scabbard. Different from Haritaid, the perfectly normal looking owner said "I want you to sell them to us as well."

It couldn't be helped so if it was just a bit I decided to sell them there at the same price as "Ritton". However, I limited it to just 400 packs per three months for this store. Totaling it together with "Ritton" and it's 1000 packs. Since it only

adds up to about the amount of rubber that 30 pairs of sandals would use I doubt there's any problem. If it's sandals then 30 pairs would only add up to 1,200,000 Z but scabbards will add up to 10,000,000 Z so I'm sure it's fine.

After talking to him I felt like the owner of "Pink Monsoon" was the type to understand what a person is saying. I thought I could hold some hope for VIP treatment but he said "There's no way our employees could be a good match for Greed-sama" so I ended up being served (food) at "Dakkuluton" again. It's fine already. Since my face is already known in the industry in Keel it's already impossible to go and play.

.....

Year 7442, Month 4, Day 25

After departing Keel the day before yesterday I was safely able to deliver the sword to Viscount Kindou. Also, I went to Sagulett Company which has a fixed caravan to Bakkudo every month and gave them a letter to my older brother. Of course, the content is about making deliveries of the Saya. In addition, I asked the whereabouts of that point of contact. Since he had previously come to Bakkudo as an escort for the caravan here.

I had expected it since I hadn't seen him come to Bakkudo as an escort for the caravan since then but it seems that Sagulett Company isn't hiring him right now. It can't be helped. When asking if they had any ideas about his location they told me about a bar around here. It seems that it's the cheapest bar which there's only three of in this Doritt. I immediately was going to head to that bar but I realized that my horse is an intrusion. This is bad, what should I do? I guess it would be better to look for an inn like Bins Manor in Keel where I can let them look after my horse. It was a bit embarrassing but I went back to Sagulett Company once more and had them introduce me to an inn. It seems that it's a place where the caravans from Bakkudo often use. Then it should be safe.

I enter the inn, take a room and ask them to look after my horse, put all of my money and valuables into a rubber back pack and left it in the care of the front desk before immediately heading to the bar. I made sure to go wearing my rubber protectors so they would know I was related to Bakkudo. It seems that the squires who escort the caravan keep it on other than when they sleep so it

should be fine.

I quickly was able to find the bar I was told. Doritt isn't as large as Keel and the roads aren't so messy for it to be called a city. It's just like a slightly larger and crowded version of Bakuddo village. Even if you want to get lost you cant. In the first place, the only building that's more than two floors other than Viscount Kindou's mansion is Sagulett Company.

Obviously most of the buildings are made of wood.

After arriving at the bar I was quickly able to find that guy so I was relieved. It's convenient because you can easily notice his characteristic spaced out idiotic face even from a distance. I'm sure he realized that I entered. The point of contact came over to my table and started talking intimately with me.

"This is, the young master from Greed-sama's place. It's been a while. I'm Hendel. Do you remember me?"

"Yeah, it's been a while, Hendel. Of course I remember you. How's your leg been after that? Does it not hurt or anything?"

I respond as friendly as possible.

"Of course not, thanks you so, look, just like this. It's completely healed and I've been greatly saved by it."

"That's great. It was worth the effort of me fixing it...How about it? Want to drink with me for a bit? I don't have much money but I have enough to treat you at a place like this."

"ehh...Is it okay? Then, I'll take you up on the offer."

After saying I'd treat him the color of his eyes changed.

After that we talked about pointless things for a while but it's started to reach a good point. Since Doritt isn't a city like Keel I thought they would start closing places up early on but a light was lit in the lighting magic tool. It's not as far into the remote areas as Bakuddo I guess they keep the bars operating somewhat late.

"Come to think of it, Hendel. I remember you being pretty interested in that time when the maid that worked at our house was attacked by a goblin and

killed. You, were you possibly interested in that maid?"

It's about time the alcohol has gotten to him. When I pretended to go outside and take a piss I used detoxification magic so I'm not drunk at all.

"Ehh... No~ as expected of the young master. You're watching properly, however, that wasn't that sort of thing. It was a bit related to a job of mine."

"Eh? Job?"

I ask curiously. And the point of contact made a bit of face like he screwed but quickly covered it up.

"No~ when I did a carpenter job there quite a while before I was taken care of by that maid."

"He~"

"Well, it wasn't anything special though, that's why I was interested.."

He's started to act suspiciously. His eyes are darting all over the place restlessly.

"Hey now, what's wrong? Calm down. Well, drink up."

I said that and offered him some wheat vodka.

"He~ thanks for that. No~ I guess I can't keep it secret. As a matter of fact just as the young master said, I was a bit interested in that maid-san..I'll get a bit embarrassed. It's unfortunately that she was killed by a goblin."

..Hmn, so that's how he's come out.

"Was that how it was? That's completely unfortunate. Any ways, drink some more."

"He~.."

I guess I'll change the approach of my attack a bit. If this doesn't work then I'll just have to tie him up tonight and finish him off after he says everything.

"It's changing the conversation a bit, but you know I'm unlucky as well, I was chased out of the house and told to become an adventurer because I'm the second son.

It was good this time since I was able to find a delivery job though. I wonder if there's some kind of job I can make a good profit on somewhere?"

I continue pouring him tons of alcohol.

"No way~ there's no way there'd be a story as delicious as that around anymore..Ah, you're being an adventurer? In Keel?"

"Yeah, that's right."

"Keel huh... I've been in the care of the young master after all..I wonder what...Hmn."

"What is it, talk properly, have you not had enough to drink? Here."

I push the most expensive pork skewer in this bar in front of Hendel and pour him some more alcohol.

"Ah, thanks~ for thaa... Is young master usually in Keel?"

"Ah, that's right. I don't come over here very often~"

I say that and take a big drink.

"Hmn...Then I guess you won't butt heads with me..."

"Ah? About what?"

I put my elbows on the table as it seems like the alcohol has finally started to disturb his words.

"No that is, I've been in the care of the boss in Keel as well. It's looking after the west of Doritt though, and, well that doesn't matter but since I want to return a bit of the favor to the young master I've been in the care of so I thought."

"How roundabout~ What is it? Are you going to pass a good job around to me?"

I wonder if this is about Begulu? The core of my head cools down.

"I guess so. In Keel there's a, well normal inn, called "Roberikk". If you tell the boss named Begulu who uses that place as a base that you heard from me, he'll probably give you a job."

“He~ Begulu huh. I somehow feel like I’ve heard the name before.”

“Yeah, there’s a famous boss Begulu as well. The guy who often comes out as controlling the hoodlums in Keel. The Begulu I’m talking about is like the brains behind the boss Begulu who rules over all of the hoodlums. I don’t know his real name and I’ve only met him a number of times I can count. Well, it’s not something I should say since I’ve only met him 2–3 times but I think that he’s calling himself Begulu in order to keep his identity hidden behind that famous Begulu.”

It seems that the alcohol is doing a good job on him and along with the pork skewer covered in oil his mouth has gotten lighter as well.

“I see, Hendel went all the way to Keel to meet that boss?”

“No way, I did it here in Doritt. And that was through an introduction, he went out of his way to come over here. Does the young master remember.. in Doritt in the past there used to be a guy named Baluk. That old man Baluk told boss Begulu that I was going to be his successor.”

!! Baluk is the adventurer I killed in the past. He came to Bakudd as the escort for a caravan and the one who made contact with Myun his name was Baluk. He was the partner of my first time after all. As expected I won’t forget his name. And I was able to confirm his connection to Begulu. Now I just need to pull in this thread.

“He~ I see. Is it fine if I go to this “Roberikk” inn and say I want to meet boss Begulu?”

“No, the boss is a very careful person so you have to hand him a mark then. Hand the old man who’s a receptionist as “Roberikk” a red cloth and say “It’s From Rombert” then. Then the older will call out to boss Begulu. And then you can talk with him.”

“I see now, is it fine as long as it’s a red cloth? Isn’t there various things like size or tint?”

“Ah, it seems that most things are fine.”

Got it, then it should be fine. After that I continued treating Hendel until closing time. Just as expected of a cheap shop the bill wasn’t even 6000 Z. Even

though we ate and rank a lot it was just this amount of money.

I worried about it quite a bit during the conversation but I decided no to kill him. Either way if I kill Begulu this guy won't have any connection to contact the Sagual family in the Kingdom of Devas remaining and I thought he wouldn't be able to report it until he makes a connection himself. It's fine if you say I'm too naive.

.....

Year 7442, Month 4, Day 28

After staying Doritt another night I slowly returned to Keel. It's already close to night. I guess I'll go to Bins Manor for the time being. 5000Z per night hurts but just as expected from a high-class inn it's comfortable and I can request them to look after my horse. And above all it's a luxury not having to worry about my luggage left in the room at all.

After I take a room and ask them look after my horse, I take off the protectors and change into my worn-out clothes at the bottom of my back pack, just in case I hang my sword on my waste and immediately head off to "Roberikk". It's gotten to the point where it's bad just wrapping a leather string around it. I guess I should at least buy a scabbard? After deciding to buy a scabbard tomorrow if I have the time I head to "Roberikk".

I draw along my shadow in the time close to night, after shaking on the horse all today, I'm pulling along my body as well as I walk. By the time I arrived at "Roberikk" the sun had finally started to set. Well, if I can meet Begulu B today then that's fine. If I can just confirm then after that I can just wait until he's alone and finish him off with magic and all of my worries and problems will disappear. Even if he's not in "Roberikk" then I can just come tomorrow or later.

I purchased a cheap red handkerchief or some kind of cloth.

I open the door to "Roberikk" and tell the receptionist old man "It's From Rombert" while handing him the cloth. The old man glances at the cloth then just in case checks the surroundings before opening his mouth.

"He's not here today. He's out on a big job. I don't know if he'll return today. If it's a hurry then take this and go to the restaurant called "Binsil". The boss

should be there.”

What’s he saying? Binsil? He must have noticed I was making a confused face as I received the black coin. The old man continues to say.

“The stage of the big job is the restaurant called “Binsil”.”

!! What’s that mean. I want to hurry and go to the “Binsil Restaurant” but I also want as much information as possible. I forcibly hold back my feelings of impatience and ask.

“he~ What kind of big job? Some kind of burglary?”

“..Since you have the red cloth and the password, you’re a point of contact for Devas as well right? What corps?”

This is bad. Ey, I’ll just go with it.

“..The Sagual.”

“Sagual, huh. It’s been a while since I’ve heard that name. There’s a front for Begulu and that guy’s name is, ah, the name that’s not his family name but it’s called Begulu. And this guy is a violent failed adventurer but since he’s considerably strong and a bit intelligent he’s partying with him as a cover. Since their names are the name he’s a perfect match as the cover right? And, even if I say that front is a bit intelligent, it’s still only at the level of a failed adventurer so if he doesn’t let him kill some stress occasionally then that intelligence melts away.”

The old man of “Roberikk” said uninterested.

“And then, that stress killing is a big job?”

“Yeah, the stress-killing isn’t particularly the big job or anything. I don’t know the details but it seems that the objective this time is to kidnap the daughter of that “Binsil” restaurant. She’s the same black hair as you and while she will sell for a good price though. They’re going to make a ruckus in that restaurant and use a debt to make her into a slave. It seems that they’re going to do it a bit after that sun sets. That’s why he might not come back today. If you need to get in contact with him in a hurry then it might be good to go and take a look.

“Binsil” is along the riverside along the eastern road near the southern part so if

you go I think you'll notice it."

What was that? He's going to make Mary into a slave and sell her off? It's not the time to be wasting time.

"He~ I see. Then, I'll head over and take a quick look. Is it fine if I show this coin?"

"That's right, see you later."

I left "Roberikk". The sun has more than half set. I take a look around and take off running at full speed. I'm sure I still have a bit of time to spare but I don't have enough time to return to Bins Manor and put on my protectors or go into the knight group.

I don't have the obligation to save Mary and Kuro...Let alone the favor...Shit!!

Chapter 64: Myun's Release

Year 7442, Month 4, Day 28

My head is telling me to organize the situation but there's not enough time to think and summarize it all up. After leaving "Roberikk" I made sure no one was observing me before running through the night city of Keel at my full speed.

While losing myself in running in order to arrive at Binsil's restaurant as fast as possible I knock anything in my way out of the way just focusing on running faster. I'm sure I'll barely make it. The sun will set soon.

Make it in time!

.....

I was able to get a sight of Binsil's restaurant before the completely finished setting. It's on the other side of the river but one of the only two bridges in Keel is on the way so there's no problem. Thank god... It seems it's still before anything has happened. Including the bridge there's only about 300 m to the restaurant.

In order to prepare for a fight it would be best to catch my breath.

I stopped running and started walking. Simultaneously I started to observe the surroundings of the restaurant after it entered my field of vision. For the time being I still don't see anything particularly suspicious. There's no group of hoodlums standing around outside and no sign that a ruckus is going on inside as well. It's the usual scenery. There's citizens on their way home from their jobs and vagrant kids and elders laying around the sides of the street in the filth. My sight doesn't reach far into the alleyway so there's no way I could find the position of anyone in there but while I'm walking if anyone were to start approaching me from out of the alley it should be possible for me to deal with it.

After gaining a bit of composure my head cools down and I continue observing the surroundings a bit more closer. Somehow but I feel something is

off with the restaurant. If I think about it calmly I don't see anything different but it's true it's somehow different from usual. What is it? What in the world is strange?

I continued to observe it as I cross the bridge but I couldn't shake off the feeling something was off.

There's no suspicious looking people in the surroundings of the restaurant. I don't see anyone peering into the restaurant nearby as well. The people who are coming out from the alley are just passing by as if nothing is wrong as well. There's tables outside of the restaurant as well and it seems there's no customers there but the people who are passing in front aren't paying any attention to it. In other words there shouldn't be any abnormalities in the restaurant right now...I think.

I was about to start running but I move at a fast pace so as to not stand out from my surroundings and I got close to the restaurant. Just 50 m more or so. I stop once and observe the surroundings of the restaurant again...Yeah, there's somehow a feeling of discomfort but I don't feel like there's any problem. There's no sign that a disturbance is taking place in the restaurant as well. It seems the sun finally set. It was red until now but the sky is quickly getting darker.

I guess it was too impatience of a thought that Begulu would attack the restaurant. That's only obvious right, attacking a restaurant in operation in the middle of the city would leave tons of evidence I'm sure. In that case, even if they were to attack it then I guess Begulu himself wouldn't participate? Just let the underlings do it and he himself just made the plan, afterwards collect the underlings and deliciously enjoy the results I guess? Wait a minute, I'm thinking too hastily again. There should be a method to attack it without leaving any evidence. As I thought, it's impossible for him to just make the plan and leave all of the execution to his subordinates. They'll become unable to deal with unexpected situations. Otherwise there should be someone who is reasonably intelligent give command on the spot who has prepared somewhat for unexpected situations.

I try organizing my thoughts somewhat as I head towards the restaurant with a quick pace but my head isn't functioning well. However, since there's no

disturbance with the restaurant and no one peeking in it should be before they've started the plan. If they were in the middle of carrying out the plan I'm sure yells and the sounds of a struggle would leak out and the people walking by would pay attention. I take a look at the people wandering by...Ah, I see, there's no poor people looking jealously into the restaurant. Come to think of it they were always there. Why aren't they there today?

I was astonished as the city of Keel starts getting dark. That's right! The guys that should always be here aren't around. It's not like they've directly entered the restaurant, since I didn't think of them as anything other than an obstacle I was late to notice. There's light coming from the restaurant so there should be people inside but.. depending on the situation it might be best to pass by while looking at the situation inside.

I lower the speed I'm walking a bit as I pass in front of the restaurant and pretend I'm just somehow looking into the restaurant as I pass by. Just as I imagined there were people inside the restaurant. I hear voices talking as well. Mary and her parents are in the kitchen and I see Kuro standing in the gap between the counter and the entrance to the kitchen. There's a bit more than 10 customers in the restaurant and they're all sitting. Other than the fact that Kuro is standing in a weird place there's nothing that looks strange from a glance but there's a worn-out doorplate in front of the door that's always open with "Reserved for Today"

written on it.

It seems that Kuro, Mary, and her parents are all making a stiff expression and seem to feel afraid of the customers. Since they're paying attention to the customers they don't realize as I pass by. It seems that there's customers talking to each other as well but fundamentally they're paying attention to Kuro and the Binsil family. They're saying various things but "Sis~ Sis~ Bring it out fast~ I can't wait any longer~" I hear voices like that. Among the customers there was just one looking outside and he looks at my face. I intentionally try not to make eye contact with that customer as I pretend to pay attention to the doorplate and then pass by. I could only grasp that far from just passing in front of the restaurant. It's best to think that things have already started happening.

I know the guy that was paying attention to outside. It's the magician Begulu.

If I remember correctly his name was Zakkwaiz. I haven't made direct contact so I'm sure he doesn't know about me from his end. However, that face was something I properly engraved into my mind the other day. I couldn't afford to stare at his face or body so I couldn't identify him but there's no mistake.

After passing by the restaurant I calmed down and started thinking at high speed. What sort of situation is this? It didn't seem like something was going to happen right away so I should have some time to think. The old man of "Roberikk" said "the goal is to kidnap and sell Mary".

Is it a kidnapping for money-making purposes? No, even if Binsil had saved up some money it would at most be around a couple million zeni. I wonder if you can make that much money from selling a slave? I've heard that serfs are at most 3–5 gold coins and combat slaves are around 5–7 gold coins. It's true that it's a lot of money, it's an amount of money that 20 people can go for several months without trouble eating. If they add that together with the money saved up in the restaurant then they could probably enjoy themselves for six months or so I'm sure.

If I think about it like that then it's true it's a "big job". Certainly all of the stories I heard about Begulu until now we're of his group committing all different kinds of crimes. Pulling an idiot into an alley in the middle of the town and stealing from him is on the cute side and they've even gone so far as to attack a small-scale caravan outside of the town so I'm sure it's a piece of cake to kidnap and sell a good looking girl. However, since you can't falsify status that story won't completely work.

I'm sure they can forcibly kidnap her but even if they go just like that to the temple in Keel if the person them self doesn't consent to it then they shouldn't do the naming ceremony. Even if they're killed the priests in the temple won't use the naming ceremony for their own profit. It seems that the moment they think of doing something like that the special skill for naming is stolen or sealed by God after all. If there's no official procedures followed then they can't forcibly perform the naming ceremony.

If that's the case then how do Begulu and the others intend to change Mary into money? I don't think it's impossible for them to forcibly sell her to somewhere but since it's an illegal slave sale the other party is taking on a

considerable risk as well so that limits where they can sell her. I'm sure it'll leave evidence as well. However, it should be considerably difficult to kidnap Mary in that situation. If Kuro or someone were to make a fuss then it would all come to nothing after all. In that case do they plan to get rid of everyone there other than Mary including Kuro? Without letting them raise a loud voice? Well, it's not something to think about right now but if I can think of the method then I should be able to think up some method to prevent it, right I need to be careful to think of the {TPO}.

In the first place, the reason I rushed here was so I could beat down the magician Begulu and not so I could save Mary and Kuro...should be. If possible I do want to save them as well but that's limited to a bonus...or should be. I twist my head from a place that can't be seen from inside the restaurant and think about how to beat down Begulu.

There's no need...to keep Begulu alive even for a short period of time to gather any information.

I'll kill him without giving any time to make up excuses. I won't give him anytime to beg for his life. It's common for the advantages and disadvantages to reverse while listening to the tedious talk of the opponent. It's particularly popular in stories of entertainment like drama and novels. Right now I'm assassin targeting Begulu. The one who requested the job is me though. There's no need to question him, if he shows any chances I'll definitely attack there and finish him off. In any case, if I kill that Begulu then I should be able to disturb the control a bit and depending on how it goes it might be the decisive action to save Mary from this dilemma.

Alright, let's do this. If I'm going to do this then I want to settle things with a single attack of magic. And I don't want these guys remembering my face. Then it would best to use a magic attack from a distance I'm sure. Hardening them in things like ice and earth isn't a good choice. They'll cause damage to the restaurant and just because they've been hardened in place doesn't mean they can't use magic. If they can make eye contact then they can use magic. However using attack magic that is fired from the hand is impossible. In any case, the risk of hardening him in something is too high so I need to kill Zakkwaiz.Begulu in a single attack.

Well, if I can just hit him with a serious attack then he shouldn't be able to use magic so that's fine as well.

If I think about the damage to the restaurant then something too flashy like {Fire Ball} is no good as well. If I cause an uproar by breaking the restaurant in a flashy way then I could be made into a criminal for breaking the restaurant. The poison gas {Kill Cloud} might end up getting everyone inside involved and killing them all...Ah, Mary might be fine. However, Kuro and Mary's parents wouldn't make it I'm sure.

Putting them all asleep with {Sleep Cloud} would work as well but since I haven't practiced this one much it would probably take at least a minute for the sleeping gas to completely appear. Depending on how things it might take longer. If they just ignore me when I have my hand up facing them during that time then it's good but I'm sure that's impossible. Then how about sniping with {Stone Arrow Missile} or {Ice Javelin Missile}? If I hit a human with that it might penetrate through and injure someone other than Zakkwaiz. Even if the rest of Begulu's group other than Zakkwaiz are criminals and there's grudges against them strong enough to kill, it's not like I took any sort of damage. It's probably best not to do it from a distance. If I use {Flame Thrower} then he might end up rolling around and setting a fire as well. I wonder what I should do.

Ah, I guess it's fine if I just make him go into convulsions with "Lighting Bolt". I can probably kill him with just that after all. Let's go with this. There's a chance they'll see my face but it can't be helped. Well it's fine. It's good to hurry.

I start walking towards the front of Binsil's restaurant again, just as I passed in front of the restaurant, I made eye contact with Zakkwaiz.Begulu. And simultaneously raised my left hand towards him. He went into a panic and tried to yell something with his mouth open and aim both of his hands at me but it's already too slow.

In an instant a high voltage electric current stretched from my left hand wrapped around Zakkwaiz's body. It was only a short period fo about 3 seconds that I released it but Zakkwaiz is probably dead. Putting aside the high voltage it was probably a DC current that reached several dozen amperes. If it's a monster like a Horned Bear, no it's different if it's a monster but it would be stranger if a human didn't die from that. Ah, it might be possible that he's still alive. If he still

is then at that time I'll hit him with one more or slowly cook him with a different magic. It's reliable if I stab him to death with a sword as well.

I did it, Myun. As long as I kill this guy the rest doesn't even matter much.

Just in case I use Identify but his condition has become death. This is good. From the sound of the electricity Kuro and the others look at me and the surprise of them from Begulu B falling over the customers in the restaurant, rather, the Begulu group turns around. I take the sword off my belt and slowly unwrap the leather string while saying

"Now then, your bag of wisdom has died."

And act cool as I continue,

"Jump up high!"

And after saying that in Japanese I use magic again against the guys that have started to run towards me. This time it's a combination of water and fire magic, I just made adjustments to the amount. Immediately the floor was covered in ice 30 cm high and everyone's feet were frozen inside.

The guys who were in the middle of standing up and the ones who had already stood up and were heading towards me are all fixed in the ice. Ah, what's that, Kuro landed on his ass on the ice and he's slipping on the smooth ice, it seems Mary failed on landing as well and can't stand up. Such an uncool ending.

They're all yelling something or other. Shut up~ I wanted to speak for a bit so I stop using continuation on the temperature of the ice for a bit.

"Hey, Kuro, Mary. These guys are loud~ Can I kill them?"

I lightheartedly try saying that. In an instant things quieted down. Everyone is dumbfounded by the sudden happening.

"Hey, how about it?"

I say as if it's troublesome while pointing my sword towards a guy nearby. Really~ reply already. I'll end up with no choice other than to kill them~

"Eh? A, Al. Wait just a minute. Hey, Mary."

Kuro finally manages to stand on the slippery ice with thanks to the counter and calls out to Mary.

“Eh..Kill..that can’t be.”

It seems Mary can’t grasp the situation. She was saying while Kuro gives her a hand in standing up. I kick the corpse of Begulu B, Zakkwaiz. Begulu who died from electricity and fell to the ground having half of his body frozen in ice while glaring at the rest of the Begulu group, “Hmph, then, let’s ignore these guys for a bit. Ah, that’s right. Until I say it’s okay, none of you say anything. If you talk I’ll kill you. Also, if you don’t want to end up like this guy then don’t move. You get it right?..Kuro, Mary what happened?”

I asked. And then continued,

“Ah, before that we should let out Mary’s father and mother. Wait just a minute.”

After saying that I get on top of the ice and go into the kitchen then use the left hand that doesn’t hold a sword and expand a small {Anti-Magic Field} that I use to erase the ice on Mary’s mother and father’s feet, and said to leave the restaurant together with Kuro and Mary. Ah, come to think of it, only Kuro isn’t wearing any sandals.

“Kuro, hurry up and leave the restaurant otherwise you’ll end up with frostbite on your feet.”

After saying that I push Kuro into leaving the restaurant. I give a glare so everyone can safely leave the restaurant. After confirming that Kuro went outside I was going to continue as well. But, wait a second.

“Kuro, come to think of it you, were done in good on your stomach and back right. Who did it?”

After I said that everyone who has their feet frozen flinched. However, no one is opening their mouth. I point my sword towards Begulu A who is looking at me with just his neck while he’s still sitting at a seat in the back (in other words the closest to me) closest to the exit, and say “Is it this guy? It’s fine to burn him with the same {Flame Thrower} as well?”

And said that. Begulu A shakes his head while saying.

“I..I..“I didn’t say it was okay for you talk.””

I stuck the sword a bit into the hole of his nose and made a 1 cm or so cut. The blood spurts out in a showy way but it’s far from a fatal wound, the bleeding that looks flashy isn’t anything that will risk his life. Begulu A says “Bugya” and holds on to his nose quietly. There’s blood leaking from the gaps in his fingers holding his nose. I start maintaining the ice again before slowly walking outside of the restaurant. It still hasn’t become an uproar but I guess they noticed the incident onlookers are starting to gather.

I say to Kuro

“What happened?”

and asked.

“When I was in the restaurant these guys gradually started to gather. I wasn’t paying much attention to it at first but when Begulu came in last I realized it. These guys we’re waiting for Mary to resist them touching her. It’s a hand these guys use often. If Mary dislikes it and uses violence then that establishes the “crime of assault”. After that they reconcile it by making them prepare a tremendous amount of money and have them write a loan bond.”

Kruo said the “crime of assault” part in Japanese. I guess he probably couldn’t find the right word for it. I don’t know the correct legal terminology for the kingdom either. However, hmph. I see now. Touch Mary like a molester and forcibly get her to resist. If they can get injured skillfully then they profit. Then they threaten with assault and injury. Since there’s no proof of molestation, as long as these guys match their stories then I guess it’s fine? However, isn’t it still poorly-prepared? Well it’s fine.

“And, did Mary resist?”

I ask Mary.

“When I was about to resist I was stopped by Kuro.. It was dangerous. I was about to hit them with a frying pan.”

Hmn, so Kuro was able to calmly deal with it? However, I guess that means Begulu B who has fallen over and is frozen must have been being cautious not to let any excess customers in then? Isn’t that the job of an underling...Ah, I see,

if it's an underling they might focus on trying to touch Mary. You can't leave the job of being cautious of the outside to an idiot after all.

I say to Mary

“Go and call the knight group. If you use my name they should come. Just, do it slowly.”

said that, and made an expression that I wouldn't accept objections. Mary seemed to have some regrets but quickly nodded and started to head towards the knight group.

“There's no need to worry about the restaurant. I'll erase all of the ice later. Please forgive me that it's a bit dirty.”

I try to calm down Mary's parents and I faced Begulu and his group that are still frozen in the restaurant.

Now then, what should I start asking? Or else..

Chapter 65: False Accusations

Year 7442, Month 4, Day 28

I point my sword at the guy closest to the outside of the restaurant while saying.

“It’s okay for only you to talk, respond to my questions. What did you come to this restaurant to do? If you say it honestly then I might think about letting only you. However, don’t lie. If I think it’s a lie I’ll immediately kill you. Start talking.”

The guy I pointed my sword at was a gnome that 2 years older than me at 16 years old. Come to think of it the group in Binsil’s restaurant this time are all men.

One..two..three..Including the Begulu B that I beat down there’s 14 people. There’s 13 people and 1 persons corpse in the restaurant now. I had heard that Begulu had close to 20 subordinates so it obviously wouldn’t be strange for women to be there but I thought the ratio would have been 9:1 for men:women. It seems that the ratio for women is a bit higher.

“Pl..Please don’t kill me. I’ll talk!”

After the guy said that there was a voice from further in the restaurant.

“Hey, Jones! You..buge”

The one who raised their voice from further in the restaurant was Begulu A. I used {Air Cutter} without a moment of delay to lightly cut the arm that was holding his nose. I glare at Begulu A and,

“You, this is my second time telling you not to talk. If you talk again I’ll kill you. You should be glad, I’m busy right now.”

said that, and faced the Gnome guy again. And with a smiling face, “Sorry about that, there was an hindrance. I won’t let anyone intrude again so rest easy and start talking.”

said that. The Gnome guy held back his trembling voice as he started talking.

“I, I just did as bro Begulu said to do! It’s true! Believe me!”

“Yeah, I believe you. You just did as bro Begulu told you to do right? Tell me what the details of what you were told and the goals of it was.”

I continue to say with a smiling expression.

“Since I hadn’t had any ways to earn money for the past two months or so, he had me mark this restaurant. I was told to observe the customers who enter this place.

He said it was finally about time and decided to do it today. It was a job to kidnap the daughter of this restaurant and sell her as a slave. The method is... Um..”

“The method is? It’s okay, you don’t need to worry, just tell me about it.”

“We harass the daughter and if she resists we do it well so one of us gets injured. Then we use that as basis to blackmail her. “If you don’t want to be reported to the authorities give us money”.”

He~ It’s just as Kuro said. I was able to gain backing to Kuro’s statement.

“Give us money? About how much?”

“1...10,000,000 Z.”

That’s certainly unreasonable. It’s not an amount that can’t be paid but being forced to pay that much for an injury caused with a females power is abnormal. And is it time for the entrance of the bond of debt?

“Hmn. 10,000,000 Z. You, what do you think about that amount?”

“Eh? Ah, no...I.. think it’s expensive..”

“Right. Well it’s fine. And do you think they’d really pay 10,000,000 Z for that sort of reason?”

“I don’t think so..”

“Yeah, that’s right, what are you doing demanding it if you don’t think they can pay?”

I continue to ask with a delighted expression.

“Ah, since this restaurant doesn’t seem like it can pay we were going to make it into a debt... According to what bro said we would get her to sign a bond of debt with a deadline of tomorrow morning... And since there’s no way they could pay we would stop it at making their daughter into a slave..”

Hmn, he can’t get to the point. Since he’s a part of a group of idiot thugs like this I wonder if he’s an idiot? I guess I picked the wrong guy. Well I guess it’s fine. I got the gist of it. I continue to say with a smiling expression.

“Then, if they were to say, we can’t pay so go ahead and report us to the authorities, what did you plan to do?”

“A, Ah. We intended to keep coming back any number of days until the restaurant goes out of business. If we’re always in the restaurant then other customers won’t come after all.. Bro said that eventually they would give in.”

Uwa, how nasty. Molestation doesn’t leave any evidence after all. In the first place it’s suspicious if it’s even a crime.

“I see, by the way, when your Bro said you were going to do that sort of thing at this restaurant, was no one against it?”

“Za...Zakk bro was against it at first.”

“Ho~ Which of them is Zakk?”

It can’t be right.

“Th..The person you killed at first. He’s dead over there.”

The Gnome pointed at Begulu B. He~ Well, I doubt he was against it for moral reasons. It’s probably something he considered after weighing out the risk and return.

Even if he was against it for moral reasons it wouldn’t matter either way though. And he’s already dead, so even if he was a little bit of a good person, I’ve already killed him after all.

“Ah, this guys huh. And, when this guy was against it, no one agreed with that? What about you? Say the truth about out.”

“Eh, a, ah. I didn’t do it. I’ve done something similar before as well...And bro Begulu said that it would be fine as well..”

“I see, I get it. Then the next question. What kind of harassment did you do the daughter of the restaurant? Don’t speak any lies. Since there’s people who saw the entire thing behind me?”

It’s gotten to the point where about 10 onlookers have gathered.

“Ah, umm...We touched her ass, grabbed on to her, groped her breasts from behind..”

I thought it was something like that.

“I see, who did it?”

“Eh? No..everyone..”

Well, I’m sure that’s the case.

“Everyone huh? Hey~ You, what do you think? Gathering together to do harassment like that to a daughter properly doing her job in a restaurant. Did it feel good?”

I let my expression collapse as I continue saying it.

“..”

“Well it’s fine. Alright, you’ve spoken well. It’s already fine, stop talking for a while. Then, next is, anyone who feels like talking, raise your hand.”

They all raised their hands. Everyone other than Begulu A. What low loyalty... I turn around and try asking Kuro.

“Who seems good?”

Kuro was confused being asked so suddenly and stutters a bit while saying.

“Ah, eh, th, then..Angado.”

The one called Angado was a 25 year old blonde human with a good build. He was in the middle of the restaurant and sitting in a chair about to turn around when he was frozen in an incomplete posture.

“So you’re Angado huh? Then, since you’ve been named. What are you going to tell me about? Don’t lie to me.”

I’m sure Angado thought I was going to be asking him questions, he panicked

a bit but opened his mouth.

“Ah, I, I was actually against it. I didn’t want to do something like this! Believe me.”

Aaa~

“That’s a lie right. I hate people who lie to me..How unfortunate.”

After saying that I slowly raised my left hand towards Angado. It’s just a threat though. Everyone swallowed.

“Ah, pl, please stop it! I’ll tell you the truth! I won’t say anything but the truth!”

“I see, the guy in back didn’t listen to what I said so he suffered an unnecessary injury. Be careful.”

I returned to the charming smile again. Angado nodded several times before starting to talk.

“At first I thought we were just going to sell her as a slave. We occasionally do it. In reality, the daughter of this place is a beautiful girl. It’s the same for you but since black hair and black eyes are uncommon we thought she would sell for a lot. In the past we just thought of her as an unusual brat but in the past couple of years since she’s suddenly gotten feminine a number of guys have been aiming for her. You get it right? I get that it’s not something to brag about but I thought it would be fine to enjoy myself with her for a bit before selling her. Since there’s still a young son for this restaurant bro said they probably wouldn’t oppose it as much even if we kidnap the girl...”

He~ So Mary had a little brother. I didn’t know. And I wonder where he is right now?

I asked Mary’s parents if they should bring the child out with them. Her father said he would go around the back entrance and bring as he went.

“I see. I get it. It’s fine already. Next, then you.”

I pointed my sword at the guy next to Angado. A 22 year old dwarf.

“I, I was invited by bro Begulu since there’s going to be money as well.. It’s true that girls face is good looking and while it’s a bit thin her facial features are

good. The long slits eyes and small nose are good as well but.. since I'm a dwarf, she's not my type, but umm, I thought if I would make some money then it would be fine.. Now I think that I was doing something wrong, it's true."

Who said to praise Mary? That sort of stuff doesn't matter at all.

"Ah, I see. It's fine already. Then, hey, the purple hair elf over there, what about you? Is there something you want to say?"

A somewhat good-looking 23 year old elf, though he's thin. I bet he could become a popular idol in Japan. Even coming from another guy I'm envious of that face. I'm sure he's popular. Come to think of it all of the elves I know are good looking. I wonder why?

"A, ah. Of course. I didn't really think about it much at first since bro said we would get paid. I'm reflecting on it now. That girl but I like her lips. I can't stop looking at those glossy pink lips."

This guy as well? It's true I think that Kuro and Mary have decent looks. They look like halves. Even on Earth it seems that a lot of Westerns see Asians as having an exotic charm as well but I wonder if it's enough to say that far? I haven't seen a clean mirror so I've never seen it but I'm sure I look like a half as well.

Putting aside individual interests, going off of my aesthetic sense I don't think Mary or Kuro are any match for elves, and there's some considerable beauties outside of elves even among humans and non-humans. Of course there's also the opposite of beauties as well.

Previously, I've talked to Mary and Kuro about it but we came to the agreement that we weren't particularly good looking. It's true we have deeper features than a pure Japanese and it's a half looking face with western influence mixed into it, and if we were to go to Japan just like this then we would be considered good looking is what was quarreled about but putting aside becoming intimate, we definitely' aren't beautiful is the conclusion we arrived at. At the very least by looking at each other we could tell "they're Japanese".

"Ah, it's fine already. I get it. Then next, you."

I put my sword at the Wolf-people guy in front of me and said.

“M..Me? I tho’ tha’ girl was gud too. Her har was always preti and looked wet.”

You as well..

“That’s right, her proportions are childish, and honestly she didn’t seem like a woman..”

“It’s fine already. Is there anyone that will talk about the story I want to hear? I think it would be best for you to talk here. Things regarding the girl are already fine. What about you?”

I point with my sword again. This time it’s a 27 year old Rabbit-people guy who seems cautious.

“M...Me? I guess so, first, won’t you do something about this ice? My feet are cold and it feels like the sensation is about to disappear.”

“Hn? I see. I’ll do something, wait a moment.”

Ah, I forgot about the ice. I put my hand on the ice and lower the temperature. It’s probably about –20 degrees C right now after all. After putting some effort into it for about a minute I lowered it to around 6 degrees C.

“Alright, this should be good. Now start talking.”

“Eh? Weren’t you going to let me o“There’s no way I’d do that right””

The guy got depressed but I guess he gave up and started to open his mouth.

“Last year, after bro Begulu called out to everyone here and..4 women who aren’t here we all attacked Geluf’s caravan. It should have been a considerable profit but we only received 1 gold coin each. After paying taxes it’s gone. That was a small caravan but there should have been 50,000,000 Z in goods. Begulu and Zakk bros should have split up more than half of it.”

Oh~ I wanted to hear those sorts of things.

“He~ I see, then, that means you held a grudge against your bros right?”

Mary’s father returns with a 5 year old boy. So his name is Yoshif.Binsil huh. Her little brother seems tired.

I asked again with a smile.

“Ah? Yeah, honestly it wasn’t amusing. Even though we did all of the attack..Even though they were just sitting the back giving out orders they took more than half of the profits.”

Hoho~ that is still

“He~ Then, you don’t have any kind of favors to your bro right? Can you say that story again? If you properly talk, I’ll consider about you, but how about it?”

Time passes while saying these things. Without mistake I’m gradually reducing the temperature of the ice. Of course I can normally maintain the ice while talking as well but it’s a pain. Ah, it doesn’t shine for just the portion I’m maintaining it so no one can realize I’m using magic but concentrating on both isn’t easy. I can do it, I just don’t want to do it. In addition I’ll also say it but it’s not easy for me to normally use magic as well. It’s only a really short period of time but obviously I have to concentrate quite a bit. If possible then I don’t want to use it because it’s troublesome.

Well, just like this as I made them spit out all of their crimes, I think a bit over 10 minutes passed? The knight group came running brought by Mary. I reveal my social standing and have them confirm it with Status Open while exposing all of the crimes these guys just revealed. There’s no evidence but there’s testimony. Also, I don’t know what is against the law and what isn’t but I said it all. In addition, I said I obtained some special information, and when I was about to peer into this restaurant I often come to Begulu B suddenly tried to use magic on me so in order to protect myself I reflexively used attack magic and killed him. However, it seems like the situation in the restaurant was strange so I used ice to restrain everyone, and anxiously ask if I committed any kind of crime.

After listening to my story the commander of the knight group said, “Greed-sama, please rest easy. The moment that frozen man tried to raise a hand against a noble such as yourself in the town it would have been the death penalty.

Much less, just like you said he suddenly used it without reason right? A sudden counter-attack, as expected of Lord Greed’s little brother. I believe it was your older sister...Oh pardon me, your older sister Lord Greed received

investiture as a knight in the first knight group...No, of all things, we the Knight group of Webdos can't sleep at night with our feet facing Bakkudo. Also, about the testimony I just heard I'll immediately confirm it from those here."

"Is that so? That's great. Thank you very much for your good job of keeping the peace in Keel. Now then, I'll start separating them from the ice one at a time."

"That's plenty well, also what was the special information?"

"I'll definitely talk about that after this. First you should start with investigation I'm sure."

After saying that I erased all of the ice except for the bit at each of their feet. It can't be helped so the guys sitting in seats I kept the seat frozen as well.

After that I went to the side of the commander and talked to him.

"With this you can carry them out. Also, about the testimony, him, him, these three, and those two over there should give you testimony. Also, if you ask any of the people here you should be able to gain testimony from a third person, and I think it would be good if you quickly took testimony from the victims here this time the Binsil family and Baladik-san."

"That's certainly true. Hey, everyone from the third platoon immediately start taking testimony from the people around here. The first platoon carry out the suspects from inside the restaurant. The third platoon should keep guard of the surroundings. Get to it."

After hearing the commanders words 1 platoon of 6 people, for a total of 18 knights started at their own jobs. After about 10 minutes the entire Begulu group was lined up along the street still frozen in ice and the testimony was taken from onlookers and the Binsil family. Even if I say testimony it was just confirming there was no difference in all of the crimes I told them.

After that, they were able to confirm the story from all the guys in the Begulu group that I just told them about. They seemed nervous but after I nodded at them they all agreed it was true. The ones who gave testimony and the ones who didn't were all made to bite a gag and had their hands tied behind their backs.

Eventually, one of the knights that was checking their belongings took two magic stones and piece of paper out of Begulu's pocket and started reporting it to the commander.

What is it? When I tried asking Kuro and "You didn't even know about something like that?" with an attitude like that told me. In order to prevent counterfeiting of important documents and bonds, a magic stone is made into a powder, which is mixed with the blood of the parties that sign it it seems. With this it becomes an official document. No, I was from the countryside so I didn't know. But, it's true it's embarrassing that I didn't even know how to make official documents even though I'm on the edge of the nobility.

It seems that them having the two magic stones and a piece of paper prepared works as evidence. Incidentally, unless you have an insane amount of power you can't destroy magic stones. And even in that case they just split and aren't turned into a powder. In order to make them into a powder you have to have two magic stones of similar value and rub them together. Normally you gather together ones with close values (= weight), and then use a random magic tool to use mana up a bit at a time until they have the exact same value before using them. Therefore, if these two magic stones that came out of Begulu's pocket have the same value then it's plenty of evidence to prove that this was a planned crime. Ah, it seems that you can quickly tell if they have the same value by rubbing them together and seeing if they become powder.

Even though there's no special business just carrying around two magic stones with the exact same value is rare so it seems this can be used as a good piece of evidence. I wonder if the magic stone simply became powder. Begulu tried to give testimony that "I was holding on to it so I could do a deal with a restaurant" but he tried saying that different place was "Roberikk". Fu...This idiot. It's good timing. I started whispering to the commander.

"Ah, about that special information from just now but the manager of "Roberikk", I'm not sure if it's correct or not but the master there is a spy of the Kingdom of Devas. If you use this coin and a red cloth and use the password "It's From Rombert" and he'll show his tail, so I suggest you capture him. This is information I got my hands on during an investigation of a man named Hendel in Doritt. After returning from Doritt to Keel today I immediately went to

confirm it. The reason I was late on reporting it was because I was confirming the information I heard at that time, when I stopped by this restaurant it was this uproar...and what I heard was that a man named Begulu was a spy for Devas.”

Hendel, I sold you out. Well, don't think badly of me. It doesn't particularly matter if you do though. You're happy as well being of use to me, your benefactor right? Die for my sake. In any case it seems that spies are executed without asking questions after all.

“Is..Is that true! Hey, Shulaf! Come with me!”

The commander whispered something to one of the platoon leaders. And finally, “Immediately go and confirm with your entire platoon. Listen well, first pretend to be a spy of Devas and get him to show his tail. The moment he shows his tail immediately capture him and bring him here!”

And said that with a severe expression. The commander continues saying to everyone.

“We'll bring another witness. The verdict will wait until then.”

Wow, I had expected it but they don't just have the right to police but they also have the right to administrate justice. As expected of a feudalistic society. Ah, no, maybe spies just exceed the normal right to administrate justice and are the territory of military law? I don't know if there's something like that or not though. Since it was going to take some time I ended up getting bored and felt like picking my nose but I stopped at just rubbing my nose.

The onlookers are noisily talking.

Kuro is telling Mary about the details of when she wasn't here and Mary and her parents are relieved that the knight group has arrived and there wasn't a lot of damage to their restaurant.

The knights watching over the Begulu group are poking them as they fidget and move.

I'm sure the temperature of the ice has finally started to go up. It seems they can move a bit but I'm sure they won't be able to move for a while longer.

After about 20 minutes the knights that went to “Roberikk” returned. Being pushed by the knights the old man of “Roberikk” was brought along. The old man was biting a gag and had his hands tied behind his back.

“It’s certain that the master of “Roberikk” was a spy. Since he showed his tail on my signal we all went in and captured him!”

“Mu, I see. And, did this guy let out the name Devas?”

“Yes, he certainly said the name Devas. And during the process of investigation I tried asking him about Begulu as well. It’s also true that Begulu is a spy! Also, it seems that group was helping out with Begulu’s jobs all the time!”

“Alright, I’ll confirm it. Remove his gag.”

After the commander said that one of the knights took the gag off of the old man from “Roberikk”. And the old man said with a voice filled with misery.

“I..I...I just did as Begulu said and acted as point of contact! That they were spies...that can’t be..Ah, you! I just met you right. I handed you the coin and told you Begulu’s location right? That’s right! Knight-sama! This guy is a spy!”

The old man glared at me while saying it. The commander said, “Hmph, I’ll tell you something good. Greed-sama over here just left Bakuddo the other day and came to this Keel right now he’s an adventurer. Between that job he heard information about you from a man named Hendel. And after that as he proceeded with a secret investigation he managed to get this evidence that you were a spy and told me about it.”

“Wh...Hendel..Sagual...I see. Damn it, so you’re the one who killed off the Sagual spy!”

Oh~ Nice misunderstanding! Since the Sagual spy that was Myun was supposed to have been reported as dying two years prior, he must have guessed that she was killed.

This guy must not have known the cause of death. Then it’s not a misunderstanding for this guy though. Most likely Hendel didn’t report anything other than “She died”? He’s an idiot after all. I,

“Hmhn, it’s the duty of my family of nobles that is given care of a territory to

get rid of spies!”

And covered it up.

“Shit!! You pretended to be a spy and deceived me!”

The old man is saying but I won’t pay any attention to him anymore. I say to the commander.

“It seems that all of the evidence is present. What is the judgement?”

“Umu, it’s already fine so make him bite down on a gag!”

After the commander gave out that order a knight behind him put a gag on him.

“Hey, bring Begulu.”

After the commander said that he drew his sword.

Carried by knights on both sides with a different knight behind pointing a sword at him as he’s sitting on the chair, Begulu was dragged over. The commander glares at Begulu that’s become pale and,

“I, Webdos Knight Group, First Company Commander, convict you in the name of Viscount Goful. I give you death under the charge of spying.”

And the moment he said that without listening to any excuses he cut his head off. Eeh!!? That just now was the trial? Cheers of joy were raised from the onlookers. I heard a small “Kya~” voice from Mary and her mother. And the old man from “Roberikk” had his head cut off in the same way. Though even if I say it like that it’s not like their heads literally flew. They just had their throats slit. There’s no way a caste sword could cut through the bone in someones neck right?

However, the old man from “Roberikk” is fine but Begulu A wasn’t a spy. It’s completely close to false accusations. Close but he was used a bit for helping out with Begulu B’s spying jobs so.. Well, wouldn’t his fate of being executed be the same? Putting aside the spying he seems to have done quite a few bad things after all.

“The primary spies were disposed of! The remaining judgement will take place tomorrow afternoon in front of the government office! Everyone

breakup!”

After the commander yelled that and “Capture everyone and throw them in a cell!” he’s saying that. It can’t be helped.

“Um, Lord Goful, when I just interrogated them a moment ago. In exchange for their testimony I promised them. I’ll think about is what I said.”

After saying that there was a bit of relief on the faces of the guys who gave testimony.

“Mu, that is..”

“Yeah, and then, I thought about it a bit but since they far too villainous, so I think it would be good to ask the knight group to make judgement here.”

I heard Kuro say “Cruel~” in a small voice behind me. I can hear you properly, this guy.

Despair appeared on the faces of Begulu’s group. It can’t be helped right. I never said I would save you or make your crimes lighter after all. In the first place, there’s no way I’d have that sort of authority. I thought about it just as I promised but I thought it would be best to leave it to the knight group.

After the knight group pulled out the onlookers left in small groups as well. The commander said it was payment for the chair and gave Mary’s father a couple of silver coins. I use water magic to wash away the large amount of blood from Begulu and the others being executed then hand Mary 2 silver coins and asked for a beer.

There’s no one inside of the restaurant and since several chairs have disappeared it feels empty. The fact that I asked for a beer must have been the start. We all entered the restaurant and gather at an open table to sit down. Mary brought me a beer so I thanked her and took a drink. My throat was dry.

Mary, her family, and Kuro started to thank me. It’s fine something like thanks. In some meanings it was a coincidence after all.

After listening to their story it seems that Kuro gave it his best protecting Mary as well.

Mary said, “I saw from behind but Kuro’s legs were trembling so I realized I

wasn't the only one and was a bit relieved. But it was still scary." Her father and mother were both too scared and couldn't do anything in particular but it seems she was happy that Kuro protected her even if he himself was scared.

It seems that since Mary was going to get touched Kuro started carrying the food out himself. He was kicked, tripped, spit on, and seems to have had some pretty cruel things done to him.

After the conversation continues it came to my skill with magic and the sword that I used to cut just Begulu's nostrils. Our way of training is different. I've been ringed out considerably by father, older brother, and sister-in-law. Kuro is even saying "The cost of Al's work is 1000 pounds of gold. After all he even exposed a spy right?" and flattering me. Her father aligned with that and said "Really thank you very much. I heard the details of what they were just saying but if they demanded 10,000,000 Z there's no way we could have paid it. You're the benefactor of our family.". Mary added in as well with "I thought it was over already and started to resign myself, really thanks. No matter what I do I can't say thanks enough to you."

Hahahaha, say some more~

"Thank you very much for saving us. If it's something we can do then we want to do somehow repay you for this." "No, we we're seriously saved. I know I'm no match for Begulu but in the end I thought there was no choice other than to fight." "Al, I think it's really great that I didn't end up having to become a slave, it's all thanks to you."

Eventually while that was happening the alcohol started to kick in. Every time I ask for some alcohol the old man says he'll treat me but I properly paid for it.

Right, I still haven't properly received any expression of gratitude. Rather~ like I would let it disappear into vagueness just from being treated.

Now then, I guess it's about a good time.

"I've understood you're feelings about thanking me. In that case since it's this occasion I'll say it without reservation. Just as I was introduced by the commander just now, I'm an adventurer. After doing a couple of jobs in Keel I'm thinking of going to Rombertia and challenging the dungeon. But since I'm still a newcomer and I still don't have any allies. If, you absolutely feel you want to

thank me, please give me Marry. Ah, obviously as an ally for being an adventurer. Don't misunderstand it in a weird way. Kuro as well. Since you're not Mary's family you're a different lot. Adventure together with me. I'll properly paid you two your share."

The old man opened his mouth dumbfounded,

The mother was also dumbfounded holding her hand to her opened mouth with her eyes opened wide, Mary's facial color turned white,

Kuro's making a face like he can't believe it and staring at me, Yoshif is napping peacefully on a chair at the edge of the restaurant.

"Just now, you appraised my work today as "10,000,000 Z of work" right. I'm not particularly in need of money right now so I don't need any at all. Since it's so sudden I'm sure you need to organize things. It's fine if you think about it well for tonight. Well then, tomorrow at noon, I'll be going in front of the government office to watch those guys punishment so receiving a reply at that chance would be good."

And said that, leaving the four remaining in a daze as I quickly stood up from my seat.

.....

On my way back to Bins Manor, I was smiling while thinking, it fell in a good way for me. I wasn't originally thinking about this but since they were so enthusiastically offering to thank me I just thought of it. It's not that I don't think it's a bit crooked but it's true that I want to pull reincarnated people over as my allies.

Well, Mary has no experience with combat at all so it would be difficult to think of her as war potential right away. It seems that Kuro can use the sword a bit but as far as I've seen he still has a long way. It's probably best to think he's just a bit better than Mary. That's why in the worst case, if they refuse with enough force to dogeza I think it can't be helped. At that time I'll completely give up on those two as it wasn't meant to be.

Chapter 66: Crossroads of Life

Year 7442, Month 4, Day 29

It was a refreshing and good waking. The alcohol from last night is already no longer remaining. I suddenly realize that the sun has risen and it's probably 8 or 9

am in the morning right now. If I sleep in this much then I guess it's only obvious it would be a good awakening. I'm hungry but training is first. There's an event in front of the government office before noon today as well. It should be fine if I go a bit early and eat something at a restaurant near the government office I'm sure.

I head out to do my running with my rubber protectors on. There should have already been several hours since people started getting active in the town of Keel but the number of people is less than at night. Even though it's a town where the population exceeds 10,000 I wonder why there's such few people out. I think about that while running through the side streets in order to not get in the way of anyone. I ran until I got outside of the town turned around and ran down another path.

I continued running while using the towel on my neck to prevent sweat from getting in my eyes. It's been about an hour soon. Just halfway more. Starting from here is the true part of running. Give it your best, me. I encourage myself as I bully my body. I haven't run in the week since I went to Doritt the other day so I thought my body would be stiff but that wasn't the case it seems. Hmm, the body of a 14 year old is amazing. It's super energetic every morning after all. It's the angle of a thumb after all. Doesn't it hit the belly button?

When I was about to give it one more and running towards the outskirts of Keel, I noticed that a group of horses was approaching from the front. What is it? is what I thought but that can't be anything but Webdos knight group. Most likely they're going to do some training outside of the town I guess. In order to not get in their way I move to the edge of the road and watched the march of

an official knight group. There were close to 20 knights on horseback, there's also another group of dozens following along with the knights, probably squires.

Amazing~ How cool~ They're all wearing armor and equipped with swords and spears. It's my first time since I was born seeing this many knights and squires marching so I got excited watching it. I'm sure my eyes must have been sparkling. The one standing at the front is Leader Sendhel I guess? He's wearing a helmet with a visor so I can't see his face well. Hmn, it has a different type of intensity to a parade of the Self-Defense Force. Their armor is all different and it's not like their equipment is standardized but this is cool. I wonder if the march of the horse warriors from the Sengoku era was like this?

As I was spaced out and watching the gallant march get closer when they passed in front of me the knight at the front raised his left hand. And then the knight right behind him sent out the order "Everyone, stop!". What is it, what is it?

The knight at the front raises his visor and calls out to me.

"Ya~ Alan-kun. You got right to making some grand achievements. I heard the report about last night's incident. As expected of Farne's little brother. You did a good job."

As expected it was Leader Sendhel.

"No, I didn't do anything significant, rather the matter last night was resolved quickly thanks to the decisive judgements of commander Lord Goful and his subordinate knights and squires' rapid actions. I didn't do anything more than offering him a bit of materials for him to make judgements."

I kneel just as I was taught my older brother and meekly responded.

"Fu..Alan-kun, if modesty goes too far it sounds like sarcasm. I heard the report and we've been packing them all into the knight group headquarters since last night for interrogation. The report on the offenses went to my father's side early this morning. On that occasion it was also reported about you. After all, I was the one doing the reporting. After returning to the headquarters, I was planning to send a messenger out to the inn you're staying at but this is good timing. The punishment of Begulu's group will be given today at noon in front of the government office. Come to that place. Okay?"

Leader Sendhel grinned as he said that.

“Yes, just as has been requested of me I will appear before the government office today at noon.”

“Yeah, putting that aside, what are you doing? It seemed like you were running with your armor on but..”

Ah, I still had my towel wrapped around my neck. I take my towel off in a panic as I turn red from embarrassment, I couldn't help but talking as I put it in my pocket.

“U..Umm, I was running to train my body. I would run everyday in the village with my older brother and..that is...um..”

“Ho~ you can train your body by running?”

Really, why does he get so into it. Just ignore it.

“Ha, if you're in combat for a long period of time then it makes it less difficult for your breathing to get rough so it trains it a bit..it doesn't cost any money at all..”

“Hahhahaha..Certainly it doesn't cost any money. Ku, fufufu. However, it's a good way of thinking. And I like the fact that you're continuing the training you did with your older brother even after leaving the village!”

After saying that Leader Sendhel raises the visor again with his left hand and grabs the reins of the horse.

“Everyone, forward!” along with that order the gallant march started again. I just continued watching in a daze as the knight group passed by.

.....

After I finished my remaining running and returned to Bins Manor it had passed 11 am. I take a quick shower at the well in the back and since I didn't have a scabbard for my sword I put the bayonet together and put the scabbard on just the tip before throwing that over my shoulder and heading to the government office.

Since I didn't have any time I was going to grab some skewers on the way but all of the stalls were closed. It wasn't just that but a considerable number of

restaurants were closed up. Could it be that they're going to watch?

Just as I thought, when I arrived in front of the government office it was already jammed with people. Is it a festival or something? Is what I was thinking but I remember that whether it was Japan or Europe enforcing the sentences of criminals was a good show. I see, it was a festival as well. This is the reason why there was almost no one in the back roads. It seems that there's stalls as well. Thank god. I was in trouble with how hungry I am. I bought a number of yakitori and greedily ate it. Delish~ It's only a simple flavoring with salt but no matter what you eat when your stomach is empty it's good. Ah, if I had some soy sauce I could eat sauce fry. I'm in the faction that uses sauce on their yakitori. I don't hate salt but sauces are different for every store and I liked searching for stores with sauce I like. Come to think of it, Shiina said that she liked sauce on yakitori as well.

I suddenly remembered my past life but it's more important to devour the yakitori in front of me right now. I eat the hot meat with the skin still on it while wondering why the yakitori in Orth isn't split up into different menus based on the pieces. The menu for skewers for pigs is roast, stomach, fillet, and there's different menus for each part but for chickens there's only yakitori and no menu. They're all cut straight into bite-sized bits that are stabbed on to a skewer and cooked just "yakitori". This can't be forgiven. I like bonchiri.

I stroll around while thinking about pointless things heading towards the front. The plaza in front of the government office is like a 400 m track in width so even if I say it's crowded with people it's not as tight as the Yamate track during the commute to work. Since it's like the Shinjuku station at noon, anyone can go wherever they want without any problem of bumping into someone. I think there's about 10,000 people?

Just like that by the time I finished my yakitori I arrived at the front row and sat on the ground. Since there's a simple border made of rope I'm sure it means don't go any further than that. There's a 3 m high stage in front of me. It's not very big but if the Marquis Webdos is going to give a speech then it's plenty high enough. On my way here I looked around the surroundings but I don't see Kuro or Mary. Well it can't be helped.

.....

When I was using one of my remaining skewers from my yakitori as a toothpick and spacing out waiting, it seems that the underlings of the knight group are looking around at the people's faces from behind the rope border. I wonder if they're searching for someone. And quickly one of the underlings came over to me.

"Umm? Are you Alan Greed-sama? The one from Bakuddo?"

Eh? They were searching for me? I nod and they said to follow them. It seems that leader Sendhel is calling for me. However, I'm surprised they knew my face, is what I was thinking but it seems that they had an idea that I was from Bakuddo because of the protectors I'm wearing. I see.

Lead by the underling I went the main hall of the government office and the knight group leader and Marquis were there. It seems that the two of them are talking about something but after noticing that I'm being lead in they waved with their hand to invite me over. I leave my bayonet and knife with the underling that lead me this far and go to their side and the Marquis says

"I met you during Shani's wedding I think it was? It's delightful that Shani doesn't just have a good husband but a capable brother-in-law as well. It seems that you're an adventurer right now. If it's like this then in the future you might conquer Baldukk. Hahahaha"

Said that and laughed. Baldukk is the underground dungeon in the area near the capital Rombertia. Putting aside conquering it, it's my current goal to challenge it.

It's not that I'm particularly hiding it so he must have heard from someone.

"Father, more importantly than that but what should we do about the reward? I'm thinking of the case this time as something that you can't return with just money but.. in any case since we weren't just given spies but we were able to capture the entire Begulu group that's been the source of headaches for recent years."

Oh~ I was wondering what it was about but it seems they're consulting over giving me something. Alright~ I use my iron will to keep my face from naturally turning to a broad smile and maintain a quiet expression.

“Oh~ That’s right. However, isn’t it fine as money? If he has anything he needs then he can buy it after all.”

Yeah, that’s right, no matter how much money you have it’s not something that’s a problem. Even if I just receive 1 gold coin it would be a tremendous profit. If it’s 2 pieces then I have nothing more to say. In order to earn 1 gold coin I would have to make deliveries to Doritt 10 times. Of course the necessary expenses are out of my own pocket as well.

“Hmn, since he is a noble I thought of giving him a horse but Farne already said he was giving him a horse after all~”

Uah...A..A horse! 6 gold coins! If I have one more horse I could even use a carriage. I guess it would be fine if I did some business as well. If I’m given the same amount of money then it might be good to buy a horse with that as well.. In my head some over-optimistic calculations have started but of course I don’t show it in my expression. After seeing me the Marquis opened his mouth.

“Do you have any wishes? It’s fine to say anything, ask for it without restraint.”

“That’s right, Alan-kun. Since it’s this occasion try saying whatever you like. We’ll be able to grant most things.”

Muhho...Wh..Wh..Whatever I want is fine? Obviously I’m sure 100 gold coins would be rejected though, I guess something realistic would be good huh...A small carriage that one horse can pull seems convenient. Hn? Here I should..

“Then Marquis-sama. Relying on your kind words please allow me to speak my wish. The thing that I want is..”

.....

I returned to the plaza again. Since my throat is dry I guess I’ll buy a beer from the stalls. Or else, it seems like things are about to start so I’ll endure it for now and watch first..

Oh~ I see the Mary-family over there and the bonus Kuro as well. What the, that guy Kuro, already completely acting like one of the family? Just joking. There’s no way that would be the case. They probably just discussed things together with Kuro since then I’m sure. Since they’re both related persons and

since he was a frequent customer in the first place I'm sure he was reasonably intimate with the Binsil family. Well, they still haven't noticed me yet so I'll go to a different area. I don't want to talk to them now after all.

After a short while not just the underlings of the knight group but the knights themselves came along to the plaza on the other side of the rope. This time the knights stand at the stakes holding up the rope and the underlings enter the crowd of people and start calling out to organize them. It seems they're telling the people in the front row to sit down. He~ watching like this it seems that they've done training for suppression of a group.

I sit down at a place about 30 m away from the Binsil family and look at the stage. I wonder if it's about time for the Marquis to appear? The double-doors of the government office opened. The voices of the crowd that were noisy until now completely stop. The only thing you can hear is the crying voice that seems to be from infants or babies. I'm sure it's impossible to control that far so it's plenty to call it quiet.

From the door leader Sendhel and after him Marquis Webdos appeared, after that several men that seem to be officials slowly appeared and walked towards the stage.

There's several chairs prepared on the side of the stage and they all sat down there. And then another man appeared from the doors alone. He's a mature 50 year old Dog-race man. I felt the urge to use Identify but unless it develops into combat or is a situation where it could end in harm to me I'm trying to stop using Identify as much as possible. Since I think it's worse to use Identify on someone just out of curiosity than it is to suddenly use Status Open on someone you're meeting for the first time. The fact that they don't realize the Identify is another reason as well. Putting aside when I was a child or didn't know the common sense of the world, but I don't want to use Identify without any sort of goal. It's different if I have a goal though.

The man steps on to the stage and starts talking in a loud voice. It seems that the man is the head of the officials of Keel. Managing the practical work of the government office, if you were to put it in terms of Japan, he would be in the position of assistant official of a city or town. He's saying that from here on they're going to hand out sentencing based on the law. I guess he's not

normally used to raising such a loud voice, his voice died down by the end of it.

Next the leader got onto the stage and the criminals were all dragged out. They're all the members from yesterday. There's also some other people that I don't know and there's several women as well. A total of 24 people. There were 13 carried away yesterday. Other than that there's 5 women and 6 men. They're all made to kneel on the front of the stage. Furthermore, the 13 carried along yesterday all have either an official or an underling from the knight group carrying them from both sides. I wonder if their feet had become frostbitten.

Marquis Webdos stands up and rises up on to the stage changing places with the assistant official. He stands on the left side of the leader on the stage and raises a loud voice. It's a volume that is several levels higher than the assistant official just now. I'm sure there's various chances you have to speak to crowds if you're a Marquis. He's saying something or other about enforcing the punishments of the criminals from here on out. After the Marquis finishes talking the leader next to him opens his mouth. Starting with the first one. A man I don't know. It seems it was theft. The leader asked the man if he admits to his crimes. The man continues to hang his head while consenting. And then he was handed the punishment of 5 lashes with a whip.

It seems that the punishment is enforced right away. He was dragged in front of the criminals and then whipped by an underling of the knight group. The whip tears into the back of the man who's upper body was tripped as he groans. It seems that by the 5th time the man had passed out he was completely limp.

Just like this the enforcement of the punishments proceeds. The stingy theft is 5 lashes. Rape is 5 lashes as well. Fraud is 1 time and a fine. Robbery is 15 times.

Murder is having one leg cut off. The man who had one of his legs cut off with a giant axe was screaming. I thought he would die if they just left him like that but it seems they immediately used magic to do the bare minimum treatment for the bleeding. Since it was just the bleeding I'm sure the pain still remains. Since he just kept screaming he was brought off somewhere.

Furthermore, if you denied the charges when asked again the witness is called in a loud voice by the leader. And after letting the witness provide testimony

the Marquis listens to the points of both the witness and the criminal and gives verdict on it. There wasn't a single one that was overturned but there was one who under circumstances was given a lighter punishment. It's an immediate trial without lawyers. Ah, I guess the defendant them self is acting as the lawyer as well. The prosecutor and judge are separate as well. Thinking that then I guess it's better than Bakuddo? In Bakuddo father held the post of everything but the defendant. If he wanted to do something arbitrarily then he could have done it. There were no crimes like murder or rape and at most there was theft.

And 6 men and 1 woman for a total of 7 were judged. It seems that the remaining 4 women were members of Begulu's group. The first crime the knight leader said was the one from last night. Obviously the four women denied it but the men all consented. The leader called for the Binsil family and Kuro. Also, me as well. I wonder if the Binsil family knew they would be called as witness, their clothes are neat. Even Kuro is a bit better than usual it feels like. When they meet faces with me they didn't say anything and just faces down. It can't be helped, I guess after all they don't want to suddenly become adventurers.

Just as the leader said we gave testimony. Obviously the women weren't involved in the incident last night so it was just the men. The crimes were blackmail and fraud. It's 2 lashes with the whip and a fine. After the testimony ended, for the time being we were told by the official or knight or squire or something to standby so we moved to the edge to wait so we weren't in the way.

The punishment still hasn't been enforced and it seems that the charges will continue. The knight leader says the charges but several crimes came out. Murder is included in them as well. The case of them attacking the caravan of Geluf company was included as well. They're all details that I had them confess to at Binsil's restaurant last night. The leader says these aren't crimes that someone brought forth but all ones that were confessed and the criminals all faced down, there was some that were crying as well.

In the end the punishment turned into something absurd with a fine of 2 gold coins and 25 silver coins along with 87 lashes of the whip, 3 legs being cut off, and 2

arms being cut off. Only the women got 85 lashes with the whip. Hmn, if it

was all done wouldn't they become Daruma? Ah, the women don't have 3 legs. If it was me I'd be begging them to just kill me in one go. It's only obvious they'll die if all that is done to them.

In the plaza that fell silent there was only the sobbing sounds of the babies and the criminals remaining. The Binsil family and Kuro were looking at the silent leader. After the leader looks at the criminals he declared in a loud voice that the punishment will be enforced. However, since there's far too many punishments so it'll be the death penalty. There's no way they can pay the fine as well. It seems to be death by hanging. The punishment will take place an hour later so until then they're on show for the crowd.

Well then, since we've reached a pause I face the Binsil family and Kuro. I say to the old man who flinched.

"What about it, were you able to organize your feelings?"

And then it wasn't the old man who responded but Kuro.

"Al, you... Even if you want allies isn't this too overbearing? Taking advantage of weakness and saying things.."

"Well, isn't it fine, I was just requesting it. If you guys refuse then I think that it can't be helped. In the first place, were you properly listening to what I said yesterday? I said to give me a reply today. I never said a single word about forcing you to come along with me. I said I don't need any money as well."

They're all looking at me with surprised faces.

"Eh? Ah, it.. it's okay to refuse it?"

Kuro said it as if he was playing dumb.

Mary's parents were also looking at my face with a surprised expression.

"I..I mean, you said as thanks for saving us to become your ally..Ah."

Mary said it in the same way.

I nod to Mary as I say.

"I didn't say a single words about you guys not being able to refuse it. I mean, you guys should already know I don't have the right to order you. In the first

place, if I wasn't willing to accept rejection then why did I tell you thing about it for a night? If you don't want to then that's fine. It seems like Mary thinks it's better to have an occupation where you settle down after all. I don't know about Kuro but since you were an adventurer as well I thought you had less mental obstacles towards it than Mary. More important than that, did you properly think about it last night?"

I cut my words once there and continued with an coercive expression.

"I don't think it's possible but I really don't think so, but you guys weren't just quarreling and complaining about me all night right? Thinking about it at this poi...Che."

They were all hanging their heads down together. Shit. Am I the villain here? Even though I saved them I didn't demand money, being treated, and I just asked them to become my allies, what kind of mean things were they saying?

I endured unintentionally letting my displeasure comes out of my mouth.

"You know..Well, it's fine. And, did you come to a conclusion? Let me hear it."

They're all exchanging glances with their heads down and fidgeting. Is this a flock of Fidgety-kuns?

"What about it? I won't know if you keep remaining quiet."

They're all still red and facing downwards as usual. Since they're all embarrassed over it, in other words they didn't think about it, this is.

"It's fine already, wait a moment."

After saying that I walked by the group members who were carrying the stands out for the hanging and went to call for the leader Sendhel. After I talked to the knight leader about something, they saw me returning together with the knight leader and all of their eyes went wide at once. Pieces of shit.

"I'm sure you obviously already know but this is the eldest son of Marquis Webdos and the leader of the Knight group, Lord Sendhel.Webdos. Lord Webdos, I'm sure their introduction isn't necessary right?"

"Yeah, since I just called them up as witnesses myself after all. There's no need for introductions."

The leader said it gently.

“Now then, let me hear your reply. The knight group leader is the witness. He’s the perfect person for the job right?”

“Hey now, Alan-kun. You’re a bad person. Did you properly talk to them about it?”

It seems that the Binsil family and Kuro were a bit afraid. It can’t be helped I guess.

“It’s a bit late at this point but I’ll increase your options. You can come together with me, refuse it and continue with your lifestyles just as you have... or one more, enter the Webdos knight group and have them train you, choose. In the case that you enter the knight group by the time you become official knights I’ll come once more and listen to your intentions. At that time you can choose if you want to come with me, retire from the knight group and return to your old lifestyle, or continue with the knight group. During the time you’re in the knight group obviously you’ll receive wages. During the time you’re a squire it’s supposedly 43,000 Z per week.”

After saying all that in one breath I looked at all of them. They’re all dumbfounded. Well it’s not surprising. The silence continued for about 10 seconds. It seems that leader Sendhel couldn’t endure the silence and started laughing as he said it.

“The two of you were 14 years old right? 14 years old is a bit fast but it’s the age the sons of nobles can enter the knight group. This Alan-kun’s older brother entered the Webdos knight group at 14 years old and in 2 years received investiture as a knight. Although, I’m sure it’ll be starting from the basics with you two so it will take a while longer but I don’t think it’s impossible. After that, I’m sure that you already know this but just in case I’ll say it. Normally only those that are commoners or greater is a condition for entering the knight group. And normally they must be 15 years old or greater to enter. Also, obviously there’s an entry exam as well. It’s nothing too special but if we let in someone who is lacking too much in ability enter then it will just take time and money to train them. In order to exceed these conditions, Alan-kun handed

over all of his reward for exposing the spy and capturing the criminal group this time. It's unusual saying this but normally I'm sure the two of you wouldn't have been able to enter the knight group. Consider this a special chance that is limited to just this time."

After the leader said that he took a step back. I'm sure he means that it's up to me from here on. I beckon Kuro and Mary over and put my arms around their shoulders while whispering in their ears.

"Listen well, I said it before but the growth rate of reincarnated people is different from those of Orth. You guys saw me yesterday right? There will never be a chance like this again in your lives. Either spend the rest of your life in a corner of Keel afraid of everything or enter the knight group and have them train you, decide right now. Even if you refuse it I won't resent you. It's your guys life after all."

I whispered that at a fast pace in Japanese.

A light appeared in the eyes of the two of them.

Chapter 67: A New Meeting 1

Year 7442, Month 4, Day 30

It was the night of April 12th that I came to Keel with my parents. I went to Doritt for several days in-between but after a short 3 weeks I'm finally leaving Keel.

After watching the enforcement of the punishments yesterday I went to the job bulletin for adventurers in the government office, handed over the payment for the sword and the tally then received the reward of 100,000 Z before returning to Bins Manor. On the occasion I was there I also checked if there were any good jobs on the bulletin board but there wasn't any in particular, after resting for one night I'm currently preparing to leave.

After organizing my luggage I store that away in the saddle bag of my horse. In the end I didn't have a scabbard made for my sword. I'm sure it'll be fine if I have it made where I end up after this. Either way I'll just have it in bayonet form while I'm traveling so there's no problem even without a scabbard for the sword mode.

Rather if I had one it would just be in the way.

In the end Mary and Kuro decided to enter the knight group. Kuro had his own sword and while it was cheap some leather armor but Mary didn't have any of that combat use equipment. Putting aside armor she'll definitely need a sword. I was a bit worried about if she could afford to buy one but it seems that her parents will pay for it out of savings so there was no problem. Eh? Since you have money then you pay for it? Why? There's no way I would go that far in taking care of them.

In the first place being able to enter the knight group is the same as not having to worry about their employment at all from now on, it's the same as becoming an elite. There's no reason why Mary's parents would oppose it. If she were to receive investiture as a knight then she can become a commoner as

well, there's no mistake it's all good things. They provide a place to live and food for no cost and even give you an education. In addition they even receive wages. That sort of splendid environment, I went to the point of giving up on my reward to prepare for them. There's nothing more than that I can do for them.

I'm sure they understand that, the two of them came early in the morning to see me off. It's not like I have enough belongings to need help with packing though so they really just came to see me off. It seems that they're entering the Webdos knight group as squires tomorrow along with the changing month. After putting my luggage together and sitting on the rubber cushion on my horse Kuro is looking up at me.

"Al..umm..I'm really grateful for everything. I'll...give it my best. Since it's a chance I've finally received. I'll definitely make it my own. I won't forget this debt. I'll definitely repay it.. it doesn't seem like I'll quickly be able to be of use to you but I'll definitely pay this debt. "Thank you very much!"

After saying that Kuro lowered his head deeply. Kuro quit the company he was working at yesterday and is moving out of his inn today it seems. Mary is looking up at me besides Kuro.

"Al, I feel the same way as Kuro. I don't know how to use the sword, let alone that I've never even fought before but on this Orth I already know it's something necessary in order to live. I just didn't want to accept that until now.. I've really been helped a lot by you... I'll show you I can make the best use of this chance as well! I'll definitely return the debt. Thanks, no "Thank you very much."

After saying that Mary lowered her head deeply along with Kuro. I look down on those two from atop my horse and, "Well, don't worry so much about it. I can only do this much for you. It depends on how much effort you two put into it from here on out. It's not as much studying as you'd do in Japan but it seems that training with the sword and horse is considerably difficult so try not to lose heart on the way. Well, remain patient.. Then, I'm heading off."

After saying that I was about to pull on the reins but I remember one thing I had to add to that.

“I forgot to say one thing. In around 3–4 years I intend to come back once and check up on things. If I don’t show up in over 5 years then...think that I’ve died and you guys can do whatever you want after that. Also..I guess so, I’ll give this to Mary. Since you get driven out of the knight group if you’re pregnant, be careful.”

After throwing the rubber bag I pulled on the reins and tapped the horse’s sides. A well-trained war horse will go into a trot and the horse continues along the road going Northeast. I didn’t face behind me. After all, I can imagine what kind of face they’re making.

.....

I passed through the streets of Keel, the number of houses has gotten sparse. I continue along the road as it turns into a pastoral scenery covered in fields. The fields that surround the river and road on both sides are tilled well and the ridge is properly stretching out parallel. As expected it seems that they’re using horses and cows for agriculture and the farm-work is being done efficiently and {systematically}.

I can see horses and cattle pulling plows here and there.

The two villages of Rudo and Horug are at the end of this road and beyond that is the town of Kilug. After passing Kilug you leave Marquis Webdos territory and enter Viscount Penlaid’s territory. There’s roughly 65 km until the town of Kilug. If I put some effort into it I could arrive by night but I’m not in that much of a hurry.

If there’s an inn open at Horug village I’ll stay there, if there isn’t one open I’ll ask the lord if I can camp in an empty lot.

However, it’s that right. If you get used to these horses they’re really interesting. Just by delicately controlling the reins they go the direction you want almost as if they’re reading your mind. Right now it’s walking through the middle of the road but if I want to go to the left or right side just by pulling the reins slightly it immediately moves just the amount I want it to.

Since the road follows along the riverbank there’s no problem with letting the horse drink water during short breaks on the way. Although in my case I can use magic to make water as well so there wasn’t much to worry about in the first

place. I leisurely let the horse walk as I listen to the stream of the river. I can probably pass through Rudo by noon.

Passing through the fields, I continue through the thick bushes. A bird is flying in the distance. There's no need to be careful of monsters in this area when I'm still this close to Keel. I had Kuro teach me about it but it seems that animals that existed on Earth are beasts and anything other than that on Orth is classified as a monster. Anything that would come at you to attack it's fine to think of as being a monster.

In Africa, India, and China in the mountains there were things like lions, leopards, and tigers, dangerous beasts that would attack you but it seems that he hadn't heard of any dangerous carnivorous beasts in this area. If there was anything dangerous it would be monsters. And those monsters are for the most part not seen in the surroundings of Keel, and it seems that there's rarely only a bit of damage from them but I can probably take a nap until I get to around Rudo.

Thinking that as I doze away and I reached Rudo by noon. After passing Rudo, not quite as much as Bakuddo but it seems there's more damage from monsters so you need to remain cautious. I'll have a meal in this village. I've prepared preserved food but I want to eat proper meals when I have the chance. There was a restaurant in the middle of the village so I entered there and had a meal.

Since Webdos Company periodically has caravans running between Keel and the Capital of Rombertia, they also end up doing trade with Viscount Penlaid's territory so there's a demand for restaurants, and along the roads between Keel and other territories any place there's houses I won't be troubled finding a meal. After eating a lunch of a porridge with wheat, eggs, and some vegetables and a black bread sandwich with pork-ham or something like psociutto on it I pick the vegetables stuck in my teeth out, get on my horse again, and leave Rudo village.

I'm heading for Horug today. There's roughly 20 km from here to Horug. I should think of these 20 km as similar to the km from Bakuddo to the neighboring village of Badett and proceed cautiously. I confirm the bayonet tied up to the back of my saddle and continue moving forward carefully. For the

time being it should be fine not to pay attention to the river flowing by on the right side. I focus my attention on the left side and continue at a leisurely pace as usual along the road.

Without being attacked by monsters I arrived at Horug village before night.

I took an inn without problem, ate a pork steak and oatmeal for dinner, and went to bed early.

.....

Year 7442, Month 5, Day 11

Just like this I passed through the suburbs of the town areas and tensed myself up as I entered the outskirts as 2 weeks (12 days) passed by. Right now I've already passed through Viscount Penlaid territory and I've traveled several hundred km down the road after entering the King's territory. I'm heading for the town in the vicinity of the capital, Baldukk, I think it will still take around 10 days probably. And, if you're wondering why I'm saying things like this as I space out, it's because roughly 500 m ahead of me there's two people, I found them walking in the same direction as I am.

Since they're still too far I can't tell what gender they are but they somehow look like children. One of them seems to be a man from his figure. It seems like he might have a firm build so while he looks like a child but it might just be a dwarf. The other one looks thin compared to their companion. Either a child or a woman.

If I continue walking like this I'll probably get to within 10 m of them in about 20 minutes.

Up until now I've been attacked by groups of hobgoblins and goblins on the way but I didn't meet any thieves. In any case, the time is still before noon and I have no other choice than to pass by them. I guess it would be best to just be cautious and quickly pass them. Just as I was getting my horse into a trot to pass by them I thought it would suck if they misunderstood it as an attack so I decided to just keep going like this.

I hang my bayonet on my shoulder again and have the horse continue walking. If you continue along the road from here it was bushes on both sides of

the road but it seems that it becomes a forest filled with broad-leaf trees. If possible I wanted to pass them before entering the forest. They walk surprisingly fast. It seems they're quite used to walking. In the end I continued for another 25 minutes and entered the forest. If they spent the night in the same village as me last night then they must have either left quite early or come from a different path. There were several roads that merged into this one after all.

The two who were in front of me once turned around looking back here. It seems to be a man and woman. Just as expected the man is a dwarf and while he has a solid build his height is short. He looks to be about the same size as the woman. It feels like they're around 150 cm. From her stature it seems that the woman isn't a dwarf but either a human or an elf. She has hair down to the middle of her back and it's not tied up so I can't see any ears.

The woman's hair is black. However, while it's uncommon it's not as if there aren't people with black hair. Ah, that's right, I already found out that there's almost no people who dye their hair. It was really true that there were people with unbelievable hair colors like pink, green, and blue. By the way, the hair of the dwarf man is a light pink color.

The two of them are carrying something like a large backpack. They might be peddlers. It seems they don't have swords at their waist but axes. It might be a large hatchet but that shape is an axe I'm sure. It's probably a one-hand axe that can be used with one hand. Then I guess they also use that axe for cutting through bushes as well?

For a while now the road has had some sudden curves but it's gotten straight ahead again. They once disappeared from my field of vision but I saw their backs carrying their luggage again. There's only about 100 m left until I catch up to them. They're still walking at the same pace. Hmn. If their walking speed is this fast then we both might end up at the same village that I was planning to arrive at by tonight. Just as I was thinking that it happened. Several wooden spears {Javelin}'s came flying from the forest. Ah, not at me, towards the two person group ahead of me. It seems that luckily the throwing spears didn't hit either of them.

Wait just a minute, it's not the time to be casually giving explanations. It's an

attack by someone! I don't want to get caught up in it but unfortunately this road only goes in one direction. I wonder if the attackers have recognized me? If they have recognized me then there's the option of turning back as well but in that case I probably won't make it to the next village before night. If they've recognized me then even if I turn back at this point there's not much meaning to it. If I run on the horse then I don't they would catch up but in any case I have to follow this road to get to the next village.

If I leave and return then in the end if I get ambushed like this then it's the same. I guess it would be best to help them here or run past on my horse huh... I'll decide if I help them out or not after getting a bit closer and checking the ones doing the attack. I made the decision in an instant and lower the bayonet on my shoulder, I raised the horses speed a bit so it would be fine no matter which direction things go.

"Zenom, on the right!"

"Ah, Ralpa, you watch my back!"

I hear the yells of the two of them.

Chapter 68: A New Meeting 2

Year 7442, Month 5, Day 11

The attacker was a humanoid the size of an adult 180 cm or so. No, not a human. After using Identify it seems that they're Pig-people {Orks}. It's my first time seeing one. So that's an ork huh? They have arms and legs of a solid build and plump bodies but while it's crude they're wearing some kind of leather armor. It certainly feels like they're face is if you wear to make a pigs look human. It seems that they're using swords and spears as weapons. Level is 4–6 or so. They're quite strong. It seems that all of their physical abilities are a bit higher than a human of the same level.

There's 10 or so of those Orks. I'm sure it will be difficult for just the two of them with one a woman. I guess it would be best to help them out here. I raise the speed of my horse and let go of the reins with one hand thinking I should use magic I aim it towards the Orks. Ah, this is bad. It's too unnatural to use magic here.

I guess I'll stop. Since the bayonet is too short compared to a spear it's at a disadvantage against an opponent with a spear while on horseback. I guess it would be best to get off. If I get off then there's no problem with using magic as well.

The combat started between the attacker and the ones being attacked. It seems that the two of them are going to defend with just the axes they had. In the time before the attackers reach them they quickly lowered their bag and went on guard with their axes. It seems that both of them are considerably used to fighting and they aren't letting their guards down but it also seems that there's no fear in their expressions as well. I thought they were peddlers but they might be adventurers.

“Murrroo.....!!”

The dwarf let out a battle cry while stepping in at a tremendous speed and

slamming his axe into the spear of the ork at the front. The woman is in the back left side of the dwarf and positioning herself to protect the dwarf's blind spots when he swings the axe. Their movements are coordinated and skillful.

However, between a spear and an axe, the axe is at a disadvantage. I get off of my horse at a distance of about 30 m and start concentrating in order to use magic.

Just like I used against the Horned Bear once upon a time I make 5 ice spears and immediately fired them off.

Since I didn't make some distance between the acceleration wasn't enough but it should be plenty enough power to injure them through leather armor. The spears fly at the group of orks. The spears are moving in a group that's almost like a 50 cm pentagon with the distance between them. Obviously I can't guide them individually so I adjust the angle while trying to hit at least 2 of them.

After all it seems that the power of them wasn't enough to kill them but I was able to injure two of the Orks. Also I used the same magic once more and injured another 2 Orks. They won't die but it should have been a considerably deep wound.

The dwarf is using the strategy of breaking the spears that are coming at him with his axe. The two of them are covering each other as they smash the axes into the spears aiming for them. Yeah, if it's that much then they should be fine for a short while. I couldn't tell when they were carrying the backpack but it seems that they're wearing a leather armor below their leather overcoat as well.

I guess it's only obvious but after 40% of their fighting potential was rendered powerless the intensity of the orks disappeared. However, they probably think that they still have double the number advantage even including me, I noticed they're rebuild their formation in order to protect their injured allies.

By the way, I was concentrating in order to use my next magic. In just a bit longer I should be able to shoot the magic. I hold my bayonet with my right hand and have my left hand still aimed at the Orks. The blue light gathers in my left hand. Now! I shoot a 20 cm in diameter smoldering rock from my left hand.

The magic {Fire Ball}. No, spell. The ball of fire flies at the group of orks at an extreme speed aimed at the one in the center. At the same time as firing it I, “{Fire Ball}!”

yelled that in a loud voice. Obviously I was just acting cool yelling out my certain kill technique. It’s a lie though. I was yelling in order to warn the dwarf and woman, don’t misunderstand.

Hearing my yell the two of them started to move back to take some distance from the Orks, but I’m sure they couldn’t move more than 1 m or so. The Ork that the {Fire Ball} directly impacted on caused it to rupture sending burning stones tearing apart the surroundings.

There wasn’t a single ork that was able to escape that attack unharmed. I’m sure the only one that died instantly was the one it landed on but the rest of them are all rolling on the ground with burns screaming pugipugi.

It seems that the dwarf and woman protected themselves from the burning stones using their coats. As expected they’re quite used to it. However, I guess they didn’t expect the power to be this high, they’re watching the pigs roll on the ground crying with a surprised expression.

I cautiously held my bayonet at the ready while pulling the reins of my horse and approached them. After getting to within 5 m of them I let go of the reins and stabbed the orks that are rolling around and the first orks that I injured in the throat with my bayonet putting them out of their misery. After confirming that all of the orks had stopped moving I face the two of them and open my mouth.

“Sorry about that. I’m still not used to using {Fire Ball}. Since it takes some time to use it..Do the two of you have any injuries?”

After I say that the dwarf responds. I only noticed it after coming close but this dwarf seems like a 40 year old middle-age man. The woman seems to be young. I wonder what kind of combination this is?

“So you were helping us? Thanks. Since we didn’t defeat even a single one of the Orks, these guys magic stones are all yours. Don’t hold back.”

And said that. It seems he’s admirable. I face the woman and was going to

confirm if that was okay. But, after seeing the woman's face I stiffened up for a moment.

The woman has black eyes and it's true she has the features of a human of Orth mixed in but it was a Japanese face. I..Is she another reincarnated person!?

It was only for a moment though after seeing my face at a loss for words, I knew she was at a loss for words as well.

"Is that okay for you as well?"

I somehow managed to say that but the woman just remained speechless nodding and trembling.

Seeing that I guess the dwarf was suspicious, he called out.

"Ralpha, at least say thanks. Sorry about that, she's usually someone that talks more but.."

The dwarf first called out to her and then in addition to me.

"A, Ah, it's fine, I'm not bothered over it. Rather than that, I only killed these guys, it's not like I put my body on the line and fought them. Just as you said I'll take the magic stones but you guys can have the spears and swords."

After I said the dwarf and the woman both opened their eyes in surprise but quickly said.

"Is it fine? There's two spearheads and even one iron sword. No matter how you think about it these are worth more."

It's true that does seem to be the case. But, there's rust on the sword and spears, in order to be able to sell them you'd have to do quite a bit of maintenance work on them. Even if it's just like they are now you could sell them to a blacksmith that deals in equipment but the spearheads would be at best 5 silver coins and you'd profit if you make 10 silver coins from the iron sword. I'm sure my Identify would show the value as being higher but this is the value when they're lined up in a store sold to users.

In comparison the strength of an ork is the same as a hobgoblin. Since the magic stone of hobgoblins are about 4–5 silver coins, it's probably fine to see

the ork's magic stone as about the same. Since there's 10 of them I can guess it'll come out to about 40 silver coins.

In Keel's 7–9 shop it would be about 30 pieces.

And, the experience points from 10 orks is huge enough I can't ignore it. If they had the same kind of action patterns as hobgoblins then it's difficult to quickly annihilate them, if I had been fighting them alone like in this case then after I kill or injure one of them they could have all retreated leaving me almost no experience points.

It seems that Orks aren't as intelligent as hobgoblins. It's considerably tasty that just killing a single Ork I get several hundred experience points thanks to {Gift of Natural Talent}. And there's 10 of those. If I was alone I'd feel like jumping up and singing a song about now.

I recover my composure and smile while responding.

“Yeah, it's fine. However, would you at least help me out with taking the magic stones?”

“Of course, it's no problem. Hey, Ralpa, you gather the heads of the spears and the sword.”

I guess the dwarf liked my response, he gave instructions to the woman and got close to one of the orks nearby and stabbed it in the chest with a knife. I start cutting open the chests of the orks with a knife as well. In less than an hour there were 10 orks worth of magic stones in my hands. After identifying them it seems that as expected the values of all of them are vaguely different but for the most part they have a value of about 4,500 each.

In other words $45,000 \text{ Z} \times 10 = 45$ silver coins worth of magic stones.

The woman ignored the spears made carved from trees and just went to cut off the ends of the metal spears and is holding on to the one sword. It seems there were three metal spearheads. The leather armor stinks and it was pretty crude in the first place so they're just ignoring it.

It's bulky so I'm sure it would just add to their baggage after all.

The time is just past noon. I wanted to try talking to the woman. I wash my

dirty hands with water magic while, “Hey~ you two, want to eat? It’s just the right time and you helped me with taking out the magic stones so if it’s soup made with preserved meat then it’s my treat.”

I tried saying that. According to what I heard at the village I departed this morning it’s a distance of 40 Km to the next village. Taking into consideration the time and the speed of my horse there should be about 15 Km remaining I’m sure. Their walking pace is fast but it should be enough distance that it takes them another couple of hours. After I said that to them the two of them exchanged glances with a slightly surprised face.

“Ah, sorry about that. If you’re in a hurry then don’t worry about it.”

After saying that I take my flask and some dried meat and bread out of my saddle bag. If they end up going ahead then I feel bad for the two of them but I’ll just secretly use identify, eat right away, and follow after them.”

“No, it’s fine as long as we make it to Foshil by night, there’s no problem. Since it’s this occasion, we’ll take you up on your offer. However, at least let us provide the bread.”

The dwarf says that while opening their bag that they threw on the ground and took out a container. It’s probably the bread. The woman opened her mouth for the first time here.

“Hey~ can we go a bit further from here? The smell of blood from the orks is bad here.”

That’s true. After hearing it said it’s indeed strange to start eating lunch surrounded by the corpses of orks. However, isn’t there timing to invite someone to eat lunch? It’s not like I specifically wanted to eat next to the corpses of orks, don’t misunderstand that.

“Yeah, that’s true. Then..How about we move over to there?”

I said that while returning my food to the saddle bag and started pulling the reins. I can see several rocks lined up 200 m away. I’m sure they’ll be just right as chairs.

Since I started moving they picked up their bags and started walking with me.

“My name is Alan Greed. I was born in Bakuddo on the Jindal Peninsula. Feel free to call me Al.”

Come to think of it we hadn't introduced ourselves yet. The woman was called Ralpa and I feel like I heard the dwarf's name said at the start but I forget it.

“I'm Zenom, Zenom Firefreed. This is my daughter Ralpa.”

Huh? Daughter? No matter how you look at it this woman isn't a dwarf? And she doesn't seem to be an elf either. No matter how much they look like a Japanese if there's elf mixed into their blood they should be, umm, a bit more beautiful. No, I don't particularly intend to say this woman is ugly. In Japan she would be considered plenty good looking. Since she looks like a half as well.

I'm sure it's enough that she'd be treated like an idol at school or work. However, on Orth she's not particularly beautiful. The people of Orth prefer more European looks. Come to think of it, I wonder if from a biological standpoint the humans on Earth are the same as the humans here? Suddenly that sort of thought floated in my mind.

I guess he noticed that I was surprised she was introduced as his daughter. Zenom continued speaking.

“Of course, she's not my real daughter. I picked this child up when she was a baby.”

Oh, so that was the case. I was surprised.

“Ralpa.Firefreed. Ralpa or Ral is fine. Call me how you like.”

She replied bluntly. She must be shy. Or I guess not. However, I would prefer if she didn't mention Ral since it reminds me of the wind, sensation of touch, and things*. Even if it's just being stubborn I won't call her by her pet name.

I sit down on just the right size of rock where they were lined up and change the water in my flask to hot water. I immediately put an appropriate amount of dried meat inside and then closed it with a rubber cork, then after 2–3 minutes I told Zenom that it was ready to be eaten and handed it to Zenom before opening a different bag. I put ham inside this bag. I use a knife to cut the ham and handed it to Ralpa this time. Ralpa takes that, puts it in between some

bread, and hands it back to me.

“Thanks.”

I said that and took it but with this I can't cut the next piece of ham. For the time being I put the bread down on the side and cut off several pieces of ham as I hand them to Ralpa. And then she was spreading something on the next piece of bread. What's that? It looks too soft to be butter. Is it Mayonnaise? I wonder if it's on the bread she handed to me? Since I was making the soup I didn't notice it.

In any case, I hand over the ham and bite into the bread beside me. After taking a bite and tasting that in my mouth I immediately realized. What's this, it's insanely good. This sharp smell that goes through your nose and sourness that has depth...It's mustard Mayonnaise!!

“Ma..mu, mustard mayonnaise..”

I was so amazed that I couldn't help but speak Japanese.

“..I thought that was the case. There's mayonnaise in this world but none that was mixed with mustard so I made it. Bakuddo.”

Huh? Ba..kuddo? Why is she bringing that up right now?

“What are you saying?”

Zenom asked curiously. It's only obvious, he doesn't know Japanese after all.

“It's a dialect of Bakuddo. That guy we did the job with before, what was his it again... I had that person teach me. That person said he was from Bakuddo as well.”

So that's what she meant. This woman, she's a pretty fast thinker. And, she's definitely a reincarnated person.

In that case there's no need for restraint. I'll try Identifying her.

【Ralpa · Firefreed 2512/7429】

【Female/14/2/7428·Human· Firefreed Family Eldest Daughter】

【Condition: Good】

【Age: 14 Years Old】

【Level: 6】

【HP: 83(83) MP: 3(3)】

【Strength: 11】

【Agility: 16】

【Dexterity: 14】

【Endurance: 13】

【Unique Ability: Spatial Understanding】

【Special skill: Small Magic】

【Experience: 42615 (43000)】

【Spatial Understanding】 What in the world is that?

【Unique Ability: Spatial Understanding; As long as the user remains within a certain range(Radius of 5m centered on the user. It increases by 5 m per level.) of the coordinate that they use this ability they won't lose track of the sensation of their orientation. This sensation is not affected by visual information and they absolutely will not lose track of their orientation. Also, the user will be able to perfectly grasp the direction. Furthermore, this ability can only be used when not in contact with something the user recognizes as a solid-body. In other words, the ability can only be activated when jumping, falling, flying, or underwater.

The duration of the effect is 10 minutes per level. Furthermore, for as long as the user remains within the range it becomes possible to comprehend the size, shape, direction, and speed of non-living objects that enter the valid range from outside. However, the equipment of other living beings is not included in the non-living objects that can be detected. Consequently, it is impossible to detect trespassers with this ability. It is only possible to detect or otherwise perceive objects launched from some sort of device. Obviously this effect includes some types of magic that trespass from outside of the range and the element that occurs in relation to that magic. Nevertheless, if it is launched or otherwise a non-living object thrown from inside of the effective range then detection is impossible. Also, as long as the user remains within the effective range via the

advancement of the user's Spatial Understanding ability, in outer space, air, underwater, or any situation where the user can't plant themselves to a surface all of their physical abilities and other abilities related to combat will raise 20% in proportion to their level.】

Since there's no level display it seems she hasn't used it. However, I still remember that I couldn't open the sub-window of my Gift of Natural Talent until the level display appeared. Is it possible to Identify in the case of other people's Unique Abilities? Or is it that there's different types of things that can be seen and can't be seen? I'm curious about it but there's no way I could know the answer just by thinking about it.

More importantly than that, this Spatial Understanding, depending on how you think about it... And if you aimlessly raise the level too much as well..No, if it's at the maximum level of 9 then the maximum range is 50 m radius huh? Hmn...

Also, not only is there no traces that she's used her Unique Ability but she has no magic special skill either. Her MP is at the standard for her age as well at 3.

Her level is considerably high for her age. It's normal to be around 5 for an adult when they become a squire and it's the same level as sister-in-law Shani when she married into the family at 16 years old. Going off of her movements from the fight just now it seems she's considerably used to fighting, I wonder if these two are adventurers with a lot of experience? In that case...

I chew on the sandwich while troubling my head with thinking about how I can earn the trust of these two.

Chapter 69: A New Meeting 3

Year 7442, Month 5, Day 11

“By the way, you two are pretty amazing. Are you you considerably skilled adventurers? The way you counterattacked against that ambush just now was splendid.”

Of course, it's flattery. It's true it's amazing how they were able to construct a stance for counterattack in that short period of time but as expected it would have been pretty difficult for them just like that. I'm sure they wouldn't be killed by the orks but it can't be denied that they could have been injured depending on the situation. They were just hitting the spears with their axes after all.

Though it's certainly true that there was a possibility things could have gone well with just destroying the spears. Depending on the situation they could have injured or killed several of them and I can't deny the possibility it could have been enough to lure them into retreating. However, in order to get to that point it would have taken them several minutes to several dozen minutes in time and during that time they would have had to remain focused in order to evade the enemies weapons while destroying them. It can be said to have been quite difficult.

“No, though it's true we're eating by being adventurers we're not that great of a thing. Rather than something like us, Al, you're pretty amazing. Being able to use that magic in succession is quite something. I've been an adventurer for close to 20 years but it's my first time seeing a magician this skilled. It's quite significant being able to use a spell of that level while remaining composed. I'm sure you probably used quite a bit of mana right? I'm really grateful.”

After saying that Zenom lowered his head to me.

Ralpa lowered her head along with Zenom this time.

“It's fine. Since it's fine as long as long as I can make it Foshil today, it can't be

helped being reluctant to use my mana.”

After I said that the two of them exchanged glances before lowering their heads to me again.

“Thanks, honestly speaking we were really saved that you used magic there. I had resolved for that to eat up quite a bit of time. And not just the first magic but you even used {Fire Ball}..since I had heard it was common sense for magicians to leave some mana remaining so I was surprised you were still willing to use magic. You even left the orks equipment to us.”

Ralpa said that. Hmm, they admit that it would have taken some time and been a difficult battle but they had no intention of losing huh. It sounds like in the past they may have experienced a much more difficult fight.

For a short while after that the three of us used our mouths for eating. After we finished eating Zenom opened his mouth again.

“Not only did you save us and leave the equipment to us but you even treated us to a meal. Just now, you said you were going to Foshil right. Since you were using magic during the fight with the orks and the soup, no, hot water, you heated it up with magic as well right? No matter how I think about it you shouldn't have any leeway left with mana. Since you're riding a horse I'm sure it's fast but even if it's a horse then it should still take at least 3 hours for you to get to Foshil from here. If you're not in a hurry then would you at least let us accompany you to Foshil? If you run into a group of monsters like the one just now I'm sure it'll be tough alone.”

No, it's not particularly tough at all though this proposal is just what I wanted. He probably intends to be an escort as thanks.

“I see, if you're willing to say then I'm grateful as well. If I have the horse run then even if I encounter monsters I'm sure I can manage it but as expected it's difficult. If I can get there by slowly walking then that's all the better. Rather it's almost to the point I want to ask for the favor.”

I said that while lowering my head. Even if it's only for a short period then it's necessary to understand their abilities. I'll try identifying Zenom as well.

【Zenom · Firefreed 54/7416】

【Male/19/1/7402 · Dwarf · Firefreed Family Head

【Condition: Good】

【Age: 40 Years Old】

【Level: 16】

【HP: 126(126) MP: 8(8)】

【Strength: 25】

【Agility: 10】

【Dexterity: 25】

【Endurance: 22】

【Special Skill: Infrared Eyesight】

【Special skill: Small Magic】

【Experience: 574234(680000)】

Uho...He's level 16. It's my first time seeing it. Even though his physical abilities should already have started decreasing because of his age, his strength is amazing~ His dexterity is higher than a humans as well. However, his speed is considerably low. The characteristics of a dwarf are strong in him. I see now, with this that method of fighting makes sense. I'm sure he can't carelessly charge in. Zenom just firmly stands on guard and Ralpa moves around covering his blind spots.

For the time being, I can accompany them until the next village. Since he's a reliable dwarf adventurer, I want to try listening to various stories as an adventurer. Ralpa is a reincarnated person as well and these two say they're in a relationship of adoptive father and child. I definitely want to keep acting together with them from here on out.

.....

Close to evening of that day the three of us arrived at the village of Foshil. Without encountering anymore monsters along the way it was a peaceful path. Thanks to that I was able to hear various stories of being an adventurer from Zenom and Ralpa.

Just as would expected from the village of Foshil being a part of the King's direct territory, the houses are decently well-organized and you can feel that all of the buildings are somewhat new. According to Zenom and Ralpa it seems that the village only has a history of about 10 years itself. Until then it seems that this entire area was a wasteland. This village Foshil is something that a man who was granted the nobility of Viscount by the King cleared up and it's still a new village. It's population is still only about 200 or so, as a village it's still like a baby with how small it is.

Obviously there's nothing as convenient as an inn and there isn't even a shop. At the edge of the village there's some vacant land that's been smoothed out, it seems that caravans use that to rest. Since there's no caravans staying here for tonight it seems that we have it reserved for just the three of us. We went to the lord's house and after asking if we can borrow the land for the night to setup camp we started making preparations for camping out. Zenom entered the village saying he was going to get some firewood. He probably went to negotiate with a villager to sell him some firewood.

Yeah, now's the chance. I started talking to Ralpa.

"Hey, Ralpa. You're Japanese as well right? I'm Kawasaki Takeo. I was a salary man. I was riding on the train when the accident occurred. If possible I want to have a conversation and exchange information."

"..Ono Misa. I was on the bus on my way to return to school. I wanted to talk as well. Do you have any alcohol?"

Ralpa replied in Japanese. These past few years my thoughts have started to focus on the words used over here but I guess it's because I talked with Mary and Kuro last month, I've started to think a lot in Japanese again. I feel nostalgic whenever I talk in Japanese.

"Eh? Alcohol? Sorry. I don't have any alcohol. Why? Do you want to drink it?"

"Not me. I want to let Zenom drink. He's normally careful not to drink too much but just on nights like these where there's no need for someone to keep watch he starts drinking and after falling asleep doesn't wake up very easily."

Without getting angry at my impolite misunderstand Ralpa correct me. Well, it's not anything to get angry over. However, I see now. Since she says she was

“returning to school” she must have either been a student or a teacher. If I remember correctly I think the accident occurred just after noon so if she was a student then I guess she was a college student. I’m sure that as a woman she would be happier being thought of as younger.

“Ah, I see. I misunderstood... So you were a student? Which college did you go to? Ah, no, just because it’s nostalgic.”

“Hatsudai academy high school... Since I wasn’t very smart.. It’s been over a decade since I said the name of my school...It’s true it’s nostalgic.”

After saying that Ralpa closed her eyes in the setting sun. I guess she’s remembering the days far in the past. The red light from the sun reflected off of her hair and was beautiful.

..So she was a high school student. Even though I’m sure it was a happy period for her, suddenly dying in an accident and finding herself reincarnated a world that’s not the Earth. Just for reference I’ll say it but I’ve never heard of Hatsudai academy high school. Just as she said herself it was probably a low standard school. However, that doesn’t really have much relation here on Orth. It’s probably much more important that the both of us were Japanese. Rather than something like how low or high the standards of your school were the fact that you’ve survived 14 years on this Orth is more important, or at least that’s what I think.

“But, if we don’t have any alcohol Zenom might wake up. It would probably be best to talk a bit of distance away from here. Kawasaki-san, can you wake up in the middle of the night?”

“Haha, there’s no need to force yourself to speak politely. I said Al was fine right? And we’re the same age here. It’s fine if you talk normally without restraint.”

After hearing I was a salary man though it was slowly she started to talk politely so I stopped her.

If possible I want to build some familiarity after all.

“And then, I have no problems with waking up in the middle of the night. Would it be better for me to wake you up? However, I don’t have the

confidence I can wake you up with Zenom noticing. He's your father right? If it seems like I'm trying to wake you up in the middle of the night I'm sure he'd get angry."

I tried joking with her a bit. She must have felt that the atmosphere got a bit lighter with that, Ralpa said

"Yeah, then, I'll keep watch of the fire first. And under the pretext of changing with you in the middle of the night I'll wake you up. Then we can put in a bit of extra firewood and move a bit away..let's talk around that area."

She pointed to the edge of the vacant land while saying that. It's about 20 m away from here. Since we setup the campfire on the side of the vacant land closer to the village if we move to the opposite side there's a decent amount of distance. Certainly if we're that far away and whispering then I doubt anyone would notice it.

"I understand. That's fine. Let's do that. Then, let's quickly finish preparations. After Zenom returns I need to go and see about getting them to share some fodder with me."

"Yeah, got it."

After saying that while looking at my horse that's licking some rock salt and eating some grass in the surroundings of the vacant land and Ralpa consents before we go off to make preparations for camping.

.....

I went to sleep after eating a simple dinner and around the middle of the night I was woken up. Since I still haven't lost my habit of waking up once in the middle of the night even if she didn't wake me up I would have gotten up all on my own but since it would have been a pain explaining I just kept quiet and let her wake me up.

After opening my eyes and confirming the one who woke me up and it's only obvious but it was Ralpa. I,

"So it's time to switch, it's fine, I've woken up."

And unnaturally said that while raising my body up.

“I’ll go for a short walk.”

Said that and went to sit on a rock near where Ralpa pointed in the evening.

After adding more firewood to the campfire Ralpa quietly walked over and sat next to me. In order to prevent even a bit of our voices reaching Zenom we sat with our backs facing the campfire.

“Zenom is sleeping well. If it’s a voice this loud then I don’t think he’ll wake up.”

Ralpa says that when I’m nervous of Zenom opening his eyes.

“I see. Then, let’s talk for a bit.”

After I said that and was about to continue talking Ralpa interrupted me saying.

“First off, let me confirm something. What’s your Unique Ability?”

Ho~ so for the time being she cut straight into one of the most important parts huh?

“It’s called Magic Acquisition. Just as you saw during the day, learning magic is my specialty.”

Since the small flame from the campfire is barely reaching our backs even if I look at Ralpa’s expression I can’t tell what it is.

“I see..I thought it was something like that. My Unique Ability is called Spacial Understanding. But I don’t know how to use it. In the past, I tried asking Zenom what Unique Abilities were but Zenom replied that he didn’t know and he had never heard of them. I intended to ask when I met God but when I was confirming other stuff my time ran out..in the end I couldn’t ask. If it’s fine with you could you teach me how to use Unique Abilities?”

“Before that let me confirm several things. Around how much time did you have when you met God? And when did you meet it? Incidentally I met God when I was still a baby.”

“It was a lot later for me. I think it was when I was 4 or 5 years old. Since it was the first day I was injured by a goblin. I was underestimating goblins at that time. Until then I had killed a number of goblins together with Zenom. Since I

had never had a hard fight..After that, Zenom carried me to the healer of a village nearby. I think that was the first time I saw magic.”

Hey there, you’re straying off topic. It seems that Ralpa intends to continue talking.

“And then, after going to sleep that I met God. I was only given 5 minutes to ask questions. I remember confirming countless times that I couldn’t return anymore and despairing over that. After that I ran out of time while asking the types of currency and things about Zenom or about the people who reincarnated. I’m sure you already know about the currency and time but since I had heard about other reincarnated people at that time I thought I wouldn’t be able to meet anyone else, so I was pretty surprised when I saw Al today. I’ve wandered around here and there for over 10 years as an adventurer but I’ve never met another person who reincarnated.”

5 minutes huh? It’s still better than Kuro and Mary but it’s true that with just that amount of time the amount of information you could gain is limited. I’m sure that the way to use your Unique Ability is important but I think there’s a lot of stuff that’s more important in order to go on living that you should confirm as well. It’s not unreasonable. And she’s been adventurer for over 10 years already. Isn’t she a super veteran? Looking for my point of view with a history as an adventurer of one month she’s a great senior.

“Hey, did you know? It seems that the people who reincarnated are all born a considerable distance apart. God said that we were all born more than 100 Km apart. Since it was chosen from people who just happened to be pregnant at the same time with a minimum distance of that then it’s possible that there’s people that are a distance of several hundred Km apart as well. Have you met any other reincarnated people besides me?”

He~ I didn’t know that. I feel like I asked the location of other reincarnated people as well but they didn’t tell me right..I wonder if my way of asking was bad? Well, it’s too late to regret it at this point. However, that information for just now will be a big reference. There’s 39 reincarnated people. All of whom were born at least 100 Km apart. If I remember correctly it said I was on the edge.

“I have. I’ve already met two reincarnated people..that’s how I’m calling the Japanese who were reborn on Orth. Yeah, I’ve met with two reincarnated people. They’re in the capital of Marquis Webdos Territory Keel. I helped them out a bit and the two of them are now in the Marquis knight group. Of the two of them one is a woman.”

After I said that much and Ralpa says,

“I want to meet them. I want to try talking to them.”

that. I understand those feelings.

“I said it right, right now they’re on the lowest standing of the knight group. I’m sure you’ll be able to meet them in several years.”

After hearing that Ralpa said a bit disappointed.

“I see..but, what kind of people were they? It’s nice reliably knowing their whereabouts. God wouldn’t tell me the center point. It seems that I was born a bit south of the center. According to Zenom he picked me up in a cave near the village of Ralpa in Count Hentil’s territory. That’s why he gave me the name Ralpa.”

Since I was just quietly listening Ralpa continued talking to me.

“I...If I wasn’t picked up by Zenom I think probably would have died just like that in the cave. I didn’t know what the situation around me was at that time since I couldn’t do anything and I was just confused...I was a baby after all. Zenom carried me and went to look for my parents in Ralpa village it seems but he said he couldn’t find them. I think I was probably abandoned.”

It’s a heavy story.

“I see, but, Ralpa had good luck it seems. Since you were picked up by Zenom and he properly raised you right?”

I said that. What else could I say?

“Yeah, I really think so. That’s why Zenom is my dad even though he’s a dwarf.”

“Yeah, I guess so. Then I’ll tell my story next.”

I said the same kind of story I told to Kuro and Mary.

.....

“..That just now is the method to train with magic. At the very least using that I was able to use magic. That’s why I don’t think whether or not you’ve become an adult and whatever is related. I know other people as well that were able to use magic before becoming adults using this method as well.”

“So that was the case, then I might become able to use magic as well. Also, about Unique Abilities but, how do you use them?”

“That is..I don’t know. Going off the name wouldn’t it be fine to try using as you jump into the air or something? The way to use them should just be to think of the name of the Unique Ability in your mind. However, when you use it, it uses mana. You should be careful not to overuse it.”

I pretend to say it randomly while teaching her the method to use her Unique Ability. Since I don’t feel like Ralpa would become my enemy for the meantime after I talked to her for a bit. And if I say this much then putting aside right now, she should be able to confirm the authenticity of my words by tomorrow morning. And then her faith in me should go up as well. Well, if she were to think of doing it right now I’m sure she should though. Since there’s a chance Zenom would wake up.

“..I see. Also, I want to ask one thing but where is Al planning to go tomorrow? You’re an adventurer right? Are you in the middle of a job?”

“No, I haven’t accepted any jobs right now. I thought of switching my base from Keel to Baldukk. I intend to go to the dungeon there.”

Come to think of it I hadn’t said it. Ey~ as a bonus. I guess I’ll try asking if she wants to come along... No, is it still too soon? But depending on the case she might suddenly say we’re separating ways tomorrow...

“Baldukk dungeon huh..Yeah, I see..”

Ralpa repeats the words I said while digesting them. Hmn, I wonder if I got ahead of myself. If we can go together partway then I somehow want to make a recovery during that time.

“Yo~to”

Huh? What’s she doing... I turn around look at the area where Zenom is sleeping. After hearing my words Ralpa suddenly stood up and starting jumping. I hurried and tried identifying her and her MP decreased by 1, the remaining amount is 2. She used it! I turn around again and look at Zenom. And I look up at Ralpa who’s in a daze. I turn around and look at Zenom. Am I pendulum?

“Hey, you..”

“Hmn, so this is Spacial Understanding..”

She’s not listening to what I’m saying.

“Zenom! Wake up!”

Why did things become like this?

Chapter 70: A New Meeting 4

Year 7442, Month 5, Day 12

I saw Zenom jump awake at the edge of my sight after hearing Ralpa's words. What in the world is she thinking? I feel like I want hold my head but while ignoring me Ralpa runs over to Zenom after waking him up. Ah, damn it. I don't think they'll suddenly turn into enemies but...there's a worst case. I stand up while glaring at Zenom as he gets halfway up and Ralpa as she runs to him.

Along the way, it seems that Ralpa flinched for a moment but she quickly ran up to him and called out to Zenom again.

"Zenom! I was able to use Spacial Understanding! I finally was able to use my Unique Ability!"

Huh.....?!? What's that? What is she doing telling him about it!?

I opened my mouth so wide I thought my jaw would dislocate.

While I'm dumbfounded hearing Ralpa's words I watch as she runs up to Zenom while calling happily out to him.

"Ah? Unique Ability? Eh? What? Oh~ I see!"

It seems that Zenom woke up right away and was confused for a moment but immediately replied delighted as well. Moreover he doesn't even question it.

Ah, come to think of it.

.....

"I see.. as expected I thought it was something like that. My Unique Ability is called Spatial Understanding. But I don't know how to use it. In the past, I tried asking Zenom what a Unique Ability is but Zenom just said he didn't know and had never heard of it. I intended to ask God but I started asking from other stuff and ran out of time.. in the end I couldn't ask. If it's okay with you, would you teach me the way to use Unique Abilities?"

.....

I just ignored it a moment ago but hasn't she already consulted with Zenom about it! In other words...

It can't be, has she said everything about being reincarnated as well? If she has said something how much has she said I wonder? And, I wonder how much of that Zenom believes?

Ah..I feel dizzy.

It seems that Zenom and Ralpa are happily talking about it.

Depending on how things go, it's not my intention but I might end up having to seal their mouths...Huh? Why? If I think about it a bit more it's not like reincarnating is something bad. It's nothing I'd be charged with a crime over. If I end up serving under someone then there's a possibility I could be used for the sake of my knowledge that doesn't exist on Orth but that shouldn't particularly be a bad thing as well.

While looking at Ralpa happily talk to Zenom, I decided that it wasn't something I need to deal with urgently while getting lost in my thoughts.

If the fact that "knowledge from reincarnated people is effective" is made public, I'm sure I would be forced to cooperate in ways I didn't intend to but what does it matter? If I have "effective knowledge" then I shouldn't be treated badly, it only makes sense that I would receive considerably good treatment. Since if they were to try and forcibly get the information out, without the cooperation of the person them self it's completely impossible, at the very least the side planning to make use of me should offer favorable terms first.

Why did I hide the fact that I reincarnated from my parents and siblings again? Ah, it was because I didn't want them to think of me as strange as much as possible.

Since I didn't want them to think of me as the child of a demon or the descent of a God or something...that's why I made it that my great-grandfather appeared in my dreams. Since it was way~ in the past I completely forgot about it.

Since it seemed like Kuro and Mary were hiding the fact that they

reincarnated from being Japanese so I had completely gotten into the mood. Ralpa was being careful saying things like Bakuddo dialect when referring to Japanese at first after all, furthermore she waited until Zenom was asleep to talk, that's why it came to this situation.

Why did I think that was unusual?

It's simple. It's because conveniently thought everyone had the same values as me. Since I wanted to make my own country, since I wanted to become the king of the hill, it's because I wanted to avoid letting anyone conveniently use the knowledge I have. Since it was coming from a small child it's hard to have any faith in it and rather because of the difference in power something that isn't pleasant could be done. Depending on the case you could be ostracized or killed for being too abnormal and that's how I analyzed the situation when I was still a baby. I wanted to hide it at the very least until I had grown up a bit because I wanted to be treated the same as other children. As a result it seems I was considered abnormally good of a child compared to other kids though that's thanks to keeping an eye on the situation as I gradually thought I could go a bit further at a time. Eh? It's fine, since I think that way.

If you look at it in reverse you could take it that I doubted Hegard and Sharl's love as my parents when I was still an infant. Ah, I don't doubt it now. I have no doubts about whether I was raised with my parent's love. My parents on Orth loved me just as much as my parents in my past life after all. If I said anything wrong and hurt anyone then Hegard would have gone as far as hitting me to make me revise it and Sharl would have slapped me as well. And I'm sure they would have lowered their heads to the one I who's feelings I hurt. However, that's in the case that they think I need discipline. The border between discipline and things outside of that is clear. If there was someone who I truly hated and can't give up on hating at all, no matter how good of a person that is I'm sure they would have cooperated with me and killed them together or killed them in my place. I don't know what would happen if my opinion was at odds with Farne or Mill but if that's not the case then I'm sure father and mother would have definitely been my ally unconditionally. I'm sure if it was a case of a conflict between us siblings then I feel that a judgement would befall us within the limits of discipline.

If I remember correctly I started talking around the time I was one year old. I think it was around that time I said some occult stuff about my great-grandfather visiting me in my dreams or something. After that, I asked about the farm work in the village and the mechanisms of nobility but the first I actually started suggesting things and started messing with rubber and stuff was...4–5, no, after I was 6 years old. Ah, no, if I remember correctly we started saving up money in order to introduce large livestock for making farm work more efficient. Around that time my MP had increased considerably so even in the worst case if I were to be ostracized I had enough confidence that I could somehow survive on my own, though it isn't the completely the reason. Of course it was around that time that I started to think that sort of thing wouldn't happen even in the worst case and I started to think about how I could be useful to my family, and what I could do.

I was considerably luck as well. After all I was able to be born from those parents. If that wasn't the case then what would have happened? For example what would have happened if I was born a serf like Kuro, there's no doubt I would have gone through quite a bit of trouble just like him. Since Marquis Webdos territory is a considerably good land even in the Kingdom of Rombert, if it was as a serf in a different place then there's probably a high possibility I could have easily died from an illness in my infancy.

In some ways, it's the same for the time when I was in Bakuddo but it's definitely not a bad thing being used by others and the opposite of that is the same. Rather the me at that time was progressively trying to be used by others. It's only obvious to employ the work of someone based on their abilities and be employed yourself.

I think there's a lot of people would agree with my opinion. After all, if that wasn't the case then everyone who works in a business or management on earth would be villains. Politicians and officials would be villains as well and below that the citizens who pay taxes in order to be guaranteed safety and social securities are all villains in other words the Earth would be a plant of evil.

Everyone knows that's not the case. Even the people of Orth know it. Obviously the reincarnated Japanese know as well. Don't misunderstand. I don't want friends. Of course, if there's someone who I'm able to create a friend-

based relationship with then I wouldn't be against it. Just, the things that I'm trying to do have no relation to making friends. It's plenty as long as I can create a relationship where I use and I'm used by others. Ah, of course I'm on the side of the relationship doing the using. I guess I'll just correct it, rather than just saying only a relationship of using and being used.

I want to become the King of the country I create, it means I want retainers and subordinates. In other words the place that I'm aiming for I don't need the people who support me to be my friends. If you're making a company then a president and the subordinates who become their arms and legs are necessary and it's better to have subordinates and more subordinates under them right? It's fine if I declare that I'm going independent and claim a territory as my own all by myself but in that case no one will come along with me and no country will recognize it as a country. It's only obvious that no matter how strong I become as an individual, I can't win against an army of 100 all on my own.

In addition I'll say it but I don't want to make a democratic country. I want to make an autocratic state that's on the border of being a dictatorship with me at the top. What I'm aiming for is a Sengoku feudal lord who raises up in the world. I'm not aiming for a socialistic or communism doctrine that tries to release the oppressed people from the noble and royal ranks. Society is perfectly fine just as it is now. I'm also not intending to unify the continent. If I could do it then I would but those sorts of things I'll worry about after I make my own country. Shining example of a man*, I'm sure it's better to have big dreams but I understand that in order to make them reality you have to take various steps.

If there's someone who wants to serve me and they are useful then I'll give them a warm welcome. If you come with me I'll make sure you're this well taken care of, how about it? in other words that sort of thing. See, there's no particularly need to become friends with anyone right? It's fine as long as they're capable and loyal subordinates. And, in that case then I guess there's no particular need to hide the fact that we're reincarnated right? Whether they believe it or not depends on the other side after all. Well, I'm sure normally they wouldn't believe it. If they don't believe it then they could just ignore as a drunk story, in terms of harm there's none other than being thought of as a liar.

I'm sure other people who have reincarnated would definitely believe it though.

The problem is the demerits of having the fact that you're a reincarnated person exposed to someone who intends to use you. However, if they're trying to use us then in other words that means they've recognized the value of reincarnated people. In other words what I can think of for the time being is that other than the fact that we're a reincarnated person, what other ways we can be useful is difficult to expose. However, there's my case as well. In the case that someone who reincarnated in this world is born in a social standing that is far above mine...

Putting aside the individual doctrines and personality of reincarnated people it's certain that we're above the people of Orth in terms of knowledge and abilities. We even have Unique Abilities. Kuro has Charm, Mary has Resistance (Poison), Ralpa has Spacial Understanding.

Since Unique Abilities are powerful and my Identify and Gift of Natural Talent don't fall behind theirs and can be considered cheating with how excellent of abilities they are. Depending on how you think about it, if I were to take on Kuro, Mary, or Ralpa as opponents it's even possible for me to fall to my knees. It's best if I make as many reincarnated people into my allies or at least keep them neutral. I just need to avoid becoming enemies with them.

By the way, it's almost been about 30 seconds since Ralpa started noisily talking with Zenom.

I'm sure it's fine by now.

"Ralpa, I get that you're happy but what is it all of a sudden?"

I pause organizing my thoughts and call out to her as I approach. I understand that she was able to use her Unique Ability Spacial Understanding but I need to pretend that I don't know that was her using it but I can also understand that she was able to do it by listening to their conversation so there's no point. I'll change tracks.

"Zenom, Al taught me how to do it. The method to train with magic as well!"

Without paying any attention to me Ralpa continues talking to Zenom. I wonder if she couldn't hear me?

“And then, he says he’s going to the dungeon ins Baldukk! After all it’s just as I said. The people who have reincarnated that want to get stronger will aim for there!”

What?

“Yeah..That seems to be the case. Ralpa, what are you going to do?”

“Isn’t that only obvious! We’ll go together! I mean since he can use magic that well then I’m sure we can even make it to at least the 2nd floor right!?”

Huh? Eh? What are the two of you talking about on your own?

It seems that Zenom noticed me after I approached within 5 m.

I’m sure he saw my idiotic face...

“Ralpa, I get what you want to say. But, did you tell the person them self before telling me...I’m sure you didn’t ask right? Being impertinent is a bad habit of yours.”

Zenom says that chiding Ralpa.

Ralpa turns around. Hey, it’s been a while.

“Hey, we’re you listening!?”

She said that with a sparkling expression.

“..Yeah, for the most part.”

I responded a bit disappointed.

“Then“Wait just a minute.””

Since it seemed like she was going to continue the conversation all on her I interrupted her. It’s true it’s going just liked I predicted where it feels like they’ll come along with me. Ralpa looks over here as if she wants to become allies.

“Let me confirm several things. It’s important. Zenom, how much do you know?”

I looked at Zenom who was sitting halfway up while saying that.

“..How much do I know? About what?”

I guess as expected he wouldn’t know with just this...

“About Ralpa’s Unique Ability.”

I wanted to ask about reincarnation and things like but there’s the possibility that Ralpa hasn’t revealed that much.

“Ah, I’ve heard from Ralpa. She was able to use it because you taught her. Thanks. With this that shikoki or whatever”“Eh?””

Just now, what did he say?

“No, won’t she be able to use the shikoki now?”

“Huh? Eh? Shikoki?”

I reflexively looked in Ralpa’s direction.

“It’s Airplane. Airplane. The one that flies through the sky.”

“How far have you talked to Zenom about reincarnating?”

“..I’ve talked about everything that I know? Why?”

I guess that was the case after all.

“Then, why did you refer to Japanese as the dialect of Bakuddo and try to hide it?”

“After all, Zenom can’t talk in Japanese~”

Since I said it in Japanese, Ralpa replied in Japanese as well.

“Next, in that case then why do you go to all the trouble of waiting for Zenom to sleep before talking? At first you were trying to get Zenom drunk right?”

“I didn’t want to give Zenom false-expectations..Huh? Was something bad about it?”

It seems she finally realized it. If it’s the father that raised her for 14 years without expecting anything from her then it’s not particular bad though. The problem is anyone else.

“No, it’s already fine. Zenom, you know that Ralpa was reborn from another world right?”

“Yeah, I’ve heard from Ralpa. Since Ralpa talked to me about a variety of things. You are as well right?”

It seems that Zenom noticed what I was trying to say from the start of the conversation. His expression changed.

“It can’t be helped denying it at this point. That’s right. I was born and raised in the same country as Ralpa and a person that was reborn in this world.”

I continue saying.

“And, just to confirm but the ones that believe that Ralpa was reincarnated, no is there anyone else than you who knows that she’s saying that?”

...

There was a moment of silence. Is he trying to remember?

“There’s none. I told Ralpa not to carelessly talk about it. In the past, there was one person that Ralpa talked about it with when she was still little but after that before they met anyone I killed them..”

It seems I made him say something he didn’t want to say. After hearing the conversation just now Ralpa is holding her mouth.

“I see, sorry about that. I’m sure you didn’t want to say that in front of Ralpa..that was my bad.”

“It’s fine. And while I said that she’s not supposed to talk about but as an exception she can progressively talk about it with other people in the same position as her. Since I’ve been dragging this child all over the place since she was young she has no friends. She was always afraid, according to what Ralpa says that it’s something that everyone who reincarnated would feel and they shouldn’t have all that different of a way of thinking about it..and that there shouldn’t be any problem with talking about it with people from the same country and.. so that’s what you meant, I guess I was a bit too easy on my own daughter.”

It seems that Zenom comprehended it.

“Yeah, that’s right. I think that the most dangerous ones are those who reincarnated like us.”

I face Ralpa and say it once again.

“Ralpa, it would have been dangerous if I had been trying to use the

knowledge you possess. Well, I can't say much myself as well. Since I lightly told you the method to use your Unique Ability after all. However, since I've talked about it this far..you two should prepare yourselves."

I looked at the two of them with a serious expression. While the two of them were overawed by me, they started to be more cautious. I guess that aspect is the veteran adventurer part behind Ralpa's carefree behavior.

"I don't intend on fighting. I'll promise you that. At the very least I don't intend on fighting right here and now. It's repeating things but I'll promise you on that. First, I want you to listen what I'm about to talk about. I saw where Ralpa and Zenom were fighting against the orks during the day. It should be difficult for you to take me on without a weapon right? That's why even if you listen to what I'm about to say it won't change your situation. I can use magic but your weapons are over there. I don't mind it if you take it as me threatening you. In any case, I want you to calm down first and listen to my story."

Every time I say something Zenom who's still only sitting halfway up and Ralpa on his side flinch in reaction. I watch that while saying.

"..For the time being I don't intend to become enemies with you two. If I had those sort of intentions I wouldn't have given Ralpa advice on how to use her Unique Ability. And I wouldn't have taught her the method to train with magic as well. Though it's not definite that you'll learn magic with that method of training. At the very least I've given Ralpa knowledge. Think about that."

...

"It seems that Zenom has already realized but since it doesn't seem like Ralpa has completely notice yet I'll explain it. Ralpa, think about it for a bit. Would your knowledge be useful in this world?"

"..I think it's useful."

She still hasn't completely grasped the situation, shes just gotten tense over reacting to my words "prepare yourself" and different from Zenom her attitude has softened quite a bit.

"I guess so. That mustard mayonnaise that you let me eat for lunch and dinner was delicious. I'm not familiar with seasonings and I didn't think of

making it myself so I didn't do anything but I think that taste is plenty to make into a business. However, it's not a conversation of that level. Ralpa, think properly. Is the knowledge that you that could be useful in this world only limited to that?"

"..Eh? After all I'm an idiot, I went to "Hatsu school" after all.."

"Hey now, it's not related to what "school" you went to... For example what about farming? No matter how you put if you've made it to "high school" then even if it's not precise you should have a reasonable amount of knowledge right? It's not a question of if you have that sort of knowledge or not. Do you get that the problem is whether or not other people think you have it?"

I asked her seriously. Since the words "school", "high school", and "Hatsudai school" aren't in this world I used Japanese for just those parts though.

"Think carefully about it. You should know various things that aren't know on Orth. How did you get your hands on mustard? You found a mustard plant right? I never even thought of something like that so I didn't even try searching for a mustard plant. If it's just at the left of mustard then it's fine. But, depending on the case you understand that it can be dangerous right?"

"..Ah..I see..I guess."

Did she understand? I continue again.

"That conversation about the airplane just before is a good example. You get it right?"

"Yeah, I understand."

"Alright listen, Zenom listen closely as well. The two of you were in an extremely dangerous situation. First understand that. Up until now was fine. You had good luck. No one has put their eyes on you yet after all. Up until now you've done quite a few jobs as adventurers right? Just think you had good luck not running into anyone like me while wandering around all over the place."

According to the information I just heard it seems that you can't so easily run into other reincarnated people so I feel it's far beyond the level of just good luck but, well it's fine.

“Zenom, it seems that you’ve somewhat realized so I think you know but the knowledge that Ralpa and I possess is considerably ahead of Orth. Putting it frankly there’s a lot of extremely dangerous things as well. Just now you said that we were reborn right. Did you hear the reason?”

“Yeah, I heard that a lot people died in an accident and the ones who died were al reborn..”

“That’s right, and then?”

“..The accident was caused by something like large carriages colliding. You guys got dragged into the conflict between Gods..and all the people who were reborn start over as babies. Retaining their memories. Each person has a different Unique Ability and they can get stronger more easily than people normally born in this world..I think was it? I didn’t really want to say it but it’s true that Ralpa talks about things that I don’t know about or things that I can’t even imagine, even the time when she started talking was considerably early. For her age I think she’s excellent in a variety of ways. From my standpoint I can’t help but believe it, were my feelings.”

“..I see.”

“According to what Ralpa said in the country she lived in the past there were no monsters and magic but a lot of people lives happily and she said it was unrelated to conflict. I couldn’t believe it but since Ralpa knew far too much about various things. There’s an expression of lying as if you saw it yourself but I quickly realized it wasn’t something like that. If I talked about the same sort of things and she would reply with the exact same thing precisely. She was even able to do calculations from the time she was born. She said she was born in that sort of world. And she also said people in that world fundamentally don’t fight and should dislike it. That everyone should be people like Ralpa..that’s why, I couldn’t help but get a bit too soft as well.”

“Sorry, please understand that I’m not criticizing you. I just wanted to confirm.”

I apologized to Zenom from my true feelings. I really don’t have any intention of criticizing him at all. Rather, it’s strange but I actually feel grateful to him for raising Ralpa, since we’re from the same country, this well even though he’s

not her parent or anything.

“Let’s organize things a bit. I call the people like us that were reborn On Orth reincarnated people. And reincarnated people possess a variety of knowledge that the people of Orth still don’t know. Also, our growth is fast. This doesn’t mean we become adults sooner. It means that our stamina and strength grow faster, would be a better way of putting it. In other words it’s easier for us to get stronger as individuals. Also, we have a magic like power called a Unique Ability. Ralpa’s Spacial Understanding and my Magic Ability. Up until here you could say we’ve already surpassed the average person.”

“Eh? Wasn’t it Magic Acquisition...”

Ralpa retorted me on it. Ah, that was close~

“Yeah, rather than Acquisition I thought that it would be easier for Zenom to understand if I said Ability.”

A cold sweat is dripping in my heart. In any case it’s critical to casually let it pass.

“Hn, I guess that’s true.”

Ha....Thank god.

“And then. Next is the demerits of reincarnating. For starters the first one. Since your memories are remaining you can’t help but feel differently than the people of Orth. There’s a system of social rankings on Orth. They’re split up between noble, commoner, and slave rankings and each of them have different things that they’re allowed and not allowed. In the place that we reincarnated people were originally born it was like that in the past but that sort of stuff has long since been abolished and we’ve all become commoners. Since I’m sure Zenom has heard about stuff like that already but, well just think of it as a review. That’s why I think there’s a trend for reincarnated people to be displeased by the social ranking system itself.”

The two of them are listening attentively. It seems that their tension has softened quite a bit.

“Frankly this is dangerous. Just because you expressed your displeasure it’s not like you would suddenly be punished for it but if that reincarnated person

was of the slave ranking then their owner would find it very amusing I'm sure. If they had already been heard saying clever things until then and even more so if they had said things that were helpful. If someone like that were to try saying "It's strange that I'm a slave." There's no way it would be amusing. I doubt it's something would suddenly be killed right away for but depending on the situation they could have various things added and go to the point where they feel death would be better than their situation."

Did I surprise them a bit too much? But, I need to say at least this much.

"Next is in relation to killing. Since you've probably heard various things from Ralpa already I don't think there's a problem but reincarnated people have no experience of catching their own food from the start all on their own. The reason for this is the place and period we reincarnated from I'm sure. It's true that the reincarnated people's country..Japan, even in Japan there were hunters and agriculture was done as well. But, I doubt there's any reincarnated people with those sort of experiences. Even if there was it would be at most 1 or 2 people and that's just because they were born of a farming family. In the past, they probably just helped out with their father's occupation a bit I'm sure. In regards to hunters I can assert it. There's no way. Of course, as a possibility I'm sure it's not zero but I think it's at a level we can ignore. Ralpa, what do you think about this? Let me hear your opinion."

"I guess so..I think so as well. In the first place there shouldn't have been any people that lived as hunters right?"

"I'm sure it's not as if there weren't any at all but going off that time and that place then it's difficult to imagine there were any. That's why it's difficult to think that there were any people who had experience killing something. Of course, it might not be so strange for something small like bugs, or a dog or cat. If it's at the level of a chicken then it's also possible. But it's just at that level. I doubt there's anyone that's killed a larger animal than a pig. Obviously it's the same for a human or a living create with limbs like a human as well. It wouldn't be strange for someone with experience in committing murder but considering the population of that town then I think it's at a level that you can ignore it as well. In Japan the killing of large animals is almost always done by humans who specialize in that in certain facilities. And murder is harshly judged. In other

words, reincarnated people aren't used to using their bodies to fight things and fundamentally have feelings of aversion to killing anything."

The two of them are quietly listening.

"That's why even if they possess the qualities to become stronger they aren't making use of that or it can be thought that they're preventing themselves from making use of it. Ah, I don't intended to say Ralpa is different. Rather, I think you're pretty amazing. Probably, if all of the reincarnated gathered here and fought, I think you would come out pretty high in the rankings? I think it's okay for you to be proud that you've trained yourself that much. Since even in Japan there are techniques that have been passed down for using your body to fight so I think there's plenty of people who can damage their opponent but I wonder about people who can go as far as taking life? I don't think even half would be able to let alone finishing off a weakened opponent who's begging for their life I don't think there's very many. It's weird putting it this way but if you've been an adventurer for that long then you must have taken on people as opponents as well right?"

The atmosphere of the two suddenly changed.

"Of course I have. I've even killed."

Ralpa said that.

"Yeah, I'm sure that's the case. I've killed people as well. But, could you accept it as something that couldn't be helped? Or do you still regret it?"

"I guess so. I don't regret it. It couldn't be helped."

"Yeah. However, what about the first time you did it? I got a bit sad after I killed someone. Even if I understand the logic but it was more like my feelings weren't able to accept it..I can't go back any longer or that sort of weird feeling. I've already accepted it so I'm fine now though."

"It was the same for me as well. I think it was close. I thought that the first time I killed a goblin. I couldn't see it as anything other than a person."

Ah, that's right. I thought goblins were people at first as well. I thought they were like barbarians or primeval people. That's why I unconditionally thought Farne was cool when he protected me from a goblin for the first time. He

protected Mill and I with risking his body and even going to the point of sinning is what I thought. It's not like goblins are people though, oh, though that feeling hasn't changed at all even after understanding that they aren't thought to be people. I know that goblins are people as well. They come up using Identify as Small Ogre People race after all. They probably show up like that under Status Open as well.

It's the same as Elf, dwarf, and human race. Since I looked up to that Farne I was able to kill the man spy in order to protect Myun as well. I think that Farne's appearance at that time was probably the origin for my life on Orth.

I got lost in my thoughts a bit there.

"Yeah. That's right. That's why I think reincarnated people will largely be split into two groups. The first is people who continue to maintain their values to some extent from their life before reincarnating. They'll probably try to live separating themselves from conflict. It might be fine to think that this group won't fundamentally cause any major problem. The other group is people who accept it like Ralpha and I. If they become adventurers like us then it's fine. I'm sure they'll have become reasonably strong. However, depending on their situation after reincarnated they may not be able to become adventurers, I don't know how people like that would be able to find chances to fight. Depending on the situation they might have even been born as high rank nobles close to lords. The problem is people like that. They should probably realize that their knowledge is far above the people of Orth shortly after being born. And by thinking that they themselves have no need to fight depending on the case it's possible things could become bad. They're born with a lot of subordinates and even have authority after all. And they know that reincarnated people are useful as well. If they were to inherit the family and become able to do whatever they want, the first thing they would do is.."

Their eyes suddenly widened.

"Hunting reincarnated people, huh?"

Zenom sighs while saying it.

"Yeah, that's right. For example think about if they were born as the son or daughter of the King of Rombert. Since they don't know the words at first and

they don't know the situation I'm sure they would be patient. But, assuming they were originally a baby then they should have been a reasonable age already. In addition to that they'll learn the words quickly thanks to the soft brain of a child. Up until here you understand just from Ralpa right? And, just imagine if that person realized they were born in an extremely high class family. Simultaneously they also realize that their knowledge is far beyond that of Orth. They'll gradually come to understand things about Orth. There's wars almost every year and even monsters. There's magic as well. There's a system of social rankings being maintained and they hold immense authority over that close to the top. They'll gradually understand things like that. And, at some point, just like us they'll meet God. They'll be taught that there are other reincarnated people like them and they all have a Unique Ability. Ralpa. Up until here what would you do if you were born as a princess of Rombert?"

It seems that Ralpa is still shocked by Zenom's words from just now but opened her mouth.

"If it was me then..Yeah, I think I might start with reforming the kingdom. Use a lot of people and remake the town, depending on the circumstances prohibit slaves.."

"Do you really think so?"

I stare at Ralpa's eyes while saying it.

"Eh? Yeah. I think I would probably do something like that. I think I would try to make it into a country which can live without war. Wouldn't try to do things helpful for that sake?"

"..Well it's fine. What about after that?"

"Eh? After that? But I think there would be a lot of things to do so...wouldn't I need to keep doing that forever?"

Since it seems she was a high school student in her past life. After that she's been an adventurer since childhood so I guess she's never thought about things like this.

"Alright, I'll digress a bit but it's fine. You understand that there's no way they would listen your words as a baby right? That's why it should take an age of at

least 5 or 6 years old I'm sure. Once they reach that age they might have an attendant as well. Ralpa would make a plan until around that age. And, one day, you start saying organizing town blocks or water supply. Let's saying you successfully manage to convince them. You're a princess after all. As long as you don't say anything too unreasonable I'm sure they would do it for you. I'm sure you would start making requests starting from small things as well. And that goes well. The next one went reasonably well too. Starting from the King your assessment is high for everyone. Since you've done it several times you think it's about a good time so you try saying we should prohibit slavery. What would the people around you think?"

"Wouldn't they agree with me? I would have gotten results up until then after all."

"I wonder about that? Slaves are an asset. Do you think nobles would obey the demand to release them with no compensation? Well, it's fine if you were to start from just the royalty as well. Since even the royalty possess a lot of slaves. Let's assume the royalty releases their slaves. There's a lot of servant slaves and combat slaves in the army. You've suddenly made them into Free People. You say you'll give them wages and tell them to pay taxes. Up until now it was fine if you just looked after their daily necessities. What would happen?"

Ralpa opened here eyes wide.

"Ah, I think it would cost money."

"That's right, would that money naturally appear from nowhere? There's no way that's the case right? In that case then while it would be a bit of an inconvenience you would reduce the number of people you employ I'm sure. Then what would happen to the ex-slaves that fell through? Would you use them as construction laborers? What if it was women that fell through? If it was the elderly? No one might hire them. In that case I'm sure the ex-slaves would think of selling themselves as slaves since they can't make a living."

"..Yeah."

Ralpa faced down.

"See, if you think about it a bit you can quickly understand. There's no easy way to do something about a system of social rankings. Just now was too

extreme though.

But it shouldn't be all that mistaken for a large current. And next. Just like through your various reforms the Kingdom of Rombert has become wealthy. It's gotten to the point where it doesn't even need it so it can just give something like the Dirt Plains to Devas. The need for war has disappeared. Happily ever after. Do you think that will be the case? Would the Kingdom of Devas be satisfied with just the Dirt Plains?"

"I don't think, it would."

"Yeah, I'm sure that's the case. After making some base villages in the Dirt Plains I'm sure they would start making passes on the Kingdom of Rombert that's gotten so wealthy. Even Devas wants to become wealthy."

Ralpha raises her head.

"I understand. I would probably do some amount of reforms but in order to prevent being invaded some amount of protection is necessary. It's necessary to make the army bigger as well. Otherwise making some sort of weapon that can you can use to protect even with a small number of people."

"Well I'm sure that'd be about it. But can you do all of that yourself?"

"It's impossible. I would need people I can trust..I might gather reincarnated people together. Since I know they have knowledge and their Unique Abilities might be useful as well. Yeah, I understand what Al was trying to say. If it comes to that then I'm sure they'll probably try to offer employment with good conditions at first but they might quickly start gathering right and left without a care. And they might even try to force them to work."

Well I guess I'll say it's the correct answer. Though she's skipped over a considerable amount but it seems she's understood the flow it. Since I lead her into arriving at this sort of conclusion after all.

"That's the case. Were you able to understand what I was worrying about?"

The two of them nod in agreement.

"Alright, then let's return to the discussion. Since we've concluded the concerns let's move on to the next topic. About how much do the two of you

earn in one year?”

“Huh? Eh? Why?”

Ralpha says that. Zenom is confused as well.

“It’s fine, you two might not be the average for adventurers but I’m interested. Would you tell me?”

“Nn..About 4,000,000 Z between the two of us I think. We pay the 10% tax from there so it’s probably a bit less though.”

Zenom responded to me. It’s quite a bit more than I imagined.

I say while smiling.

“I see, I understand now. Then, I’ll pay 400,000 Z per month. In one year it’s 4,800,000 Z. Just like Ralpha just said I’ll start off by offering good conditions.

I’ll throw in bonuses in addition depending on work done in special cases. Ah, for starters we’ll try going to the dungeon Baldukk.”

The two of them exchanged glances.

Side Story 11: In the case of Sema Yousuke (Age 21 at time of accident)

I was on a date with my girlfriend who I've been dating for close to one year. Today is valentine's day and already I received chocolate this morning. After this we're going to watch a movie in Shinjuku and then I have reservations for a slightly good restaurant that we're going to have dinner at. Our conversation picks up as we talk about the movie we're going to see today. It has good ratings overall and is said to be a masterpiece.

It's a movie that both of us have been looking forward to. There's no way we would run out of conversation. My girlfriend who is smiling at me was chosen as Miss Campus at the school festival last year. Even though close to a year has passed I still can't believe a girl as cute as this is my girlfriend. Since we were both born in the same prefecture and we both went to the same school I had talked to her a reasonable amount but when I was gathering together my very little courage to confess to her it was to the point where I had already made preparations to go drinking with a friend to comfort me before-hand.

I'll probably never forget the look on my friends face when I showed up with her at that place. Even I thought it was impossible after all. It couldn't compare to how surprised they were. It was the first time since I was born that I've had enough alcohol to exhaust the store and gotten so drunk that my memories disappeared. When I woke up in the middle of the night and was throwing up in the toilet I realized for the first time that I had gotten an OK for my confession.

I'm definitely not someone who stands out at my college and the circle I'm a member of is even a plain culture type one. Even then I like her and I couldn't give up spending my days hesitating over it. After consulting with my friends I finally decided to confess to her in abandonment with the resolve to be crushed.

After I started dating her my world spread out and I felt like colors started to become more vivid. Almost as if everything in the world was offering us it's blessing and without reason I would become happy. I made progress with my

studies and while it wasn't a major company I was able to receive an unofficial offer from a decent company. Everything is good. I felt happy. Up until that moment.

.....

I guess this is what they say when you don't feel like doing anything. After losing her I spent countless months like a shell. I've somehow gotten a grasp on my situation but just with her not being around my heart is disturbed and I end up crying in a loud voice. I'm crying or sleeping or sucking my mothers breasts. I'm not doing anything but one of those.

Naming ceremony? Ah, I have the feeling I did it but it doesn't matter at all to me when I'm at the bottom of despair.

.....

After a few years had passed and I was almost ready to give up. One day after I finished swinging the sword without thinking all day my tired body fell over into the bed and I fell asleep. I met God. After listening to various things I was shocked but these words flashed through my mind like a divine revelation.

"About Souma Asuka? Yeah, she's reincarnated just like you. It would be good if you can meet her."

I felt like the world was filled with color again. I'm still a child and I have no stamina. There's monsters wandering around in this world. Even if I wander around aimlessly search it's easy to imagine that I would run out of strength on the way. My parents and siblings were happy that I had started to train with the sword so enthusiastically but I didn't care about that stuff at all. I started training with the sword like a crisis was drawing near.

Thinking it might be useful I also practiced using the Unique Ability I heard about from God. Until then I hadn't used Status Open on myself so I didn't notice it. In the first place, Status Open isn't something you use on yourself that often so I didn't really pay attention to it.

Although, I doubt that my Unique Ability "Scale" will be useful in searching for her so only appropriately training it. It's an ability where as the level goes up I can separate solids and liquids as I please. At first I only was able to figure out

the point to evenly split up things like string and wood but eventually I was able to figure out how to unevenly divide them and I became able to divide things like cotton. Furthermore after leveling the ability up even more I became able to cut bread up into pieces that have the exact same volume. And I became able to split up fine things like wheat based on their weight. It might seem random at first sight cutting and tearing it but I'm probably the only one who can truly accurately split them up.

I somehow understand that only I'm able to divide things up precisely almost as if I were using a ruler or scale. However, I quickly realized it wasn't very useful. It doesn't particularly seem like something that will help in my search for Asuka. If I overuse it then I start to feel tired or hungry so it's not a good thing. Well, after eating dinner and before I go to sleep training it a bit is plenty. There's a lot of days where it's too much trouble and I don't do it as well.

At first it was evenly dividing by length, next it was dividing unevenly. It's fine for there to be several denominators but there's only one numerator. Next was even division by area, after that was uneven division, after that was even division by volume, I think you already get it. Incidentally, I do trained using wheat after that. After that was liquid. Right now I've just become able to evenly divide liquids. I need a container though. I'm sure next I'll be able to unevenly divide liquids. In addition I'll also say I can also do comparisons. I don't know what kind of logic is behind it but I can know things like how much of the weight of wheat that's inside of this box is equal to how much of a fraction of the weight of this squared lumber. Only when it comes to these comparisons is both the denominator and numerator not fixed to one.

More importantly than that, training my body and cultivating my stamina so I can endure a long journey is far more important. And I'm sure the Special Skill, Infrared Vision, that I was born with is a lot more useful than "Scale". There's no level to the skill Infrared Vision. Since it seems that the distance you can make vision is dependent on the growth of your body I'm putting it aside since it doesn't need training as well.

obviously there's some impatience. While I'm sitting around here doing nothing she might die. She might get attacked by monsters while waiting for me. If she was born in the slave ranking then she might be forced to do severe

labor. I don't want to think about it but she was that cute. She could even be meeting a worse fate...

No, worrying about it right now won't change anything. In any case, I need to be able to save her no matter what kind of situation she's in. At the very least I know that at the point I met God when I was 8 years old she was definitely alive and healthy. Though that is unless God was lying to me.

Even if I'm finally able to meet her if I can't save her because of my own lack of ability then it's meaningless. Rather, I could end up causing Asuka to suffer for the portion she had expectations for me. There's no other choice than to do everything I can. There's not even a single second to be playing with kids the same age as me.

I don't know where she is but I'll definitely find and save her. No, she might not need saving but I'll meet Asuka and this time marry her.

.....

Several more years passed. I'm already 13 years old. I understand that I've trained myself a decent amount. My skill with the sword should have gone to a considerably good level.

I'm going to tell my family in Orth what I had been planning for a while that I'm going to become an adventurer. Since I'm the third son of a regional Viscount, I think my wish will be granted without problem. I'm very grateful to my parents who raised and trained me to the point where I can't repay them. However, I have something important to me. I feel sorry but I think I'll work together with my older brother to make the house bigger after I bring back Asuka.

One day, it was the first time but I was able to defeat my second brother. As far as I can tell my second brother is considerably strong. I was finally able to come this far. It was long but I'm sure I can already protect myself plenty. I still haven't experienced live combat using a real sword but while I just became an adult I have enough skill that I was able to defeat that second brother. My oldest brother who has entered the knight group I'm sure I'm still a step below but it's already plenty.

Today, I'm going to get permission from my parents and leave on my journey

to search. I'm going to leave Yogutte village of Count Rozenhaim's territory. I received a single long sword, some durable leather armor, and 2,000,000 zeni in cash from my father. This rucksack with a variety of luggage is my entire fortune.

I, Sema Yousuke, also known as the Elf warrior Tolkeris Kalstalan, am on my way.

Just wait for me, Asuka. I'll definitely find you.

Side Story 12: In the case of Souma Asuka (Age 21 at time of accident)

When I gave You-chan the chocolate I made myself he was extremely happy. It was worth putting all the effort into making it. As a matter of fact it was my first time making chocolate myself. There was a boy I dated for a bit in high-school but we separated before Valentine's day. I didn't hate him but he tried to kiss me when we hadn't even dated for 3 months yet so I got scared.

Now I know that was normal. After 3 months have passed it's even possible for more than that to have developed. However, since I was still a child that didn't know how the world works at that time I couldn't help but be afraid of him drawing near me. I think I did something bad to him but there's no helping it at this point.

I somehow was able to enter a university in Tokyo and started living alone which I had always admired. There's a lot of interesting things at college and time passed so fast it was no comparison up until now. I met You-chan who was born in the same prefecture as me in college. I wasn't particularly conscious of him at first but eventually I realized that You-chan likes me. I knew he was looking at me while trying to act normal during the times in the school cafeteria and when I was writing a report at the library on campus and I return home he always gave me gifts. Since his home town is close to mine a lot of the desserts were ones I was familiar with though. However, I wasn't particular conscious of him.

Right before I was about to advance to my third year You-chan confessed to me. Up until then I had been dragging along my broken heart since high-school so even if someone confessed to me I wouldn't go out with anyone but the way he was so frantic, stammering as he gave it his best in confessing to me I suddenly thought, "I'll try dating this person." I don't know why I felt something like that but I didn't regret it at all.

Just from a glance he's a normal person. He's not particularly good or cool looking. It's even suspicious if he's paying attention to his clothes. But, he's

always wearing clean looking clothes and if you look closely then his face isn't all that bad. At least to me. It's not like I'm in love with his appearance after all. The conversations with him are interesting and he casually checks the movies that I might like. And when I get stuck on the report I'm writing he discusses it together with me. We have the same interests in music and comedians. It's also a high point that he's always paying attention to me.

I thought I would definitely end up marrying him just like this. Since we both happily received unofficial offers from a company in the metro area. But, I couldn't even dream that something like that would happen. We went out together to enjoy ourselves that day. We didn't go out to meet this sort of fate.

.....

I was surprised at the time of my naming ceremony. I was amazed. I was shocked. I thought I would fall over. It's magic. I've been making use of the fact that I was a baby until now and wasting time. It's not like I didn't have any thoughts about the fact that I was reborn but since I was a baby I didn't particularly think of doing anything.

After my naming ceremony I devoted myself to trying to gather information on Orth. I wonder if it's because I heard English? No, that's wrong. It's because I heard English itself. I heard some amount of English words and nouns. However, since there's magic. And I was moved by the fact that there was English included in that.

Since it's still true that I'm a baby it would be unnatural if I were to start talking in a rush. I started living listening carefully with my ears held high and learning the words within myself. It's not a matter of expression that I had my ears held high. Since I'm a Rabbit-person Bunnyman I was born with some splendid ears. Rabbit-people are different from normal humans, they have a pair of ears like a rabbit in an area a bit of where ears normally are. Normally they're just drooping down in the back but when they're standing high they stick completely up on end. It's small and round but I have a tail as well. There's light fur growing between my hair and tail on my back as well. Other than that no matter how you look at it we look like normal humans though.

In any case, I want to try out my Unique Ability that I found out about thanks

to Status Open. However, I don't think I'll even be able to test my Unique Ability until I get a bit older. It's called "Shooting Intuition" after all. Since it's called shooting I wonder if it's useful when firing guns or something? By the way, even when I try throwing things nothing changed at all. I guess it can't be helped because these aren't actually projectiles or throwing. In the first place I don't even know how to use my Unique Ability. I have another Special Skill called "Super Hearing" as well but I can use this whenever just by concentrating on my ears and trying to pick up sounds.

I have the feeling that I can hear the surrounding sounds better than normally when I'm concentrating and straining my ears. Even if I use it there's nothing that particularly changes but maintaining my concentration isn't easy. As far as I've heard listening to the conversations of my older brother, older sister, and parents this "Super Hearing" is a Special Skill that Rabbit-people are born with and Rabbit-people can use it whenever and however much they want it seems. Also, unlike the skill for magic there's no level for this skill. I see, there's skills with levels as well. I know at this point it's weird to be surprised by level but along with Status Open it's somehow a world like a game.

Just before I turned five years old I pleaded with my parents and had them make me a very small toy bow. Even with my small body it doesn't look like anything more than a toy. But, shooting with this I think I'll be able to use my unique ability. I had that sort of feeling.

I try firing a small tree branch. It doesn't even fly 2 m. And since it's a randomly made bow it's hard to even predict where it will fly. Even if my body is small and weak I feel like it'll break if I try to pull it with all my strength as well. I try pulling on the strings of the bow using a tree branch as an arrow and consciously try using "Shooting Intuition" while letting go of the strings. It didn't go to the place I was aiming. And I fell asleep.

After that I tried repeating shooting with the toy bow several times and I was able to understand the reason I was reborn in this world. Right, I met God. It was a short interview time of about 5 minutes but I was able learn about quite a bit. And above all I was able to find out that You-chan was reborn in this world as well.

And, I found out for sure that this isn't Earth. I also heard that "Shooting

Intuition” was one of the abilities that the people reincarnated in this world was given. I need to keep this a secret. I might be envied.

Incidentally, I also heard that some of the Unique Abilities given to other people are “Identify”, “Resistance (Poison)”, and “Scale”. Come to think of it there’s also something called “Predictable Evasion” it seems. I wonder if it’s a pair with my shooting? I didn’t have enough time so I couldn’t hear them all and I forgot about a bunch of them but no matter how I think about it my Unique Ability matches my goals more than things like “Identify” and “scale”.

By the way, about the Unique Ability “Shooting Intuition” I was able to understand how it works after using it a number of times. “Shooting Intuition” is an ability that raises my skill. Even if I use it when my skill is low it doesn’t have much effect at all. In other words, I can’t just rely on the ability “Shooting Intuition”

but I need to raise my own skill as well. I feel like the higher level the “Shooting Intuition” ability is the higher it will raise it as well. However, in order to make use of this ability I need to practice shooting. I got absorbed in leveling up my Unique Ability for close to two months and was able to raise it to the highest level but it should be fine if I only start using the Unique Ability in training after that.

After all, I’m going to get strong using this and go searching for You-chan.

.....

While everyone else is training with the sword and spear I was immersing myself in practicing the bow. Of course, I didn’t just focus on the bow but I also learned the sword. Since a bow is powerless once you run out of arrows. No, to be more accurate it’s not powerless. In the past, I read about it in some sort of book. There was a weapon where there was the tip of a spear on top of the bow. However, a bow in order to be used as a spear as well required a considerably high strength. I doubt as a woman I would be able to pull the strings on a bow as powerful as that. That’s why I considered the sword necessary as well and did the bare minimum of training with it. Even if it’s just swinging I can do that with the sword after it gets dark out after all. I make up for the time I spend practicing with the bow in the day at night.

And I become 10 years and then 11 years old. There's already no hunter in the village that can use the bow better than I can. It's true that with how physically weak I am I can't shoot the arrows very far. The farthest I can shoot a target made with a wooden board with enough power to penetrate through is 13m — 14m. However, if it's that distance then I can run while hitting a target that's not moving. Of course I can't do something so skillful as shooting through the center of it but I can make sure it hits somewhere on a board that's 30 cm in every direction. Probably, if I'm in a situation where I can calmly aim without moving then I should be able to hit moving targets as well.

I want to test my skills. I want to go along with the hunters in the village as they hunt. I want to try shooting a white hair deer or a bird flying in the sky.

However, my parents keep saying it's dangerous and won't let me go hunting. I was going to complain but it's true I'm still a child. There's not just prey in the forest but dangerous monsters wandering around as well. I can accept that it's still too soon for me.

It can't be helped so there's no other choice than to start doing training using "Shooting Intuition" which I had sealed up until now. I try doing it while remembering the period in the past where I got engrossed in using it for a while. My Unique Ability's level is 9 the {Max} and after that I've practiced for several years without using it. However, there was no need to worry. Using just the feeling I thought I was able to use the Unique Ability "Shooting Intuition". I was able to fire off more than 60 arrows before I was about to faint. As expected I still can't hit the center of the target unless it's a fluke but even if I switch out the 30 cm board with a 5 cm one I can still hit it every time.

It's true that this unique ability is raising my skill. From now on whenever I practice with the bow I'll also practice my unique ability together with it. My "Shooting Intuition" is already the maximum level since way back but I don't think it's pointless to practicing using it within the range of when I start to get tired.

Around the time I passed 13 years old I was greatly troubled by something. Along with the growth of my body my breasts have gotten big as well. Even though I'm still only 13 years old my breasts already feel bigger than my breasts in my past life. It seems that this is a characteristic that's common in female

Rabbit-people. Come to think of it mother has good shaped big breasts as well.

However, this chest gets in the way of pulling the string on my bow. If I'm not careful then the string I let go of with my right hand will hit my right breast. Ah, come to think of it in my past life we always used a leather or plastic made protector for our chests in archery. I guess this is the reason why. At the same time I also remember a book I read in my past life. It seems there was a bow fighter in a group of female warriors called the Amazons that cut off their right breast.

I wonder what I should do... It seems like my breasts will still get bigger. Even if I try to stop it by wearing a cloth tied around them like right now as far as I can tell from my mother and older sister this will eventually reach a limit. Even if I make a chest protector I'll quickly outgrow the size. However, I don't have the courage to cut off one of my breasts. But, just like it will become hard to use the bow. But...

In the end I was able to build up the courage and I just made a breastplate. I used a soft but durable piece of leather to protect my right breast. If I outgrow the size then the money I've used will end up being wasted but there's no other choice than to remake it. But, I wonder if this is really okay? I'm deceiving myself. The fact that it's difficult to use the bow means that my fighting power has decreased. It means that I might die before meeting You-chan. Doesn't that make it pointless either way? But, no matter how much I try I can't muster up the courage. I can probably endure the pain. If I ask the healer in the village then I'm sure they would heal me right away so I know I wouldn't die.

What I'm really scared of is.. if I might be hated by You-chan for only having one breast. The fact that You-chan might be saddened by the fact that I only have one breast. No, I'm sure if it's You-chan then he would say he doesn't mind it. But, I don't like it. After all, if I give birth to twins then I'll be troubled.

.....

I finally turned 14 years old.

I've been telling my parents that I'm going to become an adventurer for some time. My parents didn't particularly oppose it. My father who is the lord of a village that's been around for quite a while inherited the nobility of sub-baron

from my grandfather last year. It seems they went to the lord of this territory Duke Stohlz house in order to elevate fathers noble rank. Up until then grandfather was a sub-Baron and father was a viscount. Now father is a sub-Baron and older brother is a viscount. Even a second daughter like me is still a member of a sub-Baron household but it's faster counting my right to succession from the bottom and I had no intention of inheriting the house from the start.

I have something that I have to do.

Since I definitely have something that I have to do.

I can't be tied down to the house.

According to God, among the people who reincarnated I was one of the ones in the Southeast it seems. Then for the time being I should head to the Northwest, in other words, I should head to the neighboring Kingdom of Rombert. I have reasoning behind it. I don't know the name or place that You-chan has reincarnated to but I know he would definitely search for me. Since it's that person I'm sure he would try to find me in a bit of a hurry as well. But, just like I don't know any of his information I'm sure he wouldn't know my name or location as well. And in this world of Orth it's dangerous to try traveling before gaining some strength. In other words, I think he'll depart on a journey at soonest around the time he becomes an adult (you become an adult at 15 years old in this world).

Depending on what his Unique Ability is it could be difficult to protect him self. That's why I'm sure he'll endure until his body finishes growing around the time he becomes an adult. And I know we won't be able to meet so easily just wandering around at random. Normally, adventurers wander around like handymen doing whatever job that people are requesting to be and by completing those jobs they get receive money. Money should be necessary along the way as well. Unless he was born in the house of a rich person he'll definitely need to earn money somewhere.

I've already asked mother and father what the best place for an adventurer to earn money is. There's one in the Kingdom of Devas that I was born in as well but it seems that place is a dungeon. However, the dungeon in Devas is much

further in the south. Then, in that case since I was born along the Southeast border of victims of the accident that were reincarnated and the Dungeon of Benkelish which is much further south than this village of Rarail that would make it outside of the range.

There's a dungeon called Baldukk in the Kingdom of Rombert and it seems to be in the Northwest direction from here. It seems they don't know how far away it is but that's probably the right answer. I'll start heading towards Baldukk now. And I'll wait for You-chan who will definitely come.

The next day after my 14th birthday I left my home town.

All I asked for was a bow, a single sword, and my skill. As a farewell gift I was given some durable clothes and a decent amount of money, while holding nothing but my necessities I, the Rabbit-people warrior, Bernadett Koloil, take my first steps towards shortening the distance to my precious person.

.....

Several days after I had left the village, I passed the border and entered the Kingdom of Rombert. I had imagined that there would be something like a barrier along the border but just as I heard from my parents there was no shape or sign of a barrier. Since I've always heard that further west in the Dirt Plains there's always conflicts going on at the border, I had thought that there was high probability they would be cautious so I started taking a roundabout path and was careful so no one could find but it was anticlimactic.

I guess it's true, if you think about it, it's completely unreasonable for them to be cautious of the entire border line. And since a Rabbit-person like me has strong legs I can walk without much trouble through the mountains with no roads. Since I've spent my entire life since I was born barefoot I don't need shoes either.

I would be happy if I had them though.

According to the conversation I heard when I visited a village on the Kingdom of Devas size two days ago, the border is vague and the Kingdom of Rombert is to the north of that village but it seems that the mountains are roughly the border between. That's why after passing the ridge this should already be the

Kingdom of Rombert. Even if I say mountain range the highest one seems to be at most 1000 m or so. I was glad I challenged it since it was like a slightly bigger Mount Takao.

Since the preserved food I prepared will last another week or so I have plenty to make it to the village I can see below. No, there's no problem with taking extra caution so I'll aim for the next village ahead instead. I'm sure if I go close to it there will be a road after all...

However, of the 30 arrows I had prepared there's already only 10 left. It's not like I can always recover them. I'm sure that will be the case from here on out as well. If I can't replenish them somewhere pretty soon things will get difficult. I wonder if it would be better to see if I can replenish them at the hunter's house in that village? Or would it be better to take extra caution and hold out until the next village?

I hesitated but in the end I decided to go without resupplying until the next village.

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Year 7442, Month 5, Day 1

It's been two and a half months since I left Rarail village, I've continued walking without rest and finally arrived at the town of Baldukk. I'm not too sure but since it feels like the number of monsters I've encountered since I entered the Kingdom of Rombert has decreased, thanks to that there were some days I was able to cover a considerable amount of distance and able to arrive here this fast. In any case, I'll settle down in this town and wait for You-chan as an adventurer.

I'll wait any number of years until You-chan can find me. I still have close to 1,000,000 zeni remaining. For the time being, I'll find a cheap inn, buy some hot water for the first time in a while and wipe my body down. After I was refreshed I started to feel hungry so I decided to go out for a bit. There might be some food more delicious than Devas around here. I remember the various stalls I passed by on my way to the inn and put on my dirty clothes again to head out. I want a change of clothes already as well.

Side Story 13: In the case of ???

I've been aware of myself since the time I was born. Strangely, the language I would think in when I was first born is different from the language used in this world. I brag about the fact that my ability to think was adult-level from the moment I was born but just the same as an average child I didn't know what everyone was saying so other than not knowing common sense, my strange language, and thinking ability there was nothing particularly different. If I had to say something it would be that my hair and eyes are black but it's not as if there aren't any others that have one or the other as black. Though the only one with both of them black is me. In addition it seems that my face doesn't look cool. Isn't cool? What is this word? Yeah, I guess it's fine. I'll say it in a different way. I'm quite ugly.

Also, the shape of my body is slightly different from everyone else. Let alone just the men, the women thin, tightened bodies and there's a lot of muscular characteristics but no matter how much I train my body it seems it's difficult for me to become muscular with my constitution, and that's another reason why I'm teased by everyone as "ugly". Though I'm not particularly inferior to them in physical ability because of that. Just in case but I'll supplement that. On the contrary, I'm one of the ones among my age bracket that has quite high physical abilities. I'll raise the reasons later.

The city I was born and raised is called Ellehei. This city is in the side of a high mountain called Kinlu. I said it's a city but at the same time it's a single country. The name of the country is Lail. The King is a Queen. They say her name is Lilus. It's far too fearsome that I haven't directly seen her though. I was born in a middle-class family of this country. I have a sickly older brother above me and below I had a set of twins that were my younger and brother but unfortunately they both died from illness when they were infants. Even though he's sickly my older brother is wise so if he grows up he should be able to inherit the family. It's fine if I become my older brothers hands and legs and help support the house.

Also, it seems that it's unusual Orth but a characteristic of our country Lail is

that it's composed of a single race. What is normally called Dark Spirit-People {Dark Elf}. Our skin is a deep purple that's close to black and in reverse the areas around our lips, nipples, genitals, and anus are a lighter pigment than the color of skin of the people on the surface. Since my skin color isn't very dark as well this also adds to me being ugly. Our eyes are the same as elves in that they're vaguely almond-shaped but when it comes to the color of our eyes there's dark and light but they're mostly purple. The most common is lavender color. Also, if you were to say it, light pigment hair is more common. Right white hair and extremely light purple hair that looks to be white. Of course, it's not like there's no red or green hair at all.

Furthermore, the race of Dyulo's have a Special Skill called Infrared Vision. This is not just the ability for making your eyes be able to see visible light but by wishing for it you can see infrared rays as well. Putting it simply you can visually perceive temperatures. {Thermography}? It sudden floated into my head. What is it? Well it doesn't matter. There's one more as well called {Inclination Sensing}. With this ability you can detect to what degree the path you're walking on is slanted. You're able to know if you're going up or going down. I forgot to mention it but our country of Lail is literally inside of a mountain (Inside of Kinlu mountain or rather underground? there's tunnels dug out to it) so if you don't have these two abilities it's difficult to live in our country Lail. Of course the lighting tool that uses magic stones is all over the place including individual housing but the area which that lightning can't reach is far larger.

By the way, the industry of our country Lail is a bit unique. Just according to stories I've heard but it seems that the countries on the surface are centered around agriculture and producing a plant called wheat. Our country Lail does agriculture as well but that's growing fungi so it's centered around harvesting. That's why excluding meats there's always mushrooms on the dinner table. There's a large variety of types of mushrooms but of course we don't cultivate ones with poison. No, we mostly don't cultivate them.

There's a variety of edible mushrooms that we cultivate but there's a variety of names that appeared in my head from the start for those types of mushrooms. However, it's in that weird language. At the very least the names differ from the usual pronunciation I hear from the names of the mushrooms.

The delicious mushroom that everyone calls Aberuji, of course, I call it Aberuji as well but in my head, “this is a real Shimeji” some weird knowledge is taught to me.

Since it’s been like this since I was born so I realized that I was an abnormal baby considerably soon..It’s truly lucky that I was able to realize it a few months after I was born. Thanks to that I just was intelligent, wise for my age, and had good physical abilities “excellent in various ways but still ugly like a human” thought of in a way only such as that.

My story digressed a bit there. I’ll correct it. That’s right, it’s about the industry of our country Lail. We’re not just cultivating fungi but we also have livestock for meat. That area isn’t all that different from the other countries on the surface. However, what fundamentally differs in our country from others is that we don’t have any interest in acquiring any more land than we already possess. I heard that it’s normal for countries to fight over the ownership of land for the sake of agriculture and raising livestock. No, this is a bad way of putting it. For the time being, we have no ambition for more territory. At the very least the conference of elders in our country Lail is saying that so I’m sure it’s true. They’re also saying that when the time comes we’ll move into the surface and make our country large as well. Though this is still far in the future so it doesn’t matter though.

In any case, the cultivation of mushrooms and the raising of livestock is our primary industries. However the official ones. Our hidden industry is assassination. As long as they’ll pay money we’ll take jobs from anyone and we’ll definitely assassinate anyone. Without leaving any evidence that we assassinated them. Oh~ I guess this is saying too much. Without letting the one who requested the job be known. Obviously there are cases where it fails and the assassin is captured as well. In those cases in order to protect from exposing the clients information we end up taking our own lives. Of course if we can escape then we do that though. Suicide is really the final method. In any case, we make use of sword and magic to accomplish the assassination job. That’s why the members who are given assassination jobs outside of the country and selected from those who can always use magic.

Eh? If your country can protect secrets that well then you want to request a

job from us as well? Of course, if you use the appropriate route to properly pay the Zeni then without problem your job will be accepted as well I'm sure. In order to request a job from our country Lail you have to make the request at one of our institution's facilities in each of the surrounding countries. It's also fine to make the request of one of the people who has the job of directly coming to the entrance of Ellehei in our country of Lail as well. I'm sure you won't be allowed into Ellehei but they should receive the job. However, you must always pay a lump sum in advance, furthermore, depending on the target it can be quite expensive.

That's why we rarely do assassination jobs. It's on the good end if we do a couple of them per year. Our country itself isn't all that big after all and the population is only about 3,000 — 4,000 people, that's why we're almost entirely self-sufficient with just the industries within the country. That's why the hidden industry is just a subsidiary method of gaining foreign currency. After that we also sell various secret medicines made from dried mushrooms to the various countries in the vicinity for earning foreign currency. Otherwise, it's not as if we are exporting people as mercenaries as well. They also call it combat slaves though.

Since just like this we're doing jobs in secret, I think that the reputation of us Dyulo, in other words dark elves isn't very good among the countries on the surface. However, since they also know that not everyone is an assassin so it seems that we don't just suddenly have swords pointed at us. Somehow, only just somehow but I think that the people of the surface a bit too softhearted. They're far too one-track. I don't know if it would be better to say optimistic? I don't really know for sure but I can't help but feel it's unnatural.

I'm sorry to say it in the middle but our country Lail has a somewhat unique political structure. Like I just below the Queen that is her highness Lilus there's a council of elders made up of 10 people. Every year one of these elders is changed. There are about 20 families in our country Lail that can become members of the council and they are rotated in turns. All of the decisions of the country are decided by this council of elders. It's said that the her highness the Queen is a living god that hasn't shown herself in several hundred years. {Idol}? Another word I don't understand well popped up in my head. According to the

elders when time has become full her highness the Queen will show herself and lead us Dark Elves into a war to create a paradise on the surface for us it seems. Among us this is called the Royal Road Paradise Construction Plan*.

It's only obvious but we revere her highness the Queen as a living God so other than people that descend(to be correct it's rise but the entrance and exit to Ellehei is only midway up Mount Kinlu so we express it like this. As a matter of fact there are various other secret entrances and exits but that doesn't matter) to the surface for jobs the naming ceremony isn't performed. Since we don't have a temple within our country. When it's necessary for us to leave to an outside country we go to a town in either the Kingdom of Rombert, Kingdom of Kanbitt, or Kingdom of Devas to have the naming ceremony performed for us. That's why the only people who's name can be seen with Status Open is limited to adults and people who are close to becoming adults. Of course, it's not everyone.

Among the people like this that can receive the naming ceremony, first, I'll introduce you to the warrior rankings. Rank 3 warrior ranking. This is because they hunt monsters in the areas surrounding Mount Kinlu and obtain magic stones, their job is to be in contact with outsiders. Obviously defeating monsters that we run into when expanding the tunnels underground is also included in their job. Patrolling within the country is as well. Next is the Rank 2 warrior ranking. Their primary job is protecting the entrance and exit of Ellehei. Obviously there's contact with outsiders. And Rank 1 warrior ranking. These are the elites that are selected for the assassination jobs that we occasionally accept. There's a necessary to use not only the sword but all elemental magics and depending on the circumstances they must spend several years concealing themselves among the people on the surface near the target so interaction with them is obviously necessary.

Next is the acquisition ranking. It's the occupation which is normally called merchants in Orth. Since they gather the precious foreign currency they're seen as a higher class than the warriors. They travel between our Lail and the surrounding countries selling our products. They can't go without the naming ceremony as well.

After that is the elders. Depending on the circumstances they sometimes have

to travel to neighboring countries for political negotiations.

Other than that, though it's an exception but when someone who commits a crime is dropped to the slave ranking it's performed. They have to sell themselves as slaves on their in order to earn foreign currency to atone for their crime. If they are sold once then through that their criminal record in our country Lail is erased.

After that if they take some action and end up being released from the slave ranking they are free once again. It's fine if they return to our country Lail again and even if they don't return they aren't particularly penalized. By the way, it seems that Dyulo combat slaves are sold for extremely high prices.

Also, it only occurs at a rate of about one person every couple of years but for some reason there are people who depart Ellehei as well. It seems those sorts of people go to get the naming ceremony done first as well.

Other than those people it's normal for the majority of people in our country Lail that are considered among the service ranking go our entire lives without receiving the naming ceremony so anyone other than the slaves that have completed the naming ceremony are somewhat respected. Even if I say service ranking it's not a slave ranking. They just call the people who's jobs are to take care of cultivating mushrooms, raising the livestock, and expanding the tunnels like this.

The number of each ranking is about 300 in the Rank 3 warriors, 100 in Rank 2 warriors, 100 in the Rank 1 warriors. There's about 50 elders. And about 50 in acquisition ranking. Since there's also retirees it comes out to about those numbers. Since the families of just the elders and the acquisition rankings are hereditary they're considered separate but just the warrior ranking is selected from among the service ranking. Every year, all of the children who have reached 7 years old in the service ranking are gathered together and are allowed to train with the sword. The majority of children have already received some training with the sword from their family, warrior ranking and ex-warriors that live in their area. In my case I had already received training from father that has already passed away.

And at the same time magic training is performed. There's a large difference

based on the individual but most people are able to use kind of magic. Among them only the small handful that are able to acquire all of the elemental magic in the year until they turn 8 years old are segregated so they can enter preparation to become Rank 1 warrior class and are transferred over to a different exclusive training curriculum. If they are unable to use magic at all during the same period they are released and returned to their families. Both of those groups make up only about 10% of all the children though. The other 80% remaining after that continue with their training. However, another year after that there's another hurdle. If they can't use their second elemental magic by that point then they're released and return to their families in the service ranking. About half of the 80% of the children remaining end up in this dropping out group. The remaining 40% of the whole continue with their training. Furthermore, anyone able to use all four elemental magics at this point is segregated in the preparation group for rank 1 warriors a year below their age.

It's digressing a little but after the first time I used magic I realized how convenient it was. Is it really this convenient being able to bend the laws of physics somewhat? It's an extreme example, things that I thought were completely impossible as well, I was able to do them with no problem. For example mixing the water I created with tea. After that I only erase just the water that I created and I can separate them just like that. As long as you have the mana, otherwise as long as the amount is low you can separate water and coffee. Hn? I wonder what coffee is?

I'll return to the conversation. After that, the remaining children continue their training with the sword and magic. Every year there's transfers to the Rank 1

ranking and other than just magic the degree of training with the sword is also confirmed, the number from there fundamentally keeps decreasing. And a further four years ago, when they reach the age of 13 years old the ones with good results are allowed to become disciples of the Rank 2 warrior class and headhunted by the gate guards, the remaining people become apprentices to the Rank 3 warriors and start their hunting and escort jobs.

The preparation group for the rank 1 warrior class that was segregated at the start continues with their training but putting aside magic if they don't meet the

regulations with the sword as well then they're demoted to the rank 2 warrior rank. There as well every year those who's skills aren't meeting the regulations are returned to their families in the service rank. If you can remain in this group until you reach the age of 13 years old then you become an apprentice of the rank 1

warrior class and are allowed into the lower layer of the rank 1 warrior ranking, every year there's at most 3–4 people who manage this and some years even only 1 it seems.

For that reason the rank 1 warrior class is respected quite a bit. Depending on the situation they can earn more than platinum coins in compensation from a single job for our country Lail so it's only obvious. It's only obvious to show respect for those who put their bodies on the line to make our country more wealthy.

Obviously the acquisition rank is respected even more than that though. When those of the acquisition ranking go peddling around various countries to earn foreign currency they always have one person from the rank 1 warrior class as the commander of the escorts accompanying them, one from the rank 2 warrior class, and six from the rank 3 warrior class as escorts as well. It's seen as a requirement in order to protect the products and sales money from monsters and thieves and at the same time protect the horses and carriages which are precious in our country of Lail. When traveling through regions that are very dangerous we sometimes even hire outsiders as escorts.

It's far too rough but I'll stop the explanation of my country Lail here. If there's ever a time when a more detailed explanation is necessary I'll add to it then, from here on is about myself.

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I mentioned it at the start but unlike the other children I was blessed with physical abilities and even more so I was excellent with the power of magic so I was allowed to enter the rank 1 warrior class as an apprentice. There's the study of language in the curriculum for the warrior rank as well and other than the Dyuolorish that we Dyulo speak in our country of Lail, we also need to learn the Ragudarios language that is the {Common Language} of Orth. There are

quite a few common points but we are educated to learn the intonation and detailed personal differences so we can engage in our jobs in the surrounding countries without problems. For that sake I was taught not to use “Ore”, “Atai”, or “Oira” for referring to myself but rather “Watashi” or “Jibun”. The first-person in Dyulorish is separated by gender but I was taught to only use “Watashi” or “Jibun” from the {Common Language} so I somehow started to use “Jibun”. There’s no particular reason.

If there was then it would be because the person who taught me used “Jibun” I guess? Obviously in order to learn second and third-person as well as word endings, and various accents we receive corrective education as well.

Several months after I started learning to use magic when I was 7 years old, I met God. I’m sure that must have been her highness Lilus. In a white space where I don’t have any body, I was told all sorts of things I don’t understand with a fast pace, and saw a scenery I don’t understand. Rather than saying I saw it, it’s more like it was poured into my head. There’s no one other than the living God that is her highness Lilus that can do something like that.

I had various things I don’t really get poured into my head one after another about being born again, unique abilities, or my growth rate is high, when I felt like I was going to be completely confused, I was asked at the end if I had any questions. I was already confident that it was her highness Lilus by that point so I called her “her highness” but the voice that echoed into my head said “her highness?” and had a suspicious nuance for a moment, I recalled back.

This existence isn’t her highness Lilus. Because the moment this existence started talking to me it wasn’t in Dyulorish or the {Common Language} but rather the language I’ve known since I was born. If it’s not her highness Lilus then who in the world is it? is what I was thinking but at the same time that became a voice and streamed through the strange space. That existence said that it’s name can’t be pronounced so for the time being just said to call it “God” and went quiet. I went quiet from confusion as well. Since it couldn’t be helped I decided to ask about my Unique Ability that I couldn’t figure out on my own.

After a short while I realized I had opened my eyes. In front of me was a window like the one from Status Open floating. It said there “In some meanings

you could say this is the real start of your new life in this world. Even now there are still people that haven't arrived at this entrance but you've already stepped over the start line. From here on out you're free to do whatever you want. Also, you will never reincarnate again so I suggest you live your life without regrets. Also, you're carrying a serious problem with you. Since I didn't have the time I couldn't completely wipe away that problem but I did as much as I could. I did a bit of help so that it would be easy to wipe away that problem but I'm sure at this point you don't notice any change at all. After another 1–2

years if there's some sort of trigger then the problem might be resolved. I don't know what the trigger will be either. I suggest you try out a variety of things.”

That was written there. Since it was written in strange characters and for some reason I could read it so it strange and remained in my memory.

In any case, the things that I knew at this time brought about a large shock to my life. I don't know if it's a true or a life and there's no way I could have any way of investigating it but I can't help but think that an existence that could do something like that is her highness Lilus or comparable to her highness Lilus.

I was born in a different world, grew up, and died in accident it seems. I couldn't possibly comprehend or accept that but I understood it. I knew those strange words and I had a strangely adult thinking since I was a baby after all. It seems that there's 39 other people in Orth with similar circumstances as me but I have no way of investigating that so it doesn't matter if it's true or a lie. And the fact that all of them are starting their lives over again doesn't matter as well.

However, if that's true then we should still possess our memories along with our awareness but in my case all I have memory of is words from that strange language coming up and I don't have any memories of living in a different world. It's unknown what definition of awareness is pointing to though if it's pointing to the ability to think like an adult then it's not like I can't comprehend it. I can imagine that this is probably the large problem I'm carrying. But, at this point, what meaning is there in recovering my memories of living in a different world?

Also, it seems that the growth rate of people who were reborn is greater than those of normal people in Orth but if that's true then I can honestly be happy over it and even if it's a lie there's no harm to it. However, I do have the feeling that my physical abilities exceed the other children the same age as me. From when I was born up until now, since it's not possible to have not grown at all until this point, so I can accept that this is true.

It's the same about the Unique Ability. I had already known that I had a Unique Ability. I haven't talked about it to anyone, even my parents, but they taught Status Open to me even when I was still small so I knew about it. My Unique Ability is called "Unit Organization". I thought I would be able to use it whenever I like similar to Infrared Vision or Inclination Sensing but that wasn't the case.

I didn't know the way to use it and since I didn't know at all I just ignored it but thanks to what the being that called itself God said I was able to understand.

It seems I can use it on people that are truly understanding towards me. In the other party's heart, if they are truly trying to understand me, or are worried about me, as long as they have that sort of awareness it seems to be fine. On top of that you focus your awareness on them while being in physical contact with them and they have to be accepting of your existence. How annoying. In the first place what will come of being able to do Unit Organization?

I thought that and ignored it for a bit but when was it, right, when I was 11 years old, I tried using it for the first time. The other person was my older brother who had already become an adult. Since my parents had already passed away by that point, the only one who worried about me and understood was my older brother. When I received some days off and returned to the house he was asking me questions about the training with a worried face so I suddenly realized it and tried using it. I held my older brother's hand that was on the table and said "Don't worry, I'm giving it my best" while trying to use it. That moment it left a bit of an impression on me because my older brother made a slightly surprised face but quickly smiled.

And then a short while after that, somehow though, I was vaguely able to recognize the location of the distance and direction of my older brother. After

about an hour that strange sensation disappeared, other than that nothing in particular changed. A while after I met God I tried using it on my allies who I train together with but I've never felt this sensation.

After all it seems to be the truth. It's probably just my older brother that worries about me without thinking about loss or gain. In comparison to that, I wasn't able to get on good terms where I can really trust my allies because my looks made me close to somehow who is disliked. After thinking that I finally realized that my heart was closing off towards my surroundings. One such day, there was an incident that changed my way of thinking.

It's only obvious but the training curriculum for the rank 1 warrior class differs for each that you participate in it. The content obviously just keeps getting more advanced. And then people who end up dropping out and returning to their families in the service rank start to appear. By the time you reach the final year of the training curriculum after the 5 years of training until you're 13 years old there's only about 3–4 people who are the same age as you. It's normal for one or two children who are older than you to mix in there. Among those who were the same age as me there was one child who was always barely reaching the passing grade every year.

Even though they were barely passing, the training curriculum for the rank 1 warrior class is considerably harsh so they're still quite excellent. There was no one who would pair up for training with someone who's always getting the top grades and is hated like me but when we reached this final year of the training curriculum the child that was always pairing up with that child ended up returning to the rank 2 warrior class. The child that was thrown out was one that would always scold and tell me off about my appearance so I didn't feel a thing over it and since I had reached this point without anyone to pair with, I wasn't bothered over it.

However, that girl, Awikk.Rensaras, I thought it would be difficult for her to overcome the training this time without anyone to pair with. There the professor Dendarozz sensei said to make a new pair with Awikk and myself. I'm sure they were trying to make a pair with the Aru who has the lowest grades and myself who just has the highest grades. Honestly speaking there's no benefit to me of having a pair at this point but I'm sure that the professor has

some sort of idea on it. It can't be helped so I paired with Aru. It's also big that different from Aru's pair member until now, Aru has never said anything to reject me over my appearance.

I don't know why but for some reason Aru got very attached to me. She became the first person outside of my family to call me by my pet name. It's somehow ticklish but I didn't feel bad about it. I wonder if it's because Aru's hair is a somewhat deep pigment of wine red color? I wonder if she feels the same feelings of inferiority as myself over her ugly hair color? It's pointless now.

The distance between her and I gradually got closer. It didn't take all that much time before I was able to treat her as friend without anything hovering in the background. The ditch between us that from some point only I had been digging was eventually buried and we were able to freely cross over. If it's her then maybe?

around the time six months had passed I tried using "Unit Organization" like I had with my older brother in the past. I knew that I was engulfed in the same feeling as the time with my older brother.

Aru smiled and said "I somehow feel like I can feel Miduchi close by" to me. Miduchi is my pet name and it's a shortened version of the name Midu~ritto.Chizumagulolu. I was smiling at Aru as well. After that, our pair started producing high results that overwhelmed all other pairs in the training.

On the final ascertainment day before we were to finally be accepted as apprentices I was using "Unit Organization" the same as always and was able to overcome it with high grades. This year, the only ones that were able to become apprentices of the Rank 1 warrior class were just Aru and myself.

Obviously being assigned to another group meant separation. It was disappointing but it couldn't be helped. They wouldn't go out of their way to use two young newcomers who have just finished their training curriculum in the same place. It could end up crushing the potential of a valuable rank 1 warrior class. For the time being we end up pairing up with our seniors as we do jobs. One year later there's another ascertainment that takes place and until the apprentice title is removed I have no way of speaking my opinion.

Aru and I both started to pair up and learn our jobs with female seniors of the

rank 1 warrior class that were in their late 20s and core warriors. One year later, we were safely able to clear up the title of apprentice. We both celebrated the fact that we were able to safely become 14 years old and drank enough alcohol to get drunk for the first time. The rank 1 warrior class is allowed to do whatever they want during the time they're not on a job. Even if we're drinking in the middle of the day we won't be looked strangely at.

A new job quickly came for Aru. It was a job from a high-class noble of Kanbitt Kingdom. It seems to be the assassination of a political opponent. Since the target is a high-class noble as well it will probably take some time starting from preliminary investigations, behavior patterns, and information gathering. Aru is in high spirits over her first solo mission. Since I still haven't been given a job independently yet I'm a bit jealous of her.

Several months later, a job came for me as well. The details were assassination of a political opponent and the guarding of the job requester them self. The one who requested the job was Aru's target. Very rarely it seems these things happen. If possible I wanted to change with someone else but it's finally my first solo mission after being removed from the apprenticeship. And for the sake of my sick older brother, an expensive medicine is always needed. The only thing I can do is keep accomplishing jobs one after another.

I'm sure I'll never be able to forget the surprised face Aru made when I stabbed her with my sword after sneaking into the house of the high-class noble I was supposed to guard. She thought that I was reinforcements until the last moment. However, on the verge of death she apologized and said "sorry for causing you to suffer". I cried as I killed my target the one who hired Aru and in order to accomplish Aru's job as well I killed the one who hired me. In our country of Lail just because it wouldn't be exposed because we're killing the ones who made the requests, overlooking Aru isn't allowed. Since we're being paid for it we have to complete the job as accurately as possible. It's made out that Aru was in the wrong for being too weak and not being able to complete her job right away.

I felt like my heart once again closed off.

.....

The months pass by, after completing a number of missions that were considered difficult without trouble my reputation as a warrior has risen. However, normally there should be a flood of partners for marriage with my position but between my ugly appearance and my sick older brother who is seen as a money-eating insect, there was no eccentric person to appear who would propose to me for marriage. Feelings such as disappointment over that had long since disappeared from my frozen heart.

Only, the feelings of disgust I started to feel towards the callousness of our country Lail was one of the few proofs that I still had something like feelings remaining but I can't just abandon my older brother and run away. My older brother who has gradually gotten weaker over the years is the only support for my heart.

Thanks to the fact that my good spirited uncle and aunt were looking after my older brother I was able to focus on the jobs and earn money. I can't raise my head to my uncle and aunt. Excluding the bare minimum required expenses all of the pay from the rank 1 warrior class is going towards the medicine costs for my older brother. I can't give any money as thanks to my aunt and uncle.

Around the time I turned 16 years old. I accomplished a certain stingy job and just as I was about to return to Ellehei slowly dragging along my tired body, that occurred. It was when I was in a famous dungeon in the town of Baldukk of the Kingdom of Rombert. I used up my stamina and with my nerves worn down and tired I couldn't help but trigger a trap. It wasn't something that is directly harmful to one's life but no matter how you think about it, it was a fatal one. I fell into a pitfall that continues to a floor below. Unable to resist the floor and walls of the slope that's covered in something slimy, I rapidly fell to a floor further down.

There's no need to even use Inclination Sensing, I'm sure the inclination of the pitfall has a low friction factor. There's no handholds at all so without being able to resist, I was dragged into the depths.

Chapter 71: Town in a Basin

Year 7442, Month 5, Day 13

Last night I succeeded in employing Zenom and Ralpa after explaining things. I was a bit surprised when Ralpa suddenly said “if it’s a contract let’s go over the fine details” partway through but after all it was just at a high-school level. I figured she had never seen a proper contract before and that was the case. Roughly putting it

1. I give them the two of them an advance payment of a total of 400,000 Z in wages per month.
2. The duration of employment is at least one year.
3. Every year we’ll renew the contract and discuss and take into consideration the wages for the near year.
4. Other than commands that could put their lives at risk the two of them will obey.
5. We take consideration the health and well-being of the other party.
6. I teach Ralpa how to use magic.
7. The preceding point continues until Ralpa can use healing magic.
8. Limited to this month as a service there’s no compensation (However, any income made is split up equally).
9. Any money(including rewards) or goods earned through the process of adventuring during the duration of employment belong to me.
10. When camping outside, we fairly divide the time spent as lookouts.

Is the details that it ended up. It’s too easy. There’s no good faith clause, it’s an extreme example but if I were to say, “Ralpa, go sell your body for a bit and earn some money”, “Ralpa, let me test out this new hygiene product”, “Ralpa, sell your belongings and earn some money” she can’t refuse it. Since

the right to refuse only concerns commands that could put her life in dangerous. Well, I have no intention of doing that though, you never know what I'll say if driven into a corner..

I obtained Ropross and Poseidon. I wonder if there's any candidates for Rodem?

I guess it's different because they're compensated.

In any case, on the way to Baldukk, we stopped by a town or village that can make contracts and had one made and settled on both of us holding one. At the very least I don't have any intention of saying any unreasonable until then. Although, in the case that I say something unreasonable, we may be able to get over it at that time but after that the contract won't expire for at most a year so I should limit saying things like that to only when I'm driven into a corner.

Well, even if I say it in the end there's not much meaning to it though. There's almost no penalty for defaulting on a contract made between individuals in this world after all.

While thinking about that, I ran beside my war horse with Zenom and Ralpa riding it. Every day I'm trying not to miss my two hours of running as much as possible. We can also make some distance as well. But, as expected it's difficult to run on the outside roads. Since I'm running while making sure not to hurt my feet I can't really go that fast so it's just a bit faster than the speed I usually let my horse walk I guess. After running for my first two hours of the day I take a one hour break. Since the horse gets exhausted from running for two hours with no breaks as well. After that we take about a 10 minute break for every hour spent running excluding lunch. I'm getting on the horse or getting off and walking so it was big that we were able to allocate the fatigue among everyone. Huh? I feel like I'm the only one losing somehow... Well, I guess it's fine. It's not good just swaying on a horse all the time while you're young.

Along the way we would rest for almost two days at decently sized towns while heading towards Baludukk, though it took close to three weeks near the end of may we were finally able to arrive at Baldukk on May 30th. Ah, we made the contract. Even though I said I would write it as long as we had a pen and some paper she said "you have to do contracts properly" and since I couldn't

explain the “the reason it’s not proper” we ended up having a scribe like place create it for us. I don’t know why but it cost 100,000 Z. Shit.

.....

Year 7442, Month 5, Day 30

We arrived at the town of Baldukk in the early afternoon. It’s a basin town that’s at the base of the mortar shape of large gently-sloping hills with a diameter of about 6–7 km in a circle. I had heard about it but it seems that the only fields are a bit on the slopes around the town. The base of the basin is a flatland that’s about 3–4 km and it seems the famous dungeon Baldukk is at the center of that. Centering around that entrance there’s eight distorted roads stretching out connecting to the peaks of the hills to the surrounding roads. Each of the eight roads is connected by a thin path and it might be more appropriate to say it’s like a spider’s web.

Since we were heading towards Baldukk from the south after climbing a hill covered in 5 m trees or so we ended up running into a crossroad at the top. Obviously if we go straight ahead it goes to the town of Baldukk and if we were to take the left or right paths it would lead to the other roads that go around the basin. Hmm, wouldn’t this circle shaped road be good for a running course? I’m thinking about such pointless things while looking at the crowded town in the basin below. I don’t know from where but I hear the knocking sound of an axe hitting a tree.

Since it seems that it’s the first time for Zenom and Ralpa to come to Baldukk as well they’re looking at the town from the top of the hill along with me. Ralpa is saying “I wonder if this is the crater of a volcano...it’s like crater.” but it really is, I thought so as well. Although the crater of a volcano wouldn’t have such gentle slopes like this so it might be different. But, if it was exposed to wind and rain over a long period and collapsed then it might become this smooth.

Judging from experience I’d say the height of the hill is 150 m. Even the highest point would probably only be about 170–180 m. There seems to be about a 10 degree slope on the descent of the hills below of the circular hills. The places other than the sloped roads inside of the basin are different from

the outside and have grass and bushes spread out so it's a good view. Since it's only this level of a incline I thought that the hills wouldn't be oblique to the slope but putting aside the outside of the basin, the hills inside of the basin are a bit oblique. Ah, I guess it's that way in order to carry water to the bit of fields on the slopes.

I see something like a pond, or lake, or pool of water on the eastern side of the town in the center of the basin. It's hard to call it a lake. It has about three times the area of Shinobazu pond in Ueno I guess. The river is flowing to the west from there. The river runs to the west cutting through the hills and going several Km into the ocean. They probably collapsed the western hills just for that sake. I can tell that there's something like a steep cliff on both sides of the river. Since there's no bridge connecting the cliffs if I run I'll have to start going while following the river up hills that surround the basin and descend the hills on the other side of the river. Seeing as how that river flows into the ocean it seems that pond is a spring and there's a reasonable volume of water gushing forth so I guess the base of the basin is a bit higher than the ground around it.

Just from looking it seems that the town is a mix of new buildings and reasonably old ones. The new buildings have walls that are plastered in mortar like the sight in Keel so it seems the foundations of the first floor at stone. I can't tell but there might be something like a stone quarry around one of the hills. Let alone three story buildings while there's only a handful there are even four story buildings. Since the land is limited I guess they're trying to rise upwards to make the most efficient use of the land there is. The older buildings are wooden and stop at two floors at best. They aren't all that different from the average building in Orth. Putting aside the fact that the roofs aren't made from tiles or thatched grass it feels like the houses look a bit like the Japanese houses in the Edo era. Of course it's not as if there aren't extravagant buildings with roof tiles as well.

In order to have lunch we entered the first restaurant we found. There we started discussing what we were going to do from here on out. First in order to settle down we need to decide on the inn. I thought we should take an appropriate inn since we're going to be staying here for a while but my opinion was split with theirs here. They're saying that a cheap inn with a price of 2000 Z

— 3000 Z per person per night is plenty but I was thinking about an inn like Bins Manor in Keel for 5000 Z per night. Come to think of it the only inns that were open which we stayed at for a few days on our way here were about 5000 Z so there was no complaints.

However, it could said that being able place my belongings in the room without without worrying and looking after my horse are required conditions. It's only obvious that the fees would rise to match that. Not just that but there's a variety of services on the menu and it's important that they're tidy is how I explained it but in the end they still chose to stay at a cheap inn. It's a bit worrying that we can't get in contact right away if something were to happen but I have no intention of taking back those conditions so it couldn't be helped that we split up the inns, or at least that's how I convinced myself on it.

It's not like there isn't the option of forcing them to agree using the contract but it's not a hand that I can use that lightly. And there's no much meaning to obligating them over something like this. I'm sure it's hard for someone with almost nothing that could be considered an asset to understand. It's not wrong to be in a state of poverty but the mentality of being okay with or satisfied with it is harmful. There's a word in the world called honorable poverty as well but I've thought it was a self-deceptive word since way back. I have no intention of endorsing a life of luxury but even if you cut down on necessary expenses that's already just being stingy. Your mentality will become poor. It can't be helped if you have no money but if you don't have any then it's fine if you just earn some. Well, these sorts of things are dependent on every individuals values so it can't be helped being too persistent with it. I have no intention of pushing my way of thinking on them after all. Getting in contact will be a bit inconvenient but as long as I can approve of that then it's no problem if we both find inns that we can settle comfortably in to.

I relaxed on a reasonably high-quality bed while thinking that. After I rest for a bit longer I'll head to the restaurant we had decided on before-hand and discuss what we're going to do next. Ah, that's right, after this maybe I'll buy a big bucket. Though a bath is impossible I want to at least be able to take a slow shower without worrying about being seen. Thinking that I fell into a light sleep.

Close to the evening after being awoken by the alarm clock small magic

{Cantrip}, I put on my boots wearing plain clothes and head to the restaurant that we promised to meet at. Since they still haven't come I chose a table that can be easily found from the entrance and ordered a beer. Since it's still close to evening the tables are only sparsely filled. After observing the few customers of the other tables and I didn't see any bodybuilding types that seemed to be adventurers. They're probably just the citizens of this town coming to take an early dinner.

Since I had heard there was a dungeon in the town of Balduk and adventurers aiming to get rich quick go there in swarms so it was a bit of a disappointment. However, I realized that in order to aim for getting rich quick while challenging the dungeon you need to stay in the dungeon for long periods of time so they might still be working (?) at this time. Since it's a dangerous dungeon where lots of adventurers end up losing their lives I thought of doing some information gathering but it seems that it would be best to do that on another occasion. I sip away at my beer while eating some cooked beans. These cooked beans seem to be everywhere. They were at Doritt and Keel but I even ate them at home. I've eaten them all along the way here.

I had been thinking they were like the soul food of the Kingdom of Rombert something like Japan's pickled vegetables or nattou, but since I don't have anything to deny that I'm sure that's the case. I don't hate them and since I've been eating them for over 10 years I'm already used to them.

After Zenom and Ralpa arrived they ordered the same thing. They sip the lukewarm beer while eating some beans. Around the time we finished eating and exchanged info on the inns we were staying at and preparing to make plans for tomorrow several men entered the store. They look somehow dirty and are acting a bit crudely with the light sweaty smell of body odor coming from them. I don't know what dialect they're speaking but the details are somewhat vulgar. They're adventurers. I guess these types of guys are exploring the dungeon. I wonder what level of skill they have. After casually using Identify on them they're all level 7. There's a number of guys among them that can use magic but the level of the abilities are all low at 2 or 3. Or rather I guess this is normal.

It seems they ran into a group of Gnolls on the first floor of the dungeon. Gnolls are monsters that are roughly stronger than Kobolds but weaker than

Orks it seems. As expected they appear in groups and come to attack on sight. They're a monster that is like a hyena in humanoid form and they use weapons and armor as well. Zenom was telling me about how if you injure some of them they'll start to retreat while protecting their allies. As expected of Zenom, he knows everything.

In any case, the weak adventurers who were driven away by Gnolls don't matter at all. In other words this means that the first floor of the dungeon of Baldukk can be returned from alive with only this level of ability. I was thinking that while listening to Zenom's lecture on dungeons which I've heard countless times already. It's a bit long but let's review. Well listen up.

- You never know what will happen in the dungeon. Never let your guard down.

- There's a 10,000 Z tax required per person to enter the dungeon.

- The government office in Baldukk will explain a certain amount of information to you.

- Up until now 8 floors have been cleared. And that was something that happened several hundred years ago. The one who cleared them was Rombert the First. He made the foundations of Rombert Kingdom from the treasures he obtained at that time.

- A group of up to 10 people can enter the dungeon simultaneously. Any more than that and it's necessary to split the group. The reason is when you pass through the entrance of the dungeon there's an underground room and there's a crystal rod there. Everyone grabs on to that and while holding that it's necessary for someone to speak the incantation that lets you teleport into the dungeon. The incantation floats to the surface of the crystal before you grab on to it. However it changes every time you use it to teleport so there's no need to remember it. Due to the limitations on the length of the rod 10 people is the limit.

- The location it teleports you to is always somewhere on the first floor of the dungeon.

- There's a similar crystal at the location you teleport to and if you use the incantation on it just the same then it will teleport you to a room on the side of

the one at the entrance with the crystal rod. However, the crystal that's in that location can only be seen and touched by the ones who teleported to that area.

–There's a similar crystal in the location that's believed to be the center of the first floor. If you hold on to it while using the incantation just the same you can either go to the next floor or the room at the side of the entrance. The incantation when you return is fixed and "return us".

–It's possible to run into other groups of adventurers inside of the dungeon. However, since it's far too wide and you don't know where you're going to teleport it's close to impossible to intentionally meet up with someone. They say that it's not impossible if both sides are considerably skilled and decide on a place to meet before-hand but...for the most part it's impossible.

–The width of each floor is tremendously vast. Just going off of the details that I was told it easily has the same amount of area as this town. It seems that they sell maps but they can't be called perfect.

–Each individual floor differs and each floor has their own characteristics. The first floor is a cave. The floor and walls are dirt or stone. There's no particularly strong monsters. The traps aren't a big deal as well.

For the time being I guess that's about it. While I do have some information about the floors after the 2nd floor but since it can't be helped mentioning them right now, I'll talk about them later when necessary. These details are ones that Zenom just heard from someone else in the past so he himself says it's suspicious how much of it is true. It's probably best to think of everything other than the first three points as fake.

After making plans to meet at this restaurant again tomorrow in order to gather information at the government office we split up for the night.

Chapter 72: Information Gathering

Year 7442, Month 6, Day 1

After waking up before sunrise I immediately head out to go running. Ah, wasn't this place a basin. It's questionable if it's really before sunrise. In any case I ran and tried following the road up the hills surrounding the basin. After looking to the east through the gaps in the trees it was just as the sun started to appear. Since I tried climbing from the eastern side I guess I'll run a semicircle and then loop back.

When I returned to the inn I wanted to take a shower but there was no back yard like Bins Manor had so I gave up. However, after seeing me covered in sweat the guy of the inn told me about the shower room. It seems that they have water storied above the roof with water magic. What's with that it's fine even if I don't buy a bucket. I take a shower in the shower room and in addition made it into a warm water shower. Mm. There's no need to worry about being seen in this shower room so it's nice.

I dried myself off before exiting the shower room and put on the change of clothes I had prepared in advance. After closing the door I flipped the "in use" tag over to "empty". Furthermore, the fee of using the shower room is 100 Z per use. Even though it's just a cold water shower it's expensive~ If I think about the effort it takes to drain it the price is set so it vaguely weighs out buying a bucket and taking one in my room.

Now then, I guess I'll go and eat some breakfast. After that I'll take a walk around the town until lunch and try to start getting the structure of the town into my head.

.....

After eating breakfast I started wandering around the town of Baldukk. Starting with the main road that stretches from the center to the outer circumference along the river to the west the roads are numbered one to eight

going clockwise. It doesn't seem like a structure that it's easy to get lost so I should be able to get used to it quickly.

On stores there's of course the usual weapon shops and blacksmiths but there's even a prop store of things that would be useful in the dungeon. Stores dealing in magic stones, stores that deal in preserved and dried foods, various things. It seems that the farmers live close to the outer edge. It makes me realize once again that this town centers around the dungeon to the extreme.

Ah, that's right. Since I have the opportunity I'll go and take a look at the entrance of the dungeon. Thinking that I walk towards the central area of the town. If you follow one of the main roads that has a number with your back to the hills then you should definitely arrive there. Before long I arrived at the entrance. But of course it's not like there's just a big hole opened up in the ground. On the contrary it was a splendid two story building.

I guess the entrance is inside of the building. I can see two guards with spears standing at the entrance of the building. Centering on the building there's vacant land of about 40 m and there's various stalls lined up in the surroundings of the vacant land. However, rather than something like that what caught my attention was.. the filthy adventurer looking people who were sitting all over the place in the surroundings of the entrance to the building. There's enough of them that it would be annoying trying to count them. How many dozen are there? It could even be more than 100.

What's up with this guys? Without approaching them I enjoyed myself at the stalls while observing for a short while and I was quickly able to comprehend it. It's not all of the people crowding around in this area but fundamentally they're all trying to get groups of adventurers to let them in as members for challenging the dungeon. If there's a group of less than 10 people that tries to pass through the entrance of the dungeon then

"I've gone to the 2nd floor."

"I can get to the exit no matter where we end up on the 1st floor."

"Do you need a spear user?"

"I can guide up to the 3rd floor."

And just like that start trying to appeal themselves. Other than that and there's

"We're a three person group that can use fire magic."

"Hey, you guys, do you have any interest in including two more?"

"We've come from Viscount Yoraiz's knight group. Do you want to go together with us?"

And there's a couple of groups made up of several people as well. Rather~ what do you mean by "we've come from XX". Is this high-pressure sales of a fire extinguisher? I bet they don't have much skill at all. In the first place there's no way a real knight would be wearing ring-mail that worn out~ For the most part it seems to still be using metal parts so it's defense should at least still be better than leather armor though. Is what's drawn on that crude shield that Viscount Yoraiz or whoever emblem? I'm sure if the person them self saw it they'd be pissed. It's way too crude.

It seems that these stray adventurers are largely split up into two groups. One is they simply feel uneasy about the number of allies that they have so they're trying to pick up more members to explore with. This is fine. The other one is, and I don't think I'm mistaken but they seem to be parasites that can't pay the tax to enter the dungeon so they try to appeal themselves to groups and get added to the group of 10 so they'll pay the tax for them.

While I used the expression parasite, since they're still technically adventurers when added to the group it's not just limited to guys that are useless. I'm sure it wouldn't be unusual for guys to be selling their abilities like mercenaries as well. I'm sure there's also a reasonable amount of business in being a skilled guide as well. Though I'm sure the compensation isn't just paying the tax for them. Hmm, it seems that gathering information for stuff like this is also necessary. There's no need to get impatient and charge into the dungeon while lacking both information and preparations.

After watching for a while longer and I was able to figure out even more. The guides (?) who are skilled don't sit near the entrance but a reasonable distance away and they don't particularly call out to anyone but just sit quietly or stand with their arms crossed. At the very least it doesn't seem like they're

progressively calling out to anyone from their side. If anything it seems more like when groups of several adventurers enter the plaza they start looking around and when they find a guide they're familiar with they call out to them. Though it might just be meeting up with group members.

About 30 minutes had passed since I figured things out this far and the guys who were around the entrance had entered the dungeon and those who haven't end up scattering in small groups after giving up so it's started to get quiet. I chew on a skewer with some kind of unknown sinewy meat that I bought at a stall while looking around the area. If possible I want to talk to someone knowledgeable about things. However, the adventurer looking guys who were both nimble and properly equipped have already disappeared and this time even the regular people have started to move around so I wasn't able to find anyone I could have a conversation with about it. Hmm. I guess it's fine.

Thinking I should try calling out to the guards protecting the building that's the entrance to the dungeon I approach them. Ah, since the skewer wasn't particularly good I've long since threw it away so I don't think my appearance is too bad. I approached the guard that seemed to be middle-age and call out to him.

"Hello, thank you for your work. I want to talk with you for a little bit but is it alright?"

After the guard looked at my appearance from head to toes he opened his mouth.

"What is it?"

He said it without a smile but I feel like his tone has softened up a bit.

"I'm sorry when you're so busy. My name is Greed and I'm someone that is related to Marquis Webdos. I'm sorry since I'm from the countryside and don't have any common sense, could you please tell me about this place?"

I said that while showing him the plate and the attitude of the guard got a bit more formal but it seems he was somewhat used to these sorts of questions,

"Ah, if it's about the dungeon then it would be better if you go to the government office. If it's you then they should tell you about it in detail."

and replied like that. I see now, it seems that gathering information at the government office is the usual method.

“Is that so, thank you for teaching me so kindly. Would it be alright if I inquire as to your name?”

After making an unexpected expression the guard,

“I’m Johnston.Church. But why do you want my name?”

asked that. I lightly smile while saying.

“No, there’s no way I can go without hearing the name of someone who has been so kind to me. When I offer my thanks at the government office then I will be troubled after all.”

After saying that I lowered my head and turned around to the right as I left. This should be plenty as a start.

.....

I killed some time by walking around different places until lunch and then went to the restaurant from yesterday. Zenom and Ralpha had already arrived and it seems they had secured a table and were waiting for me to come. I apologize for making them wait, order some food, and after eating lunch and paying them their wages of 1 gold Shu and 15 silver coins for this month, we started on our way to the government office.

The government office is a large three story building that’s slightly off from the center of the town to the northwest. After entering the slightly small lobby and something like a bulletin board entered my sight. There was guiding information written on the bulletin board for residents pointing to the tax window and such. There wasn’t any guide information for adventurers written anywhere. I wonder if there’s no bulletin board intended for adventurers in this town? We continue further in while questioning it but when we approached a random window and asked about it they quickly told us.

It seems that the notice board intended for adventurers is in the back. In other words we just took the wrong entrance. Since we didn’t know it can’t be helped but write down something like that. After going around to the back we safely found the notice board. Just like in Keel’s government office there’s an

official receptionist as well. I just glanced at the notice board but the details written don't seem all that different from Keel's government office. However, it seems that there's a lot delivery of luggage ones. There's quite a few delivery jobs intended to various places in the country. It seems that the artisans of this town are skilled.

I was thinking about that while calling out to the receptionist official. Obviously it's about the dungeon. Since it's pointless to have a meaningless conversation here I immediately took out the plate from Marquis Webdos and requested that he introduce me to someone knowledgeable about the dungeon and I was introduced to the knight group. Naturally there's a knight group here as well? though I quickly understood why. It's only obvious. Though it's the King's direct territory since it's probably being ruled by a governor or relative of the king, there's no way they wouldn't have some military force stationed for maintaining the peace. Saying knight group is a bad way of putting it. They're the same as the police or a force that protects the peace and in the interval between their jobs they also go on foreign campaigns or expeditions for defense as well, would be a more appropriate way of putting it.

In Japan I guess it would be like the JSDF's military police using their policing authority against civilians. Whenever I hear of knight group I think of a someone on a horse wearing armor, equipped with a sword and spear gallantly charging into war even after living on Orth for 14 years I can't seem to shake the image. If you were to say it's strange for knight group to have several types to them then it's certainly strange but even in Japan in the past there were samurai-like soldiers that held the right to police. The constables and secret policeman were only made during the Edo period. And even with that putting aside the secret policeman, the constables were one type of official position the soldiers that were the samurai held. Even if you look at it from a standpoint this is a correct flow and other than special senior officials there were many cases of soldiers who also acted as officials, it was mainstream that the army also held the right to policing.

In other words, I still haven't completely become a person lives on Orth I guess. I remain aware of the light and stiff self-derisive smile stuck on my face while asking the location of the knight group and started heading towards the

quarters of the knight group together with Zenom and Ralpha.

The quarters of the knight group was located on the eastern edge of the town. After slowly walking there I start to feel the sweat gush out from the rays of the sun of early summer. Just as expected of a basin it seems that one factor is there aren't very strong winds that blow. While talking about how it might get considerably hot during the coming seasons we finally arrived at the quarters, after showing the squire gatekeeper the Marquis's plate I explain to them that I received an introduction from the government office.

The squire said to wait just a moment after that and went to confirm the whereabouts of the knight that we received the introduction for it seems. We kill time asking the remaining gatekeeper how hot it gets during the summer and talking about pointless things like that as we wipe away the sweat with hand-towels.

After waiting like that for about 10 minutes the squire returned. It seems that the knight we intended to meet gave permission for a meeting. After being lead by the squire into the building we were able to sit down in the reception room. Just the fact that it blocked the sun felt like it was cooler so I was grateful for that.

After waiting a few minutes and a knight entered the room along with the squire from just now. It seems that the squire just tagged along to make tea. After distributing the tea they immediately left the room. It seems that the knight we received the introduction for was one of the leaders a commanding officer. I politely thank him for taking the time to meet us and immediately got straight to the point. Though I'm a regional noble I'm sure it's part of the influence of Marquis Webdos for having such a large and fertile territory, the knight answered my questions considerably thoroughly.

—In the true sense, Baldukk is lined up with Rombertia as the King's direct territory and they're both passed along with the generations. (Among the King's direct territories there's various towns but normally they have relatives or governors ruling them.)

—The reason is said to be because it's the land that was the cornerstone of how Rombert the First was able to found the kingdom but considering the fact

that the capital is right next to it and the fact that the artisans are as skilled as those in the capital along with the large number of commoners and Free People acting as adventurers in reality the reason would be the high tax yields. Simply put it's a huge source of revenue. I'm sure the fact that adventurers cash in their magic stones in this town is a large contributing factor to the income.

—It's true that it's possible to get rich quick in the dungeon. If you defeat monsters you obtain magic stones and since most monsters have no interest in the money adventurers hold so if you can you retrieve that then it's a considerable amount of income. Also, it's extremely rare but there's occasionally humanoid monsters with magic equipment that can't be reproduced no matter what and if you defeat them you obviously obtain them. If you sell them then they usually exceed the level of platinum coins in value.

—One force can enter the dungeon (it seems that they often call this a party) and the limit is about 10 people but because of the size of the passages it seems it's common for them to enter with less than that. Also, there's people making a living as guides that are like mercenaries. If you go to the entrance early in the morning you can meet them.

—Just as far as has been confirmed there's said to be 8 floors in the dungeon but over the past few decades it seems that no one has gone past the 5th floor. The only ones who made it to the 8th floor are the founder Rombert the First and the subordinates who accompanied him.

—The only way to get between floors in the dungeon is to use the teleport crystal. The small rooms with these crystals are all over the place in the dungeon. However, the only one you can move with is the teleport crystal you previously touched. Only the teleport crystal that is said to be in the center of the dungeon is special and can go to both the exit room (the room next to the first one with the crystal) and to somewhere on the next floor down.

—It's not guaranteed that the path you end up being teleported to will definitely have a path that leads to the small room in the center where the crystal is. In that case there's no other option than to return and start over again. (It seems that some of the parasite adventurers from this morning were lying.)

–The 1st floor of the dungeon is a cave-like den. A number of small rooms are connected through caves.

–It seems there's a pond where fairies live on the 2nd floor but since this is only known from the stories of the founder, Rombert the First and hasn't been confirmed. Also, it seems there's something like a fountain which spits out snakes as well.

–The 3rd floor is a stone dungeon and there's a variety of strange apparatus all around the rooms almost like a torture chamber.

–The 4th floor seems to be a nest for a type of monster called the Undead.

–On the 5th floor there's moving statues and something like an altar that has burning black fire that's been confirmed.

–From the 6th floor it seems that this is only known from Rombert the First as well but it's supposedly a maze-like place where teleport keeps repeating without crystals and there's boar like monsters rampaging all around it.

–The 7th floor is a dungeon protected by strong Ogres.

–The 8th floor seems to be a collective group of large caves and according to Rombert the first "I can't help but think there's various places overlapping each other". Rombert the First obtained his great treasure here and finished his adventure.

–At the very least up to the 5th floor the walls give off a strange light so there's almost no need to worry about light. Almost means that there are places where it still is needed.

–Up to the 3rd floor while they're incomplete there are reasonably detailed maps that are sold. They're sold in prop stores aimed towards adventurers all over the place but since there are no checks on the content of them it's best to think that the details of each of them can differ slightly. Also, information and maps on places which haven't been cleared yet can be bought for a high price.

–After the 4th floor only a handful of truly skilled people can get that far so for the time being there shouldn't be any maps sold for there yet. However, it

seems that they're producing their own maps.

These are the new things that we found out. Finally I tried asking if the knight group doesn't enter the dungeon. After all, I was thinking they could challenge it for testing their strength or as a part of training. And I was told, "The knight group doesn't concern itself with what occurs in the dungeon. Even if it's a trained knight they can lose their life so in that case we could pointlessly lose the lives of skilled knights and squires. It would be completely different monsters came out of the dungeon in succession but since there's no way of testing if monsters can come out of the dungeon it's not seen as a problem". I guess that's true. Even if they fight against monsters it's not as if they get stronger as an army after all. It's fine as long as the knight group properly protects the peace in the town of Baldukk and participates in defensive wars and foreign campaigns when needed.

It's not like it's known that you can accumulate experience points and level up in order to get stronger a bit at a time. And even if your level is high it's not like your combat ability springs up either. If your strength and speed increase then your HP increases as well, so you can say as a whole it's not like you haven't gotten stronger but in order to control that you need to accumulate experience training on a daily basis, slowly but surely cultivating your techniques and combat experience in the true meaning.

Even level ups if the person didn't already know about it before-hand and furthermore predict it then they probably wouldn't even realize it. Even if your strength goes up by 1 point it's not like you can suddenly easily lift things that were heavy until then. I feel like until each physical ability gets to 10 or maybe a bit higher they're all somewhat proportional but after that they're probably not proportional. The actual strength of a 30 year old male who has double the strength value as that of a healthy 15 year old male probably isn't actually double. I think that the value of abilities and your actual physical abilities are on a curve when they go up so the actual difference in value of 1 point just keeps getting lower as it gets higher. If I were to make it into a graph then starting from a straight line it would suddenly and then gradually after that get farther off along something like a reverse parabola. If that wasn't the case then there would be way too many inconveniences.

If you put some effort into it I'm sure you could make it to level 10 or 20 with just smashing giant leeches but I wonder if someone like that could really so easily win against a squire that's properly trained until they could handle themselves reasonably even if they're only a couple levels. As expected if they were beyond level 100 then their speed or endurance would be abnormal so I'm sure they couldn't win but you know I'm not trying to say something like that right.

Putting it in reverse if two people both have equal levels of skill then the difference between level, age, and the values of each of their abilities will show more clearly. If the difference in ability is only slight then I'm sure you can cover for that difference with the values of each of your abilities. If you were at a level where each of your abilities was t 100 or 200 then I'm sure it would be different though. If you think about it normally I don't think anyone could ever make it there though.

In any case, it's joyous that I was able to obtain some new information. Oh~ I was about to forget. After using the name of the guard I met this afternoon Johnston.Church and how he treated me kindly I thanked him and left the knight group.

Together with Zenom and Ralpa we went to the entrance of the dungeon again but Johnston.Church wasn't there. I guess he changed shifts. I explained to the two of them that there was a guard who was knowledgeable about the skilled guides and we made a promise to meet again tomorrow at noon for lunch before parting ways.

I guess the time right now is about 4pm in the afternoon. I started exploring trying to get the geography of the town into my head by evening and after eating dinner at a random place I got in bed. After entering I suddenly realized. I hear that there are a lot of adventurers gathered in this town. Then shouldn't it only be obvious that it should exist here? But it's already night and I had alcohol and I took a shower so I guess tomorrow is fine. I closed my eyes and fell asleep.

Chapter 73: Lacking Potential?

Year 7442, Month 6, Day 2

The next day, after waking up before I went to do my daily running I decided to go to the entrance of the dungeon. Just like when I visited yesterday there were already a lot of people there. I eat some simple dishes I bought from stalls as breakfast as I observe things. Among the jumble of noisy voices I can hear “Is there one more person who can use magic out there!?”

“I’m selling maps~ I have up to the 3rd floor! 500,000 Z per floor!”

“I have a map with the locations of traps written down. Interested in buying it? It’s only for the 1st floor but how about 800,000 Z?”

“Dried meat, roasted nuts, bread! Does anyone want to bring the delicious preserved food of Dori’s shop along as their ally in the dungeon!”

“Recruiting a shield user! We need one more! Regardless of what we find I’ll pay 30,000 for just today!”

and I hear those sorts of voices, different from yesterday it seems there’s more voices trying to do business.

It seems that there’s more people seriously trying to challenge the dungeon at this time. I guess they’re meeting up with party members as well but there’s a lot of properly equipped adventurer looking people as well. They’re holding swords, spears, and shields, equipped with light leather armor, and holding a bag which probably has preserved food and small tools in it so they stand out.

In the next moment there were shouts from the entrance. It doesn’t seem like loud yelling but rather, wonder and scorn, admiration and booing, voices that have a lot of different emotions mixed in them. What is it? thinking that I started to move through the crowd towards the entrance of the building. There I saw a tall elf male with a smile filled with pride and behind him there were three large human males, one female human, a female dwarf, a female elf, and

one tiger-man male. In comparison to the proud looking elf who has a smile the seven behind him all seem tired and are hanging their heads down.

After listening in on the voices around me and I quickly understood why.

“That bastard Rozwela he wasted slaves again. This time it was two of them huh?”

“Really, he’s the only one making that disgusting face. How many has he wasted up until now?”

“Like I know! In the first place it’s unbelievable that he’s still making a profit like that.”

“But you know, those guys sure have survived long. The only newcomer that’s still alive is that guy.”

“Don’t say that. If you have the money then you can even do stuff like that. Stop acting like women you poor people.”

“Shit..It’s true though...I’m envious.”

“If I had the money even I could earn like him~”

“When did he enter the dungeon?”

“I think it was three days ago..they might have gone to the 3rd or 4th floor.”

Hohou~ So that middle-aged elf guy’s name is Rozwela. It seems he’s quite hated but I guess he’s buying a lot of slaves and using them to charge in. Well, no matter how good of earnings it might make it’s not a hobby of mine to waste slaves like that but it’s not a hobby I can criticize him over. Ah, I’m sure it’s not all that profitable as well so it’s not that it’s just not a hobby of mine. I’m sure that not just me, but if anyone had enough money they’d do something like using slaves as living shields. However, slaves you can use in combat should be considerably expensive. Does it mean he earns even more than that? The cost of a combat slave is at least 6–7 or gold coins or more per head. Particularly if they were at a level where they could enter the dungeon wouldn’t they cost even more? It’s far too much of a waste so I don’t think I could just use them as shields.

Since I still have the money I received from father if I want to I can buy two or

so of them but the composure in my feelings will disappear. If I end up losing my composure and get too greedy on earning I could end up making a critical mistake in decision. For now it's a method of clearing the dungeon which is unrelated to me.

I can't even use it as a reference. However, I wonder how much he can earn from just entering the dungeon to explore once? I want to know things like that. I tried listening in on people for a bit but no one talked about things like that. Well, it's fine.

Since it had returned to the jumble of noises again I was about to turn around and head off to do my running when there were more shouts for a second time. This time they're actually cheers. I hear whistling as well. Since it interested me I turned around again and looked at the people coming out of the entrance building.

It seems that the party that came out this time is several times more popular than Rozwela. They are a group of 8 as well and they're all equipped with banded-mail and splint-mail wielding swords and spears that you can tell are pretty high grade just from a glance. Since I can't see anything but the scabbard I don't know for sure if they're actually high quality or not though. They look quite well-made though. Their group is composed of one male and female human, two elf males, one male and female dwarf, a bunny-man male, and one female who appears to be a Wolf-person race.

After listening to the words of praise being directed to them it seems that they're called "Green Party {Verdure Brotherhood}". Come to think of it they all have something green somewhere on their equipment. Among them there's even a guy with something like a blue-green cloth wrapped around his arm. I thought they were starting to rust. It seems that they're a group composed of commoners and Free People. There's voices of admiration for them. They've been in the dungeon for a week straight and they arrived at the 5th floor. Isn't that top-class? Since I was interested I decided to try using Identify and wow, starting from the guy at the front who's level 19, the lowest level among them was 16. It seems they're super veterans and excluding one of them they're all around 30 years old. The remaining one is an elf that's closer to 40. He might be the leader. His level is 19 after all. His experience points have exceeded 900,000

and are close to 1,000,000.

Hya~ There's some amazing people in the world. I definitely want to try listening to their stories but I'm sure they wouldn't take a brat like me that's never even entered the dungeon once seriously. It's not as if I have any proof that they're the top but I don't think it's mistaken that they're one of the top parties. Since it seems they've gone to the 5th floor after all.

Since I spontaneously wanted to share in their good luck I was about to clap my hands together in prayer but I realized a moment before and stopped myself. I should do some running and form training and cultivate my abilities first.

.....

Just before noon I returned to the entrance plaza (it's just the name I've given it though) and started looking for the guard Johnston.Church. I thought he would be standing at the entrance the same as yesterday but it seems he's patrolling around the plaza. It seems that two people stand guard at the entrance and two people patrol the plaza. Although the two of them aren't guarding the entrance but rather protecting the tax collector who collects the entrance tax for the dungeon. It's only been two days but according to what I've seen there's about 400–500 people who challenge the dungeon a day so they should be collecting 4–5 gold coins per day in taxes.

I called out to Johnston.Church.

“Hello, Church-san. Thank you for your kindness yesterday.”

“Hey, so it was you? It seems that you used my name at the knight group yesterday so, umm, thank you very much.”

Yeah, since it's free just to say it, and I wanted to make your impression better. Don't worry about it. And since it's you I'm sure you just said something like “I just interacted with him naturally though..” right? Then I'm sure you were praised even more for normally acting so courteously right? It's a good thing.

“Yeah, and then. When do your work hours until? I would definitely like to discuss some things with you, if it's alright with you, how about a light one later?”

I say that while gesturing as if I'm drinking alcohol. It's only obvious but I'm guessing that his work hours are prior to noon. Since I couldn't find him yesterday when I came here after eating lunch.

"Yeah, it's fine until just noon. After that I have to return to the knight group and report and then train...It isn't a problem having lunch with you for about an hour though."

Just as I imagined. They're probably in three or four shifts for the bodyguard jobs. If they're working in rotation then I'm sure they also have regulated time off as well.

"Is that so, then I'll take a look around this area while waiting until it's time."

After saying that I walk off without waiting for his response. Now he has no option to refuse me. Zenom and Ralpa might be surprised when I suddenly show up at the restaurant with a guard but he's most likely a useful source of information. I'm sure they wouldn't treat him badly as well. After randomly wandering around looking at the stalls time passed quickly to noon and Johnston Church came to my side.

"Then, let's go shall we?"

After saying that I brought him to the restaurant we were meeting up at.

Though Zenom and Ralpa were certainly a bit surprised but after I introduced him they were more relieved that some sort of crime hadn't occurred in the store or I hadn't been arrested. So you guys we're worried about that direction.

Along the way here I told Church-san about how I'm an adventurer and I came here aiming for the dungeon and the fact that I have two allies so he didn't worry about things too much and we had a peaceful meal. Obviously during that time the three of us were asking him quests but the new information we were able to gain from him was just as follows:

- The number of people in each party that challenges the dungeon is about 4–8. When they start aiming for the floors below the 3rd then it's not uncommon for them to do a full party of 10 people.

- Of course, there's also some people who enter the dungeon alone as well.

The majority of them either come out soon after or never come back though.

–Since we only have three people if we have the flexibility with money then we should expand our combat potential by buying some slaves. There's three slave dealers in this town and it seems that all of them deal in combat slaves. It seems that it's fine to buy them at any place but when I buy them I should always make sure to show the plate.

–Obviously it would be good to have a guide as well but the compensation for a skilled guide is expensive. Putting aside if it was only for a few days or a few weeks but the guide counts as an extra head in your party when you split up the treasures you obtain in the dungeon so in the end you profit more by having slaves instead if you plan to remain for a long time. (He told me about several trustworthy guides) –If you think it's dangerous then you should immediately return back to the starting teleport crystal. Since you can quickly get back to the surface it's a bad idea to push yourself too far.

–While there are exceptions, there's no decent people among the parasites who call out to you in the surroundings of the entrance of the dungeon. The worst of them aim to kill their employers in the dungeon and loot their corpses for money and equipment they can sell.

–Obviously, there are cases where conflicts occur between parties that encounter each other in the dungeon as well. It wouldn't be strange if there was a group who specializes in it but even if they end up being wiped out no one know will know.

–Even if you only intend to enter the 1st floor and return you should bring along at least three days worth of food.

–It would be best to buy a map of the 1st floor but even if you don't buy one it probably wouldn't change much. Starting from the 2nd floor the danger of the traps jumps up so it seems it's best to buy one. (If you were in a hurry then it would be different but there's no need to buy a map with information on the traps since you're just going to take your time in moving forward either way)

–The top parties right now are these five “Green Party {Verdure Brotherhood}”, “Shining Blade {Bright Blade}”, “Flames of Purgatory {Gehenna

Flare}”, “Black Topaz {Black Topaz}”, and “Sun Light {Sun.Ray}”. They’re all veteran parties that are composed of first-rate members.

–Rozwela is famous but his reputation is mostly built around envy. The person himself isn’t particularly bullying slaves. Still it is unusual that everyone other he is a slave but it’s not like there’s no other parties like that and if you have the money then in some ways you could say it’s ideal. If you were to find a piece of magic equipment it’s normal for conflicts to occur over who it belongs to and even how they split up the shares of money earned from selling it can be a factor to worry about. Since there’s no absolutely no need to worry about that it could be said it leaves that much more room for them to become a party with good team work.

–The average income of just exploring the 1st floor and returning once is around 150,000–200,000Z. If you get lucky, find someones corpse, and take the equipment they used then it can easily exceed 1,000,000 Z as well. However, this number is when you’re being careful so as to avoid fighting monsters as much as possible. If you make loud noises and try to lure monsters you can earn more but the number of parties that did that and lured a ton of monsters then were wiped out is as many as there are stars.

–The treasure you can obtain in the dungeon is, 1. Magic stones obtained from defeating monsters. 2. The equipment the monsters you defeated were using. 3. The money and equipment adventurers that were killed had on them. 4. Getting lucky and finding some raw gems or crystals. 5. Anything other than that. It seems that they’re separated into those five types. It seems roughly as they get closer to the end the value gets higher. Supposedly the most valuable thing anyone has found since Church started as a guard was a short wand that made it so anyone can use the magic {Fire Ball}. It was over 20 years ago but according to rumors it was judged to be worth several 100,000,000,000 Z, but the one who found it didn’t sell and instead presented it to the royal family and they were made into a Viscount and given the position of governor of some town somewhere. He heard that the wand was placed in the treasury of the Rombert royal family. (When I heard this I thought, idiot, you should sell it and take the money, but since everyone’s eyes were sparkling like the stars I remained silent. When I think carefully about it, the fact that it can make it so

anyone can use {Fire Ball} then it's a considerably outrageous thing) –Other than that it seems that there's a few magic items that come out every year. There's also cases where they've been found on the 1st floor as well. Of course, the values vary a lot but they're usually at least several 100,000,000 Z. Also, if you decide to hold on to it then after that information has passed through several countries there's the option of putting up for auction at some place and then leaking that information to sell it for a high price. It seems that the auction usually takes place in some countries capital.

We ran out of time around here. After we saw off Church as he returned to the quarters of the knight group we returned to our table in the restaurant and started sipping some bean tea while discussing what our plans are from here on out. The first one to open their mouth was of course, me.

“Well then, we've obtained quite a bit of information. About the plan I can think of here but for starters there's two options. The first is to try and enter the dungeon with just us three and see how things go. The other option is to either buy a slave or hire a guide in order to expand our combat potential. Which do you think would be better?”

And then, unexpectedly Ralpa gave an immediate reply.

“If you have the money then a slave. I think the same way as Church-san as well but in the end having the slave is more efficient I'm sure. Well, since it's difficult to tell what the level of ability of a slave is if you were sold a weird one then it's also possible to suffer a heavy loss but, that plate? was it? if you show them that then it should be fine right? Then, if you have the money I'd buy a slave.”

This, ex-high school girl has suddenly come out with buying a slave. It's surprising because in reverse I thought she would be the one most against it.

“A slave huh...It seems like it will cost some money but I think I can manage to buy one though...Other than just the cost of the slave I would also have to prepare it's equipment as well so another 1,000,000 Z or so will probably be blown away. With that.”

I was grumbling that but suddenly I wanted to hear Zenom's opinion. The one who has the most experience as an adventurer among us is him.

“What do you think Zenom?”

“Since our compensation has already been decided, it won’t change anything worrying about Al’s wallet at this point. That’s why it’s limited to supposing, if I was Al then”

“Yeah.”

“After all if it was me then I would buy a slave. If it’s a merchant that can be trusted and furthermore you can gain their trust then you should be able to buy a good slave. I’m sure there’s skilled people among guides as well but the compensation is expensive. In the end I think you’ll still just lose out. It might be fine for the first time but thinking about Al’s magic I can’t imagine we’d fall into any danger so easily. In the first place, we can immediately retreat, so even if we don’t do anything and run away then the damage is only 10,000 Z per person. It’s true that 10,000 Z hurts for us but if we can gain the first experience then it’s still cheap. I think it wouldn’t be too late to think about a guide after that.”

I was able to understand that they’re not against employing the use of slaves. In that meaning they’re both veteran adventurers who have over 10 years in their career. Zenom says he’s been at it for 20 years even. I’m sure he’s accompanied adventurers who use slaves before and he might even have experience using slaves himself. In comparison I was a young master raised leisurely in a remote village. There were a lot of serfs but just because they were slaves there was never anything that bothered me over social standing with them.

Or rather, I don’t know if I can even use slaves in the same way that people normally employ them. I can’t grasp the sense of distance. Even this sort of place stimulates my complex that I haven’t been able to become a person of Orth. But, I’m sure it’s true that it’s more efficient to use slaves. If they’re the market price then I can buy two and equipment for them but with that my wallet would get too light. I said it before but it might make get too impatient. However, if it’s just one then I should still have some flexibility so I think it might be fine. Alright, I’ll buy a slave.

“I understand. I’ve decided to buy one slave. After this conversation finishes

I'll go and buy one so come along with me. Then, next is"

I take a sip of the tea and continue my words after wetting my mouth.

"Since even if we include the slave we still only have four people we won't overdo things at the start. It's fine if we go as far as we can think we can go but once we start to struggle we'll turn back. Since it's the first time let's also decide on a time limit. I think we should depart tomorrow morning but no matter how good of a pace we have going we should come back by noon. That's why, I'm sure it'll add to the luggage a bit but we should take along a clock magic tool."

After confirming that the two of them nodded I continue even more.

"Also if there's anything you think we might need tell me now. I need to buy some stuff after all."

After I said that and Zenom says.

"Some string. One that's as long as possible. It seems you use it coiled around a spool. Supposedly you tie it to a rock or something in the area of where you first teleport then release the string as you move forward. If you return while winding that back up then you can return to your original location without getting lost.

Since it seems that they sell them by the bobbin I'll prepare one after this. It's fine if you pay me for it later."

I see, that's a good idea. If it's cotton then I'm sure it's not that expensive, depending on the length of the string there's also the option of returning once you run out of string as well.

"Alright, let's go with that. Then for starters let's go and buy a slave."

After saying that I drank the last of my tea and stood up from my seat. The two of them came along with me.

Chapter 74: Oh Wind, Oh Light

Year 7442, Month 6, Day 2

Accompanied by Zenom and Ralpa I tried heading towards the slave trader. The first one is “Tani’s Slave Company”. This store deals only in combat slaves for

exploring the dungeon and that’s the part where it differs from the other places. I think that something like a combat slave exclusive store would probably only be

able to survive in this town? However, since it’s a specialty store I think we can hold our hopes up for the quality of the goods.

The appearance of the store “Tani Company” was a lot more compact than I imagined. Though it’s compact that’s just compared to the large inns like the one I’m

staying at or the huge stores opened up near the center of one of the eight roads. The owner of the store is an old gnome man who’s name is just like the store Tani.

When I showed the Marquis Webdos plate while telling him “I came to find one combat slave” he got close while rubbing his hands together. It seems he has a stock of

12 combat slaves right now. I can choose whatever I please.

I was humming to myself about a mysterious bird, water god, and black panther running the land while sitting on the sofa waiting for the slaves to be prepared and

the other two were looking at me with a weird face. I’m sure a high-school girl wouldn’t get it.

After a short while I guess the preparations were done since Tani returned. We followed after Tani and were allowed into a different room. It was a wide

room the

size of about 20 tatami and the slaves were lined up against the wall inside. I guess he means to choose from the 12 slaves lined up here.

Hmm, you can't really say the clothes they're wearing is very good but they all have good builds. For the time being I need to identify the men and check what their

level and abilities are. If I don't accurately understand the abilities of my own possessions then I'll end up troubled when the time comes that I need to use them.

But I'm sure the combat abilities of the women are low so I'll skip them. The first one. A human woman. Her face is decent but I'm sure she's weak since she's a

woman so I don't need her. It's not as if I think it's a waste of MP. If there's no one among the men that seems useful then I'll put her into the potential options

though.

The second one is a human male. His level is 9. His age is 32 years old. Hmph.

The third one is a human male. Level is 8. Age is 27 years old. Considering the growth of their age I think this one should be better than the last? For now he's candidate one.

The fourth one was a male dwarf. Level is 10. Age is 34 years old. Hmn.

The fifth one is the same a male dwarf. Level is 9. Age is 31 years old. Mwu.

The sixth is a female dwarf this time. Pass.

The seventh is a female gnome. Pass.

The eighth is a wolf-person male. Level is 8. Age is 27 years old. Wolf-people have the racial Special Skill as the dog-people race that is "Super Sense of Smell".

For the time being I'll change this guy to the temporary first candidate.

The ninth one is a Bunny-man male, his level is 7. Age is 29 years old. Though

“Super Hearing” might be useful. I’m sure it’s no good.

The tenth one is a female elf. She’s beautiful but pass.

The eleventh one is the same female elf. This one is beautiful as well but pass.

The twelfth one is a Tiger-man male. His level is 10. Age is 28 years old. Both of his racial skills {Night Vision} and {Strength} might be useful. Going off of his level and age he might be the best choice.

Hmn, if there was a Panther-race person with black fur then it would be good to name him Rodem but I don’t know if that sort of race exists when my limited info.

It’s my fabrication. I go in front of the tiger-man and observe him once again. His condition is Good. Obviously he’s not missing any limbs or fingers. I wonder what

I should do~ Incidentally, none of them could use magic. The women? Even if they could use magic I’m sure it’s nothing great so I’d prefer someone who can fight. I’m

passing on the women until I’m rich. Ah, I didn’t ask the price.

“How much is this guy?”

And as I asked Tani is still rubbing his palms together. Zenom is just standing there watching with his arms crossed. I don’t get what Ralpa is doing but she’s saying “open your mouth and show me your teeth” in an arrogant voice. What is she saying?

“As expected you have a good eye, just as you can see he’s a non-human but he’s powerful and can move quickly. Since he’s also trained with the sword he can

immediately be included as combat potential.”

and he said that. Since they’re combat slaves if they weren’t capable of fighting right away then wouldn’t it be fraud? I think that this guy would be good but I

somehow feel like this guy doesn’t touch my heartstrings.

“About the price but how about 9,700,000 Z?”

Expeensive! If I buy his equipment as well then it exceeds 11,000,000 Z. If I buy this guy then it would be a pain until I make the profits back. But, there’s still

two more slave traders. It’s fine if I don’t rush. It’s not too late to go and confirm if there’s a slave that interests me more at the other two places I’m sure.

“Hmn. Can I reserve him for today?”

I tried asking.

“Reserve..huh? I guess that’s fine. I’ll keep him reserved for today. However, if I don’t get any contact today then he might be sold by tomorrow.”

Tani said that with a sullen face. That can’t be helped. It can’t be helped showing a good face to a slave trader.

“Zenom, Ralpa, we’re going to go to the other places...Hey, Ralpa, let’s go.”

After saying that we left “Tani Company”. Next up we’ll try going to “Riggus Company” I guess.

By the way when I tried asking Ralpa “Why were you looking at their teeth?” she said “In the past, I saw something somewhere. When you buy a slave you check their

teeth to make sure they’re healthy.” Do you really get it? I’m not a dentist so even if I look I wouldn’t know. I’ve never heard of anyone getting cavities as well.

.....

They don’t just deal in combat slaves at “Riggus Company” but also in slaves of all normal uses. It’s meaningless looking at the extras so I said to just show me the

combat slaves and they were lined up again. There were five of them but among them four were women and the remaining one was a 40-ish old man. I don’t need one who’s

abilities have started to decline from age. This store is no good.

Finally we tried going to “The Slave Store, Ronslail”. This store deals in general purpose slaves as well. But, there’s an expression that there’s a fortune in the leftovers. I’m sure I can’t hope for too much but, it’s fine, I’ll take a look. We entered “Ronslail” and called out to the shopkeeper.

The shopkeeper was a female elf. She seems to be in her early 40s. Just as expected from an elf her appearance is still that of a shining beauty and it gives her an

appropriate presence for her to be called madam. After the madam closely looked at my plate,

“I just received a good combat slave.”

And after saying that she went into the back but quickly came back out and said to follow her. I guess she’s going to line them up and show us again.

After going into another room just as expected the slaves were lined up and waiting again. There’s eight of them but they’re all women. How useless. But, I guess as

expected it’s easy for female combat slaves to be leftover. Just when I was starting to think it’s already fine if it’s a woman another one was added. It’s a man.

When I got right to identifying him and,

【Dadino.Zulu/28/5/7442 Dadino.Zulu/20/7/7422 】

【Male/24/5/7421 ▪ Lion-People Race ▪ Ronslail Family Owned Slave】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 21 Years Old】

【Level: 6】

【HP: 100(100) MP: 5(5)】

【Strength: 16】

【Speed: 17】

【Dexterity: 11】

【Endurance: 15】

【Special Ability: Small Magic】

【Special Ability: Instant Speed】

【Special Ability: Night Vision】

【Experience: 37082(43000)】

Hmm, a Lion-People race {Lios} huh? His level is reasonable but it's good that he's young. His build is good as well. What the, his name isn't leon? or lion? or something. I thought he was the disciple of Kashin Koji*.

"Instant Speed" is a skill that increases your strength and speed for the same amount of points as your level for an instant. There's no level for the skill itself

but the duration is the same number of seconds as your body level and has a recast time of the same amount as your body level in hours. You can't use it in

succession and while it gets more powerful as you level the amount of time you can't use it increases as well. However, it could be considered an advantageous skill

when it's needed in close combat. It wasn't written on the identify window whether or not HP is also increased during the time the abilities are increased. Well,

even if it did increase it would be for only a few seconds so I'm sure it's meaningless. I intentionally squinted while scrutinizing and looking at him,

"Can he speak in the {Common Language}?"

And tried asking the madam.

"Yes, but of course. This man is a prisoner that was captured in the conflict with Devas Kingdom the other day. Since it seems he was a soldier for Devas Kingdom he

should be able to use a weapon as well."

Madam.Ronslail said that while smiling.

I see, so this guy became a slave after becoming captured as a war prisoner. I guess they didn't pay for his ransom. Judging off of the date on his last naming ceremony it's only been a few days since he became a slave. I guess this area is where I should negotiate.

"Is it fine if I test him out a bit? Ah, in the case that I injure him I'll heal him."

After saying that I looked at Madam.Ronslail.

"Please do, test him out as much as you please."

Madam.Ronslail said that consenting to it. I guess that means I don't need to hold back. I look at Madam.Ronslail while using the spell {Ice Gravel} sending some

small rocks of ice flying at the Lios slave. The ice rock hit the slaves left arm. I was aiming for the pit of his stomach on his body so I guess that means he was

able to react. Hmm, this is plenty. The slave made a face that he was surprised I suddenly used magic to aim at him but immediately made a face that he was

displeased. Alright this is good.

"Since it seems I injured him I'll heal him."

After saying that I approached the slave and used healing magic to immediately fix his injured left arm. This time I didn't try to surprise them but took my time

pretending to slowly use magic on him. Even after being healed the slave continued to make a displeased expression. Hmhmhm. I turn around and look at Madam.Ronslail

and,

"Come to think of it, I haven't asked what the price was yet."

after saying that, this time I pretended to show interest in the female slaves this time.

"His price is 8,000,000 Z. Since he was a soldier and can use a weapon after all."

A bit of impatience appeared in the madam's tone of voice.

"What's going on with his discipline? It seems that he's displeased?"

and said that. Even then the madam said, "Of course, he's been disciplined as a slave" without panicking but her tone has gotten a little faster.

"I see, then, what's the price of her over there?"

I say that while pointing at the 30 year old or so woman who seems like she has the most power among the ones lined up.

"She's 6,500,000 Z. Of course she's been properly disciplined as well."

It's only a bit but I can see the madam is starting to hurry. Around here should be good.

"Hmn, I guess so. Since I want to maintain a good relationship with your store from now on.."

After I said that I knew that the madam swallowed some saliva.

"I guess I'll buy at the asking price here. I'll go with him the Lios."

The madam's face suddenly got more cheerful. And then,

"Thank you very much. We'll take care of the small formalities in this room over here. Furthermore, if you intend to do the naming ceremony after tomorrow then we

can make the request from this store, is there a time you want to set it for?"

And asked me that.

"I understand, I'll try asking. Hey, Ralpa, try asking him as much as you can think to ask."

After saying that I followed after the madam into a different room and we produced the contract. After finishing the procedures and making payment, we returned to

the original room and Ralpa and the Lios man were talking about something. Hmm, it seems she's properly obeying what I said. How admirable. It seems that Zenom is

talking about the latest news with the female dwarf. Well, I'm sure they have plenty to talk about among the same race. I call out to them and tell them we're leaving this store then turned around. We need to go and prepare the equipment for the Lios after all.

After we left the store I asked Ralpa.

"And, what was his weapon?"

"Eh? I don't know."

She said it completely carelessly.

"Huh? Eh? What were you talking about?"

"Umm you know, that Lios said he likes sweet things!"

She says while laughing out loud. Something like that doesn't matter at all!

"Also, it seems he was a commoner in the Kingdom of Devas. He was captured in the conflict the other day. His father died and it seems his older brother was returned

with ransom though. He has bad luck as well right."

I think my luck is pretty bad having to accompany you as well... Just as expected of a mysterious bird, you're bird-brained.

"Al, I asked him about things like that. It seems he uses a two-hand sword. Since I'm sure we can't prepare armor for a while either way he's fine without it for

now, is what I guess it will be."

Oh~ as expected of Posei, Zenom. Guys that are actually reliable are different.

"I see, got it. Then let's head to the blacksmith."

After saying that I started walking towards the blacksmith. I was safely able to buy a two-hand sword for 1,200,000 Z and while we were at it we also went and bought

some cotton string as well. The string was cheap at 540 Z per 100 M roll or so. It was a pain so I bought 10 reels.

I ate dinner together with the two of them and we started plotting out our actions and positions in the dungeon when we go after tomorrow, probably the day after

tomorrow. We made the decision of going to the edge of the town after we go to the temple early in the morning and finish his naming ceremony, then we'll check out

his combat abilities and do a bit of training in terms of cooperating with each other. After that I decided to return to my inn right away and sleep for today.

As I lay down in bed I suddenly realized. What should I do about the inn for that Lios bro? Well, I guess the same inn as Ralpa and Zenom would be fine. Thinking

that way it's convenient that they're staying at a cheap inn.

.....

Year 7442, Month 6, Day 3

In the early morning I went to "Slave Store, Ronslail" and along with the Lios slave and a servant of the store we went to the temple. I thought there was something

special to the naming ceremony of slaves but it wasn't any different from the normal naming ceremony.

【Dadino.Zulu/3/6/7442 Dadino.Zulu/28/5/7442】

【Male/24/5/7421 ▪ Lion-People Race ▪ Viscount Greed Family Owned Slave】

After confirming that his status was safely changed I handed him the sword. When I asked him if this would be good and after playing around with it in his hand and

checking the balance he replied "This seems to be durable so it's plenty." He's not making the displeased expression he was yesterday. Then I talked with Zulu as we

started on our way towards the leather craftsman store in order to make adjustments for some armor for him.

Rather than his name it's easier to call him by his family name, since it's like the phonetic code.

"I'm sure you already know about me but I'll introduce myself once again. My name is Alan Greed. I'll be working together with you from now on."

And then he was a bit surprised but immediately replied to me.

"My name is Dadino Zulu. I'll be in your care from now on. Master."

Oh, so he comes out with the master. Yeah, it's not half bad.

"Yeah, same here. By the way, is it fine to call you Zulu? Somehow your family name has a better sound than your name. Ah, if you don't like it then feel free to say

it."

"Ah, yes. There's no problem. I'm happy since I am proud of my family name."

I see, that's great.

After ordering some leather armor at the leather craftsman's shop, he picked out some that was close to his size and then started measuring Zulu's body to check his

sizes. He's pretty tall and his height is close to 190 cm. Lining up with the Tiger-man, Lios is a race with large builds. Though that means he'll use lots of

leather to cover that area so I wonder if it'll be more expensive? I was a bit worried about it but even if the price changed a bit at most it's probably a few ten

thousand Z. I realized it would be idiotic to get stingy at this point over this amount as I watched the artisan take Zulu's measurements.

After that we headed towards the grassland at the edge of the town where I promised to meet Zenom and Ralpha yesterday. In order to check Zulu's abilities and

confirm our ability to cooperate.

Zulu's abilities matched up just right to his level. I guess it's because he trained for quite a while as soldier, he seemed one step behind Ralpha who was

used to

live combat but if we follow-up with him then I'm sure he'll be fine.

By the way, about Ralph but before I realized it she's learned Void Magic. Since there was no experience in the Special Skill I don't know if she's realized it herself or not. It seems the chances are high that she learned it between last night and this morning. Since she was injured while I noticed it when it was necessary

to use identify on her. I indirectly told her to try using magic and she was able to make a small fire without problem. But, since there's the problem of exhausting

her MP so I told her to limit it to once per day for now. I told her that once her Void Magic level goes up and she's learned a new elemental magic skill she should be fine using

it a few more times per day.

Author's note: Since it's Xmas Eve I gave Al a slave as a present. (Though he had to buy it so it's not a present.) The reason the Identify of the females wasn't done is a secret for now. Also, here's the stats of the sword for Zulu:

【Bastard Sword】

【Iron】

【State:Good】

【Manufacture Date:19/10/7441】

【Value:119000】

【Endurance:820】

【Ability:140–230】

【Effect:None】

Chapter 75: First Challenge

Year 7442, Month 6, Day 4

The next morning, after waking up before dawn as usual, I once again check my preparations for adventuring into the dungeon that I did last night before I fell asleep and made sure I didn't miss anything. In terms of food I've prepared three days worth for up to two people of dried meat and beans and split them into two separate bags.

Eh? Wouldn't it be fine if I just let Zulu carry it? Hey now, did you forget the important warning. You never know what will happen inside of the dungeon. If Zulu is turned to ash from the mysterious beam of a monster then what would I do?

That's a joke but don't they say you can teleport around inside the dungeon. In the case that we end up being split up having just one person hold all of the important stuff is epitome of stupidity. If it was an emergency situation where I'm injured and can't carry anything no matter what then it would be different but it's the theory of a infantry unit to decentralize things as much as possible as you go.

Putting aside individual arms, food and flask (I can make water with magic so this is for just in case) and those sorts of important items, and while we don't have any yet I'm sure we'll need first aid medicine and kits for everyone else well later. I bought new bags in order to hold those sorts of plain but important items.

Obviously I had one up until now but since I kept the majority of my luggage in the saddlebag of my horse it was a small bag, just by putting three days of food and some underwear in it and it's already overflowing, furthermore so it doesn't swinging around on horseback it has a belt attached as well so I can't quickly take it off during combat.

And taking into consideration things from here on out I listened to Zenom and

Ralpa's opinion yesterday and bought two appropriate ones. The typical adventurer bags that they use are a reasonable size and most important of all there's metal clips on the shoulder strings so it's got a mechanism where if an urgent situation comes up you can simply twist those clips and throw the bag aside. When you re-attach it you have to slide the clip to the side so it's a bit of a pain but it's still convenient. The material is made of something thick and durable like canvas as well so I'm sure this was a good purchase. If possible it's the point where I want to make one with rubber cloth.

Ah, that's right, I ordered both a scabbard and belt for my sword. It seems it'll be ready in less than a week.

I put on my protectors, carry one of the bags on my shoulder, the other bag I hold, and with my bayonet strap on my shoulder I head off to the restaurant we're meeting at. Since it's before dawn and I'm carrying this much full equipment and have something long on my back (well only 1.3 m or so) so it somehow makes me remember preparing to go fishing in my past life and feels nostalgic. I guess it would be better to say the feelings of excitement like I a child when you're carrying a bag with accessories, cooler boxes on both shoulders, a fishing rod and heading from your car to the wharf where the boat is before dawn.

I arrived at the restaurant and the three of them were already there. I give Zulu his bag and have him carry it. He uses a two-handed sword but even when that sword has a blade of about 1 m and the handle is 30 cm because of his large build it seems he isn't uncomfortable wearing it on his waist.

The length itself is about the same as my bayonet.

We all eat breakfast and have the restaurant put water into our flasks. Even though Zulu is a slave he was grateful that he was allowed to eat the same food as us from the menu. It's fine, since your body is capital. After asking a bit, putting aside the amount it seems that normally it's only obvious to give combat slaves used by adventurers and in the army lower quality food. Hmph, is that so?

However, the menu that's lower quality than the breakfast we're eating at this restaurant is only 100 Z (1 copper coin) different per meal. Our breakfast is

300 Z and the one inferior to that is 200 Z. Is there any meaning in being stingy over 100 Z here... If you were in possession of a lot of slaves then it would be different but I still only have one after all.

“Zulu, it’s fine since you’re the candidate for my head slave.”

I said that. Since he was too focused on eating he didn’t respond. It’s fine though.

.....

When we arrived at the entrance plaza there was still a considerably crowd. While we were waiting in line I tried to give Zulu the silver coin to pay the entrance tax for the dungeon but I was stopped by the three of them. Paying the taxes is proof that you’re the owner so it’s fine if I pay for Zulu’s portion as well. So it’s that sort of thing.

It seems that Church-san is acting as the guard for the tax collector again today. After he saw my face he smiled at me so I smiled back. After safely paying the tax for the four of us we moved ahead and there was a stone stairway going underground. It seems that that teleport crystal rod or whatever is down here.

After going down the long stairway the corridor stretches out ahead. There’s torches along the walls so there’s no problem with light. I don’t know if it’s because it’s a wide stone hallway but it feels desolate. Several tens of meters ahead there’s a room with no door. It was just as the party of people that entered before us we’re going into the room.

We follow after them towards the room. In the space until the room at the end of the hall there’s several rooms with no doors along both sides of the hallway as well. I guess these are where you appear when you return from the dungeon. There was no party that came out when we were walking through.

In the center of the room at the end of the hall there was a square pedestal made of stone with no accessories that was about 70 cm high, above that there’s a thin crystal rod with a diameter of about 2–3 cm sticking out. The room itself is a small room of about 4 m per wall. The crystal rod sticking up from the pedestal seems to be about 80 cm. It’s true that about 10 people would be the limit for this length. On the surface of the crystal rod there was

light purple sexy letters flickering. I guess this is the incantation to teleport into the dungeon. There's various letters flickering. If it's too long will I be able to remember it?

When I approached and took a look at it I dumbfounded by what happened. As far as I can tell there's three types of letters. The first one is obviously this world's letters {Common}. However, the remaining two were bizarre. They were the English alphabet and Japanese hiragana. I spontaneously exchanged looks with Ralpa. I guess the two of them noticed our strange mood, Zenom and Zulu were looking at us suspiciously. Zenom said,

“What's wrong? It seems that only this one makes sense. Ba.ru.su huh? I guess this is the incantation? I'm sure you don't see crystals like this often so it's surprising but isn't it just as we had heard? It's not too long to remember after all. Come on, let's go.”

After saying that Zulu and Zenom quickly grabbed the crystal rod. Ralpa and I exchanged looks once more and after preparing ourselves grabbed hold of the crystal rod. They're all waiting for me to open my mouth. I guess I'm the one using this incantation. This incantation which seems like it would bring everything crumbling down.

“Barusu!”

Without anything crumbling to the ground, I wonder if in that instant the teleportation was completed? Just the pedestals and crystal that we were holding hasn't changed at all but the state of the room has changed completely. I knew since I had heard the stories but when you actually experience it, it's quite surprising.

I slowly let go of the crystal while restlessly looking around the surroundings. And the moment everyone's hands let go the crystal gave off a yellow light for an instant and there's characters floating on the surface again just like before. Let's see what it says? This time it says da.ri.o.fu huh? I guess it's not particularly words that have any sort of meaning. I was a bit relieved for some reason.

The location we teleported to was like the dead end of a cave. Just as I had heard all of the walls of the cave are giving off light. If you were to say you don't need light then it's true but with this much it might be good to have one. It

might be a good idea to buy a lighting magic tool that's been modified into a lantern.

Zenom got right to tying the string to a adequate rock. He's holding the bobbin with a stick in his left hand and has his axe hanging down in his right hand. I take my bayonet off my shoulder, take the scabbard off of the tip and hang it from the D ring on the waist of my protector so I'm ready for combat anytime as well. After Ralph and Zulu held their weapons our preparations were complete.

"Alright, then let's go. Just as I said yesterday I would lead at the front. Behind me is Ralph and next is Zenom. Zulu be careful of Zenom's string."

After confirming that everyone had nodded I start advancing but in several tens of meters we changed the order. The width of the cave gradually got wider and now it's about 8 meters wide. I wondered if it was really a good idea to move in a column in this cave. Now Zulu and I the two of us are standing at the lead and behind us we have Ralph and Zenom watching our backs. Also, while the ground of this cave is a bit rough and uneven it's not as if there's rocks all over the place and it's the texture of dirt. It feels more like the walls are dirt and there's stones scattered around in various places.

We add to the string of the bobbin and when we were about to add to it for the second time we could hear footsteps and voices like "buwan" and "gyau" from ahead of us. It's been a while since our eyes already adapted to the dull light. We have about 30–40 m in our field of vision. It's true we can do without a lantern I guess. Though supposedly there's places with no light at all as well so it would be better to at least have one on hand I'm sure. Since we don't intend to go to a place like that today it's unrelated but if we were to carelessly have a light on us then I'm sure they would notice us from a distance as well.

We all lower our bags and stand on guard with our weapons so if the opponent poses us any danger we can react right away. We left our bags near the edge of the cave. All of us moved to the walls on both sides and cautiously on guard. It seems that the cave continues straight ahead for a short while. Alright, Identify time. In order to depend on Identify for vision I tried using my Unique Ability. I can see the silhouette of a small humanoid 70–80 m ahead. It's a gnoll. It seems that they're all equipped with spears. The number is..11 of

them huh? I used Identify on the gnoll in the center and it's level was 3. If it's this then we can do it.

It would be more efficiently to wait for them to approach a bit closer. I held my breath while waiting for the group of gnolls to get closer. It seems that they're slowly approaching us. And after they moved about 10 m ahead their movements suddenly stopped. This is bad, did they notice us? Well, even if they noticed us it wouldn't make much of a difference. The gnolls immediately started advancing. However, they're all screaming something as they charge over here. Just as one would expect of a hyena I wonder if their noses are good? I don't think they had the special skill Super Sense of Smelling though. I wonder if it's an ability that isn't to the level of becoming a Special Skill?

Another 50 m. Still a ways to go.

Another 40 m. As expected the order of the gnolls has started to collapse. It's about time.

Another 30 m. Now's my chance! I jump out into the center of the hall and aim my left hand at the gnolls and discharged my spell. It's the spell {Ice Cone}. A cone-shaped spiral of frost spreads out from my left hand and simultaneously countless small blades of ice like cutters are fired off. I can't be bothered to aim every one of them so instead I just focused on pouring MP into increasing the number of blades. I'm sure they won't die from a cold wave of -30 degrees or so but it's plenty to maintain the small razor like blades made of ice. In the 15 degree or so cone-shaped area in front of my left hand the dense number of ice blades quickly turned the pitiful four gnolls at the head of the group into bloody corpses.

While I'm at it let's go with one more. Next is the spell {Chain Lightning}. It's quite literally an improved version of {Lightning Bolt}, the amount of MP it uses increases but after the electricity from this hits it splits even further and starts hitting other targets nearby one after another. The number of times it splits goes up to four times but the weakness is that it only goes up to targets in an area of about 90 degrees behind the target up to 5 m away before the divisions stop. However, if it even splits up once then it spreads out quite a bit from there. In the end the power of it falls to about half that of {Lightning Bolt} but for a low level opponent like gnolls then it should be plenty.

I don't think that this will wipe them all out. I had to maintain my concentration for the 1 second or so to maintain the magic until the divisions of the {Chain Lightning} had completed, I succeeded in killing another five of them with this spell. There's 2 gnolls remaining. They're 30 m ahead and I guess their morale dropped losing the majority of their allies, while they were spacing out I finished them off with consecutive uses of {Stone Arrow} without making them into missiles.

I succeeded in taking out 11 gnolls in a period of 10 seconds or so. It would be fine if the average level of the enemies on the 1st floor is this amount though...

"It was an easy victory. Let's gather the magic stones."

After I said that and picked up my bag the other three followed after me in a daze. It seems that even Zenom is dumbfounded. Did I overdo it a bit? I thought so but it was our first battle. Isn't it something you put some fighting spirit into? Including the {Stone Arrow} at the end I used close to 80 MP but it's an amount that doesn't even add up to 1% of my total MP. And if it's that amount then it should recover in 7–8 hours.

I hand Zulu a knife and while waiting for the other three to take out the magic stones I stand on guard in case monsters from from a bit ahead. I can clearly hear the conversations of the three while they're working.

"So master was a powerful magician, since master only used healing magic yesterday I didn't realize it."

"Yeah, he used magic when he met us as well but for it to have been to that extent.."

Uhaha, it's fine if you say even more. Since I'm the type that grows from being praised.

"Since I've become able to use magic, it's no good if I don't quickly become able to use it like that."

I think that's impossible, young lady.

In a bit over 10 minutes they finished gathering all of the magic stones. When I tried Identifying them the value was about 2,000. If we sell them at about 70% then it's about 150,000 Z huh? Furthermore, the weapons of the gnolls were

just sharpened wooden spears so I thought we wouldn't gather them but we might be able to use them for something. The length is about 1 m after all. For the time being I had Zulu carry about 3 of them. By the way, I wonder where in the world they got their hands on lumber?

We continued carefully advancing ahead. Let alone crossroads there's not even any curves. Isn't the string useless?

"Hey Zenom, wouldn't it be better to not use the string until the path splits up?"

I tried saying that but it seems that Zenom had the same idea. He immediately said "I guess so, wait just a minute" and ran off to the starting point. Since we've still only moved about 400 m, so I guess he went back to the teleport crystal in order to untie the string from the rock.

There's nothing in particular to do until Zenom returns. It's a short break of about 10 minutes. Even if I say that it's only been about 15 minutes since we teleported in and started exploring. The amount of time we spent gathering the magic stones was the longest. The combat itself was only about 10 seconds after all. We continue to remain cautious of ahead while waiting for Zenom to come back. Before long Zenom returned and started rolling up the string. Ah, I see. If we don't roll it back up then we can't use it again. I thought, wouldn't have been fine if he rolled it up as he came back, but it's certainly more efficient to have one person hold the string as another spins the bobbin.

We ended up spending a total of 30 minutes of inactivity but after pumping ourselves up again we slowly start to move forward while on guard.

We proceeded another 300 m. The same as usual the cave just keeps going straight ahead. I don't see any traps anywhere. However, it's quite exhausting to be careful of traps that you don't know where they might be. I thought we would be able to advance more comfortably but I guess I was underestimating it. Along the way we changed places so Zenom and Ralpa were at the lead and Zulu and I were in the back.

And soon after we changed positions we could hear small sounds form ahead of us. It seems like the sounds of combat but it's seems like it's quite far away as well. Zenom turns around to look at me. I nod to him and only say we should

slowly and cautiously keep moving ahead. In addition I also say, “if the enemy has equal numbers to us then we’ll fight using swords this time”. It’s fine if we keep moving forward using magic like this but with that it will end up being only me that earns any experience.

We can still hear the sounds of what seems to be combat. I can’t tell for sure but it seems to have gotten louder. Ralpa turns around and whispers.

“It seems like someone is fighting. Is it fine to not go and save them?”

“Eh? Why?”

“I mean, they’ve been fighting for quite a while and they might be having a difficult time right?”

It’s true that it’s been about a minute already since we heard the first shout and sounds. I think they’re most likely having a difficult fight. However, why is it necessary to go and save them? When I’m stumped for words Zenom came to my aid.

“Ralpa, it’s their own responsibility to adventure in the dungeon. If they’re having a difficult battle then it might be a strong enemy. It would be better to proceed carefully.”

That’s right, that’s right.

“And, we might end up buying unnecessary resentment like, don’t steal our game. Even if we went to their side like this it would probably be better not to suddenly interfere. We should limit it to just remaining spectators until the adventurers ask us to save them.”

That’s right, that’s right.

“..I understand. I guess that’s right, let’s slowly move ahead.”

It seems that Ralpa has understood as well. I,

“That’s right, and it’s not decided that it’s a different adventurer yet as well. Monsters might be fighting among themselves.”

added that to the conversation. Oh, I guess Zenom’s explanation was plenty. Since Ralpa has been an adventurer for quite a while I’m sure she can divide these things and if you properly explain it to her she’ll understand as well.

Somehow I feel like I'm being criticized when I hear an ex-high school girl with the appearance of a 14 year old girl say "Won't you go and save them?" to me.

We start proceeding ahead again cautiously. After going about 50 m the cave bends to the right for the first time. Since it's not a forked path there's still no need for the string. After turning right on the corner and the sounds suddenly got louder. I guess the sounds were being dampened somewhat by the corner until now. I can hear some shouts but it's not proper words. Just the sounds of monsters yelling and several combat sounds.

If it's an adventurer fighting them they might have been reduced down to just one left. If we run I wonder if we'll make it in time? My basis for it is weak but if it's me I could probably save them. If I use my excess mana and fire off magic consecutively wouldn't I be able to save them? Though it's their own responsibility, it would give me bad dreams to just let them die I guess.

In the next moment, Zenom raised his right hand and crouched down as he was moving ahead. What is it? is what I was thinking but after hearing Zenom's words my questions were answered.

"It's a trap. I think it's a pitfall... It seems like the edge of the cave would be alright. Be careful of it."

It's true it's just as Zenom says, ahead of him in the center of the cave there's an unnatural area of bulge that's about 5 m in diameter. That was dangerous~ If I had gotten impatient and ran to try and help there's no way I would have seen it. If I was careless then we all could have fallen into the pitfall there.

"Zulu, stand one of the spears on the side of it. It'll be a landmark for the trap."

If there's a powerful monster up here then we might need to retreat. I can't laugh at all at the possibility of overlooking the location of the trap when we're retreating and falling in the pitfall. It's a good thing we collected the spears. Though in reality I had actually had him collect them so Zulu could use them as throwing spears.

It seems that Zulu quickly realized my intention and after avoiding the pitfall he stabbed the spear into the center of the cave as a sign. There's a pitfall at the end of this spear. Another 50 m ahead in the cave and this time it bent to the

left. We remain cautiously while slowly proceeding ahead. The sounds of combat and screams of a monster are still ringing out. It's already been close to 10 minutes since we first noticed it. As we approached the corner the sounds got even louder. It should already be a bit over 10 meters away. I wonder if we'll be able to see after we turn this corner?

Thinking that I stopped everyone and stuck my body against the left wall while carefully sticking just my head out and peeked into the next hallway. I've already activated my Unique Ability Identify. Incidentally, I wasn't able to see through the pitfall trap with Identify. I think there's probably a thin cloth or dirt covering the pitfall. That's why my glance can't see through the structure of the trap and thus I wasn't able to find it with identify.

In a place about 30 m ahead of the corner there's a group of about 20 goblins fighting. I see several of them on the ground as well. I don't see any figures of adventurers. It seems to be a fight between monsters. I tried using Identify on several of them but the levels were 2–4 and not that strong. I quietly returned to where everyone was and said.

"There's a group of goblins fighting about 30 m ahead of here. The number totals about 20 of them. From what I can tell if we were to ambush them then we can win I'm sure. I can end things in one hit with magic but what should we do?"

And then Zulu said surprised in a low voice.

"You can still use magic! But..I'll show you I can be useful. If it's just goblins I'll show you I can cut them to pieces!"

Zenom says,

"20 of them huh...It's quite a few but if it's just goblins I'm sure we can win. Shall we go!?"

that. It's good to see he's energetic.

"20 of them indeed. Then, we'll charge into them so Al should prepare to use magic in order to not let any of them escape."

It seems Ralpa is good to go as well. Alright.

“Then, Zulu, you take the lead. Charge in. Zenom go from behind Zulu on the right. Ralpa you cover Zenom’s blind spots. I’ll try throwing the gnolls spears but don’t count on this. I can’t do anything more than the initial intimidation. First, I’ll throw one spear from the corner. At the same time as I jump out from the corner everyone charge in. If anyone gets injured, I’m sure the goblins we be able to run away but put priority on being healed. Alright?”

I simply decide the order of assault and gave instructions on it. If it’s just at the level of goblins then I’m sure there shouldn’t be any problems with just brute-forcing through them. And as long as no one dies instantly then I can heal them so, well there shouldn’t be any problem.

After checking the timing I jump out from the corner and with Zulu at the lead, the three rangers, otherwise known as my allies let out a roar while charging in.

While looking at their backs I use all of the muscles in my body like pulling back a bow and throw the wooden spear overhead of them. Obviously my aim sucks. In the first place, I’ve never thrown a spear before. It’s fine even if it doesn’t hit. I made excuses to myself while praying for the spear to hit but I saw it stab into the ground in front of the group of goblins. How pathetic~ Next time maybe I’ll try making the spear throwing device {Atlatl}.

I quickly saw Zulu and the others attack the group of goblins. It seems that the goblins who were fighting had no idea what was going on. Starting from the unlucky one that was stabbed through the back by Zulu’s two-handed sword, and the ones who’s heads were split open by one hit of Zenom and Ralpa’s {Tomahawks} and the confusion of the goblins got even worse it seems. It seems that the group that the first three that were killed was a part of it thought Zulu and them were helpers for the other side and the other side misunderstood that their allies increased.

I watch that while preparing myself with the last remaining spear and after approaching a bit closer I threw it at the one on the end. However, the spear missed this time as well and stabbed into the corpse of a goblin that had already died on the side. I had intended to aim carefully but since it’s literally just a sharpened wooden stick, I’m sure it’s not something you can hit with so easily just by aiming as you throw it.

Zulu is swinging the two-handed sword like a fierce god, without letting any goblins get near him any goblins that existed inside of his reach just turned into dead goblins. Every time that iron storm-like gale moves forward another one and another of the moving goblins decrease in numbers. Zenom and Ralpa seem to be taking them down one at a time making sure to finish them off in one hit each.

In a few minutes the goblins had been reduced to less than half and the remaining goblins are just recklessly swinging their cudgels while screaming which doesn't seem like anything more than they've fallen into panic. I use the spell {Stone Arrow Missile} to shoot through the backs of any of them that try to run from a distance, it's already gotten to the point where I can just concentrate on the operation itself.

In the end, without even taking 10 minutes the three of them were able to wipe out a group of 20 goblins unharmed. After that we gathered magic stones again and continued exploring even further into the dungeon.

I wonder if it's still about 8 am in the morning? It's a good start for the first day.

Chapter 76: Zulu

Year 7442, Month 6, Day 4

I think we've already proceeded about 1Km from where teleported. Up until here it's been a straight path with nowhere to get lost. I wonder what part of this is a "dungeon"? When I'm thinking things like that we finally arrived at a split path. One of them is a wide cave that continues ahead. The other one is a narrow cave with a width of about 2-3m that bends to the right.

"From here on out, thinking about the possibility of shifting positions in the chance that we run into a power enemy, I think we should just keep going on the wide path for today but how about?"

I tried asking Zenom and,

"I guess so. Either way we've put a time limit on it for today so there's no need to overdo things. I agree with Al. Let's continue ahead like this."

and replied with that. If I can get Zenom to agree with me then it should be fine. Continuing after Zenom,

"What should we do about the string? Judging from how things look here I don't think it's necessary but.."

Yeah. It's true it doesn't like we need it here? Thinking that I was about to reply and,

"Just in case, I think it would be a good idea to prepare the string. There might be another forked road right away beyond here."

Ralpa said that. What the, she's acting strangely cautious. However, there's no problem with being too careful.

"I guess that's right. Since it's still our first time, let's proceed carefully here. If we don't need it then it's fine if we just return to collect it again."

After I reply like that and Zenom quickly started looking for an appropriate rock to tie the string to at the split paths. While Zenom was tying the string to a

rock I tried using Identify to look down the narrow path but I didn't see anything particularly suspicious, I only saw that there was a curve a bit over 10 meters on the left.

After the preparations were done with the string we continued advancing ahead cautiously again with Zulu and I at the front.

.....

During the period we added to the string five times there were three split paths. We continued moving forward while picking the widest paths of the cave. In terms of traps there was one pitfall but it was fine since we skillfully noticed where it was. It's a bit difficult that you can't tell it's there unless you notice the small differences on the ground. Unable to imagine what kind of traps you might run into while slowly moving forward wears away at your nerves.

Incidentally, we collected the gnoll spears again and stuck it into the ground near the pitfall like before so it should be relatively easy getting back.

We continue ahead more.

There's yet another split path. This time it's split up in three directions like a crossroad. Other than the front wide cave the other two paths are somewhat narrow caves.

However, other than just the crossroad we found another thing different from the forks until now. On the side of where the paths split there was 30 cm diameter or so normal rock but that rock had a string tied around it. The string is the same type of cotton string we're using but it doesn't seem to be a new one.

"What do you think?"

I asked no one in particular.

"If you think about it normally then a party of adventurers other than us would be ahead of this."

Zenom replied.

"But, this string is considerably dirty. It's questionable whether that party of

adventurers is still alive.”

Zulu replied while crouching down and observing the string.

“Then it’s decided. Let’s try following this string. If they’re wiped out then we might be able to get our hands on their equipment.”

Ralpa makes a suggestion that you wouldn’t think she’s an ex-high school girl. Well, I was thinking the same thing but if they were wiped out then I think we would run into the corpses of humans or non-humans, I wonder if she’s fine with that? Also, it’ll be like grave robbing but I wonder if that’s fine. Though it is one of the objectives in the dungeon.

“Alright, then let’s follow along this string. If it goes well then just like Ralpa said we could get our hands on some equipment.”

After I said that and everyone started proceeding down the cave that breaks to the right following the old string. The string continues without breaks.

Since there’s a string I think it’s okay to believe there wouldn’t be any pitfalls below it. When I tried saying that Zenom said,

“No, I don’t think we can let our guards down. It’s also possible to think that this string itself is some kind of trap. I think we should proceed carefully just as we have until now.”

and replied with that. It’s true that’s the case. We brace ourselves more than ever and sharpen our senses as we move ahead.

We continue past several corners and follow the string along split paths. It’s long. An hour has already passed. I think we’ve proceeded for about 1 Km? During this time other than our footsteps and voices from talking occasionally there’s almost no sound. Occasionally we can hear something like a small scream echo through.

Come to think of it, it seems that there’s a large scale tunnel like this underground but I don’t see anything like air holes or ventilation. I wonder where the air is coming from? Suddenly that thought crossed my mind.

I think about such things that don’t matter for now (no, it does matter though) as we continued moving ahead and I can tell there’s a somewhat large

room at the end of the cave. At the break of the cave about 30 m ahead it seems that other than the floor the walls and roof have disappeared. The string continues into that room. I somehow have a bad feeling. I think I should stand at the head here. I gently increase my pace and stand at the front. With a simple gesture I give out instructions to follow after me.

I use Identify and look at everything that I can within my field of vision (even if I say that it's just a big larger than the cave). I can tell there's things that appear to be rocks and a wall further in. The roof is also a bit higher than the cave but not too far to be seen.

I sweep over my limited field of vision carefully with my eyes. And, I've found something artificial in the right corner blocking my vision of the cave wall. I reflexively Identified it.

It seems to be a sword.

【Broad Sword】

【Iron】

【State:Good】

【Manufacture Date:9/6/7440】

【Value:97500】

【Endurance:480】

【Ability:100–150】

【Effect:None】

It's something made about two years ago and you could say it's reasonably new. Is there anything else? I look around even more carefully. I see something long and thin.

【Spear】

【Oak Wood.Iron】

【State:Good】

【Manufacture Date:30/3/7441】

【Value:45800】

【Endurance:324】

【Ability:50–160】

【Effect:None】

I couldn't see anything else from where I'm standing. In order to open up my field of vision I need to move even further in. However, if I move ahead I might run into the opponent that made the owner of these weapons so they can never hold them again. If possible I'd like to Identify that opponent. If it's a monster then it might be a powerful opponent. Hmn.

However, even after holding our breath and slowly moving forward nothing seemed like it was going to come and attack us. I wonder if there's already no living creatures in this room? I want to consult with Zenom but it would be bad to make a noise. It's possible that it just still hasn't noticed us yet. I quietly turn around and after looking at Zenom, Ralpha, and Zulu I nod. After facing ahead again we start moving ahead slowly again.

I wonder how many minutes it took for us to move a few meters. Sweat is gathering on my forehead from how tense I am.

Every time my field of sight opens up I use Identify more. After all it seems to be the remains of what used to be adventurers. And the presence of a creature clearly different from that.

I can hear a small sound almost like a heavy bag is being dragged along. The one making the sound still hasn't entered my sight. I get angry at myself wondering if I should use Identify when I see it at a time like this or just use a spell to attack it right away.

If the corpse is remaining then if it's immediately after death I can identify it just as it was when it was living so I should probably attack first here.

I quietly take my left hand off of the fore-grip of my bayonet and relax so I can use a spell at any time.

I move my feet as I slowly move forward. There's already only about 10 m until the room that's in front of my eyes.

Though the range I can see has stretched out quite a bit from the 2 m or so width of the cave I still can't see the walls of the room in front of me. It's probably about 50 m in depth. Since I don't know the distance to the walls on both sides I can't just blindly freeze everything either. If my sight doesn't pass through once then I can't use dirt or ice.

I don't know if it's my imagination but the sound seems like it's getting louder.

I don't know if it's getting louder because we're approaching it or it's approaching us or both though. I wonder if this is the type of sound a monster makes when it moves? If that's the case then it's movements might be dull. No wait, it would probably be better to think it's normally dull but gets faster when in combat. And going off of the sound it's probably pretty large. It's definitely not a small monster that walks on two feet like goblins and gnolls.

Another 5 m to the exit of the cave. I can still hear the sound but it also sounds like it's getting farther as well. It's hard to tell. My field of sight has gotten a lot wider. Other than the first two there's other weapons and shields laying around. But, I don't see anything like corpses or bones anywhere. I wonder what this means? Were they eaten?

While gradually moving forward I noticed it. There's a bit of a rotten smell. I guess it's the smell of the owners of the equipment laying around. In the edge of my increased sight I can see the walls on the sides finally. It's a room that's around 50 m in every direction I guess. It's considerably large. As a bonus what was making the sounds entered my sight as well.

On the right side of the large room there's a large 3 m long or so caterpillar like monster and it's trying to move further into the large room. Since it has that large build, I think it can probably endure one or two hits of a spell just like the Horned Bear did. I hesitated for a moment but I quickly activated the spell. It's the spell {Audible Clamor}.

Since it's a caterpillar I thought it's movements would be dull. I made the noise in a place a bit away in order to keep its attention as far away from over here. Along with the activation of the spell there was a loud rupturing noise almost like when the tire of a car goes flat further in the large room. Simultaneously I

noticed the movements of the monster get faster. It's surprisingly fast. If we were to run we would be faster but it's faster than I imagined.

Since I made a loud noise I guess the three behind me were surprised, they all held their breath but it seems they immediately noticed the caterpillar running further into the room and each of them prepared their weapons but aren't moving yet.

I think it took about 6–7 seconds for the caterpillar to move further into the large room where I triggered the sound. If I have that much time then it's plenty to open the Identify window and check its HP while preparing the next spell. It has about 150 HP. Next I used {Lightning Bolt}. The electricity released penetrated the caterpillar. I promptly fired off {Flame Arrow}. A bundle of five arrows of fire fly off towards the caterpillar, otherwise known as Scavenger Crawler.

The arrows of fire pierce through it's skin that looks like it's made of green rubber and it seems to have burnt the surrounding areas. It seems I fired them off into it's ass but it properly did damage. In the Identify window it's HP has gone to –23. It's still not dead but it's a serious injury on the verge of death. The Scavenger Crawler is just convulsing. Before it dies I guess I'll read out the Identify window.

【】

【Male/4/9/7423 · Scavenger Crawler】

【Condition: Shock Wound, Burn】

【Age: 19 Years Old】

【Level: 13】

【HP: –23(151) MP: 26(26)】

【Strength: 10】

【Speed: 8】

【Dexterity: 25】

【Endurance: 55】

【Special skill: Paralysis】

While I'm at it I'll open the Special Skill Paralysis as well.

【Special skill: Paralysis(Scavenger Crawler); There's a sharp thorn on the end of the eight feelers of the outer structure of the Scavenger Crawler and the end of those feelers are always wet from mucus secreted from the thorn. Any living creature up to 200 Kg without resistance to paralysis will immediately be violated by the paralysis and have all other voluntary motions than swallowing and breathing obstructed. The effects of the paralysis last the same amount of days as the level of Scavenger Crawler but it's possible to offset through the level of victim. However, it will still last for at least one day. Nevertheless, if the level of the victim exceeds the level of the Scavenger Crawler by more than 10 levels then they will not be effected by the paralysis. Also, if their weight exceeds 200 Kg, it requires an additional 10 seconds per 10 Kg of weight for the paralysis to take effect. In order for the victim to recover from the effect of the paralysis prior to the duration of the effect they must either use a potion to remove paralysis (limited to magic potions) or use detoxification magic. Furthermore, since the paralysis special skill of the Scavenger Crawler is not a poison but rather closer to a magic effect, in order to resist it either an ability that provides resistance to paralysis or resistance to magic is necessary.】

From just a glance it seems to be a pretty dangerous opponent. I think it would be best for our sake to finish it off right away but after looking around the large room there doesn't seem to be any other monsters than this one. Since I have some room here I should try experimenting. I sent a {Stone Arrow} flying. Along with a popping noise the arrow of stone stabbed into the Scavenger Crawler's body. It's HP went down to -34. Hmm. This time I try using {Ice Arrow}. It's HP is -43. So this one does more damage huh. I wonder if {Air Cutter} can cut through it. HP became -49. This one's no good.

With how thick it's skin seems to be I doubt any gravel-type magic that fires off stones would do much damage. It's probably no good if it isn't at least an arrow-type. The Scavenger Crawler should completely die in another 6 points of damage. Among the arrow-types {Flame Arrow} did the most damage. It was about 15 damage per arrow. I wonder if the damage is greater because it's Fire-type? Well whatever. I'll quickly finish it off. I dealt the final blow with the spell

{Flame Arrow}.

After confirming that it's condition has changed to Death in the Identify window, I take a breath.

Before I tell Zulu to go and gather the magic stone, I told everyone to carefully move ahead.

During that time I tried opening the sub-window of Identify.

【Scavenger Crawler; A species of the Crawler race. Length 3m all around. Lifespan is roughly 50 years. Produced from eggs. It's always giving off a rotten smell and moves on multiple legs. After paralyzing their prey with the eight feelers, they wrap their prey up in a cocoon and preserve them. They use the large pair of jaws on both sides of their mouth to chew their prey. There's countless saw-like teeth on both sides in their mouth and they grind down their prey before eating them. They can detect sound through the ear holes on both sides of their body and can detect visible light through the two slug or feeler-like eyes on their head. They have no sense of smell. They go into heat once in a couple of years and after breeding with the opposite sex lay up to 10 eggs. During the six month period until the eggs hatch the parent stays near the eggs in order to protect them. It prefers tainted meat but in order to secure food for the future it will actively attack other living creatures. After paralyzing the prey it ferments them in the cocoon made of string from it's tail then feeds on them.】

I got a feeling of unease when I was reading the Identify window for the Scavenger Crawler's race. Ah, not in the details of the window itself. In any case, there's no choice other than to put off the feeling of unease for now. Let's quickly gather the articles of the deceased, take the magic stone and say goodbye to this place. I'm innocently missing the sun. It's a bit early but I think we should already turn back for today.

After I instructed Zulu to gather the magic stone we started gathering the equipment scattered around the large room. There's four iron swords and three spears. Two round shields made of wood and iron that are around 40 cm in diameter. Also, seven of what appears to be knives. It seems that all other organic materials than the metal and wood portions were melted in that things

stomach. There's not even a single leather glove left.

The weapons aren't particularly rusted so you could probably put them up for sale just as they are. Since this large room is pretty dry. However, it's not a good idea to directly fight against a Scavenger Crawler. If it weren't for magic then let alone a hard fight we could have easily taken the paralysis and been done in.

Well, the experience was huge though. It was a bit over 7,000. I got about 3,800 from the group of gnolls this morning and about 180 for the two goblins I killed. It's huge that I was able to earn close to 11,000 experience. It's enough to start laughing. If we keep up like this and earn the same amount of experience once again then I'll level up.

Zulu finished gathering the magic stone. It's one with a diameter of 3 cm. The color is slightly grey and it has a value of about 5,000. It's not much at all. Even though the Horned Bears had a value of close to 100,000.

Putting aside the Scavenger Crawler since we obtained a bunch of equipment I declared that this was plenty for today.

On the way back without any particular problems we were able to return to the teleport crystal. Just in case I checked it but the incantation still hadn't changed from "da.ri.o.fu". Suddenly, I was interested in what would happen if you left someone behind but I realized that at most the incantation would change and nothing else so after confirming everyone had grabbed on to the crystal rod we teleported.

.....

The time was still just past noon. In order to sell the equipment we found for money we went to the blacksmith. We were able to sell the swords for around 500,000 Z each. The spears were about 200,000 — 250,000 Z. The shields were 300,000 Z. In total it came out to sales of 3,260,000 Z. We made a killing. I gave Zenom and Ralpa a bonus of 100,000 Z each and in addition give Zulu the money for his inn and we split up until dinner for today.

After we split up from Zenom and Ralpa, I went to eat lunch with Zulu. Since we did so well I splurged a bit and added the pork skewer option to our lunch set. Zulu was extremely grateful but I interrupted his words and said.

“You know, Zulu. It’s fine. It’s true I bought you as a combat slave. That’s why there’s no mistake I’m your master. However, that’s because, I bought you because I definitely knew I needed you. That’s why, just eat your meals boldly. If I had no intention of properly looking after a slaves meals then I wouldn’t have bought one in the first place.”

Somehow I can’t explain it properly.

“Thank you very much, master. But I am the second son of a commoner and it’s not like I was officially made into a squire. It’s true that I haven’t missed out on training with the sword since I was a child. However, when I was captured in the battle a while back, my older brother was able to return when his ransom was paid but I had given up right from the start. That was quite literally, I felt I was happy just to be alive. Ah, it’s not as if I resent my older brother. I just gave up thinking that this was my fate. I thought for sure that I would end up having to fight Devas or even the people from my own village as a war slave.”

What is it? A story of his origins?

“But, after being sold to a slave trader on the battlefield I was passed around and came to this Baldukk. If I was brought into the battlefield then I thought of rampaging as much as I could. I thought I would make a it a brilliant end at least. However, it won’t go that way in Baldukk. There’s a dungeon in the Kingdom of Devas as well. It’s called the Dungeon of Benkelish. Do you know of it?”

“No, sorry. I don’t know it.”

“I see, well it is a dungeon in a foreign country after all, it’s not unreasonable that you wouldn’t know of it. However, the dungeon of Benkelish is famous for the mortality rate of combat slaves that challenge it together with adventurers. I heard that they are often used as shields against monsters or depending on the case as lures. That’s why I thought that would be the same in Baldukk. I thought I would definitely end up being left to be eaten by a monster in the place of the one who buys me in the underground of Baldukk.”

“..”

“But, I was lucky being purchased by master. You prepared a high-quality sword for me and even have prepared armor. Not just that but when I thought I

would always be at the front in the most dangerous place, I was properly allowed to change positions. Just before that caterpillar monster I was surprised that master stayed at the front. Even though you don't know what is waiting, even though it seemed like a frightening large room, master took on the most dangerous position himself. It was so surprising that I couldn't close my mouth."

I didn't bother turning around every time so I didn't know.

"And by using that powerful magic in succession you defeated the monster in no time at all. Master, please tell me. Why was I purchased? I think that with master's ability then you could enter the dungeon all on your own. That seems to be the strangest to me."

"..Just like Zulu worried about several times, it's not like my mana is infinite. There's a limit to the things I can do myself."

"However, I feel that master could take on dozens of knights all on his own..."

"Yeah, if the situation allows then I'm sure I could do that sort of thing as well. If they come at me several at a time or if it's an area like in the dungeon where there's not a lot of space for movement. However, it's impossible in an area outside or a large room like the one today. And just like I said eventually I'll run out of mana, it's not like I can swing a sword forever as well. I need to eat as well and if I don't sleep I won't last a whole day I'm sure."

My ability to go through consecutive battles is just as I said but if it was just at a level of 100 or so people outside then I could bury them in dirt or other things probably.

"..It's true, that is just as master says. I just said taking on several dozen knights, though it went in a slightly different direction than what I suggested but...No, I feel that the thing that I was saying while small was understood from the response just now."

Most likely, what Zulu wanted to say was as long as I make proper preparations and remain careful then at the very least couldn't I take on any monster on the 1st floor. I wonder what I was going for hopping on Zulu's figurative example and then intentionally responding to it in a different direction? But, you know, it's hard to say to your own slave that the reason you

bought them was because you wanted a human shield. No, it might be fine even if I say it though. Somehow I don't want to.

However, to the first serious question and expression Zulu has shown me I want to respond as honestly as possible.

"Zulu. Could it be you're worried that you're just baggage that's in the way? If that's the case then throw away that way of thinking right now. It's true that if you were to fight head on you probably wouldn't even be able to win against Ralpa who's woman. But, so what about that? Will you forever be unable to win against her?

And even if you can't win against her directly with a sword then isn't it fine to just find something else you can win with? Do you intend to spend the rest of your life with only as much ability as you have now? If that's the case then you would have made me your owner waste his money. Well, if that's the case then it's simply the fact that I don't have an eye for people though."

Zulu was looking at the food on the table while listening to my words but he properly looked at my eyes while responding.

"You must be joking. I'll prove to you that I was a cheap purchase."

"Yeah, that's how it needs to be. We'll enter the dungeon again tomorrow morning. For today eat properly and rest."

I grin then smile and said while bring the pork skewer to my mouth.

After finishing our meal I told Zulu that we would all be meeting for dinner at the restaurant we ate breakfast at and handed him his bag before I left the store.

Side Story 14: In the case of Chigusa Hayato (Age 27 at time of accident)

I'm not in luck. I'm not in luck at all. Chigusa Hayato has spent his time thinking that. Since he was able to study reasonably well he got decent grades and was able to graduate from a college with a reasonably good reputation, and while he went through quite a bit of trouble to find employment he was able to find a job at a company that wouldn't be made fun of as second-rate. At the start of last year he retired from that company though.

Since he had slightly good memory and was a bit mature for his age when he was young, there was a period where he was called a genius by his parents and relatives. He was good looking as well. Thanks to that his pride was naturally high and he often looked down on his classmates at school and people in his surroundings with no ability. It wasn't particularly that his physique was bad but as he grew up he gradually moved away from exercise and spent more time reading books or playing games.

Since even if he didn't particularly put any effort into it he could get good grades until he entered high school he had good enough grades to be considered an honors student. However, starting from high school the excellent characteristics he had since he was born stopped working so it couldn't be helped and he started to study but he wasn't able to get as good of grades as he thought. Pushed by an unfounded confidence that "as long as I do it seriously I can do it" even then he didn't study seriously (the person himself thought he was studying seriously though).

In the end he was unable to make anyone close enough to call friends during high school, in the end what prevented him from developing relations beyond just the surface was that he developed the bad habit of looking down on other people somewhere in his heart, and he had become a person who just points out all of the flaws of people. He looked down as people in sports clubs who put in the effort as just beating "muscle-brains" while he indulged in his hobbies of games, manga, and novels.

Also, he would call the people with even the slightest bad behavior that are in any school DQNs and openly look down on them. Obviously even among them there were those that had good grades individually but because he hated their personality that quickly picks fights and uses violence he looked down on them. However, the thing that says the most for kids between their mid and late teens is physical strength and since he also knew they had leadership as well he secretly was jealous of them as well but it's something that the person himself would never accept. After all, Hayato is a coward who never has fought anyone since the time he was child and in order to hide this complex he's taken the outward justification of "no matter what your reason is violence is the lowest behavior" in order to avoid fights.

It could be said that it was great luck for him that he was somehow able to enter an upper-middle class college in that situation but the person himself was displeased with it. The amount of socializing he had to do was reduced even further in college compared to his high school days and was limited to just going for a drink with the people he was familiar with but couldn't call friends but it never developed into anything further. Obviously he's never gone out with a girl even once as well.

The fact that he was able to find employment was such a big thing that you would almost have to doubt it was some kind of mistake but without even being grateful for that good luck, he instead looked down on the large companies who dropped him at the paperwork screening stage by thinking "they don't have an eye for people" or "that companies human resources department is incompetent so I didn't make it through the screening". Of course, since his degree wasn't in the sciences so it wouldn't have any use other than office work, sales, or logistics related but since it was written on his resume that he wanted an occupation in research and development it's that much more pathetic, but as usual the person himself continued with his unfounded confident that "as long as I do it seriously I should be able to do anything better than the average person."

Through occurrences like this his twisted complex and habits of looking down on others remained strong while only his age became an adult but there's no way he could skillfully perform himself in society. After sending several dozen

companies his resume, repeating interviews, gradually the rank of places he applies for starts to drop, without even paying attention to occupation just trying to find jobs wherever, even though he was finally able to find employment, he was unable to compromise with his superiors and threw down his resignation with just momentum.

Of course, it's not as if it's not also the fault of Hayato's superiors, but in these sorts of situations, over 90% of it is the individuals responsibility. The ones who make the compromises aren't the people above you, it's only obvious that the subordinates give in. However, after finding employment and spending a few years with a stable lifestyle his natural personality started to hold its head up again. Though reinforcing his personality with info from the net, "humans are all equal", "I'm sick of lowering my head to superiors that can't even do their own jobs", "black companies are against the labor standard laws", and he started seriously believing in things that are unrealistic once again, so there's no way he could get along well in society.

Even people who think things like that don't put them into words if it's a person who has some amount of life experience then it's easy to tell from a glance that they're giving off a wrong impression and building up dissatisfaction inside them. Obviously there's no way he could leave good results on his jobs. Naturally his assessment followed the lowest line possible. However, it's also true that just Chigusa Hayato felt displeased with that assessment.

Under the false belief that "I'm a superior human. I just haven't gotten serious yet.", "Even if I quit this company that gives me unfair assessments there's plenty of other offers", he resigned but after quitting in 2014 he still hasn't found any hope of finding employment again. In other words, if anywhere in his life he had thought "My abilities are at best normal. Since I was finally able to find employment I need to do whatever I can to keep it, there's no other option than to put some effort into it." and started to take his job seriously, while listening some unreasonable aspects of his company honestly then he could have lived his life without any major mistakes. Without even realizing that the "unlucky" thing was that he made it to the age of 27 without realizing something that simple could be called his misfortune.

Once again today he went to an interview for reemployment but while

replying to the obstinate questions of the human resources person he was barely able to endure throwing a temper and he thinks he was somehow able to act courteously. Since he hasn't had lunch yet today so while thinking about eating something at the final stop of the bus Shinjuku station, he ended up having a truly "unlucky" event befall him.

.....

It was an event that happened in an instant. When I was vaguely thinking about the menu for lunch today in my seat on the bus, I felt a large shock, and soon after that my body was penetrated by something like a steel material as I died. I didn't even have enough time to comprehend what happened.

(Ah, my life is really unlucky~)

Unable to properly breathe in a pain where his entire body is being crushed, Chigusa Hayato is thinking such foolish things as usual. Well, it would be harsh to criticize him for this. In any case, just the same as all of the other people involved in the accident, he reincarnated on Orth. The place he reincarnated to was a town ruled by a Baron in the southern parts of Rombert Kingdom. Chigusa Hayato was born as the third son of a serf family that lives on the edge of a town a commoner that serves that Baron owns.

Obviously unable to understand what was happening and unable to control his emotions he cried in a loud voice. When he finally was able to comprehend his situation about half a year had passed. I don't know why but it seems that I'm living my life* once again as a baby. And while he said life* he was able to understand that his new life wasn't a human but the non-humans that come out in manga and novels. The new name he was given is Beilett Dereonola. Nickname Beil.

I don't know what the language they're speaking is at all but since it seems that English words are included it's a bit of a relief. If I just listen to the words I know then I somehow understand what they're saying. In any case in order to communicate I have to learn the words first. First I need to start listening to the conversations around me.

Another year passed like that and finally the naming ceremony was held. There he saw something happen that he couldn't help but think was a joke. The

Status Open. After that when no one else was looking he tried using Status Open on himself and was shocked. Special Skill and Unique Abilities. The Special Skill is “Super Hearing”. The Unique Ability is “Highly Efficient Digestive System”. What’s that? is what I was thinking but it’s not like I can ask anyone so I’ll just ignore it. I guess I’ll try it out when I’m eating. “Super Hearing” is the racial skill of us Bunny-men and I’ve both heard about it and used it before. I guess it’ll be fine if I just consciously try to use it like that.

Right away I tried it during dinner that day. Since it’s a “Highly Efficient {Digestive} System”, it would probably be appropriate to use it after eating. When I tried using it after they fed me I was surprised. My full stomach quickly felt empty again and just as I thought that I suddenly felt tired. It might be good to try using it after meals for a while. It’s the job of a baby to eat and sleep after all. While thinking that Beil stopped resisting it and went to sleep that day.

His parents were relieved that he fell asleep right after eating. It was normal from him to be peevish during meals. Since it was common for him to still be awake even after burping after meals so they were relieved there was no need to even cradle him.

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Several days after that. Beil was shocked once again. He met God in his dreams. About the fact that victims of the accident were reincarnated to this Orth and the fact that all of the people who were reincarnated were given a Unique Ability he was given an explanation on. And, the 15 minutes he was given to ask questions. That no matter what he does he won’t be able to return to his previous life already. A simple explanation of his ability “Highly Efficient Digestive System”. About the various types of magic including {Named} and {Status Open}. Monsters. Non-humans. Slave system. The lowest social class. Feudalistic government. His time disappeared in no time at all. He thought it was a dream but after waking up there was a window floating in front of him that almost makes fun of people.

It wasn’t a dream. It’s reality. For a moment I was a bit excited but it was short-lived, I quickly remembered that I was a part of the lowest ranking the Slave ranking in this world. Unable to control my emotions I cried.

I thought about telling my family about my Unique Ability but it seems that it can't be seen with Status Open so I kept quiet. Even if I did tell them about it I feel like they would just reduce the amount of food they give me. That's why I decided to keep my Unique Ability a secret. When I checked with Status Open after meeting God I noticed my Unique Ability had become level 1. After a short while it became level 2. I guess this is the so-called level up. I thought about it for a bit but there's no way I can know if that's true.

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Several years passed.

Several months before he turned 5 years old Beil was sold to a slave trader that came to the village. There was poor harvests in the village that year and the entire village was gasping from the poverty. He was dissatisfied with it but it couldn't be helped and most likely thanks to "Highly Efficient Digestive System" only Beil was able to remain healthy with the small amount of food he received so Beil ended up as the target for purchase. More importantly than that while Beil voiced his complaints about it when thinking about how he might go insane spending his entire life in this village he was secretly delighted.

The place I was sold was a leather craftsman in the town of Baldukk in the King's direct territory. It seems that I have the job of tanning leathers from beasts here. The details of the job at the place I was brought on the carriage were to the point that just doing farm work in my birth village would have been much better. The operation of tanning leather requires not only strength but also alum and other chemicals. The only salvation was that I'm a child so at first I'll be used for the errands but I'm sure I'll be forced to work on tanning the leathers myself just like the other adults. Making cracks in my hands just like them, barely earning any money and using it to rarely drink to fight off the gloom. I wonder if I'll live that sort of life.

Just thinking about it I can't see anything but despair. I even thought about trying to run away if I find a chance. But, I have nowhere I can go and it's not just extremely difficult to live without having your status checked, it's basically impossible. In the first place, if I run away then there's no way to avoid the life of a slave after that. Even if a slave appears in the temple without a contract the priests will definitely not perform the naming ceremony. And if my identity is

exposed then I could be chased as an escaped slave.

Of course, in reality the job is certainly harsh and you can't live in comfort but even as a slave tanning leathers is a job with reasonable wages. If you continue to work seriously and avoid living too luxuriously then you could even buy a house with the support of your owner. Furthermore since it's not incorrect to say you're an artisan of tanning leathers so if you can make a good quality of leather you could sell your name and there's even the possibility of gaining fixed clients who want the products you make.

As a matter of fact, the leather trader who owns him is in his 50s now but he was originally a slave as well. After gaining a good sponsor he was able to become a Free Person. After that he gave it his best providing the highest quality leathers he could, saved up his money, and in order to have the most leeway possible for his business bought his way into the commoner ranking. Since the commoner ranking is also the same ranking as soldiers it's believed to be difficult to become but if you just pay money to the noble who rules over the town you're in then it's not that impossible to become a commoner in name. However, the cost requires at least over 10 gold coins though that's not an amount that a skilled artisan can't save up.

However, with the personality that he has had up until now he doesn't even have the willpower to try challenging a method that would take as much time as that. If it's come to this then I'll live in the moment and it didn't take long for him to start thinking like that.

.....

Another several years pass by and Beil has turned 13 years old. Though he decided to live in the moment he was too scared to commit any crimes. If you're found stealing then it's being whipped, it doesn't add up to how much you could profit. It's the same for robbery and murder. It was several years spent with not enough courage to completely step off the normal path just building up his discontent. After turning 10 years old he started to take on the actual job of tanning leather and since he's been doing the heavy labor as a child for the past few years he's always been tired, with no stamina remaining to play, unable to help it he just keeps tanning leathers day after day.

However, along with that whether it could be considered a good thing for Beil himself, his wages were also raised... It's true that thanks to his Unique Ability he was able to gain the maximum amount of nutrients from an extremely small amount of food. Therefore, if he puts all of his increased wages into savings then he is able to save up money at a quick pace.

He didn't have a taste for alcohol but he ended up getting hooked on the brothel that his senior slave brought him to. In his previous life Beil had a strange fastidiousness and aversion to buying a woman with money but if he's unable to live in the moment and commit any crimes then he thought it would be fine to just step off the path in a different way. And it didn't take much time at all for him to get hooked on the act that took place there. During the first few times it was with his seniors but eventually he started going alone.

It's not that he particularly became interested in a woman at the store. He just was drowning in the pleasures of the flesh. Pay money and buy time with a good woman. During that time he's buying he can own a slave. The impact of pleasure in being able to put someone else under your control was plenty to change Beil's view on life. Beil immediately thought. Ah, the people who got hooked in the sex industry in my previous life must have known this pleasure. Obviously this is a complete misunderstanding but since he had never dated in his past life, and never visited a brothel, and since he intentionally avoided socializing at work or college he ended up having no way to compare such topics.

In any case, Beil indulged in buying women and during the time he's bought them he would forcefully hold them down and rape them. Obviously his small savings quickly disappeared. Since it wasn't a particularly high quality brothel so the cost wasn't that high but if he's going there every day then it's only obvious.

Troubled over money Beil finally resolved to commit crimes. There's a high chance of being caught for stealing. In this town of Baldukk there's a judgement of criminals that occurs once every few months. The majority of them are broke adventurers who tried stealing or fought over in the party over treasures they found and caused injuries. No matter how he thought about it the adventurers who would be more suited to fights even get caught for stealing. He didn't think he could get away with it.

Then what should he do? It took Beil over six months of thinking to finally take action directly. The first time was a winter night in the middle of January when he was about to turn 14 years old. He secretly followed after a drunk woman who left the bar staggering and when no one was looking attacked her. She was suddenly gagged from behind then after showing her a blade he dragged her into an unused building and struck all of his desires into her.

Beil completely became the captive of it after just once due to the fresh reaction that was different from a prostitute. He climaxed countless times from the pleasure and felt mentally satisfied as well. In the end he strangled the beaten and worn-out woman while raping her but the expression twisted in fear with tears coming down gave him feelings of conquest and immortality for trampling her. It was a maddening level of pleasure. And before he realized he suddenly felt like he was brimming with power. He put the woman's corpse into a bag he had prepared before hand and after properly tying the opening with weights he threw it into the river of the town.

For a short while after that he lived flinching in fear but it was never exposed as Beil's crime. Since he never heard any rumors that the woman's corpse was found her origins were probably unknown. He guessed that she was most likely a newcomer adventurer that got drunk. It's true there's a lot of adventurers in the town of Baldukk and it's not like they're settled in the town. There's countless people who challenge the dungeon and never return, there's no way anyone would notice if one or two of them disappeared.

One March night as time had passed, Beil committed his second crime. This time he was cautious and set his sights on someone before-hand. In order to not attack a skilled veteran adventurer by mistake he set his sights on adventurers who are newcomers to the town and carefully waited for them to be on their own. Once again this time he was able to carry it out well. The pleasure given by his new crime was so tremendous it even exceeded that amount of satisfaction Beil felt the last time. It even came with the bonus of how much money she had, while she didn't have any gold coins, she had several tens of silver coins and silver Shu as well. For the first time in a while he tried going to the brothel but he wasn't able to feel as much pleasure as he did with those two women.

If this were to be exposed then he'd end up having his limbs cut off. However, he told himself that what he gains carrying that risk is huge. Midway through April, he succeeded at yet another crime. This time it was a beautiful elf girl. She has black hair but pretty blue eyes and gentle soft facial features. Small plump red lips. The expression of disgust that appeared on her face. That expression that gradually turned to despair.

That was all a nectar to Beil. He licked up the tears that streamed down her face and ran his tongue along her beautiful blue eyes, bit into her pointed ears, and he felt an incomparable excitement in defiling her tied up limbs unable to resist. It's unfortunate that she was gagged so she couldn't let out her voice but that alone can't be helped.

Committing the crime for a third time provided Beil with mental relief. The dissatisfaction that he had been building up had disappeared and he was able to put some energy into his work. The owner was delighted to see Beil finally enthusiastically tan the leathers. Beil was surprised that he was strangely able to feel satisfied doing his job but he accepted that after all he was born under a special star different from other people.

Near the end of such a May. He noticed the appearance of what seemed to be a new female adventurer entering the town. A black hair Bunny-man. Her facial features somehow seem similar to the Japanese in his previous life. That's right, I still haven't done it with a Bunny-man the same race as me. If she's the same race as me then I can even instill the fear of getting pregnant in her and I'm sure she'll show me even more pleasure from her expressions of fear. That woman would be a good next target.

Different from the women until now it seems that she's in her early teens but as expected of the characteristics of a Bunny-man she's got a voluptuous body with good development unlike the thin underweight elf from last time. I want to bite into that soft looking meat enough to leave marks and lick them with my tongue. No, it might be best to just enjoy biting all over her body. I'll bite off a piece of her body and eat it in front of her. I'm sure it's more of a delicacy than anything I've eaten until now.

Ah, that's right, I completely forgot. It would be bad if she uses magic. Up until now I was lucky that no one could use magic though. For me to make such

a mistake and forget to confirm her status. Without letting her realize I get close and confirm her status. The crime is after that. It would be best to confirm her behavior patterns first.

After spending some time to observe her actions and I quickly realized. It seems she's searching for someone. And simultaneously I was confident of something more important. She's the same Japanese as me. It seems she's searching for a man named Sema Yousuke. I don't know what characters it's written with but I'm sure Sema Yousuke is a Japanese name. I don't know if it's a lover, sibling, or family but it's definitely a man's name.

I was able to obtain some good information. Instead of catching her off guard like usual wouldn't it be good if I become Sema Yousuke? Is what I thought. And if I can get her to believe I'm Sema Yousuke then it might be good to let her buy me and release me from the slave rank as well. If she doesn't have that much money then ... Right, if I'm Sema Yousuke then I can enjoy things in Japanese.

Threaten her in Japanese and stir up her fear in Japanese. And push down a woman who has a man she likes. Ah, I feel like I might climax just from imagining it. Being released from the slave rank doesn't matter at all already. If I can get her to mistake me for Sema Yousuke then I'm sure I can confirm her status without seeming suspicious and it should be easy to be alone with her. If I can just confirm that she can't use magic then that should be fine. I think she probably can't use it. If she's a Japanese then just like me she would have been a victim of that accident. In other words she should still be 14 years old. Since she's not an adult yet she shouldn't have started magic training yet.

Being tied up by the person you believed in. I'll expose my identity at that point. After she can't resist I'll enjoy myself as much as I please. I'm sure it's the best tasting a woman with a lover. If I have her call out the name Sema Yousuke as I taste not just her body but even her spirit. Ah, this is that. Since it's the occasion I shouldn't do it in the middle of the town but I should take her as far away from the town as possible. If I do that then I can take off her gag without anyone realizing I'm sure, I can enjoy not only the touch, taste, smell, and sight but finally the sound as well. Just thinking about it a bit makes the center of my body pulse with heat.

Since that's decided I need to start making preparations for the place. A few

days, no wait, I want to at least enjoy her for a few weeks. I need a comfortable space I enjoy things with just her during that time. I guess I'll make a camp in the forest on the outside of the ridges of the crater that surrounds the town. It would be annoying going there every night after my job is over but if I complain about the small details then I won't be able to make it back big. Since this is a town with a lot of adventurers I'm sure it's easy to get my hands on a camping kit. I have a bit of money as well, I guess I'll just prepare a high-quality tent here.

Beil used the money he had from his previous crime to buy a somewhat high-quality tent. In order to camouflage the tent he purchased a net and some durable rope for tying up game. In reality he wanted to buy a table and such to tie her on top of it but as expected carrying a table around the town would be a pain. It would stand out as well and might remain in someones memory. And then he spent roughly a month going outside of the town as he searched for a good place. He thoroughly made preparations. Everything is for the moment he can taste that supremacy.

.....

"Tonight, come to the highest ridge outside of the town on the Northwest side. Sema Yousuke is waiting there."

He put emphasis several times to definitely say that. It's something that occurred on the afternoon of Year 7442, Month 6, Day 4 at a certain restaurant. There was the appearance of Beil asking such a thing of a random customer drinking tea who he treated and gave several coins. After seeing the man leave the store Beil licked his lips with his face red from the heat as he stood up and adjusted the contents of his pants as he left the store.

The funny thing about this one is takes place right before SS15 (the one with the doctor), and the one who ended up surviving the famine from his ability was this guy.

Side Story 15: In the case of Tuschiya Ryouta (Age 51 at the time of accident)

That was a busy day. I had a case of surgery at the hospital I manage in the morning. In the afternoon I had a academic conference with my alma mater. Normally I

would have traveled by car but since I had no leeway in my schedule that day, I was forced to take the train. In order to make absolute sure I wasn't late I got a

ride by car to the station and it was my own decision to take the train from there so I have no complaints on that end.

And I can sleep for a short while on the train as well. Recently I've been so busy I'm lacking in sleep, even if it's just being able to rest for a few minutes it's big for me.

While I was sleeping for some reason I saw a dream about my life from my childhood up until now. The content was cut off here and there and had no continuity but I

remember looking at the dream and thinking, Ah~, this is a dream. The little girl I played with when I was young and my naughty friends when I was in elementary

school. My first love during middle school. Frantically studying during my high school years. It was good that I was safely able to enter university but six years of

being chased around by studying. The time I was an intern at the emergency hospital I was so busy I had no time to sleep and my eyes were spinning. Marriage. The

birth of my son and daughter. Watching their growth together with my wife.

.....

Ah, it's almost like my life is flashing before my eyes, is what I was thinking but even the Buddha couldn't have guessed that was actually the case. No, maybe he

could have?

In any case, at first I was wondering what in the world was going on, I couldn't understand what was happening. If there was someone that could understand that then

it would be some kind of different existence that's transcended humanity. No, it's just that I was sleeping so I couldn't realize it. Since I was riding on the front passenger car when I awoke to the screeching sound during deceleration, I was distracted by a different passenger colliding with my side. I was still aware up until

right after that when something hit me and I died. I somehow knew that I wouldn't survive after seeing my body pierced by a large piece of metal.

However, since I'm in this situation was I saved?

Even if I try to raise my voice, words don't come out, it's a voice like a groan, a high-pitched sound almost like crying, and my vision is hazy almost like in a fog. I can't move my body very much as well. The words I can hear are some foreign language I don't know. However, I can hear some English words mixed in so it might

be possible to communicate using English. I can't properly talk and I'm strangely tired. Since I'm an injured person either way, I shouldn't be punished for sleeping

at a time like this with how little I can normally sleep.

.....

I was able to recognize my situation after a few days to a week. It's hard to believe but I've entered someone else's body while maintaining my consciousness and

memories. Probably a newly born baby. I calmly try to remember the situation at that time.

Kreeeeen! along with that sort of screeching noise and the momentum of the train breaking to a stop my body was pushed into the edge of the seat I was sitting in.

From there a number of other passengers (going off the direction they were in seats behind me on the train), couldn't withstand the inertia and ended up plunging

head first into my side as well.

Judging off of that amount of inertia when breaking and how they came flying at me it was probably a sudden brake from going 60–80 Km. Obviously I can't clearly

remember how much inertia was affecting myself. I just calculated it based on the weight, stature, and distance of the people who were sitting near me.

If there were to do a sudden brake at that speed then there must have been some sort of urgent situation. Was it trying to avoid a full-on collision with a car

stopped on the tracks? However, in the end they weren't able to prevent a collision, and it seems they hit it in full force. The last thing I remember is being cut

apart through my upper arm by some sort of metal plate like that from a car or train after all.

No matter how I think about it my heart was destroyed, even if my heart was okay my left lung would have been completely gone, and my aorta or other important blood

vessels should have been cut. No matter how you look at it there would have been no saving me.

I have enough regrets that I could let out a groan but it can't be helped. I died. It would have taken at least 10 minutes for an emergency worker to make it to that

place. Even if I was lucky enough for it to have been right in front of a hospital I doubt it would have made any difference. Even if I had been there fully equipped

and in perfect health I doubt I would have been able to save myself in that condition.

Though it's a bit occult it seems like some mysterious thing like you often hear about such as the cycle of reincarnation or possession has occurred. I might even be

able to research it. After all, the greatest proof that it happened is myself.

Pediatric health is outside my field of specialty so I can't say for sure but newly born babies are normally born with undeveloped brains and bodies. Obviously,

they are close to completion, but not completely developed yet. This is completely different from physical growth and it's not incorrect to say that newly born

babies aren't complete humans until six months or so after birth.

Talking, looking, feeling, since their brain and nervous system aren't completely developed, I guessed that I wouldn't be able to move my body properly. This is a

valuable experience. It's such a valuable experience that I want to make records of every aspect of it. It's particularly great that a doctor such as me would be

able to experience isn't it?

.....

After six months had passed I was able to move my body a considerable amount. When no one is nearby I secretly tried training to talk but even though it's about time

for my vocal cords and nervous system to be developed, it's irritating that I can't speak well. It's not that I can't talk at all. But for some reason I don't know I

can't control my emotions well. For the time being I'm nothing more than a baby that doesn't take much effort to take care of.

While drinking the milk from the thin woman who I believe to be my mother I

wonder if it's almost time for baby food? Recently, I've felt like my father hasn't appeared very often so I can imagine it's about time to start baby food.

.....

I wonder if another month or so has passed. I've realized something amazing. When I realized it I let out a large voice and cried. There's something that isn't human

that's invaded the house. No, if you just take a glance it looks like a human. But, it has something like animal ears on its head and it has a tail as well. It was talking with my thin father. When I was being held by my mother and taken into the living room I noticed it.

What is? This?

At first I thought it was the recently popular cosplay. I was wondering what in the world a full-blown adult was doing? However, the movement of that tail is the

same as a cat's. And where there would normally be a headband or the place a human's ears would be there's nothing. Since that man (?) had very short hair it was easy

to tell. Since there's no ears he has no sideburns. There's just trimmed hair grown. And no matter how you look at it there's ears growing from the top of his head.

I got excited and wanted to touch them. I wanted to ask the sensation of moving your tail. However, all I could raise in excitement was a crying voice. It remained

in my impression how my father talked about something apologetically with that man while he was looking at me.

Furthermore, I've already confirmed that I have normal ears in their normal place. Obviously I've already confirmed that I wasn't born with any kind of impediments

as well. That's why I'm sure I'm a human.

.....

I wonder if the nursing for lunch was forgotten today?

I'm sure it's about time for the lactation to stop so I'd like to switch to baby food already.

.....

My mother let me drink her milk while staring at my face with a sad expression.

The amount of milk isn't good.

.....

This is bad.

I haven't been able to eat anything since this morning.

I was able to drink just a bit of milk for dinner.

The amount that comes out is very bad.

That's why I already don't need anymore milk.

Change to baby food.

.....

I wonder if they're intentionally not providing me with any food?

A twisted viewpoint is no good, even though this is such a valuable experience.

I would definitely like them to be careful that I don't suffer from malnutrition.

I'm sure there would be a large number of journalists who would jump at this experience if it was announced at an academic conference.

.....

It seems like I've intentionally not been given any food.

This is bad.

I'm not grown enough that I can take action on my own.

There's no choice other than to try and say something.

Japanese? Alright, it's tottering but I can somehow speak it.

English, OK. I can speak English, Ah, well, NOPE.*

The language of this world. Somehow or other. I have enough vocabulary to say I'm hungry.

I cry out. With this my mother should come quickly.

...She isn't coming.

I give up and trying calling out to my mother with this worlds language.

....She doesn't come.

I try calling out in Japanese.

....She doesn't come.

In English.

....She doesn't come.

I wonder why I'm intentionally not being giving any food?

I tried thinking about the reason on my own but the only reason I could think of, we're too poor and there's not enough food to pass on to me, I have no method of

changing.

Most likely my mother can't do anything about it since no more milk comes out?

Suddenly I feel nauseous from the extreme sense of fear.

I cried. I'm hungry.

.....

I feel like I've been neglected for several days already. It's probably only actually been about one day though.

Even if I raise my voice there's no reaction.

It can't be helped so I have to try moving before I run out of stamina.

It would be good if I can find something that I can put in my mouth.

There was no way for me to find something so easily.

I was quickly found by my parents and brought back to the room.

My parents were crying.

This is... after all is that sort of situation!?

I tried to appeal to them with every language I could think of that I was hungry but I ended up crying in an explosion of emotion.

.....

After sleeping I cry out again.

I wonder if it's because I've used too much stamina?

There's no energy in my voice.

There's a necessity to escape from the room while my body still moves.

!

The door won't open.

I put my hand on the door and stand up but even if I turn the handle it won't open.

I wonder if they've placed luggage or something on the other side of the door.

.....

My body feels heavy.

It's the starting symptoms of malnutrition.

It seems the symptoms of dehydration are occurring as well.

A baby particularly needs sugar and protein.

But more importantly than that is water.

If you don't have anything to eat you can give me then just kill me already.

I try yelling across the door.

Help me out from dying by shriveling up like this.

Shit.

Really, help me out here.

.....

I don't have enough energy to move my body.

I raise my voice as much as I can every time someone moves on the other side of the door.

I'm already too tired to say any words with meaning.

My dizziness doesn't stop.

.....

The dizziness has stopped but the ceiling is spinning.

Ah, I guess it hasn't stopped then.

I wonder if this is what it's like to starve to death?

At least just kill me already.

Why is it necessary to suffer this much?

I can't even let my voice out anymore.

.....

My vision has started to dim.

It takes all of my energy just to move an arm.

Ah, this is finally the end.

I guess my parents realized my room had become quiet they finally come in hanging their heads down.

While being held by my parents we went to the living room.

It seems the nutrition of my mother who is holding me and crying is bad as well.

After realizing that far my consciousness stopped.

Note: the line with * is written in English not Japanese as he attempts to speak English.

Chapter 77: Waiting There

Year 7442, Month 6, Day 4

After ending lunch with Zulu, I thought about going for an after meal walk, but before that I felt like getting some tea. Since I still haven't done my daily training for today rather than a walk I'll take a short break. After that it should be fine if I do some running. Since my throat is dry I'll have some bean tea. I'm already used to bean tea, or rather I actually like it quite a bit.

After walking for a few minutes I entered a random restaurant and ordered some bean tea and tea-cakes, after paying the 13 Z in Dai Shizu and Shizu coins I lean back in the chair and stretch my legs out. I sip away at my bean tea that's hot enough to give off steam and throw two or three roasted beans into my mouth crunching away at them. The scent of the roasted beans spreads through my mouth. The roasted beans have just the right amount of salt so while I was thinking I would come to this place for tea again I sip away at my bean tea.

I wonder if it's this crowded here even though it's past noon because of the reputation of this bean tea? It's a good thing I was able to get a seat. The conflict between goblins. Scavenger Crawler. The various items we found. If I just look at the results then I'm completely satisfied. However, what about the facts? Even though I felt like we walked around quite a bit according to what I've heard that's only a small portion of the dungeons 1st floor it seems. I wonder how many % of the 1st floor we were able to explore?

If it was only a few % then in order to explore enough of the 1st floor to make it to the 2nd floor then we would have to enter every day for a month I guess? If the place we end up being teleported to ends up overlapping then it's probably best to think it would take even longer. In the first place, even though we were only in the dungeon for a few hours it wore away at our nerves that much. Isn't it a bit unreasonable to try and challenge the dungeon every day without rest? If we don't rest for at least two days a week to relax our nerves a bit then we might end up making a fatal mistake. Since there's 6 days in a week for the time

being I guess we should do 2 days of work and 1 day off. If we're going to go to the 3rd or 4th floors after this then I'm sure we'll have to camp in the dungeon as well, if it comes to that then I'm sure it'll be difficult we don't have several days for rest after we return.

What was it again? Remember, those five parties that are called the top teams, it seems that they even have tons of members of over 10 years but they still haven't broken through the 5th floor. The only ones I've seen are the {Verdure Brotherhood} but the age of the elf that seemed to be the leader of that party was 39. His level was stupidly high at 19 as well. Just thinking in terms of abilities and I can earn experience three times more efficiently, and my growth per level up is three times as well. Therefore what it took them 10 years to do I should be able to catch up with in around 1 year. Although, it would require another 7 of me for that sake.

No, even if there was another 7 of me it still would probably be impossible to catch up to them in a year. There's a conclusive difference in experience between them and I. I can't imagine that the number of times I enter the 1st floor would become 1/9th of them. I'm sure there's a lot of things you can only learn through experience like the location of traps of which is the correct path as well. I wonder if it would be a good idea to buy a map after all. Since it's only about 1 gold coin I guess I should go all out and buy one. It might fine to buy one with just the earnings from today. If we at least know the locations of traps and we don't have to be on guard as much as that then it would be a cheap purchase. However, I'm sure there's no such thing as a perfect map. I guess even if that was the case we couldn't relax.

It might be thought that if you have the money, you should just buy it but just for the map of the 1st floor that has traps added is 800,000 Z. It's 800,000 yen. I can't buy it so easily. In Bakuddo it's an amount which a family of 6–7 people can live for a year and still have change. If it's a family of serfs then I don't even know how many families could live on it. Including the equipment I just paid an amount that can buy a war horse for Zulu. And the earnings from the dungeon this time have too much of a bonus feel to them. I'm sure there's no way we could earn this amount every time. If that was the case then just putting some

effort into it on the 1st floor I could earn plenty of money in 5 — 6 years. Since there's no traps on the 1st floor that will kill you instantly if you could safely earn money then who would go to the 2nd floor and beyond? It would even be a waste to even just buy slaves.

I'm thinking about things like that while sipping bean tea.

"..ra..not at all..and..long sword.."

"..ke..su..but..they are.."

"..and..other..and..joking..there.."

"..unusual..girl..that..idiot..waha.."

I can hear the talking voices of customers from all over the store. I finish drinking up my bean tea that's started to get lukewarm and go to stand from my seat and go training.

"...Semayousuke is waiting there.."

The voice I heard from two tables behind me kept me from standing completely up. Semayousuke? What's that? It sounds like something I've heard from somewhere? No, something I'm used to hearing? I secretly turned and looked around. It seems that the group of adventurers behind me is talking so I can't hear very well. At the table behind that there's two men sitting and talking about something. One is a human man and the other is a Bunny-man man. However, the hair of the Bunny-man man is black and his facial features look Japanese. The human man looks to be in his late teens but the Bunny-man man seems to be around the same age as me. On Orth we look even younger than our age but that's the face of a Japanese in his mid teens.

【Beilett.Deredonola/18/3/7434 Beilett.Deredonola/11/1/7434】

【Male/14/2/7428 · Rabbit-People Race · Gandol Family Owned Slave】

【Status:Normal】

【Age: 14 Years Old】

【Level: 4】

【HP: 68(68) MP: 7(7)】

【Strength: 10】

【Speed: 15】

【Dexterity: 9】

【Endurance: 8】

【Special Ability: Small Magic】

【Special Ability: Super Hearing】

【Unique Ability: Highly Efficient Digestive System (Lv. Max)】

【Experience: 13425(18000)】

As expected he was a reincarnated person. I wonder if Semayousuke was his original name? I have no way of knowing the kanji for it but I guess that's the reason why I feel like I've heard it somewhere before. They're still talking about something. In order to not be suspected I moved to the opposite seat of the table I was at and continued using Identify.

【Unique Ability: Highly Efficient Digestive System; A digestive system with an extremely high ability. If it's an organic material that isn't toxic then roughly no matter what it is it can absorb the nutrients from it with almost the maximum efficiency. Consequently of that the amount of excretions also decreases. By using this ability after eating a meal it breaks down organic matter in the digestive system other than the user them self. And absorbs it. Therefore, it should be kept in mind that this ability is not always at work. Furthermore, this ability has a level for no reason other than convenience.】

How...Amazing..Or is it? No, it's amazing but. I can accept that to go on living there's no greater Unique Ability than this. If I remember correctly, I've heard that the amount of nutrients the human digestive system and absorb from food is about 1/3 to 1/4. If you were to use some extreme logic then I guess it would mean you can stay healthy while only eating 1/3 the amount of food. No, if you take into consideration absorbing the more difficult nutrients then it might be even more efficient. However..Hey? How about it? Even though he's a Bunny-man if he eats a normal meal then just a tiny small piece of round poop comes falling out? It might be different though.

I try straining my ears in order to hear their conversation. Since there's some distance and a loud group between us I can't hear it well. What I was barely able to hear is they were trying to tell someone, "This evening", "the most of the Northwestern ridge", "come", "Semayousuke is waiting there". I can guess several things from these words.

First off it's only obvious but there should be another person who can

understand the details. And that other person should be someone related to either Semayousuke or Dereonola. Since they're saying Semayousuke then there's a possibility the other person is a reincarnated person but I can't tell that much. Also, it's unknown if it's pointing that this guy himself is Semayousuke. However, at the very least the possibility is high that person who this message is for knows the person called Semayousuke. It's also possible that Semayousuke is a name on Orth but somehow it seems unsuitable for Orth, no, it's safe to say it's not a name from the Kingdom of Rombert.

In that case, there's at least three people that this conversation involves. I don't know how many it could include at a maximum.

The first one is obviously him, Dereonola.

The second one is Semayousuke. It's possible this is also Dereonola. There's probably a high chance of that being the case.

The third one is the man that Dereonola is asking to relay the message. It's unknown if he's just a messenger boy or someone related.

The fourth one is the person who this message is intended for. This one's the problem. I can't identify if it's one person or several people. However, the probability that someone in that group knows Semayousuke is high.

The fifth one is if I think that Dereonola himself is a messenger for someone else. In that case it's complex as well. In that case there's no guarantee that there weren't other messengers before Dereonola and it's highly possible that the message would have changed going through countless messengers. I think it's fine to exclude this?

The next thing I can guess is their conversation or rather the details of the message. It seems to be a message to meet up. The time is "This evening". The location is "the most of the Northwestern ridges", the most what? Going off of the words in Orth the next word after this should be an adjective. Incidentally, the pronunciation of "the most of the Northwestern ridges" and "the first of the Northwestern ridges" are the same. Since the meaning is the same either one is fine. Hmn, going off the flow of the previous conversation then normally it would be the "most high" or "most low". It's not as if I can't think of things other than that but if it's to meet up then it would be strange for it to be too

complex.

After that is “come”, “Semayousuke is waiting there” so going off of that it would mean that Semayousuke is going there and waiting for someone before night.

After thinking that far the man that was given the message from Derenola received something like money and stood up from his seat. What should I do? There’s definitely the reincarnated person that is Derenola involved in this case. I wonder if I should take some sort of action right now? But, even if he’s a slave would he talk to a man he doesn’t know, no, I’m unknown but still a Japanese so maybe he will listen? However, since he wants to meet not in the town but going to the point of meeting on a ridge outside of the town at night (probably). There might be something they don’t want anyone else to hear.

If I talk to him here then he might realize that his message was heard and it’s possible he could pull back. It’s in slightly bad taste but if it involves reincarnated people then I want to quickly circle around them and it should be convenient to get a grasp on the content of their discussion. After adjusting his position as he stands up Dereonola left the store and I left after that to go to the inn where Ralpa and the others are staying. If they aren’t there it can’t be helped. If I can’t find them at the type of place Zenom and her would go then I’ll have to go myself. It’s probably still only about 2 pm.

.....

When I went to the inn just as expected Zulu was there but Zenom and Ralpa were not. When I handed them their bonus of silver coins today they said they were going to buy some daily necessities. I say to Zulu,

“Sorry but there’s no rest for today. Search for Zenom and Ralpa. If you can’t find them within an hour then meet up with me at the exit to the Northwestern ridge. Don’t mistake it. Since we’re going to the Northwestern ridge then the exit should be the one straight North of the town. Main road #1. You should search the clothing stores. I’ll try checking the daily goods stores. If you find them bring the two of them with you there. If they ask the reason then say it’s related to Ralpa and I. Also, just in case take your sword with you.”

After giving him those instructions I ran off to the #5 main road where there’s

a lot of stores dealing in daily goods. Zulu is heading towards the #8 main road where there's a lot of clothing shops.

Soon after I arrived at the #5 road I was able to find Zenom. He's just as he was dressed when we split up earlier looking into a store that deals in delicacies. Is he looking for snacks that go with alcohol? Even though you're a dwarf you're not that strong with alcohol right? Ah, I guess it's not a matter of strong or weak, even though he's weak he must like alcohol.

"What's wrong? In that much of a hurry."

"Zenom..It seems you still haven't had any alcohol. Sorry but the afternoon break is off. Just a bit..Ah, it's fine if I say it to Zenom I guess. I found a reincarnated person. I need some help."

"Ho~"

Zenom's expression changed. I guess he remembered what I said about hunting reincarnated people the other day.

"Where's Ralph?"

"If it's Ralph then she said she was going to buy some shoes with the bonus from today. What did she say it was again? That's right, she said it was some rubber shoes."

You can't buy those with just 100,000 Z. Rather you might be able to barely buy some sandals. It wouldn't be strange even if you can't buy them though.

"I see, then she should be at a clothing store, then I've already had Zulu head that way. I've already decided the place to meet so let's go there first."

"Is it fine after I buy this?"

What's that? It looks like the smoked leg of an octopus. Looks delicious.

"It's fine, buy as much as you like. I'm going to buy some too."

I wonder if it was good or bad that among all of the stores dealing in daily goods there was only one that deals in delicacies? In any case, I bought one bag of smoked octopus legs for 800 Z. I put one into my mouth along with Zenom and chew it like gum and it was quite good. I want some hot sake.

After walking to the meeting place and Zulu and Ralpha were already waiting for us. It seems that the two of them ran there. Sorry about that. I confirm to make sure that Ralpha properly has her axe with her.

“Why do the two of you have octopus legs in your mouths?”

In the good weather of early summer, Ralpha who ran to get here said to us who slowly walked here in a displeased tone.

“Isn’t it fine, here I’ll give you one. Try eating it. It’s surprisingly good. Zulu how about you?”

After saying that I gave one to each of them and they went quiet. It’s delicious right?

“And so. I’ll talk about the plan from here on. Everyone, listen closely.”

I look at everyone’s face while saying. Since everyone has an octopus leg sticking out of their mouth it’s a considerably stupid looking picture but it can’t be helped.

“This evening on a ridge in the Northwest someone is meeting up with someone else. It’s necessary to listen in on the details of what they’re talking about at that time. It’s a slightly roundabout way of putting it but..I only know the name of one side. One of them is supposedly Semayousuke.”

I looked at Ralpha while saying it.

“Semayousuke..A man huh. After all, um..”

As expected it seems that Ralpha quickly realized it. She’s glancing at Zulu and holding herself back.

“Yeah, probably. And, this is also a probably but I think that Semayousuke is a male Bunny-man. After that, I also think the place they’re meeting is probably either the highest or lowest ridge in the Northwest. It’s probably, maybe but I could only hear the most of a ridge on the Northwest.”

After saying that I took another look at everyone’s face with an octopus leg growing out of them. I continue my words.

“I don’t know how many people they’re meeting up with. It might be just one or it might be multiple but it’s unknown. That’s why we should split up into two

groups. Zenom and I. Ralpa and Zulu. Just in case taking into consideration the reach of our weapons I split the teams up like this. Also it's necessary for Ralpa and I to split up. It's fine Ralpa knows the reason."

"The language problem."

I'm sure Ralpa knew immediately since she replied in Japanese. It helps that we can keep things short. Also, just in case, while Zenom would be better on Ralpa's side in terms of combat ability but I thought Zulu would be better as an exhaustible shield. If she can figure out that far them I wouldn't have anything more to say but it's probably impossible. It's fine as long as Zulu realizes this. I think Zulu probably understands.

"That's right. Among us there's a language that only Ralpa and I understand. It's highly possible that they'll use that language to have a conversation. That's why Ralpa and I are in different groups. Also, no matter what they talk about or what happens don't attack them from outside. Don't show yourselves either. Don't let them realize you're listening. I don't know how much power they have hidden away. Is that clear? No matter what don't attack from our side. If they find you then think about running away first. Combat is really the final option."

"I understand, Zulu I'm counting on you as well."

"I understand. No matter what I won't attack from our side as well."

I'm sure they're responding seriously but it's completely lacking in tension while they chew the octopus legs.

"Also about the time but I don't have any information other than this evening. Since they were saying this evening then I think it's probably while the sun is still out but in reality I don't even know of it's before or after sunset. Prepare yourselves for somewhat of a wait. Ralpa and Zulu should hide in a place near the highest ridge you think would work for meeting up. It's probably a good idea to cover yourselves with leaves to hide. Zenom and I will go to the lower ridge. If you manage to remain hidden until they finish their business then we meet up. The next instruction will be after we meet up. Is that fine?"

After concluding things with that we all went up the hill towards the ridges.

On the way up the hill Ralpa asked me for another octopus leg so I gave her the bag.

.....

This is probably the lowest ridge. The highest ridge in the Northwestern area is 1.5 Km or so away from the road. I wonder Zulu and Ralpa have already arrived? It's too far and since the outer area of the ridge is covered in a 5 m or so forest, I wonder if it's around there? Though all I can do is guess their location since I can't see them.

There were several rocks there that seemed perfect for meeting up. After Zenom and I discussed we decided to hide about 3 m behind the rocks. Since it doesn't seem like anyone will pass by for the time being so I went a bit further into the forest and gathered some dead leaves to hide under before waiting. It might be good to sleep in shifts while keeping watch as well.

We tried sitting down on the rock as well and pretending to be Semayousuke. I think with this we probably won't be found so easily. Bunny-man have superior hearing capability but as long as they're not using their special skill then it's just a bit better than a humans so as long as we don't move around excessively then it shouldn't be a problem.

Even when Zenom sits on the rock and talks to himself I can hear it well. When I did it Zenom said he could hear it good as well. Yeah. It's the ideal position to hide. Then, let's sleep in shifts. I'll sleep first.

.....

I was woken up when it was close to sunset. The sun has completely started to set in the west, the western part of the town of Baldukk which is in the shadow of the ridge is probably dark already. Since the area we're hiding is on the outer areas of the town between ridges it's still bright over here.

After taking his place Zenom starts to doze off. It's not easy just watching a road secretly which no~ one walks by. I guess I'll organize the information while laying down. First, they're meeting on a ridge in the North. This is fine. After that is the most, the location of the most is unknown. I'm guessing that it's in terms of height but if it were the place with the most excellent view or the most comfortable rock to sit on then it's not impossible but that feels so momentarily

and as a place to meet up it seems too vague. It would be different if the people meeting up are extremely close and have gone there countless times though.

That's why I think it's more likely to be height which is unchanging. After that is the problem of which one but I thought it would be easier to come to one at a lower height than higher so I think this one should be more likely but after thinking more carefully about it there's eight roads that continue to ridges from the town. I chose the closest path to arrive at a ridge in the Northwest but it's not decided they would take this path to get there. It wouldn't be strange for them to go up a different road then walk along the path from one ridge to the next. Obviously about 1% of the reason I decided not to watch the path up the hill was for that reason. The other 99% is because I wanted to hear the content of their conversation, if possible I want to gather information from that conversation that let's me make some reincarnated Japanese into my subordinates, or at least that's my ideal goal.

Well, either way is fine but I want a reincarnated subordinate. No matter what can be said even though Ralpa went to a low-level school in Japanese she still has plenty of education and the level of basics she knows aren't even a comparison with the people of Orth. In addition to that the three times faster growth rate is too huge.

The sky is starting to get dark soon. The sun setting in the west slowly falls below sea level. I think the sun will have set in another 30 minutes or so.

I'm bored.

.....

Around the time the sun had halfway set I saw Ralpa and Zulu running along the hill over here. It seems that they're in a hurry. I wake up Zenom and stand up. I tell Zenom, "it seems that something happened on their end" and after rubbing his tired eyes he suddenly opens his eyes and stands up. As expected it seems he was worried about his daughter.

"That's Ralpa and Zulu running along the path over there right? Let's go."

After I say that even though there's still a couple hundred meters away Zenom runs off. It seems that they're in a hurry but it doesn't feel like they're being chased by something. However, judging by how they look something

definitely happened. It seems that their end was the correct choice. I take off running after Zenom as well. I quickly caught up and passed him.

“Al, we saw it! We heard it! It’s no good if we don’t hurry.”

“Calm down, what in the world happened?”

“That’s why I said hurry up and come with us!”

The conversation is going nowhere. I look to Zulu but,

“Master, just as Ralpa says we should probably hurry. It should be fine to talk while on the way.”

Eh? You too? By the way, it seems that you’re calling Ralpa without honorifics. Is it because she’s not your master?

“Putting it simply and there was a meeting between two Bunny-man people. One of them was a woman. The woman seemed to have come in a hurry running to the place to meet.”

“Yeah, and?”

“The woman was yelling You-chan. The man had come earlier and was calmly waiting. When the woman yelled he was a bit surprised it seems.”

“I see.”

“The majority of their conversation was in Japanese. However the woman kept talking at a really fast pace going on and on so it was hard to call it a conversation. It seems like the woman knew the man. She said that the man’s face had changed a bit. Also, the name of the woman is Asuka. She said it herself. Since the woman seemed tired after coming running it seems the man calmly gave her something to drink. I thought it was water or something but it seems to have been poison. A short while after drinking it the woman fell over.”

“Eh?”

“It’s fine so come already! After the woman fell over he used Status Open on her.”

“Huh?”

“After that the man was laughing while saying “as expected she couldn’t use

magic” and carried the woman into the forest outside of the town!”

“Why would he do that?”

“Like I would know!”

I don’t get what she’s saying. Zulu added to it.

“I couldn’t tell what they were talking about but it seems that the woman wanted to meet the man and it seems she was considerably excited and happy about meeting him. The man was calm other than the first time the woman yelled in a loud voice. However, I’m sure he intended to kidnap the woman from the start. It seems that the poison he was skillfully able to get her to drink worked, that was the first time the man started laughing.”

“Kidnap?”

“Yes, that’s right. I’m sure he deceived the woman and called her out in order to get her to drink the poison.”

I don’t get it. Did he have some sort of grudge against her? Or some other objective..other than resentment what is there? specifically going for another Japanese..hunting reincarnated people!? However, even if that’s the case there’s too much doesn’t add up.

“That doesn’t matter so let’s hurry already! We might end up not making it in time!”

“What won’t we make it in time for?”

“Huh? What other reason could there be for a man to serve poison to a woman and kidnap her! What else is there other than raping her or selling her!? Didn’t you want to save her from that!?”

Since I didn’t know the other party was a woman I didn’t think of that at all. But, it’s strange. How was I not able to follow Ralph’s train of thought? Is my head worse than hers? Or else was I trying not to think about things like rape? What kind of virgin brat am I that?

“I understand. I guess that’s true. The woman was talking in “Japanese” as well right!? She’s definitely a reincarnated person right!?”

“Of-the-course!”*

You, how old are you? Are you just lying about being a high-school girl?

There's no other choice than to follow after Ralpa and Zulu's lead for now. It doesn't particularly concern me if a woman gets raped or sold but if you were to say it doesn't matter to me in a place I don't know about it then that's also true. But, after all it would make it harder for me to sleep peacefully. And since I've already found out I can't just pretend to look the other way. Even more so if it's someone who's face I know from our previous world. I guess he intended to make use of that to satisfy his desires. Does that bastard still think of himself as a man of Japan! Those sorts of things you're supposed to do with consent.

I've started to get irritated at Ralpa and Zenom's speed. I guess this is the difference between the values of Speed and Endurance. It seems that Zulu still has room to spare.

"Ralpa, Zulu and I will go ahead first. You come along with Zenom afterwards. Make sure to be as quiet as possible!"

After I say that I hit Zulu's back and raised the speed I was running.

"Zulu! Run as fast as you can to as far as you know where they were!"

If I hadn't continued running I wonder if I would have been able to overtake Zulu?

A Laio that's taken off at full is like a marathon runner nearing the finish line.

..At this speed shouldn't we be able to cover 1Km in about three minutes?

Chapter 78: Bernadett Koloil

Year 7442, Month 6, Day 4

Zulu is almost like the wind while running with powerful strides holding a two-handed sword in one hand, after advancing for a bit let alone keeping up with him I'm starting to be left behind. Even though we're still only halfway, there's already a distance of more than 30 m between us. I don't have the leeway to turn around but I'm sure that there's a similar distance between Ralpa, Zenom, and I as well.

The Wolf-race hunter family in Bakuddo was equal or a bit lower than me in terms of physical abilities as well but when Sonya would chase after game she would show off a frightening level of hand-eye coordination and physical ability. It's a way of running almost they already know exactly where every rock or the ideal place to step is before hand.

Even though I'm wearing my self-made boots with rubber-soles I still have to pay attention to the rocks and uneven ground on the hill path but Zulu is completely barefoot and running almost like it doesn't matter at all. What's going on with that hand-eye coordination? In the first place, after running up the hillside for over 1 Km and going wherever else Semayousuke went which we only know the rough direction we might end up having to fight.

I know it's partially my responsibility for saying to run as fast as possible to as far as you knew but, you, if you collapse the moment we get there I'll be seriously pissed. Not just that but whatever injuries you take from stepping on stones I'll put off for later, this bastard.

However, putting aside my worries Zulu kept running without lowering his pace at all, and after arriving at what probably was the location that Semayousuke and the other person met up at and he turned around to face me. After confirming me as I'm still breathing with my shoulders running at a distance of close to 100 m behind him and he gestures pointing to a path going off the road to the left and starts descending the hill. Since the sun is still barely

out the western slope outside of Baldukk still barely has some sunlight as we descended it.

Zulu's appearance quickly disappeared into the trees on the side of the hill and I couldn't see him anymore. Shit. Even though I thought about taking a short-cut without going to the peak where they originally met up. In the end it would be faster to just follow the same path Zulu took. After I somehow arrived close to the area where Semayousuke used to meet up and there was a < symbol written on the ground. Also, there's a bow, quiver, short sword, and a bag on the ground. I guess it's this direction. The symbol arrow like mark points in the direction Zulu just disappeared. While descending the hill I glanced ahead and I could see Zulu's back.

In any case there's no choice other than to follow him. Along the way I thought there would be another arrow but I couldn't find one. There might have been one I could have just overlooked it. It doesn't particularly matter though. Because I found Zulu 150 m or so down the hill hiding behind a tree.

Since he doesn't seem to be searching I guess he found Semayousuke. According to what I heard he was carrying a woman as he moved so his speed must have been considerably slow. I lower my speed to a walk and after reaching the tree that Zulu is hiding behind I whispered to him.

"..Zulu..Did you..find them?"

My breathing still hasn't stabilized.

"Yes, they seem to be about 200 m below here. I think it's probably a tent but I see something like a hut covered in branches so it doesn't stand out. I think they're probably there."

As expected Zulu is breathing a bit heavily as well but he still clearly replied. I looked in the direction he pointed his finger but I couldn't find anything suspicious. I'll try looking using Identify. I carefully sweep over the direction Zulu pointed. And I found it. It's probably that.

From a glance it just looks like a bunch of bushes but there's some unnatural light coming through the gaps in the trees gathered there. It's probably a large tent that several people could rest in. It's not a triangle roof one. It's the type you tie to trees on all four sides for the roof. And it seems he's hidden it by

covering it in branches. It doesn't seem he could completely cover it but if you weren't looking closely while trying to find something then it would be pretty difficult to find. After Identifying just like that after all it was a tent.

After turning around I couldn't see Ralph and Zenon. Ah, there they are. It's just Ralph though. I wave my hand high to gather her attention and whispered once again.

"Zulu, after Ralph comes we're moving ahead. We'll go over to there. I think we're on just the right side to be on the side of the tent."

"I understand. What should we do after arriving?"

"First we'll check what's going on. When I say "Now" you should somehow try to knock down the tent. If you cut two of the ropes holding the roof up I'm sure it'll fall. Until I give the signal just stay hidden. If there's any inconveniences then I'll give instructions appropriate at that time."

I told Zulu while glaring at the tent. Zulu immediately replied that he understood.

Before long Ralph arrived as well. I told her when she was breathing heavily that Zulu and I would go ahead and check things out and that she should quietly come when she's caught her breath, then Zulu and I walked off towards the tent.

After getting within 20 m of the tent it's about time we start proceeding carefully. I can't hear any voices at all. Although if they're normally talking in a tent then unless you're pretty close it's difficult to hear I'm sure. I can't hear any sounds of a struggle but this is probably because the woman was given poison so she can't resist at all.

We've gotten even closer to the tent. There's already only about 5 m. After all the direction we were approaching from was the side of the tent, there's no slit for entering, and it's just got branches for camouflage. I only noticed after getting closer but there's a net along the outside of the tent and various things stuck on that net. It's started to get considerably dark. If there's a lighting magic tool in the tent then I wonder if we'll be able to see shadows? In the next moment,

“Why are you doing this!? You-chan, untie me!”

I could hear that sort of impatience female voice in Japanese from inside the tent.

“Who’s You-chan? Your man?”

A man’s voice sounding like he was making fun of her.

“Eh!? You deceived me!! Who are you!? Where’s You-chan! Untie me.”

Going off the situation the woman seems to be tied up I guess.

“Hi~hhi~hhi~ I thought I could deceive with how much you were saying semayousukesemayousuke, but you, you’re way too easy. I know it’s not something I should be saying but, it’s best if you don’t believe in other people so simply~!”

Though what he’s saying is quite true, it pisses me off.

I still can’t tell if it’s just the two of them that’s inside. I’ve already confirmed that there’s no shape or sign of a lookout nearby but there’s no way I’d have enough visibility to see inside of the tent. There’s no shadows on the tent as well. There must be either no source of light inside the tent or it’s something really small. I need to get a bit more of a grasp on the situation.

“Hey, who in the world are you!? Where have you hidden Yousuke? Do you know him?”

It seems that she’s tied up but a considerably strong woman. There’s still power in her voice.

“Ah~ hhi~hyayhyahya..Like there’s any way I’d know something like that~ idddiii~ottt!!”

What’s this..this guy is irritating.

“You, do you think you’ll get off easily doing things like this!?”

“I~ think sooo~ After all I spent close to a month making preparations after seeing you. Even this tent was expensive~! And I’m a veteran as well. What number were you again? How about it? Asuka-chan~ Or what was it again? Right, status open..Is Bernadett-chan better? Or would it be better to call you Koloil?”

I strain my ears to listen to the conversation across the camouflaged tent. This bastard..he's crazy. But, I'm sure I'd be able to hear if they were yelling in a loud voice but even with my ear right next to the tent most of the sounds are reduced. So tents we're pretty soundproof.

"Hey, untie this. Why in this shape.."

The woman's voice sounds like it's about to disappear.

"There's no way I'd untie it. You'll just resist right? Just be grateful I gave you the antidote for the paralysis. It's been a while since I last talked in Japanese, let's enjoy the conversation with a bit more spirit!"

What do you mean with spirit, you trash. However, I wonder if it's just these two in the tent? Going off the conversation it doesn't seem like there's anyone else though..just in case if there's anyone else captured, or if he has any allies it wouldn't be strange. I guess I should keep an eye on things for a bit longer.

"Untie me! Untie this~!"

The woman is demanding in a loud voice. I can hear the man's voice sneering. I'm straining my ears to see if I can hear the laughing voices of anyone else but I can't tell. At that time Ralpha quietly got close. And with a voice as if she squeezed it out said,

"How are things?"

And asked that.

"It seems she's still just tied up. It also seems she was paralyzed. Though the paralysis on the woman already seems to have been removed."

"What are we going to do?"

"I still don't know how many are inside. Also, it seems that after all the two of them were Japanese, well just keep listening."

We whisper in a low voice. Judging off the voices inside I'm sure our voices weren't heard.

"I~ woooooon't~ untieeeee~ you~! You're beloved Semayousuke won't come! Gyahahahaha! It's fine if you call for him, I'm sure he won't hear you though!"

This voice hurts my ears.

“Gu! You-chan, save me! You-chan!”

The woman’s voice has started to get tearful.

“Youchaaaaan! Save me~ I’ll be rapedddd~! Is it!? Fu..fffeffe...Ah, come to think of it you’re a Bunny-man as well right, Asuka-chan? Just as you can see, I’m a Bunny-man as well. Do you know what this means? Huh?”

Like I know, you ass!

“So what if that’s the case! That doesn’t matter so untie me already!”

Her voice still sounds tearful.

“Ho~e~ You still have quite a bit of composure right, Asuka-chan~ If we’re the same race, then shouldn’t we cooperate in order to increase our race~? Look, with this.”

!Thi..This bastard.

“Hi..It can’t be..What’s that? Don’t show that sort of thing to me.”

Unfo..

“Hahha~! With this, and Asuka-chan..I’ll enjoy myself greatly~ You need to dislike it more~ Since it makes it irresistible~”

Unforgi..

“Stop it..Hey, please stop. I’m begging you.”

“There’s no way I’d stop at this point~ you retard! Well~~ then, I need to start get Asuka-chan’s clothes off~ It’s unfair for just me to be naked right~?”

Unforgivable..

“Please, stop it!”

“For starters I’ll let out plenty inside of you. You can get impregnated with the child of a man you don’t like! I won’t tell you to give birth to it~! Since we don’t know if you’ll still be alive by then~! Hey~ you need resist and hate it more! Scream out some more! It’ll make me more excited!”

Unforgivable! I can’t hold back anymore! I don’t give a shit how many there

are anymore! Even if there are if they're this guys allies then I'll take them all out!

"I can't hold back anymore! I'm charging in. The two of you wait here!"

I say that in a low voice behind me and run towards the entrance on the other side of the tent. I'm sure I'm making noise but I don't give a shit anymore! The blood is running to my head, I'm aware I'm agitated but I can't hold back the feeling of wanting to beat the shit out of this guy. It's something I haven't felt in a while.

I let out a roar from the entrance of the tent and enter as I hold my bayonet as the ready and I saw the two of them shocked by my sudden entrance. There's a woman laying face up further in the tent with her limbs tied to a stake in the ground. And then a man showing his bare ass as he crouches down to the woman's crotch with a knife about to cut her pants away though he's trying to stand up in a panic.

Without reducing speed I charged in just like that hitting the man aside with my gun-stock and after that I kicked him in his exposed crotch with my full strength. Gushryt~ I felt a sensation like something was crushed.

At the same time as I kicked him I glanced to the sides but I couldn't see anyone other than them and it was just an empty tent. I look at the man who's passed out from the pain and is laying on his side and step on his chest with the heel of my foot before yelling out.

"Zulu! Ralpa! Come inside!"

The two of them immediately jumped into the tent. There's something to do before explaining the situation in the tent. Furthermore, there was no sign of a lightning magic tool inside of the tent but there was something like a small wax candle. Since the light is too small I guess it couldn't pass through the material of the tent. Since it seems this tent is a reasonably good-quality one, the material seems pretty thick.

"Zulu! Watch over this guy. If he resists then kill him. Ralpa untie her legs, I'll untie her arms."

Zulu switches the two-handed sword that he was holding in one hand to the

reverse direction and looms over the man with the sword to his throat. The man has started to foam at the mouth. Ralph crouches to the ground near the woman's feet with her axe in one hand and after placing the axe on the ground starts untying the rope. I,

"You can relax, it's already fine. Are you hurt anywhere?"

While saying that I crouch down near her left arm and started untying the rope.

The woman says,

"Eh? What? Who?"

And it seems she's confused but after Ralph said "Everything is fine now, that man can't resist anymore." it seems she was relieved a bit and just watched as we untied the rope. I had some trouble getting the tightly tied rope off so I grinned but "hi.." it seems I scared her. Isn't that too harsh?

Several minutes later, after untying the rope together with Zenom who arrived the woman was thanking us. It seems that the man is still unconscious after fainting in pain. For the time being I tie up the man with both arms and legs to the stakes like the woman was. I had Zulu do this. I didn't want to touch him after all. After letting the woman who had calmed down a bit out of the tent the sun had set and it was already dark out.

"Let's do introductions and that sort of stuff later, for starters, what should we do with that man? I charged in thinking it would be fine to kill him but in the end he's still alive. If we throw some water on him I think he'll wake up but you should decide."

I said that to the woman. Ralph is nodding to my words.

"Eh? Umm..that is.."

She seems to be confused suddenly having such a thing brought up to her but she should have calmed down by now. She's probably hesitating.

"It's fine if you kill him, we won't tell anyone. The only ones who know about this are probably us after all."

Ralph is saying that but if she actually tries to kill him I'd stop her. Well, it

won't be too late to wait and hear what decision the woman makes here, there's no need to hurry her. During that time I'll try using Identify on the woman.

【Bernadett.Koloil/4/4/7429】

【Female/14/2/7428 · Rabbit-People Race · Koloil Sub-Baron Family Second Daughter】

【Status:Normal】

【Age: 14 Years Old】

【Level: 5】

【HP: 72(72) MP: 63(63)】

【Strength: 10】

【Speed: 16】

【Dexterity: 10】

【Endurance: 9】

【Special Ability: Small Magic】

【Special Ability: Super Hearing】

【Unique Ability: Shooting Intuition (Lv. Max)】

【Experience: 27239(28000)】

! Shooting Intuition!? Her other ability levels are the average for a Rabbit-person but her level is high as well. She's already almost level 6. I'll start looking from the Unique Ability.

【Unique Ability: Shooting Intuition; an ability which makes the intuition of the user sharper and raises their accuracy when shooting. At level 0 it gives a correction of 5% to their normal shooting capability but for every level after that the correction increases by 5%. Correction is a general term used to cover the talent and experience one gains in shooting ability through normal shooting and it does not add any sort of special ability. This ability only takes effect once on any projectile fired within 60 seconds of using the ability. Make note that this ability is limited to only making corrections to the Shooting Intuition of the user. Therefore, it has no effect on the abilities of the device used to shoot or the distance or force of the projectile fired with it.】

..This is.. you could say a rare talent. No matter what I want her as my subordinate. I want you! I guess that's different. Also I know that she's from a

Sub-Baron family. Since I've never heard of the Koloil family I checked the sub-window and it seems she was born in the Kingdom of Devas. There's no way I would know it. But, since she's the second daughter then it doesn't seem like she'd have any problems with inheritance, it's very possible that she can work together with us. I've started to get excited. Calm down, me. Let's go with this in a {cool} manner.

In the next moment the woman finally opened her mouth. Well then, I wonder what kind of verdict she'll give, I'm looking forward to it a bit. I can understand a bit of her personality here.

"Let's report this to the knight group."

Yeah, that's good. It's fine to kill him as well but in that case it's possible that we could be found out from the messenger guy he used.

"Is that fine? I think it wouldn't even be enough to kill a bastard like that though."

Ralpa, let's think things through a bit more. However, I don't hate that way of thinking.

"Stop it, Ralpa, she's the direct victim and she decided on it. Now then, let me ask one more thing. What should I do about the treatment of that man? I crushed his balls. Also, there's probably at least a crack in his ribs. If it's now I think I can still treat it with magic. IF you want it's fine for me to heal him."

I continue to say while trying to act {cool}. The first impression is important.

"What do you think?"

She says painfully.

"It's fine if you decide. There's no meaning in saying my opinion."

I said it with a kind expression but the details are pushing her away. But, my opinion really doesn't matter even if it's said. Ah, I'm in the faction that leaves them on their own.

"If the injury isn't something that will effect his life then I think it's fine to leave it as it is. If we don't at least leave him with that much he probably won't reflect on his actions.. and, I want to talk to him. Why, he did something like

that, and how much he knows, I want to confirm.”

I see. By the way, since I think I crushed his balls so I think it will effect his life. It’s necessary to secretly use the simplest healing magic, no, healing spell. But I don’t want to touch his exposed balls so I’ll just use it on his body.

“Got it. If it’s just talking with him then I can probably make it so he can talk right now but, is now good..otherwise if we just leave him like that he probably won’t open his eyes anytime soon. Should we do it tomorrow? But, in that case we’d have to spend the night here. If we report it to the knight group then I’m sure we won’t be able to talk to him after that.”

Honestly, since I think it would be troublesome I think it would be better to talk to him right away.

“Then, is right now fine? Can you help me with that?”

“Got it, before that let me send someone to report to the knight group. Wait just a moment.” “Hey, Zulu, go to the knight group and explain the situation and bring a couple of them here. If you use my name it’ll probably be fine. And I’ll start a campfire here so use that as a sign to find your way. The crime is..I guess, abduction and attempted rape.”

In reality I think it would be perfect if I let Zulu hold the Marquis Wbedos plate but even if it’s Zulu I can’t give it to him. And then Zenom opened his mouth. Sorry for leaving you outside of everything.

“I’ll go with him as well. I’m sure that would be better. Also, where your inn? If you haven’t taken one then if it’s alright with you I’ll add one at ours though?”

Zenom bluntly asks. I wonder if he’s being careful for her.

“Please do.”

The woman said that and lowered her head to Zenom.

“Ah, Zulu, make sure you gather the bow and sword and everything that was on the ground at the peak.”

I’ll call out to Zulu saying that as he walked off with Zenom and then I went through the entrance of the tent. Ralpa and the woman are following behind me but I tell Ralpa,

“Ralpha, started a campfire. Since it’s dark.”

After saying that and Ralpha obediently left the tent. I put my right hand on top of Dereonola’s head as he’s still tied down and use a healing spell, after that I used water magic to make about a bowl of water and threw it on his face. He woke up right away.

He cursed at me for a bit but after lightly kicking his side where he’s most likely got a cracked rib and he started complaining about the pain. I’m sure that’s the case. Since I’m trying to make it hurt. I intentionally make sure he can see as I take the sword out of my bayonet and stick it in front of Dereonola.

“Answer my questions, you piece of shit. And answer them honestly. The one who will be deciding if it’s the truth or a lie is me, so it’s fine if you lie. However, if I think that it’s a lie then you’ll suffer some more pain. It would be good if you can live to see the sunrise tomorrow.”

.....

A short while after I started interrogating Dereonola and Ralpha entered the tent. Since I already feel too disgusted to keep looking at Dereonola’s face I handed the sword to Ralpha and decided to keep watch on the fire outside. I’m sure no monsters would appear near a town right next to Rombertia and even if they did appear I almost pity them for having me as an opponent when I’m in a bad mood right now.

I can’t hear the details of the conversation from outside but fundamentally it’s how he managed to figure out that woman’s personal information or about the real Semayousuke. I’m sure it’s nothing too important or complex, it’ll be fine if I ask Ralpha later.

Chapter 79: Finding Employment

Year 7442, Month 6, Day 4

I heard a scream like gya~ It was from inside the tent. I wonder if they're torturing him? Well, just make sure you don't kill him. Since as long as you don't kill him I can heal him and there's less trouble when we hand him over to the knight group.

..For a short while I sat on an appropriate rock and watched the fire. Just staring at the small fire and I can't but think, ah, it's pretty. And at the same time I also found it strange. Come to think of it that Dereonola is a reincarnated person. Since he was speaking in Japanese and when I identified him this afternoon I confirmed his Unique Ability "Highly Efficient Digestive System" so there's no mistake on that.

But, wait just a moment? Why did I think it was a good idea to hand him over to the knight group? If it's the normal me then I would have done something like Begulu and force him to pay me an amount he can't pay to overlook his crime and then make him forcefully into a slave, even if he's a sex offender, he's still a reincarnated person...No, I guess it's impossible since he was already a slave, wait, it's not impossible. If I had requested the payment from his owner? The owner would probably just give him to the knight group without paying I'm sure. No wait, he's a sex offender? If he made the stupid mistake of putting his hands on one of my subordinates and created discord then, in the first place I've always thought sex crimes were worse than other crimes since the past.. when was the past? before I reincarnated. Theft, intimidation, fraud, murder, there's a mountain of despicable crimes but if it's a crime other than a sex offense I've always thought there was room for pardon. Even though that's the case accept him? There's no way! That's right, that woman, the Bunny-man reincarnated person named Asuka since she was about to be raped by him. Did I try to hand him over to the knight group thinking about her? If I were to just think about her then you could say that even in the case of revenge murder isn't good, so that might be ri..right. But, if I think about in another way then

I'm in a situation where I want as many reincarnated people as allies as possible. Did I discriminate against him because of his Unique Ability? Asuka's "Shooting Intuition" is extremely useful after all. Putting aside combat in the dungeon it's an ability that is considerably useful outside and especially when I make guns later.. though if I'm going to say that while it's useless in battle but even Dereonola's "Highly Efficient Digestive System" can't be made fun of. If it's a long-term concealment or scouting mission then being able to have less food on hand is directly related with significantly reducing the amount of luggage. In worst case you could last quite a while just eating some insects. Though it's true that "Shooting Intuition" is a useful ability in a different direction. It's not a problem of which is better. No, it's not a problem of the Unique Ability, his personality is the problem. Just thinking about eating meals together with a disgusting sex offender who has no sense of reason makes me feel like throwing..what was I thinking about again? Stop, what point is there in thinking about these kinds of things right now! If I don't think about them now then when will I! Calm down, even if there's something I don't know don't get emotional, there's nothing good that will come from it. Yeah, that's right, I should calm down and organize things. Just like usual. Now, I'm going to do it.

1. Dereonola is a reincarnated person. His Unique Ability is "Highly Efficient Digestive System".

2. Asuka is a reincarnated person. Her Unique Ability is "Shooting Intuition".

Both of them have useful Unique Abilities. Depending on the time and place they both have their advantages and disadvantages. That's why there's no problem at all that far. I want both of them as my allies, they're talents I want as my subordinates.

3. Dereonola is a despicable sex offender.

He was a slave. I don't know if he was already a slave or was made into a slave for some reason but it's probably unrelated to his sex crimes. I think there's room for pity in the fact that he's a slave on its own but I think that no matter what reason he had I can't accept the fact that he committed a sex crime just to satisfy his own desires. Ah, it could be thought of as a type of revenge, maybe? That doesn't matter for now. It doesn't seem it's that sort of reason this time after all.

4. Asuka is searching for Semayousuke. It's probably someone she knows that died together with her in the accident.

It's certain there's a reincarnated person named Semayousuke, or rather there's a pretty high probability they've reincarnated. I'm sure Asuka is searching because she's confident of it as well. In that case then if I can make Asuka into my ally then later on Semayousuke might automatically come along as well.

5. Dereonola's history of sex crimes didn't start with Asuka. It seems he's done it several times.

Someone who's committed sex crimes a number of times is..no good I'm sure. His willpower is weak and it means he has no self-restraint as well. His MP was 7 but it's not a problem to think about just in terms of MP. I'm sure there's differences in individuals. If that wasn't the case then this would be a world where crimes don't occur. With no crimes or conflict, in terms of public order you could say it's a utopia but I'm sure that would just be dystopia. That's why crimes should have no relation to how much MP you have. It might be interesting to try analyzing it but I'll stop for now.

6. The reason Dereonola was in Baldukk.

Unknown. Was he born and raised here?

7. The reason Asuka was in Baldukk.

She most likely came searching for Semayousuke. Since it seems she was born the Kingdom of Devas. It must have been a coincidence she was found by Dereonola.

When I thought as far as that Asuka and Ralpa came out of the tent. I stopped thinking and offered the easy to sit on rock to them. Well then, let's start with introductions, I decided on you from the start, please take care of me from now I guess. Eh? Neruton Red Whale Group*, don't you know it?

"How did it go?"

When I tried asking that Ralpa responded.

"There's nothing to it. That guy is the worst."

Seeing that Ralpa, Asuka apologetically said,

“I didn’t think it through enough. We’ll talk about those sorts of things later. First let me properly offer you my gratitude.”

While saying that she continued her words.

“Really thank you very much for saving me from a dangerous situation. My name is Soma Asuka. My name on Orth is Bernadett Koloil. I was born in the King of Devas but as I’m sure you’ve already realized I’ve come this far searching for my boyfriend who died in that accident together with me.”

After saying that Bernadett politely lowered her head to us. If I take a look after calming down she’s quite cute. Since she’s still 14 years old there’s a bit of innocence remaining but for a Japanese she’s extremely cute. With this then I’m sure she must have been a considerable beauty before as well. On Orth she probably wouldn’t be that well accepted though.

“Yeah, it’s fine. I just happened to overhear that man giving the message to someone at a restaurant. When I saw that man’s face and heard him say “semayousuke” it came to me. That there was another Japanese similar to myself involved in it. That’s why, honestly speaking I had no idea what would happen. Just that I thought a pair of Japanese were going to have a secret talk so I thought to eavesdrop on it out of interest.”

Since Ralpa is here as well it shouldn’t particularly be a problem if I talk about it. It’s hard to give a good impression with eavesdropping but there’s no better way to put it and I’m sure Ralpa has already talked about it as well.

“Yeah. I’ll apologize for trying to eavesdrop as well. I’m sorry. But, since we’re both Japanese I wanted to try talking. It’s my true feelings that if possible I wanted to enter the dungeon together.”

Ralpa says apologetic.

“However, no matter what the reason it’s true that you came running in that situation and saved me. Thank you so much truly.”

Bernadett lowered her head again while saying that.

“I see, well it’s fine. “Also, from here on out let’s talk in {Common Language}.

It would be troublesome if the knight group comes.”

After saying that I continued talking.

“My name is Alan Greed. Al is fine. In Japan I was Kawasaki Takeo. I was born in Bakuddo Village a remote region of the Rombert Kingdom.”

“My name is Ralpa Firefreed. Ral is fine. Just the same in Japan I was Ono Misa. I was born in Ralpa Village of Rombert. It seems I was an abandoned child. I just said it right? I was picked up by the dwarf Zenom when I was a baby.”

After hearing what Ralpa said was so surprised her eyes widened but I’m sure she remembered that they aren’t in a relationship where they’d share every detail about their origins, while pretending to act calm she said, “Call me Bel.”

“After that is Ralpa’s father who she mentioned just now Zenom Firefreed and my combat slave the Lion-people race Dadino Zulu. Since Zenom is short just call him Zenom. Since it seems Zulu is proud of his family name feel free to call him Zulu.”

While saying that I add another branch that would work as firewood to the campfire. In the next moment, Bel nervously asked me.

“By the way, Al-san. Is that a “gun”?”

Just as one would expect from someone with the Unique Ability “Shooting Intuition” it seems she has interest in guns.

“Ah, that’s right, I thought it was strange as well. What does that have the shape of a “gun”?”

Ralpa’s hopped on the question as well. Come to think of it she never asked until now. I’ve noticed her just staring strangely at my bayonet occasionally but since she never said anything I just ignored it.

“Ah, in the past...I think it would be around 40 years in the past from now? No, around 35 years. I was a “Self-defense officer”. That’s why I can decently use the sword normally but in reality the “bayonet” is easier for me to use. That’s why I made it in this shape.”

After responding with that and Ralph says.

“Oh so that was the case. I had thought that you were a “Chuu-ni-byou Gun Mania”.”

What in the world is that?

“But, Al was in the “self-defense force” huh? Did you become a “salary-man” after quitting the “self-defense force”? How old are you?”

Ralph still talks in a way as if she doesn’t even know the existence of the word “discretion” as usual.

“Yeah, I entered the “self-defense force” after I left “high school”. I was in the “self-defense force” for about 6 years. After that I quit being a “self-defense officer” and spent close to 20 years in sales for a foodstuff company. I died when I was 45 years old so now I’m 59. Also, I wasn’t a “self-defense force” but a “self-defense officer”. Use the word properly.”

I responded with a sullen expression. Thinking of me as a chuu-ni-byou gun mania..this shitty brat.

“Uhe~ 59 like, aren’t you already an old man. Not to mention you’re so picky about everything~”

Ralph says while laughing. Th..This..

“Shut it. You were a “high school student” but in that case aren’t you already an old woman past 30? In the first place I’m still 14 years old on Orth!”

Bel started laughing at our idiotic argument.

“Then, I’m a 35 year old woman now because I died when I was 21 years old as well.”

And said that, so we stopped our pointless argument and faced her. Sorry.

“It’s already fine to just ignore her. Then, is semayousuke Bel’s boyfriend?”

I tried asking that. It’s an obvious attempt to change the topic.

“Yes, that’s right. He was a classmate in college. We were both born in the same Gifu prefecture and got along together.”

“Then, that guy isn’t semayousuke right? Well, if he’s your boyfriend then you

would recognize him if you saw his face I guess.”

After I replied with that and Bel said surprised.

“Eh? Even after reincarnating our faces remain the same?”

Has she never looked into the surface of some water?

“It’s not completely the same. For example my face is like it was when I was 14 years old then made into a human of this world. In terms of Japanese I guess you could say it’s kind of like being a half? If it’s the person them self or at the family level of familiarity then I think they would easily be able to notice. Have you never tried looking at your reflection on the water’s surface Bel?”

After I say that and,

“There were no mirrors and since the water in the river moves so I couldn’t tell very well...Ah, I guess it would have been fine if I had stored it inside of something.. I never had any particular interest in my own face in the first place.”

Is it that sort of thing? It’s true that even Ralpa never thought of looking at her face on the water’s surface as well it seems. After being reborn as a baby and spending countless months unable to move, I’m sure that checking your face wouldn’t be very high on the list of things to do once you can move. If you spend several years like that I’m sure you’d become indifferent to your face..I guess? Since sheet glass with a high transparency hasn’t been invented there’s no proper mirrors. But, while their amount of reflection is bad and they’re expensive it isn’t like there aren’t mirrors at all. Since I’m a man I didn’t particularly care much about it in the first place, though Mary was a bit younger than I am since she’s still easily at the age of an old woman as well in terms of mental age so I never really thought about it.

However, Ralpa is an ex-high school girl and Bel was a college student. I wonder if a young girl that was born and raised in Japan would normally be this indifferent to their own looks? Or maybe it’s because of being born and raised in the environment of Orth? I wonder what is up with this out of place feeling. In the first place, even though I was a man even in my past life I would check my appearance in the mirror several times every day. Well, I’ll put it aside for now. It can’t be helped just thinking about it.

“Well putting that aside. And about facial features but this isn’t just my opinion. They’re not here but I know another two reincarnated people, a man and a woman. Ah, reincarnated people are what I call the Japanese that were reborn in this world. When I met them we exchanged a variety of information. Our facial features was one of those things. It seems that our faces are as if the racial characteristics of this world have entered our faces from our previous life. Ah, the man isn’t Bel’s boyfriend. I think he said his name was Kojima., it seems he was a “high school student”. Those two entered the knight group in the territory I was born and are being worked hard right about now.”

After I said that and Bel made a relieved expression and said.

“Then..Then if he seems my face or I see his then we’ll know it’s each other right!”

She seems quite happy.

“Yeah, probably.”

After I said that this time Ralpa entered the conversation.

“The knight group sure is slow.”

Mu, quite a bit of time has passed since then, it should be a good time I guess.

“I guess so. Isn’t it about a good time for them to get here? Bel, I’m sure you want to talk with a bit more detail but we’ll do that later.”

I say that while standing up and brushing the dirt off my butt.

“Umm, before that is it okay if I ask?”

After Bel said that I sat down again.

“You all are adventurers right? Are you earning money in the dungeon of Baldukk?”

Bel says while bracing herself.

“That’s right, we’re adventurers. Well, we only just arrived in Baldukk the other day, I think it was about one week ago. We’ve only entered the dungeon once so far though.”

Ralpa said proudly while sticking her chest out for some reason.

“I see. If it’s alright with you then would it be alright if I went with you until Yousuke comes, no, even if it’s just for as long as you’re in this town? Since it’s just me, alone, and that sort of thing happened I’m feeling a bit lonely..”

Mu, of course that’s fine though. Ralpa glances at my face while saying.

“We welcome strong reincarnated people. Right, Al, isn’t it fine?”

Of course it’s fine. But you know..

“Bel, are you troubled with money?”

It’s no good if we don’t decide on the conditions.

“No, for the time being it’s not a problem in particular but I’m thinking of waiting for him in this town for at least 10 years. As expected I don’t have enough money to live in this town for 10 years so..”

10 years huh? Even though she’s a foreigner since she’s a noble she doesn’t have to think about taxes..Huh? I wonder what happens in the case of foreigners? I’ll investigate it later. In any case, supposing that it’s tax-free for her and she stays at the cheapest inn, including food she should be able to go on living at about 1,500 Z per day. In the worst case if she were to camp on the edge of the town I’m sure it would be even cheaper. If it’s just the bare minimum food then I don’t think it would cost more than 200,000 Z per year. However, I’m sure both of those are impossible in reality. It’s a lifestyle that’s on the verge of begging and it could end up having bad effects on your health. If you just think about living normally for all expenses other than inn and food then it should cost around 1,000,000 Z per year. Well, since Bel is from a Sub-Baron family it seems so she should have enough money to live for a few years I’m sure.

“Of course you’re welcome to join. I’ll give you wages as well. It’s 200,000 Z per month. After that whenever we find items in the dungeon I give bonuses as well. If you’re fine with that then we can make a contract just like Ralpa and Zenom. But, before that let me ask you a question. Bel’s boyfriend.. it’s about your basis for waiting for Yousuke-san in Baldukk. Why?”

After I said that and Ralpa said.

“Ah, I want to know that as well.”

Of course you do as well. If she just passed through Baldukk on her journey searching for boyfriend then I would understand. But the way she put it was almost like she knew for sure that her boyfriend would come to Baldukk? Ah, I guess since it's "at least for 10 years" then she's not completely sure?

"Since he should definitely try searching for me as well. No matter what type of family he was born in and in order to go on a journey to search for me it'll cost money right? That's why I thought he might come to Baldukk which is rumored to be good for earning money. And there's monsters wandering around on Orth as well. I'm sure he wouldn't be able to endure a journey until he grew up to a certain extent. That's why I left my house before becoming an adult and came straight here. Since he's pretty careful I think he'll endure at least until he becomes an adult and then it's only obvious he'll come here in order to make money to search for me. I believe that he will do that."

I see now, it's weak but it's not like she has no basis for it at all. Rather, in the case that reincarnated people who are familiar with each other try to accomplish the goal of meeting each other then I guess you could say they have somewhat of a basis for it. If they were to just randomly wander around I'm sure that would be even more difficult to meet each other.

"So that's how it was. Got it. If the conditions just now are fine then I'm fine with writing up a contract tomorrow even. How about it? Ah, don't think too deeply about it. That's right, I think it would be best to do it with the feel where you're being employed in a company that I'm the president of."

However, in your case, you can't independently retire so easily though.

"Is Ral in it as well?"

Bel asked Ralpa. Are you an employee of this guys place as well? Can he be trusted? I'm sure it's something like that.

"Yeah. We properly made a contract as well. It's Zenom and I for 400,000 Z per month. Since we had good luck today he gave us a bonus of 100,000 Z each."

Ralpa says to Bel while smiling. That's good, Ralpa just like that invite her.

"And..I'll talk about it later but, I think it would be best if you were together

with us. About Bel's facial features as well.. you're considerably cute. Hmn, that's not all. He probably can't hear but there's things I don't want to let that guy hear as well. If you're hesitating then I'll tell you about it later."

Ralpa says that while looking towards the tent and looking at me. What is it? I get what you're trying to say but you don't need to look at me every time.

"Al is fine. He's strong and he can use magic extremely well, and I'm being taught magic by Al right now as well."

Stop it, you'll make me embarrassed.

"Well, he is an old man after all? The faces of people over here are more my type than the faces of Japanese people as well? Zulu is cool."

"Ku...I'm not interested in a kid either, you brat!"

However, I don't get her interests, Zulu of all people? It's unusual for a commoner woman to fall for a slave. A forbidden romance across social standings huh? I guess it's not particularly unusual and it doesn't matter at all. Do it all on your own.

After seeing us like that Bel apparently found it quite funny because she laughed and said.

"I understand, Al-san, would you please hire me?"

Alright that's good girl. With an expression like a spider closing in on a butterfly caught in it's trap I say.

"Yeah, different from a brat a beauty is greatly welcome. I'm looking forward to working with you from now on."

After saying that the right hand I grabbed was rough with blisters.

I can hear a voice calling to me from the distance. It seems that Zulu and Zenom have brought the knight group.

Chapter 80: Red.Blue.Gold?

Year 7442, Month 6, Day 4

Zenom and Zulu brought with them six knights and squires. I introduce myself and Bel to who seems to be the commander of the knights that appeared and after having our Status confirmed we handed over Beilett Dereonola as a criminal. The offenses were abduction and attempted rape against a noble. Also, we added that he's a madman. Dereonola with his hands tied to his waist and a tree was looking at us hatefully but after I smiled viciously at him he got scared and looked away from me.

I don't know to what degree of a crime abduction and attempted rape of a noble is but as far as I could tell from the verdicts of Marquis Webdos it will probably be pretty harsh. I think it was 5 lashes with a whip for rape? Since it's attempted it might be a bit lighter but the problem is he tried to do that to a noble. When I got rid of Begulu B in Keel I did it like I was just wiping away someone who came at me first but I was told that just attacking a noble is plenty for being executed. Since there's also the abduction that wasn't attempted then I think his head will definitely fly.

If that wasn't the case then there's no way they could just caught off some limbs or kill him for just that crime I'm sure. There's also other crimes beyond rape but unless they actually kill the victim then I guess the death penalty is too heavy for just rape. I'm sure cutting something off is necessary though. However, it really is disappointing this guy is a reincarnated person.

While the commander of the knights was withdrawing the tent I tried asking him what level of punishment it would be. After all it was considerably heavy and it's unlikely he'll be unable to avoid the death penalty. Since there's evidence, or rather testimony from several people including a noble like myself so it seems there's no need to even interrogate him. Most likely he'll be executed in the public execution in two months or so. I guess it can't be helped. I walked over to Dereonola who is still tied to a tree and whispered to him in a

small voice just he could hear.

“If you have the chance I think you should obediently confess your crimes. If you show you’ve reflected properly there might be a bit of room for pardon. If you can make up for your crimes that is.”

I whisper that into Dereonola’s ear and he made an expression like he heard something suspicious. That’s exactly the case though.

“Na...I won’t fall for that type of thing. I’ll tell them everything.”

Tell them everything about what?

“Huh? What are you going to tell them about? Could it be how we’re Japanese? I’m not particularly hiding it so feel free? I was just saying it out of kindness because we’re both from Japan. I guess it was pointless? Then, no matter what they ask, you should just say it was a sudden impulse.”

Like that’s the case. He even prepared a tent. It’s obvious that it was a planned crime. Furthermore I say,

“You should still answer the things you’re asked honestly, as long as you don’t say anything excessive you might leave a better impression right? Well, if you’re okay with that then do as you please. I won’t particularly stop you, no matter what you say it won’t hurt me. Since unlike you I’m not a criminal.”

After I said that he looked down mortified. I continue saying.

“Also you know, your balls, I can still fix them. Well, as long as you obediently receive punishment and make up for your crimes that is.”

He looks back at me with eyes filled with hope. I didn’t lie. If it’s now then I’m sure I can still fix them. Though if the wound heals then it’s probably already impossible.

“It’s fine. We’re the same Japanese right? As long as you make up for your crimes then don’t you have a pure body. Don’t they say hate the crime not the person?”

After I said that I left Dereonola’s side. This is the King’s direct territory. If he says weird things like Japanese or Reincarnated People then it might end up becoming troublesome. If there’s a reincarnated person among the royalty and

if he's even a bit intelligent then like I told Zenom and Ralpa before he might think of hunting reincarnated people and that would be a problem. It's somewhat more convenient to keep it hidden at least until I get my own territory. There's not much meaning in just hiding the fact that I'm a reincarnated person but it's just being careful of another reincarnated person who might be in a higher position than me. Ah, maybe it would be a good idea to dye my hair. So I don't forget I'll make sure to properly write it in my mental notes.

Now then, as long as I say something like then in the case that this guy gets interrogated, I'm sure he won't blab about all of his crimes but he might just obediently confess to this time. Even if it's no good it can't be helped. Ah, if I think about it more carefully then it might have been better to just kill him. Even if I don't kill him right away and let him swim for a bit, it probably would have been safer to just kill the messenger as well. But you know, even though she was almost raped, I can't just tell Bel to kill him. I'm sure being whipped and having your balls crushed is plenty of a punishment. Though it would be fine to cut them off as well.

Well I can't help something that's already finished. And even if he says something about Japan he committed a crime against a noble. The chances are low that they'll report every little thing a rape demon says to the high nobles or royalty I'm sure. Just now was just something like makeshift insurance.

It seems that they're almost finished taking the tent down. I wonder what happens to this evidence? Since it's pretty nice I'd be happy if I can have it but. Ah, I'm not bothered by the fact that it was used as a tool for a sex offense. Since you should hate the crime and not the tool after all.

.....

We climb the night path in groups and then descend after that. If the knight group hadn't brought a lightning magic tool it would have been troublesome. Since they brought four of them there's plenty of light so we can pay close attention to the uneven ground.

Once in the town we separated with Dereonola at the split up between our inn and the knight groups quarters and since we were hungry started talking

about going and getting something to eat. Come to think of it from here on out Bel will be accompanying us. I need to properly introduce her to Zenom and Zulu.

Bel and them properly introduced themselves. After showing each other's Status they came to know each other. Zulu said it was too much for a slave like himself to not only be at the same table but to directly touch the daughter of a Sub-Baron family (though she was the second daughter which is far from inheriting the family) so we said not to worry about and properly had him show his Status. After eating and drinking when we were about done with our meals Ralpa started saying this.

"Zulu, you, do you have any loyalty?"

Hey now, what are you saying so suddenly? You?
There's no other response than he obviously does right?

"Of course. Out of the many slaves I was chosen. I'm very satisfied with how I'm treated as well."

See.

"Hmn. I see. Then I guess it's fine. But. I feel sorry for you but for today would you return early? Right? Al?"

Why do you throw it to me there? Well it's fine though.

"Yeah, Zulu. We're going to have a meeting on our plans from tomorrow on after this. Also, we need to go over the details of Bel's contract as well. Sorry about crushing your break for this afternoon. Feel free to go and rest first."

I said that and told Zulu to go ahead to the inn before us. Don't worry about what Ralpa said.

"Yes, I understand master. Then, I'll go and rest ahead of everyone else."

"Ah, we'll meet tomorrow at the same restaurant and time as today."

After saying that and waving and Zulu left the restaurant. Now then.

"Bel, just now was close to clearing people out. Since Zenom knows about our situation you can relax. Also, after we finish eating let's change locations. I guess we can talk at my inn."

I say that and then tilt my remaining beer mug.

“Bel, you can relax. Since Zenom is my father. I’ve talked to him about it since the past.”

After Ralpa said that as well she bit into her remaining skewer.

“Yeah, I know the majority of it. I don’t know the small details though. Well, things won’t go badly for you, I can guarantee there’s nothing to lose in just listening.”

Zenom says while throwing the rest of his cooked meat and vegetables.

After hearing our conversation Bel said,

“I’m wouldn’t feel uneasy at this point. It’s fine.”

After responding like that she ate the rest of what appears to be a type of bird meat. Were rabbits carnivorous? No, I don’t know though.

.....

After changing locations we immediately got to exchanging information. Starting from each other’s Unique Abilities (I’m still passing it as Magic Acquisition as usual), and we fundamentally talked about things related to this world. In particular it was a big harvest that we were able to hear the names of some Unique Abilities from Bel. Out of “Identify”, “Resistance (Poison)”, “Scale”, and “Predicted Evasion”, the only ones I didn’t know were “Scale” and “Predicted Evasion”. Putting “Predicted Evasion” aside, I’m interested in “Scale”.

Eh? If my attacks are predicted and evaded then won’t I not be able to hit? Don’t say stupid things. Unless they can teleport there’s no way to evade guided magic or depending on the situation burying them in wide-area dirt or ice. Though going off the name it does sound useful in close combat or shooting combat. There’s no need to idiotically stand in the opponents ring.

Also, there was the information that the location she reincarnated to was at the Southeastern edge of the range that reincarnated people appear. Since it seems that I was on the Western edge if we can find one more person who was on a different edge then we should be able to roughly figure out the range.

There's no accurate map. It's fine even if it's only general.

However, Bel is living proof that there's reincarnated people in the Kingdom of Devas as well, so this is big. Depending on the situation there might even be reincarnated people in the Kingdoms of Kanbitt, Bakuluni, or Guranan Empire.

Furthermore, the things they found out about this case with Dereonola through torture (though it was just cute stuff like kicking him or threatening him with a sword) was,

- He just happened to find Bel on a street corner.
- He paid attention to her because she seemed Japanese.
- Since she was searching for someone named Semayousuke he guessed that she was Japanese.
- He prepared the base outside of town (Including searching for the location he spent around a month on preparations)
- He paid the man who he asked to deliver the message.
- He made Bel who nonchalantly appeared think he was Semayousuke.
- After she finished climbing the hill he got her to drink water with the paralysis drug in it.
- After knocking her out with paralysis he carried her to his base.
- He tied Bel's limbs to stakes that he had already prepared in advance.
- He let her drink the antidote for the paralysis.
- Right when he was about to get to enjoying himself I charged in.

That's how it seems to have gone. Well, it's pretty much entirely as expected.

"And, Ralpa, you made sure to secure it right?"

"Eh? Secure what?"

Hey now, don't joke with me.

"The paralysis drug he used and the antidote for it!"

It's only obvious.

"Eh? There wasn't any left and in the first place it's evidence right?"

Aaaaaaa, if there was even a drop left I could of identified it...Well, if a slave can get their hands on it then I'm sure I could find it if I try as well. Since it

seems they make various drugs using magic stones in this world. I'm sure there's some sort of store that deals in that stuff here in Baldukk.

"I guess that's true. It can't be helped."

Suddenly I remembered. Come to think of it the Scavenger Crawler we defeated this morning had a special skill called Paralysis. I think it was written on the window that in order to remove it if you've been paralyzed you need to use either magic or magic-based drug. I don't know paralysis magic or the magic to remove it. I've never used it after all.. I wonder if the general antidote magic works?

I somehow have the feeling that a combination of earth, water, and void magic would work but how much mana you need to pour into each of them... Being unable to use them when I need them or taking 15 minutes for them to activate isn't a joke. It seems it's necessary to practice it later. Going off of the identify window then probably even when paralyzed you might be able to use magic though. Since you have consciousness. But, it's not that sort of problem.

"What is it, suddenly going quiet...are you angry?"

Ralpa called out to me slightly nervous.

"Ah, no, I'm not. I'm not particularly angry. I was just thinking a bit. Since I've never tried using paralysis or remove paralysis magic I might need to practice them."

"Ah, I see...I'm sorry. I didn't think that far.."

"No, it's fine. Don't worry about it. If that guy can get his hands on it then I'm sure we can get it somewhere as well. If a slave can buy it then it's probably not all that expensive as well."

I cheerfully say that to Ralpa who seems apologetic and continue saying.

"And, this is changing the conversation, but I think I'll have Bel show us her abilities a bit before we go to the dungeon tomorrow morning. Also, some shopping. We'll buy enough hair dye or something like that for the three of us. Since Baldukk is a large town we should be able to find some."

After I said that I looked at Bel. I thought it might be possible she's against it.

“Of course I don’t have any problem with showing my skill but why is the hair dye necessary?”

Bel asked me as she finds it strange. And then Ralpa said something that I previously told her. That’s why I said, why are you saying it so proudly? It’s fine but you know. It seems that Bel has consented to it but with that expression I’m sure she’s worried that it will make it harder for Semayousuke to find her.

“Bel, this is just my thinking but until today including you I’ve met 5 reincarnated people. Putting me in and the total is 6 people. I noticed it on the first guy I met but I’m already sure of it now. If the reincarnated person is a Japanese then they’re all probably black hair and black eyes. It might be possible if there was a foreigner in that accident then it might be different for them but you guys saw the “television report recording” like thing right? There were only Japanese names “reported” on that. I don’t remember them all though. I can’t deny the possibility that there was a foreigner nationalized in Japan but there’s no point in worrying about such a low probability thing. That’s why it’s fine to think that all the reincarnated people have black hair and black eyes.

This is a matter of probability. Just like Ralpa just said it’s safe to safe this town is on the lap of the capital. It wouldn’t be strange for there to be a reincarnated person in the royalty of Rombert. Of course, since the capital of Rombertia has a population of around 200,000 people if you think of probabilities then it’s higher that they weren’t born as royalty.

However, it’s not limited to not being the case. That’s why this is something like “insurance”. It’s not a problem of whether a foreigner who was “nationalized” in Japan was in that accident or if someone reincarnated as royalty.”

After I said that Bel made a face like she comprehended it.

“It’s true it’s just as Al-san said. I knew that I had black hair and eyes but I didn’t know that the other reincarnated people would have the same black hair and eyes. If Yousuke hasn’t met any other reincarnated people then I’m sure he doesn’t know as well.”

Yeah, until I saw Kuro’s face, putting aside the facial features, I thought it was just a coincidence that I had black hair and eyes.

“I guess so. I’m the same. Since I was surprised when I met Al and thought he was probably Japanese. And black hair and eyes are unusual but there’s just black hair and black eyes as well. There’s also red hair and red eyes. Isn’t a red hair, red eye person just as unusual as a black hair and black eyed person? I think that brown hair and brown eyes are also unusual for the same reason, and the same for blue hair and blue eyes. Above all, the fact that all three of us have black hair and black eyes, this is already “dangerous” right?”

What’s “dangerous”? Young girl. But, what you say is quite true.

“That’s right. It’s true it’s just as Ralpa says, there’s not much of a reason to get neurotic over it. But, I’m sure if they start searching based on physical appearance they’ll look for black hair and eyes first. It would be a good idea to change everyone’s hair color.”

After I said that and Bel and Ralpa started worrying about what color they want to use. Does it really matter what color?

It’s gotten quite late at night and I’m going to wake up before 5 tomorrow morning. I’m sure everyone’s starting to get tired. There’s a bit of something that I want to think about by myself as well so I guess we should split up here.

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Year 7442, Month 6, Day 5

The next morning, I had Bel show me her skill with the bow and sword. Just as I had expected her skill with the bow was splendid and I’m sure she’ll be a big help in combat from now on. In regards to the sword there was nothing in particular to mention but I’m sure she can at least protect herself.

Also, just like Ralpa I’ve started to teach her magic as well. Since she has a high MP, if she can learn to use magic then there’s no doubt that she’ll add a lot to our combat potential. Please certainly learn magic.

Furthermore, about the contract but Ralpa was annoying about properly creating the contract document again. The details are almost the same as the one Ralpa and Zenom signed but I added “consult with Sema Yousuke before deciding” to the conditions for release. There was no helping this. At first they were saying “until we discover Sema Yousuke”. It was quite difficult for me to

negotiate it down to here without making them suspicious. Well it can't be helped though.

In terms of hair dying, I went with red, Ralpa gold, and Bel has become deep blue. Bel and I made it a color where even if the color drops a bit or our hair grows it's easy to hide. But that idiot Ralpa ignored our advice to go with brown and used blonde.

"In the past I wanted to try becoming blonde once." was what she said.

If the color starts to fade then you pay for it~ rebel. By the way, after seeing each others face after dying it we laughed that "it doesn't suit you".

Well then, it's already passed 10 in the morning. Let's get to exploring the dungeon again today I guess. Starting today I'll have the front-line Zenom, Zulu, and Ralpa take care of the weak opponents like Gnolls and Goblins and have Bel support them from the rear. If it's a narrow area and there's 10 or 20 or so of them then shouldn't it be fine?

I don't know how well you can use the bow inside of the dungeon. I'll be careful of the surroundings. If they start having too much trouble then it'll be fine if I support them with my bayonet or magic. In addition while I'm at I'll use identify to closely examine and research experience gain. I can predict a bit of it from the information of my hunting at night in Bakuddo but there's a considerable number of places which I can't be sure of yet.

Ah, after this I should buy some writing utensils as well. I'm sure it would be more efficient if we draw a map while entering from now on. Depending on the case I could go all out and buy a map...No wait, 800,000 Z is a lot of money. I can't spend wastefully.

After saying the meaningless incantation, "ke.ru.ru.he" the same as yesterday and the five of us challenge the dungeon. Now, we need to remain cautious as we go from here. I immediately used my identify vision to sweep the area. Yesterday we teleported to an area like the dead end of a cave but today we're in the middle of a cave that continues in two directions it seems.

Mu, I don't know which way is North and which way is South.

I almost reflexively told Ralpa to use her Unique Ability Spatial

Understanding but stopped myself. Though Ralpha was able to learn void magic, the special skill is still level 0. Since her MP hasn't increased yet she still only has 3. Since we can't hope for natural recovery as well in the worst case it would become a bad situation.

Just like in the past with the Horned Bear if her MP is reduced it would be hard to watch. That time Kerry was rendered powerless in a matter of seconds.

We should endure as much as possible here for now is what I was thinking while preparing to randomly draw the paths down on the paper when,

“North is that direction. Also, it's probably not tilted.”

she said that while looking into the still blank paper. Sh..She already used it... since I still had my vision set to Identify (raising the bright with identify makes it easier to write in the dim cave so it's convenient) I reflexively identified her and just as expected her MP had become 2. Even though I went to the trouble of looking out for her. It was for your safety, though it's irritating I can't say that.

I couldn't say anything other than, “Y..Yeah, sorry about that.” and started drawing the map.

In any case since I don't know our current position I just drew a pair of parallel lines in the middle of the paper(the direction of North that Ralpha pointed out wasn't the direction the cave goes but into the wall on our side). While thinking that it's urgent to level up Ralpha's magic special skills I finish drawing the lines and since there's nothing to decide which direction to go I say “Then~ let's try going this direction first” and walk off.

Chapter 81: Gotten Distant Again

Year 7442, Month 6, Day 5

After advancing through the cave a bit for a short while completely different from yesterday it starts bending back and forth. With this I can't draw a map properly. There's no split paths yet but by the time one appears I won't know which direction we're going. I really need to hurry with increasing Ralpa's MP amount. If we can at least raise it up to 7 MP then every 5 minutes or so we should be able to figure out the correct direction. I'm thinking about that since I've already given up on drawing the map and watching Zenom's back while making sure not to be negligent in my caution.

Zenom is slowly moving forward while he checks the ground carefully for traps. It would probably be a good idea to let him switch with Zulu soon. In the next moment Zenom quietly said.

"I really want a stick or something long for this. As expected it's a bit exhausting."

A pole huh, that's true.

"I guess so. When we return I'll make sure to prepare one. Zulu, change places and take the lead."

After I said that and this time Zulu took the lead and we started moving ahead again. Zenom is being cautious at the rear.

After that, we continued for a short while when my identify captured some monsters ahead. When I tried identifying and they were gnolls. One, two...So there's 13 of them. That's just right. I put my hand on Zulu's shoulder and stop him from advancing before turning around.

"There's the presence of some monsters. It's probably goblins or something. The number is probably around 10. Let's make some noise and lure them over. Zenom, Ralpa, Zulu stand at the front and take them head on. Bel and I will assist from the back. Okay?"

After saying that in a whisper and I had them change the line up. After I instructed Zulu to raise his voice and lure the monsters I went to the back and urged everyone else on. Obviously being careful of attacks from the back is my job. Well, there's only one direction so it's probably fine though.

Zulu is raising some sort of loud voice. They don't seem to be words that have meaning but I guess it's some kind of battle cry. The gnolls quickly noticed and started running here. Now then, I'll open the identify window and carefully watch I guess. Who should I identify? I guess I'll go with Ralpa here. Since she's the weakest one among the three front attackers and her HP is low as well.

With Zenom in the center, Ralpa is on the left side and Zulu is on the right as they're lined up, I guess the gnolls thought there were only three of us they're running over while screaming. Along the way one of the ones at the front was shot by Bel's bow. After being hit in the center of its chest with an arrow the gnoll somersaulted before falling. Since the gnoll at the head fell all of the gnolls that weren't even lined up in any order went into complete chaos as they continued to charge at us.

While thinking it might be dangerous if it turns into a melee, I stand at the ready with my bayonet so I can assist them at anytime while watching. Of course my left hand is relaxed so I can use a spell at anytime. But, contrary to my worries the three of them are calmly dealing with the gnolls it seems. The gnolls are using short spreads it seems and since they're completely at a disadvantage Zenom and Ralpa are completely focused on defense and earning time. Occasionally Bel is shooting her bow between the gaps in them.

As expected of a user of "Shooting Intuition". Since I have Ralpa's identify window opened still I can't tell if she's using her Unique Ability or not but for now she's landing every hit on the gnolls. Since Zulu has more reach with his two-handed sword he's using it to hit their spears and cause their guard to collapse then stabbing them through the gaps he made with his sword and defeating them.

Hmn, this is hard to tell, I guess I chose the wrong person. When analyzing the experience it would probably better to do it on someone who uses a short sword or club. At the very least it would be better if it was an opponent where Zenom and Ralpa can land hits with their small range.

Oh~ it would be bad if they think I'm slacking off. I'll defeat one or so of them. It should be fine if I just find an appropriate one and blow it away with {Stone Arrow}. While thinking that without any sort of danger the combat ended. Gnolls and Goblins aren't much more threatening than a group of children with weapons after all. The final remaining three Zenom threw his hand-axe into one of gnolls back and finished it off and the other two Bel shot in the back as well with arrows to elegantly finish them off.

I guess if we have several people and we're all cooperating then we won't fall behind. After all I guess we won't have any difficulties unless it's against Orks or Hobgoblins. I cut the magic stones out of the 13 gnoll corpses while thinking that. Ah, I'm the only one who's done four of them. Everyone is slow. Zenom and Ralpa have done three each, Zulu has done two, and Bel's only done one.

Since I cut a lot of pretty small fish in my past life, it's a specialty of mine cutting along the bone with a blade but your memory is more important than that. The shape and location of the internal organs and bones, what area the magic stone is around, and where is the most efficient place to put the blade in to get to that area, those sorts of things you get better at by remembering and getting used to them. It's not like you throw away all of the organs of a fish after all. There's a considerable number of places you can eat.

Ah, before it's misunderstood I'll say it but the meat of monsters is almost never eaten. At the very least Orks, Gnolls, or humanoid types which even we can't communicate with them they can communicate among themselves, who would want to eat them? Even in my past life no one ate monkeys right? Ah, or did the Chinese eat monkeys?

Since Horned Bears just look like bears with horns growing and Giant Toads and Green Crocodiles aren't humanoid so they're eaten. Well, if you're considerably starving you might eat them but even that's something emergency rations. Rather than being good or bad it's a problem of feelings.

After taking the magic stones we continued even further.

.....

Today without finding any other deceased adventurers belongings or running into a dangerous monster like the Scavenger Crawler we were able to

experience combat countless times. Of course if something like the Scavenger Crawler were to come out I intended to take it down with magic right away because it's dangerous though. In the end without me participating in the combat much at all I just remained cautious of the surroundings while analyzing the experience points.

To put it simply, the monsters level and HP multiplied is how many experience points they give. I somehow thought that was the case but in my case I have the Unique Ability "Gift of Natural Talent" and it's difficult to do the calculations so I just ignored it until now. Also, if the monster has some kind of special skill the experience points seem to increase though it's not limited to that. I still can't tell if this is a fixed amount. It might be multiplied by a certain percentage. In the first place I have too few samples. Only three Hobgoblins appeared. It might be possible that the special skills have different types to them as well.

Furthermore, if you don't kill them and just damaged them you don't gain experience. However, if that one dies afterwards then it increases. In other words if Zenom or anyone else hits a monster with an attack. But, in the case that monster didn't die in one attack, you gain no experience points. However, after that if he attacks once more and finishes the monster off then obviously he gains experience points for just that monster. I expected this. What I wanted to know was in the case if Zenom does one attack and after that Ralpa does another and finishes it off. In this case does all of the experience go to Ralpa? I wanted to know that.

Starting from the conclusion, that wasn't the case. Going off the example just now, at the moment the monster died the experience went to both Zenom and Ralpa. The amount is different in each case so it might be that it's distributed based on the amount of damage they did. It's something I was able to figure out because I wasn't participating in the combat and just watching.

Come to think of it, there's something weird I've found with the experience gained. In Bakuddo father's level completely stood out from the rest. Mother was just one level less than father so you could say she stood out as well. For a while after I went out in the middle of the night to hunt I had accepted it but when you kill a monster you gain experience points. This is fine. But, what about the Dokush family of hunters? Putting aside their son Kerry, the father

Zachary was level 10, the mother Winry should have been level 9 as well. I'm sure they were killing monsters while hunting as well but they should have been killing the animals that were their game on a daily basis.

I was only killing monsters when I went hunting so I didn't really pay much attention to it. There weren't any fisherman in Bakuddo but when fisherman catch a lot of fish they end up killing in mass as well. When you're fishing in the case that you make a large catch you immediately pull it in and kill it on the spot but I wonder if that doesn't happen often with their catch? I feel like pulling it up in a boat and suffocating it to death would enter the realm of killing though... Though if I'm going to say that then Goblins and Kobolds are hunting small animals on a daily basis to live as well. I don't know if it's everyday or every couple of days but it would be strange if they weren't killing some kind of animal on a daily basis. If they're killing then they should be gaining experience points, but in that case level 2 and level 3 is too low.

Even those Large Leeches that I hunted like crazy gave at least 10 experience points or so. Come to think of it those things had the special skill "bloodsucking". I wonder if that was added as well? Since I didn't do much normal hunting or fishing my memories of identifying regular animals are vague. I've seen several of them but I couldn't be bothered remembering them. The majority of the animals I identified were after they had become Corpse of XX after all. Ah, come to think of it pigs and chickens were level 0. Though it probably can't be helped since they're not using their own power to find their food. Horses are level 0 as well. Even my war horse is level 0. Though I think a war horse would have received a reasonable amount of training.

Eh? Why didn't I do any fishing? Since there were no needles and they were valuable in Bakuddo. In the first place, I'm a part of the ocean fishing faction, how and what are you telling me to fish in Bakuddo where there's nothing but small fish in the river? There's like 5 Km to the ocean. Not to mention you have to go through the forest where monsters live. Who would try to go fishing in that situation?

Since it had reached a good time I was thinking about these things on our way back after rotating myself to the safe area in the center of our lineup. Ah...come to think of it I've seen when pigs and chickens are killed and disassembled

countless times but there was no magic stone...I wonder if they have no MP then they can't produce a magic stone? Even Large Leeches had MP after all... Though I've only seen it once but the Brown Slime had MP as well. Well, I guess not all mysteries will be solved to easily.

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We found 27 Goblin magic stones with an average value of 150 or so. 21 magic stones of Gnolls with a value of around 2,000. 12 magic stones from Orks with a value of about 4,500. Hobgoblin's magic stone was around 4,500 as well and we have 3 of those.

In the end we were able to collect magic stones with a total value of 113,214. That comes out to sales of about 800,000 Z. I gave Zenom, Ralpa, and Bel a bonus of 2 silver coins each and we all went to eat dinner.

Just as planned I made tomorrow into a rest day for now. After telling everyone to rest well and I started towards my inn alone. The other four are all in the same inn. I'm the only one alone...Ah, isn't this a good chance? Maybe I'll go and enjoy myself. Since it's like I earned over 700,000 yen in just today after all, even if i enjoy myself a bit...it should be fine, but I remembered I still haven't done my running for today yet. I ended up not doing it yesterday after everything as well. It's no good to skip out on it two days in a row right? Since tomorrow is a day off, shouldn't tomorrow be fine? It won't run away from me.

I guess I'll go and properly do my running to help with digestion as well..

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Year 7442, Month 6, Day 6

I woke up before sunrise and after creeping around putting on my clothes I went to eat breakfast. After eating some oatmeal with an egg in it and some kind of white-meat fish saute for breakfast my head started to wake up as I sipped at some bean tea. I'll go to enjoy myself today. Let's do that. I returned to the inn once and after putting 7-8 silver coins into my wallet I put my clothes to be washed in a basket and left it in the hall.

I'll wander around for a walk and look for a good place to enter. While thinking that I suddenly realized. Come to think of it I wonder if there's a designation system? When I went to "Ritton" in Keel Sebastian lined up the

women and had me choose. I'm sure he meant pick one among them but I feel like that was because I showed the Marquis Webdos plate as well. If it's a normal customer who doesn't have something like that then I wonder what happens?

If I was the manager and they freely entered and it wasn't a customer that was a regular I would start off by putting them with a girl that doesn't have many customers. Like a newcomer. After that if they come several times then I'd take a survey and after comprehending the customers interests I'd give them a girl that they would like. Face and body, service, conversation since you never know what the customer might be interested in, just like that there's no other choice than slowly increasing the customers that might become regulars. Hmm. Come to think of it, I wonder if Jabba is doing good? He was a man that it was regrettable to let him just be the manger of a place in the sex industry. I never want to see his face again though.

Well, it's fine, those sorts of slightly complex things don't matter at all. Since I started to wander around in order to enjoy my day off, I just need to go all out and enjoy myself. Thinking that I started heading towards the #6 road where a lot of bars are said to be. It's a simple way of thinking but if there's a lot of bars then I'm sure it's a prosperous area and if it's prosperous area then there should be brothel in the area as well, so it might not be all that mistaken.

I was wandering around and looking at the scenery of the town as I head towards the #6 area of town. Ah, after I finish enjoying myself I should seriously try and get a grasp on the town of Baldukk, though it might better to just walk around. It's a town with a simple structure but I'm sure it would be easier to remember by actually walking and looking around.

"Hey Joshua, you going again today?"

"That's right, since it's my day off. I earned quite a bit yesterday after all, I'm going to do it until I throw out my back~"

"You really love that stuff~ Didn't you just catch that weird disease. They might refuse you with that ugly face."

"Heee~ "If it's "Rukuso" then it's fine, as long as you pay money there they'll let you in."

"It's because you keep going to cheap places like that, that you end up like

that.”

Eh? I couldn't help but identify the guy called Joshua. It was Condition: Disease (Sexually Transmitted Disease). Hmn, I guess the name of the disease like syphilis, gonorrhea, or AIDs doesn't come out. He has weird smallpox like tumors on his nose and it's hard to look at his face. After erasing the identify window where it's roughly displayed and I thought a bit more. This isn't Earth. Diseases like syphilis and gonorrhea might not be the same as on Earth. If there's a disease I don't know would it be bad? I play with the rubber bag in my pocket while thinking.

As long as I can't heal an illness in one shot then I wonder if I should re-think enjoying myself? Or would it be fine if I just use healing magic on myself periodically after things have ended? If it's at the level of a cold then I'm sure I can heal it in the early stages. The method to choose a partner who's definitely alright might be... to identify the girl and check their condition but I wonder if I can identify diseases that have an incubation period? Syphilis and AIDS have incubation periods in the years. In the longest cases it can be over 10 years. I wonder if I can identify that far?

It would be bad if I got impatient and received a weird disease. Even if I have condoms they're not absolute. No matter how short I estimate it I'll be spending at least a year in this Baldukk I'm sure. I wonder if it would be better to identify as many prostitutes as I can and confirm if it's safe first? Rather, if I were be infected by an STD I'm sure Bel and Ralpa would scorn me. No matter what I want to avoid being looked at by them my subordinates like that.

Ah, even if they don't have some kind of weird disease I can't think of doing it with them as the partner at all. Even their appearances are completely those of children going from my common sense. Well, in terms of appearance I'm the same though. In any case, that's another reason I'm neurotic about the problem of exhausting Ralpa's MP. And I'm the type who doesn't agree with romance in the same company. Even if you try to develop a romance in between doing your job there's not much good to it. If you're going to do a romance within the company then I won't accept it unless you go to the point of marriage. If you marry then it's fine.

Eh? Wasn't Ralpa interested in Zulu? There's no way that's the case, I'm sure

she wasn't saying that seriously. After all, Zulu is a non-human. Even in my past life, I never felt much sexual interest in black women. No, it's not a matter of racial discrimination. But, it seems to be true that when the races(though in the first place Non-humans are humans so it's not even a matter of humanity) are different it's difficult to find someone that matches up with your type.

I'm sure that international marriages are unusual in part because they simply don't have many chances to get to know each other but it seems that there's also the fundamental theory on living creatures if you wanted feel a instinctual desire to want to have kids with the other person. Even on Orth there's marriages across races but after all they're just as unusual as international marriages from my past life, and they have the barrier of it being difficult to have kids. There's also the opinion that if it's difficult to have kids then you can do it as much as you want though. That is that, this is this. If it's just a night of fun then that's fine. But, I'm talking about when you're planning to get married.

That's why if Ralpa and Zulu were to say they want to marry I wouldn't be against it but just saying they're dating or stuff like that is...I'll think about it when it comes to it. Ah, Bel has a lover doesn't she. If the partner still likes Bel then it's fine if they get married. If that isn't the case then we'll deal with it when we get there. I'm sure things will only go as they can go.

Somehow I've lost interest. Since I'm young it might be better to just run to let it all out. In the first place I'm still 14 years old. I have to question going to a brothel at this age a bit. I don't know how long this self-restraint of mine will last but..it probably won't last that long.

It might sound like I'm just trying to act cool but that's exactly the case. My motives are simple. If I think carefully about it then I'd hate it if I get infected with an STD. I might be able to heal it with magic but magic exerts its power through image. That's why if it comes to a disease that I know about then I might not be able to heal it. If I regret it at that point then it's already too late. Therefore, as long as I don't try testing it using someone else then even if I wanted to I can't play around.

Putting it even more simply and I should find a couple of seemingly healthy people and then try infecting them with STDs. And then test if I can heal them with magic. If it's OK then I can just stretch my arms out, relax, and play around.

If it's no good then I'll have to limit going to a brothel to when my MP hits 0 for some reason and I can't hold back my sexual desire.

Ah, I also want the statistics of having someone use condoms and see to what probability they can use them before they get infected as well. It's most likely a couple percent, even in worst case I'm sure it wouldn't exceed 20% but if I think about that then I wonder if I left Keel too soon? If it was the "Ritton"'s Jabba, otherwise known as Haritaid then I'm sure he would have happily cooperated with me...

Should I use Zulu? Wait just a minute, aren't I forgetting that condoms have a size? He has a height of 190 cm or so. He's a full head larger than me....It's mortifying but the only one I have on me is the M size. I have some weird pride that it's not an S but in the first place I never made an S size, so just make it your and my secret that there's only M and L sizes. Ah, six years older brother is the L. Since my older brother is a huge man in every meaning of the word.

Alright, since I've decided that I'll go with a drawn out battle here. Though it's in the middle of the prosperous area since there were originally quite a few bars I'm sure there's some places that aren't closed. I'll sit there and look at the street while identifying like crazy. It goes against my principals a bit but in the end there's a high possibility it could connect to preventing the spread of STDs and above all it's for my noble objective of enjoying myself. I'll make it so when I use Identify it only shows me their condition. Rather, unless something unusual happens I don't have any interest in their names.

After finding an appropriate bar and taking up position at a table facing the street I started identifying the people as long as my MP holds out. I started to regret it immediately. If I don't leave some records and make a statistic then there's not much meaning to it. It'll just become my subjectivity. It's a bit troublesome but I need to prepare some writing utensils and come back. Ah, my objective is just to figure out what ratio of people wandering around this area are infected with an STD when I identify them.

.....

After returning to my inn to get some writing utensils and walking around the roads of Baldukk again and someone called out to me. It's Bel. I thought she had

something she wanted from me but it seems she and Ralpa have split up looking for something. It seems that they're searching for shoes. Since they've got a fixed income for starters they want to buy some shoes I guess. And, if they're going to buy some then want some proper rubber-sole shoes so while looking for stores that sells they were looking for me as well.

Hmn. I don't think they'll be able to get their hands on shoes with rubber-soles here. If it's sandals then I think it might be possible but when it comes to shoes I think we've only made the rubber-base boots that we sold to the Webdos Knight Group. My knit boots are a one-of-a-kind product as well. When I left the house though it was a small quantity we had just started selling the same boots as we sold the Webdos Knight Group to Webdos Company. Putting aside the rubber, we couldn't keep up with the production of the rest of the boots.

I talk while looking at her feet and just like Ralpa the tips of her toes seem to have gotten hard. If it's like this then I'm sure the skin of the bottoms of her feet has gotten thick as well, is what I was thinking when looking pitifully at her and Bel acted embarrassed. Maybe because she's already used to them being seen or shes just becoming defiant she said.

"They don't look like the feet of a girl right. Even at my house only my parents and older brother had shoes but us young siblings didn't have shoes. Even though we were a Sub-Baron family, we weren't all that wealthy...One of things you could say is good is that I have no need to worry about bunions."

Yeah, I only made these shoes when I left the house so until then I was barefoot as well. Let alone just that my older brother Farne didn't even get shoes until he entered the knight group. I think the wallet was tighter in my household. Putting that aside, rubber-sole shoes huh...

"Hmn, rubber-sole shoes indeed. I think you probably won't find them or even if you do they'll be at an insane price. Normally sandals are about 3,000 Z and leather boots you should be able to buy a decent pair for 15,000 Z so wouldn't it be better to get some of those? Honestly speaking, if they're rubber made then the sale price of both of them is over 10x that amount."

I said it intended as a warning.

“Yeah, I heard about that from Ral as well. But, if it’s leather-soles then you need to spend money on repairs quickly..and sandals you almost have to throw them away after use..”

It’s true that normal leather sands will become unusable even after just using them for a week straight of working the fields or escorting a caravan it seems. They’re something you wear around town or in the house. Boots are made durable compared to sandals but even then they’re made to only last two or three weeks when travelling and then you need to replace the soles.

I had a pair of leather-sole business shoes in my past life but even if you did maintenance on them everyday if you walk around outside doing sales then in a month or at best two months you would need to replace the soles at a shoe store. Those have a thin rubber part in the center of them for the most part but it’s only about 1 mm in thickness and after that rubber bottom is shaved away the leather soles disappear quickly and you need to replace them. Since the running costs are so high unless you were rich person it would be impossible to use them normally. Rather they aren’t made to be walked in outside other than going to work. They’re something you use on carpet or tiles inside of a building. In my case I used them when I found it appropriate to show off during a business deal.

If you change locations then they become a luxury, is what I was thinking but that doesn’t solve anything. It’s true that it would better to have shoes. Even if the leather on the bottom of your feet gets thicker it’s no comparison for rubber. It could be said that it’s a huge combat potential up just being able to run without worrying about the ground. Is this that? I guess I should somehow try and get in contact with Bakuddo. Ah, I guess Webdos Company would work as well.

Come to think of it, there was an adventurer job in the government office of Keel for escorting a caravan to Romberta. After I left Keel and passed through Viscount Penlaid’s territory, and a short while after entering the King’s direct territory I passed a caravan with a number of carriages connected together. Huh, When was that again? I wonder if that caravan has already arrived in Rombertia? Or maybe it hasn’t arrived yet? Since the structure of the town of Baldukk is unique I doubt they would go through the trouble of passing by it. I

think they'll circle around this town and head to Rombertia.

I feel like if we go to the capital then we might be able to find some place to find rubber-sole boots produced in Bakuddo but I think we were only selling around 10 pairs to the company was it? I feel like they'd sell out right away. I explained those sorts of circumstances to Bel. In any case, since I thought of sending a letter to Bakuddo through the Webdos Company, I couldn't think of anything to say other than endure until then or use something else until then.

Chapter 82: Reasoning

Year 7442, Month 6, Day 30

The first month since Bel has joined our party is about to pass. Every week we challenge the dungeon on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and we've set Wednesday and Saturday as our rest days. In particular because my party does {search and destroy}, we progressively try to fight as much as possible so when we start exploring we get pretty tense and exhaust our stamina and mentality quickly. In reality I thought about putting a day of rest between each but around the time we enter the 2nd floor I thought that we might end up having to spend the night in the dungeon so I stuck with 2 days of work 1 day of rest as the base.

During this roughly one month period we've been careful not to overdo things and if anyone gets hurts or right before lunch we turn back. Combat occurs every time we enter the dungeon. That's why in regards to gathering magic stone's were largely in black on the balance right now. There were no bonuses like obtaining the articles of deceased adventurers like the first day but other than Zenom and I everyone has gained 1 level each. I've stopped at just assisting all of them occasionally and since Zenom was originally a pretty high level it takes a lot of experience points for him to get to the next level.

Furthermore, I wrote a letter to my family, and just in case Webdos Company. I drew a foot template of Ralpa and the others feet on some paper and included that. I wrote that I want Ralpa and Bel's to be made slightly large but I don't know how much time it will take for it to reach Bakuddo. I think at the shortest it should take about four months for them to arrive but I wonder if that will actually be the case? Since I left it with a caravan heading towards Keel I can't predict it at all.

Since today is Saturday it's a day off. After eating breakfast together with Zulu the same as usual, I handed Zulu his wages for this month of 5 silver coins. Annual income of 600,000 Z. It's an income that's slightly larger than a small

farm owner that doesn't own any slaves and is the equivalent of 10,000 Z per week pay. Honestly speaking, in a large town like Baldukk it would be difficult to live on just this amount but since I pay for his inn and food costs it's an exceptionally high pay for a slave. Though, I decided on it after watching him for this month. He can be useful. He listens well and he can decently use the sword as well. And above all it seems that he's quite loyal so unless an extraordinary talent appears from now on then he's going to be my head slave.

Since we've only started to get to know him for about a month as expected we still haven't told him that we're reincarnated people. It's because I somehow got the feeling that if he knew there could be conflicts between groups of reincarnated people that appear from here on then he might think of searching for them. Since this isn't modern day Japan, I know it's not good to be nervous about him being scouted or betraying but I'm not so optimistic nor have I seen through enough of his personality in just one month so it shouldn't matter right. For the most part I've told the other members about this as well.

On the side of Zulu who's grateful for his high pay, I'm getting right to setting the goals for next month. This month I had made a secret goal of "confirming the ability for our party to cooperate and if possible improve that" but since you could already say we've more or less cleared it so I need to decide on next months goal.

- In regards to clearing the 1st floor we're still just randomly wandering around and haven't properly drawn a map. It seems impossible.

- I feel it's unrealistic to try and draw a proper map with this situation where Ralpa's MP is still 3. I've told her not to use her Unique Ability but magic twice every day but going off this pace it will take another five months before her void magic reaches level 1. As expected using magic three times a day and getting her MP to 0 is something I want to avoid because of her age. It can't be helped betting on the 1% chance of raising her MP and above all Ralpa seems to stay the night the same room as Zenom so it would be too late after something happens. I somehow don't like the idea of her visiting Zulu at night for sex as well. Maybe I'll buy a map. Then it's not a dream of clearing the 1st floor... If she just had 7 MP, if she could just reach 7. Since it's already started to feel annoying I was thinking maybe I should just starve her and then have her

use up her MP to 0 then after feeding her let her go to sleep. If I wake her up in the middle of the night and make her do it twice then she should be able to earn 5 experience points a day and it will level up in 2.5 months. But, I guess it's a bit too pitiful...not letting her eat properly together with everyone else.

- In regards to the objective of leveling myself up I feel it's kind of half-hearted but if I were to seriously stand at the front and engage in combat all day I can solve it all at once. If I felt like it then I could even go and do it all today I'm sure. Though overdoing it is no good because I have no backup members. It's not so important to make into a goal.

- It might be a good idea to get one more additional combat slave. My earnings for this month have exceeded 10,000,000 Z by a little bit. I've given Zenom, Ralpa, and Bel about 300,000 Z each in bonuses. If I increase the number of members who can fight then we should be able to have more stability in combat I'm sure. I've used quite a bit of the money I received from father and even if it doesn't quite reach the original amount I've been able to recover back to close that much. It might be a good hand to add one more slave around here. If we earn another couple million Z then I think I should still have plenty of leeway even after buying a slave. Let's go with this.

I was lost in my thoughts while sipping at my bean tea after breakfast but after deciding on the next goal there's nothing left than to take action. I bid farewell to Zulu for a while until dinner and after leaving the restaurant I went back to my inn to put my protectors on and go running for today. Ah, I've haven't said it until now but the inn I'm staying at is the "Boil Manor" and the inn that Zenom and other's are staying at is called "Shuni" it's just a step above a cheap lodging house.

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After finishing my running and washing my protectors I changed and went out to "Slave Store, Ronslail" again. I already found out. Reserving slaves is an obvious practice. That shitty gnome from "Tani Company". He deceived me in order to try and make me impatient thinking I was an amateur at buying slaves. Like I'll ever go to that store again.

After entering the store and calling out and Madam.Ronslail approached me

with her usual sociable smile. As usual this madam has a strong sales disposition.

I name myself and after sticking out my right I let her use Status Open on me. After all when you're dealing with expensive things like slaves then you need to properly confirm each others identity, so I've already gotten used to this being common, or rather the correct mannerisms. It's an extremely rude behavior to suddenly use Status Open on someone but it's not rude to reveal yours from your end. Rather, it's closer to the meaning of, my identity is this, so I want you to have faith in and do business with me.

After confirming my status and the madam looked at my face strangely she finally realized that I was a previous customer since I dyed my hair. That's fine but she also said something that bothers me at the same time.

"I've heard plenty of rumors about you lately."

What does she mean? Why would there be rumors about us? Because we saved Bel and handed over the criminal?

"There's quite a few rumors that even though you're new adventurers you're earning several hundreds of thousands of Z every time you enter the dungeon. Thanks to that, we can hold our heads high in the fact that we sold you a combat slave."

So it was that sort of thing. It's true that it's normal for people to avoid fighting as much as possible and hurry to the next floor. They say that you fundamentally only find the special items that would make you rich quick starting from the 2nd floor after all and I'm sure that I'm about the only one that knows that you gain experience points from defeating enemies and level up. I'm sure if I didn't know about that then I would have been devoted to avoiding combat as much as possible and aimed for going as far in as I could as well. If that wasn't the case then who would bother fighting Goblins and things which only give magic stones with such a low value? The magic stones of Orks and Hobgoblins are considerably high but they're strong enough that someone among us gets injured pretty easily. Although, I guess it had gotten to the point where we've entered the rumors of other adventurers?

Thinking that I tried asking her about it but it seems it was a bit different. It

seems she heard about the fact that we're often going to the magic tool shop to sell magic stones from the magic tool shop owner while having tea with them. She was shrewdly using that as publicity. I guess it's fine though. In any case, after telling the madam that I want her to find me a new combat slave and if possible get first pick on one and the madam immediately went into the back to prepare the combat slaves.

After waiting for a short while I was called to the back by the madam who appeared again. Che...There's nothing but female combat slaves again. Since women won't add to the combat potential...Huh? Even if Ralph and Bel are special cases because they're reincarnated people, wouldn't it be fine as long as they're in their early 20s? Come to think of it, I wonder if I was insistent on a man last time because I was feeling impatient with increasing our combat capabilities? Somehow I don't feel like that's quite right either. I started identifying with an unexplainable feeling and after all there was no one special so I ended up leaving the store with those unexplainable feelings remaining.

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With my arms crossed and my head I walk heading towards "Boil Manor". Come to think of it I feel like I've had a lot of uneasy and unexplainable feelings late. I wonder what it is? This? Is it just my imagination? After arriving at my inn feeling like something is stuck in my teeth I lay down on the bed and look at the ceiling.

Well I'm sure it's nothing too important but somehow it bothers me.

I start organizing my thoughts which has already become a habit.

Huh? What was I thinking about again? Ah that's right, about feeling something is off or something like that. Somehow I feel like I was about to forget about it. It's really troublesome but I think I should write stuff down as I organize it for once.

I got up from the bed and opened the window but since it was still dark in the room I lit up the lighting magic tool. After sitting down on the chair in front of the table and I took out a couple of pieces of paper I bought for drawing a map.

I write out each and every one of the things that I felt was unnatural, felt something was off with, or I couldn't explain. A bit after I started writing them I

realized.

What's this!?

Each one of them doesn't particularly matter at all. If you just look at that then there's no particular problem. But, just going off the number of times I remember feeling something was off I started trembling.

Something is strange.

If you were to ask how it's strange and I would be a bit troubled to answer.

But, I somehow think it's strange.

There's several instances where I feel like my own actions are strange. When I try my best to remember that time I can think of several things I said or did that were strange for me. Putting it simply, it's almost like I was acting like a big-headed child. If I just take a glance at it then going off the result it shouldn't be all that mistaken so I can almost just let it pass by as it being a one-time occurrence. Though going off this then there's probably several other times where I acted or said strange things that I can't remember. Or rather it's probably more realistic to think that's the case.

Huh~? I wonder what in the world this means?

It's fine if I organize and think about each of them individually but I should probably think about it generally first. Though it's important to think about what I said and did and what I normally would have done but I can't redo something that's already been done. Rather, what's more important is from here on out. It's necessary to carefully think this matter out without coming to a simple conclusion.

If I look at the outline and there's some places where it would be strange to end up with my way of thinking. For example if an event called A were to happen. And myself in the past used method B to resolve that. However, after thinking it through more calmly I felt it would have been more like me to use method C, that sort of thing. This "think more calmly" is the difficult part. Since I'm not actually thinking, I'm remembering. Going off of my actions from my past life and if I was this sort of person then I wouldn't I pick method C, that sort of thing.

Well it might be easier to figure out by remembering and matching it up right now than thinking.

I follow my memories back. Gradually, gradually I keep going back. I remember as far back as I can. My oldest memory is from when I was three years old in my past life. I remember laying down and playing around on the futon in the sun of the house that I lived in back then. The warm and smooth feeling of the futon and the nostalgic smell. I can't remember anything other than that but this is probably my oldest memory. It's vague but I remember the round lights hanging from the ceiling and the scenery I could see from outside the sliding door. Anything else than that including the appearance I've completely forgotten.

After that along with my growth my memory got a lot better. Though I say that my memories from grade school and middle school are already pretty fragmented but the number increases. If I remember right then the anime about a space battleship was broadcast before I entered grade school. My three year older brother was hooked on it. Until my later years in grade school the mobile suit was broadcast. I woke up in the early morning at around 5 am and went to the model store to line up with my friend in order to buy a plastic model with a ticket. The first one I bought wasn't the leading actors machine but that green one the villain uses.

I think it was around then, or maybe a little bit before that the I entered the boys baseball team in my local area... we never really won but it was fun. Ah, I remember playing with the dial-type TV and changing the channels while still in my uniform so I must have entered the baseball team a bit before. After I got into middle school I quickly entered the swimming club. I was in the swimming club in high school as well. I went to the point where I was almost able to enter inter-high...My first girlfriend. She broke up with me quickly. My next girlfriend after that we continued for a decent amount of time but when I entered the Self-Defense College we ended up losing contact and that was it...

After that was my rich memories of my past last until I died. Things that were fun, that were painful, that I was happy about, that I was sad about, that I got excited about, that I got depressed about...I can clearly remember the things I did that at that time. Though it's only obvious that the vague stuff from when I

was a child isn't a lot. Of course, they've gotten fragmented and things like the faces of the people I met, and the faces from the last time I met them I feel are slightly different. But, I can remember them without problem. It's the same for stuff after I reincarnated. And, I was somehow able to understand it.

Since I have memories, I have knowledge and wisdom that go with it. But... but, what about the mentality that makes up the basis for my personality? It might better to call it my mental age. Though I think it's a bit different, that's fine for now. If I remember correctly then God said, "You lived until you were 45 years old in your previous life. Though you're still 1 year old in this world it's no different from saying your mental age is 46 years old. However, your current body is that of a 1 year old. Your stamina has also become appropriate for that age. Your emotions and way of thinking are being pulled by the sensitivity of the age of that body. However, in another two — three months the adjustments related to that should pass, or rather your current body should adjust to your mentality, so you should be able to speak in a way appropriate for your mental age, and control your emotions without problem. Just think of those sorts of things as occurring in a matter of time." I wonder if it's okay to take those details at face value?

In the start there was the line, "It's not incorrect to say your mental age is 46 years old". I think it's fine to take this at face value. The problem is the portion after that.

"Your emotions and way of thinking are being pulled by the sensitivity of the age of that body. However, in another two — three months the adjustments related to that should pass, or rather your current body should adjust to your mentality, so you should be able to speak in a way appropriate for your mental age, and control your emotions without problem."

It's true that the problems with my manner of speech disappeared. However, it never said that my mental age itself remains fixed. Rather, it said that it would be pulled by the sensitivity of the age of my body.

The thing that gets adjusted is my mental age gets younger to match up with my body!

Since the knowledge and wisdom I had from the start remained just as it was I didn't realize it. The way I feel and think about things has gotten younger being pulled by my body!

And that window that came out in the end. The start of my new life. Reincarnation. If you mention reincarnation normally it points to the circle of death and rebirth. In religions, how you often hear about being reborn. It's not a revival. I'm sure that revival points to your body, personality, and memories all being restored the same as before but it differs fundamentally from that. In the case of my reincarnation, my memories and personality were maintained but there's clear differences in my body.

If the body is different then there's no way it wouldn't influence your mentality or personality. Until I reincarnated I was a splendid adult. Going from that into a baby suddenly would normally cause a tremendous amount of stress. Though I can't remember for sure at first I feel like I couldn't even stand up and my sensation of the differences in length of my limbs felt different. I think I was often irritated because I couldn't properly control my emotions at all. In the first place it's suspicious if this body they call human in this world is even the same as humans on Earth. Putting aside memories I'm sure that it would be necessary to integrate the personality that is the mentality together with the new body. It's just a hypothesis but my summarized conclusion is this.

- I died and was reincarnated as a baby.
- On that occasion I inherited my memories and the consciousness, or rather wisdom that goes with that.
- I don't under the reason this works but since it's something a God probably did, I'm sure I wouldn't be able to figure it out just by thinking about it, so it's fine to put off for now. Furthermore, the reason doesn't matter at all at this point, and is unrelated here.
- But, it said that the mentality would take some time to integrate with the new body.
- That period is about 1 year to 1.5 years?
- It's just a guess but I think that it took around that much time for 90% of the integration to finish. After that I feel like it's spending a much longer period of time performing the rest of the integration.
- It's unknown if the integration has already completed.
- My mental age has gotten somewhat close to the age of my body but it's not like my original personality will completely disappear. It was limited to just integrating them after all. This isn't just a hopeful observation. I can naturally

act like an adult more than what a normal 14 year old would and normally I wouldn't feel that my own actions are unnatural as well. The unexplainable feeling I've been getting lately was, over a certain action, if it's the person I know as me in my memories then they wouldn't do this, or close to that.

- I don't know what the ratio(I wouldn't try to put it into a number) of my original personality is still remaining but at the very least my current mental age is considerably younger than the 45 years old in my past life. Though I don't think it's exactly the same age as my 14 year old body. I feel it's a bit higher.

- It's unknown if the personality that I'm missing is hidden or has completely disappeared. It's just my guess based on memory but I don't feel like it's not disappeared.

I don't know if this correct. I'm sure I don't have enough material to make a decision yet. It's probably better to think that I'm mistaken on something somewhere or I'm overlooking it because I don't have enough to go on. In the first place it was difficult just trying to remember the strange parts in my own actions that I let pass by because I didn't feel there was a problem with them. I'm sure there's a lot of instances where I felt something was off and even more I don't remember. Rather it would be more natural to think there's more of them that I can't remember.

I think during the first year to year and a half I suddenly got a lot younger to around 20 years old and after that I slowly got younger over a number of years. However, it never went as far as the age of my body. Did it stabilize a bit above that? Did it grow a bit over time after that? I don't know at all around that part but if I think about it like this then it makes somewhat sense, I think. I'm not overlooking anything right? Well, even if I am overlooking something it can't be helped.

The problem is whether or not there's bad things that could occur because of this. One of them is the misunderstandings and brash decisions I might make because my mentality has gotten younger. Even if I try to be careful of this if it's a decision that exceeds my mental age right now then it would be difficult to decide. Of course, if I think carefully then I should be able to reduce the number of mistakes so caution is still necessary. I'm sure it's necessary to carefully consider everything.

Next is if something I decided in the past is strange and the potential problems that I've already caused or will cause in the future because of that. This is the difficult part. I would need to think back on everything I said or did until now and question them. In order to decide whether I made the proper decision would take an immense amount of work. If I were to think about it in extremes then I'd even have to verify if the amount of wages I gave to Zulu this morning was reasonable.

Or if I put it even further why I even bought a combat slave, or was Zulu a good choice, those sorts of things would need to be verified as well. If I go back even further then the development of rubber or in the first place if it was necessary to leave the house, or the validity of making a country, if I start thinking there's no end to them. For example, since I already know that I can make cotton gunpowder wouldn't it be better to start making guns already, and, it might be necessary to start thinking about developing a detonator and stuff like that.

After thinking about it this far, since I'm already not Kawasaki Takeo, but rather Alan Greed, is it really necessary to be so particular about the values and way of thinking of Kawasaki Takeo? and thinking like that I was even about to start abandoning the annoying thought work. I guess stuff like that is where my young mentality is kicking in. In the first place I've even found thinking itself to be troublesome lately so I haven't even made a comparison table. In the past I used to write up something like a report going over the main points in an easy way whenever I tried to organize things. I wonder when it started to get too troublesome.

Anyway, anything more than this I'll need to think about when the chance comes up I'm sure. But, it's a good idea to consider things that have happened lately. Starting with the big problem of Ralpa's mana amount. I'm sure we should hurry her magic training. If it was the me in the past then even if it's pitiful to Ralpa I would have put in the effort to make her gain as much experience as possible with the magic special skills. This is something that needs to be done. In any case, while this is a day off it's too naive to make it a completely free day. It's only obvious that it's necessary to rest and relieve some mental strain but there's no particular need to sleep it away.

Next is a new slave. Though I told Madam Ronslail to prepare some better combat slaves in stock, I didn't give her any tangible orders on what kind. I guess I'll think about it a bit. Also, when I think back to the time I bought Zulu. That time I didn't even glance at the large number of female combat slaves. I can't say it was a completely strange decision because women do fall behind men in terms of power but I can't even remember checking their ages or levels. There were even some decently good looking slaves. In my case since I have to look after the trouble of the slave, I think I would pick a male who's got as good of a disposition as possible and if I go off combat potential then a male would be better on that end as well so this is fine.

I'm not hoping for a skill with the sword like my older sister or sister-in-law who've trained in knight groups from something like a slave. Even though Zulu was a squire and he can use the sword somewhat his rough movements still stand out after all. In the first place, if there actually was someone like that there's no way they'd be at a price I could buy them. If a knight falls to a slave then it would be like Zulu where they ended up as war prisoners and no one paid the ransom for them. The ransom for a commoner knight is over 20 gold coins. It's only obvious that they'd have a price on that level and if there was a bargain like that then in the first place the slave trade would say something. There's no way they wouldn't say anything.

However, if it's slave, then, I could even use the condom...No wait, I don't have the interest of using my authority to forcefully do it. And...it's embarrassing. If it's a prostitute that takes a number of customers then even if they make fun of you it's just a temporary thing and in the first place you're paying them money so it's unlikely they'd say it to your face. However, if it's my slave then I have to remain with them even after. Even in the worst case I can't let them know that there's still an extra armor sheet remaining. If the idiot girl finds out then she'll definitely make fun of me. Until I grow, get unmasked, and become a {big} man, female slaves are prohibited from now on as well.

Though saying that is a joke but even then it's strange. I have enough self-control to not lay a hand on my own slave. I should have. I want to think I do. Then why did I insist on Zulu, no, male slaves so much that I didn't even confirm the others at that time? I'm sure it's true that one of the reasons is I was

desperate for more combat potential. But, I wouldn't have lost anything just confirming them right? Was I being timid in front of adult women because my mentality has gotten younger? At this point? There's no way. Ah, since I would hate it if I'm misunderstood I'll say it from the start but I'm not a Holy Being but a Martian. A Martian. I'm a man that will go far. Go far...since I'm 14 years old hold hopes for me from here on out.

It really can't be helped just thinking of strange things like this. This probably isn't a problem with my mental age. Let's go to the next point, next. Bel's magic. She has quite a bit of MP. That's why if she can learn to use magic then it would be directly related to raising our combat potential. And just perfect she's a rear guard as well. For this past month, she's been training with magic but while she's not very good at it she's giving it her best. Since it's more unusual for people to be able to use it right after they start training I'll have her make an effort over a while.

..It's about a good time. I ended up spending several hours thinking without eating lunch. When I handed Zulu his wages I told him he could do whatever he wants for lunch on days off but without intending to I spent quite a while thinking. I'll talk about the magic training and that I intend to buy a new slave at dinner tonight.

On my way to the restaurant we're meeting up at I stopped by Ronslail's store and made a detailed order. It doesn't matter if they're male or female but if possible I want someone around 20 years old in age. It's not better if they're as young as possible so this should be about right. Also if possible then someone who became a slave from being a war prison. And I said it's fine even if it's with a wooden sword but I want to test their skill before I buy them.

When I went to the restaurant everyone was already there. While looking at the carefree Ralpa I started thinking that I would take her to the limits with magic training starting tomorrow as I started explaining my plans from here on out.

Chapter 83: Method of Mourning

Year 7442, Month 8, Day 14

On a hot day as summer nears it's end once again today the five of us are challenging the dungeon. Since we've explored the dungeon countless times we're already used to fighting the monsters that come out on the 1st floor. However, we still can't let our guards down. If we make a single mistake we could get seriously injured and even death is possible beyond that. I can't even remember the number of times the three front-line attackers have gotten injured. They usually end up being injured by opponents that appear in the afternoon when their ability to concentrate starts to break and we end up having to retreat. Today was the same. Unable to avoid the charge of a gnoll with a crude spear Zulu ended up taking an injury to his thigh.

I immediately assisted them and after wiping out the enemies I healed Zulu's wound. Zulu apologized but it doesn't particularly bother me. It's true Zulu was in the wrong by letting his guard down but it was also Bel and my mistake thinking Zulu would be fine so we weren't able to assist him right away and since we're advancing cautiously it's about the time start to become unable to focus. It's a bit early but since I'm sure there's still pain remaining in Zulu's leg we should head back for today.

It was when I was thinking that while I cut open the pitiful gnolls chest to take out the magic stone. I heard something that was clearly a humans voice from somewhere saying "save me". It's been two and a half months since we started exploring the dungeon and this is our first time coming across another living adventurer inside. We exchange glances and look further in the cave where the voice came from. Of course we can't see anything but we couldn't help but to do so. I guess this is a trait of living things.

"What should we do?"

Ralpa asked. Right now I'm strictly training her with magic. I'm sure she wants to freely use magic as well, she doesn't make any complaints and focuses

on the training every day, but it will still probably take about 1 month before her void magic reaches level 1. It's really unfortunate that her MP didn't increase during her last level up. As a matter of fact a large portion of the combat we're doing lately has the objective of leveling up Ralph.

"Let's move forward while keeping an eye on things."

After I respond and Bel said as well.

"But, I heard, save me. I think it would be a good idea to hurry."

Her manner of speech has gotten a lot softer. But, she still tries to speak politely to me and since it's unnecessary to tell her to go out of her way to fix that I've just ignored it. She just learned void magic the other day. She's training the same as Ralph right now but in another week or so I'm sure her level will go up. Having more than 30 times the amount of MP than Ralph is that much more valid in earning experience towards magic and it's to point where Ralph is a bit pitiful. Zenom said to that Bel.

"There's no need to hurry. Everything that happens in the dungeon is your own responsibility. I won't say we shouldn't save them or not to save them. But, the area ahead of here we haven't passed by yet. There might be a trap. If we go to save them and get caught in a trap then it's pointless."

Zenom is a pillar of the party with how he's always calm and composed. There's a personal opinion in his words and everyone pays attention to those warnings. Obviously I do as well.

I washed my hands with water magic and after wiping them with a towel I opened the map and checked our current location once again. Going off the terrain from around where we teleported, the location we are is probably, here. If the map is correct then 100 meters ahead of us the cave should bend to the left and after continuing a bit from there it should connect to a large room. That large room should be connect to two other caves from the cave we're advancing through. Right, I bought a map, but this map was a fake. There seems to be a considerable number of mistaken places and while the traps are written down but there aren't enough to match up to them at all. We're treasuring it because it's quite a bit better than not having one at all but there's no way we can put all of our faith into it.

Zulu is watching as I confirm the map. I'm sure he wants to say something as well but he's careful of his position and actions so unless I give him permission he doesn't speak pointlessly. He's a good subordinate.

"Then, Zenom, take up the front with me. Zulu hold up the center and I'll leave the rear to Bel and Ralpa."

After giving simple instructions I ignored the gnoll's corpse and picked up my bayonet. Lined up with Zenom I cautiously start walking. Zenom hits the ground with a roughly 3 m pole as we move forward. Just before we were about to make it to the curve to the left the sound from Zenom hitting the ground changed. A trap huh? We walk around the edge avoiding the trap and after passing the trap we started walking towards the large room that should be ahead of here.

The voice calling for help is still continuing. After turning the corner it's gotten louder. I say,

"We're on our way! Give it your best!"

and just said that but after all raising our pace would be foolish so we carefully continued walking forward. I guess they heard my voice, the owner voice said,

"It's a slime! Be careful!"

And gave us the warning. A slime huh... I've seen one on the edge of Bakuddo once in the past. I'm sure the only attacks that will work on it will be my magic.

"Only magic works against slimes. I've seen one once in the past. There's no other choice than to burn it with fire...He probably can't be saved.."

After I said that I took the pole from Zenom and stood at the front. According to the story I heard from the hunter in Bakuddo, Zachary Dokush, it seems that slimes wrap up their victims and melt them. Being melted alive is a seriously frightening way of dying. It's probably for their sake that I kill them and put them out of their misery. I thought that.

I didn't turn around but I felt the presence of everyone following after me. These softies. Ah, do they intend to take the magic stone? Even I've never taken the magic stone from a human or non-human before..Do you guys seriously

intend to cut open the chest of a person? Putting aside Zenom who's been an adventurer for countless years, I wonder if Ralpa, Bel, and Zulu intend to do that? I'll put it aside for now.

We approached close enough to look into the large room and nervously looked in. The large room is about 30 m in every direction and just like other places inside of the dungeon the walls and ceiling are giving off light. It was the scenery of hell inside the room. I heard Bel and Ralpa say "hi" as they held their breath behind me.

There's a green viscous liquid scattered all around the room and it's swallowed the adventurer party. There's already four people that have stopped moving. They've fallen all over the place and their bodies are covered in the slime. In the corner of the room there's one person remaining that has been swallowed up to his chest and still has his sword held in his free right arm trying to escape.

After he saw us and,

"Sa...Save me! I can't do anything about these things! No matter what we tried they wouldn't die!"

And yelled that. In any case, there's no other choice than to do something. After I put my bayonet around my shoulder I held up both of my hands and aimed them in the room. I can't do anything but burn everything that can be burnt with {Flamethrower}. I burnt all the slime in the way to where the man was and got close to him. The man is still training to escape from the slime but it's clear that it's not going anywhere. It's only a matter of time before this man gets swallowed by the slime and after suffocating to death he'll slowly be melted, digested, and absorbed I'm sure. There's no choice than to do what I can.

I adjusted my {Flamethrower} into a thin gas-burner shape and got it close to the slime being careful not to burn the man's body. When the spell was about to reach the slime it suddenly changed its movements. The slime that was slowly moving to completely cover the man suddenly rolled up into a ball after detecting the flame. Well I had predicted it so it wasn't anything to be surprised over but the problem was that the place the slime rolled up to was the farthest

place in its body away from the flame. In other words, it rolled up contracting to around where the man's chest was. Since I'm sure the volume itself didn't change. It ended up creating an orb of viscous liquid right around the man's chest.

Eh~ Things that happen will happen. Try not to die. I think that was spreading out the flame from my {Flamethrower}. From the fear of suffocating and the heat from the flame near his lower body the man started rolling around with his upper body covered in the slime. But, I succeeded in killing the slime. Leaving the convulsing man just as he is I started using {Flamethrower} and it didn't take much time at all to finish killing all of the slime I could see.

In any case, I was able to get rid of the dangerous monster for now. Next is healing this man. I crouched down to the man and started using a healing spell to heal him. Simultaneously I identified him. The man is 24 years old. Level is 8. As an adventurer he's somewhere between a newcomer and a mid-class I guess. Zenom and the others started gathering what appears to be the man's allies together. At the same time I saw Bel and Ralpha pick up the magic stone from inside of the slime(since it's originally a viscous liquid, it just looks like a dirty puddle of water) with a disgusted face.

When I identified it's corpse it was supposedly a Green Slime. Since it was a deep green color liquid as if algae had floated up I thought it was different from the Brown Slime I saw in the past but as expected it was different.

In any case, it seems that the man has recovered so he should be able to at least talk.

"That was dangerous. But, I've already burnt all of the slimes to death so it should be already fine."

After I said that and the man said,

"A..Ah..Thanks. My name is Turner. Turner Doruleon. Who are you?"

Since he said that I named myself as well. And then the man said with admiration.

"However, that was some amazing skill with magic. If you can use magic this well than that..."

After saying that far and Turner looked at the corpses of his allies lined up beside him and bit his lip in regret.

Even though I'm sure the pain from the burns still remains the man firmly stood up and stuck a knife into the chests of his allies. When I was dumbfounded with my eyes wide open and he quickly cut open their chests and took the magic stones out. I'm sure she saw that scene because Bel tightly held my hand as hers were trembling. Her face is pale. My facial expression is probably pretty bad as well. At the same time I felt angry. What in the world is this guy doing cutting up the corpses of his allies!

Since I couldn't stand watching anymore I was about to call out to him but after he took out the magic stone of the first one with his hands covered in blood Turner started crying.

"~~~!!! Alice...Alice.."

Eh...What? What is? This?

"Is this your first time seeing someone take the magic stone out of a person? There's quite a few of them, people like that."

Ralpa quietly approached us and told us that. I see, I guess it's something like an article of the deceased... It's true I know of it as knowledge. When I was in Bakuddo I saw a total of five funerals. Among those one of those was the time when six people were killed by the Horned Bear. All of the funerals were performed by burning the corpse near the river and after taking the magic stone out from the remaining bones that was buried. The bones and ashes were washed away in the river. It's true that the magic stone was used in place for the remains. The bereaved family digs a deep hole at night when no one is looking and buried the magic stone there.

The location can be anywhere. It's fine in a place the person who died liked, it's fine at the edge of the fields, or in a garden. In any case, it's fine if even just one person knows in a location that no one will dig up. After hearing that I accepted it thinking that the religious customs are different so the concept of making graves would be different as well. I feel like the concept of returning to nature would be a primeval thing but the teaching of the temple that God exists in everything in this world also feels natural as well. For the most part it's not as

if you can't call it a cremation so I didn't have any doubts about it back then.

However, there's times when people die inside of the dungeon like this. Obviously there's no time to leisurely be doing a cremation. Rather since it was stuck in my head that you cremate people when they die I thought it would be difficult trying to carry the corpses back to where he teleported.

While he's mourning Zenom and Zulu were gathering the belongings of the corpses covered in viscous liquid and gathering all of the swords and spears scattered around. It seems that this room was a nest of slimes and there was a considerable number of swords, spears, and shields laying around. The handles and wood parts of them has rotted and is useless but there was a decent number of just the portions that can be sold as well. The ones that are still new are probably what Turner's allies used.

After crying while holding the magic stone of his ally for a while Turner moved on to the next ally and took the magic stone from their chest. During that time we inspected the articles of the deceased and split things up into stuff that could be sold and trash. The equipment of his allies was stuff that could still be used plenty well but even though we saved them, I thought about whether it was really okay to sell off the stuff of people that were his allies for money while sorting things. The equipment of his allies was two sword, two spears, and one shield. After that there were three swords that probably weren't his allies which the handle was rotten and fell off one spear like that as well. There were four spears that had just become the tips. The things that could be sold was just that. There were also the parts of a shield that were metal but I'm sure that's just trash. Also there was money totaling 1,200,000 Z other than what came from his allies corpses.

After we had organized that far I guess he had finished taking the magic stones from all of his allies, Turner called out to us.

"I'm sorry about that. Please let me off on the gratitude with just money. This is all of my money."

After saying that Turner took out his wallet and flipped it over. Among the silver and copper coins there was just one gold Shu mixed in. Well if he's going to give it to us then I'll take it. I placed all of his allies equipment on a shield and

after tying it to a spear with rope, I handed it to him along with the wallets from the corpses while saying.

“I understand. I’ll gratefully accept your thanks. Also, this is the articles from your deceased allies. Take it back with you.”

“Is it fine?”

Turner said surprised. If you hadn’t taken out all of your money from the start then it wouldn’t have gone like this.

“Yes, of course.”

After I said that and Turner accepted it with an expression of thanks.

“Thank you. I’m grateful. I wasn’t just saved but even the belongings of my dead allies..”

“Please don’t worry about it. We’ve already received your gratitude after all. More importantly, are you fine on your own?”

After I said that and Turner said,

“I’m probably fine. We walked quite a bit to get here but it was one-way with no split paths to the teleport crystal so there shouldn’t be any monsters.”

and replied.

“I see, then be careful on your way.”

After Turner thanked us once more he lifted the heavy equipment and started walking down a different cave than the one we came from. A short while after he disappeared and Zenom said.

“I was watching to see what you were going to do but for you to give him all of the deceased’s belongings including their wallets..”

His tone was cynical but his expression was laughing.

“Since I properly received the expression of his gratitude after all..”

After I said that and Ralpha,

“Coming from the miser Al who doesn’t even overlook a single magic stone from goblins..”

poked fun at me like that. This girl..who's a miser.

"You go and search if there's still any magic stones laying around somewhere. We forgot to search for magic stones from the victims that last time with the caterpillar."

I said that and drove her away. Search with Identify? Don't be stupid, if I use Identify vision then every time I move my sight the brightness of every rock on the ground lights up. I can't just raise the brightness on magic stones. It's not that convenient. Since every thing that appears in my sight is a target for identifying. I wouldn't want you to misunderstand so I'll review once here but the only things that appear in the sight of my identify vision are things that are a valid target for identifying. I identify them by clicking on and selecting them consciously. Probably everything other than vapors are targets for identify. Even if there was a lot of small rocks trying to pick just the magic stone out of there takes just as much work as normally. Other than that, I guess, if we suppose there's a person wearing a full suit of plate armor. I probably can't identify that person. Since it's too difficult to focus on my sight between the slits in their helmet. I could probably do it if they're right in front of me not moving for a while. And if they have visible hair then it shouldn't be a problem.

"But, I think Al-san is right. Taking the belongings of his deceased allies is..I'm sure that person would have felt disgusted as well."

Bel said that. That's right, allies need to be like this.

"I think that it was good I was able to serve master."

Zulu said that as well. I see, I see. I'm glad I have a good slave as well.

I gave Ralpa the honorable job of gathering the magic stones from gnolls on our way back. Ah, since I burnt close to 30 slimes to death my level went up and I became level 11.

.....

After we sold all of the items and magic stones we obtained and it came out to a total of 2,000,000 Z. Obviously the money we received from Turner as an expression of his gratitude is counted differently. I don't know since when but I've made a rule in myself to give a bonus of 10,000 Z for every 500,000 Z

earned. Since we made more than 2,000,000 Z I gave Zenom, Ralpa, and Bel 4 silver coins each as a bonus and we split up until dinner. After I returned to “Boil Manor” there was a message for me.

It’s from Madam Ronslail. It seems that she’s obtained a slave that matches my conditions. I guess I’ll try going to take a look.

After quickly taking a shower and changing I started walking towards “Slave Store, Ronslail”. It’ll be nice if she’s prepared a good slave. It’s only obvious that if the number of people in the party increase it’s directly related to an increase in combat potential but I think it’s more important that it becomes easier on our nerves while exploring the dungeon. I wonder if there’s anyone out there that is useful in finding traps? If there was then even if the guide cost was a bit expensive I’d hire them.

After arriving at “Slave Store, Ronslail” I called out to the madam.

“Welcome to our store, Greed-sama. Did you receive my message?”

I’m here right now because I heard your message, madam.

“Yeah, since you went out of your way to get into contact with me that you obtained a good slave. I thought I should definitely take a look.”

After I said that and the madam smiled but her expression clouded up a bit as she said.

“I think they’re a good combat slave but..they aren’t a war prisoner slave..”

Well, it’s preferable that they’re a slave originating from a war prisoner just because I’d like for them to have some skill, so as long as I can test their ability there’s no problem.

“I see, no, it’s fine. Let me take a look at them.”

After I said that and I guess the madam was relieved, she went into the back again.

After waiting for a short while like usual and the madam appeared again to call me back. After excitedly following behind her and going through the door and there were four people lined up. Starting from the edge I checked their facial expression and physique in order. Their physiques aren’t bad for each of

their races.

“The slave I suggest this time is the woman on the far right end.”

I use Identify on the slave the madam suggested.

【Malso.Angela/12/8/7442 Malso.Angela/20/8/7421】

【Female/14/9/7422 ▪ Dog-People Race ▪ Ronslail Family Owned Slave】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 20 Years Old】

【Level: 6】

【HP: 90(90) MP: 4(4)】

【Strength: 13】

【Speed: 17】

【Dexterity: 10】

【Endurance: 14】

【Special Skill: Small Magic】

【Special Skill: Super Sense of Smell】

【Experience: 36128(43000)】

Hmn. She’s not half bad but why is she suggesting her? The fact that her facial features are average doesn’t really matter. But, I wonder what it really is? If she wasn’t a war prisoner then what in the world is her sales point?

“She was released from a group of adventurers that took quite a bit of damage the other day. Since she’s entered the dungeon countless times, I’m sure she’d be no problem.”

Ah, that sort of reason.

“I see. However, I’ll have you let me test out her skill.”

After I said that the madam had a male apprentice bring along two wooden swords. During that time I tried identifying the remaining slaves just in case but there was no slave that interested me. After receiving the wooden swords I handed one to Angela and we went towards the backyard while I said to her.

“I can use healing magic. Even if one of us is injured I can fix it so feel free to attack me without worrying about it. If you want to be purchased by me then it would best if you don’t go easy on me.”

I noticed a number of small cuts on Angela's skin from a close distance. I wonder if there was no one that could use healing magic where she used to be.

After I actually tried testing her out and her skill could be said to be decent. In terms of my party then in close combat it would go me, Zenom, Ralpa, Zulu, Bel from strongest to weakest but she at least has enough skill to be slightly below Bel. I try not to injure Angela as much as possible while making that apparent to her, stopping short of attacking, and my ability with the sword isn't so bad that I'd take her sword so both of us are unharmed. Well, this should be fine.

"How long have you entered the dungeon in Baldukk?"

I tried asking her that.

"Since just about a year ago. However, there was a period of about 3 months where I didn't enter the dungeon at all during that time."

"I see. How many people have you served until now?"

"A total of three people. My first master sold me right away and returned to their hometown. After that, I served a different master for a short while but that person also sold me and returned to their hometown. The one after that was my last master. It was a party of 10 people, but just the other, there was a fight where only six of us including me survived. After that, my master sold me to this store. They said they were returning to their home town."

I see now.

"Did your first master buy you?"

"No. I was born as a serf. When my first master became an adventurer they brought along three slaves including me as we left our home town."

A born serf huh? Although, if she can use the sword this well even though she was born a serf then she must have talent.

I faced Madam Ronlail and said.

"What's the price on this woman?"

"Since she has experience in the dungeon her price is 6,500,000 Z."

Hmn, it's cheap compared to Zulu but she's a woman after all. The normal price for a female combat slave is 6,000,000 Z to 7,000,000 Z and it's 6,500,000 Z to 7,500,000 Z for a male. If their origins are a soldier or squire then it gets more expensive. Something like a knight has a price that would make your eyes pop out they're so expensive. This Dog-people race slave named Angela was born a serf but since she has the achievement of surviving several months in the dungeon she's a bit more expensive.

"You are her skill with the sword right? Is it that price even with that?"

I thought this would be the case so I intentionally treated Angela like a child while parrying her.

"..How about 6,300,000 Z?"

Hmm, well I guess that's good.

"I understand. I'll buy her for 6,300,000 Z."

Chapter 84: Experiment

Year 7442, Month 8, Day 15

After finishing the naming ceremony at the temple in the same way as Zulu and Angela was handed over to me. I told Zenom and the others at dinner last night she finally obtained a new slave and I intended to buy her. Accompanied by Angela I walk towards the restaurant we're meeting up at for lunch. After I entered the place together with Angela and Ralpa called out to us from a table near the edge*.

"Is that person the new combat slave you mentioned?"

What the, was this the only place a table was open? I reply to Ralpa who called out to us while she was looking at Angela as if evaluating her.

"That's right, I tested her skill yesterday. Her swordsmanship is about the same as Bel."

I said that and turned around to Angela then said.

"Angela, everyone here is my party. Greet them."

After I said that and Angela fixed her posture and politely said.

"My name is Malso Angela. I'm a slave that is serving master starting today. I'm looking forward to working together with you."

After she finished her introduction and Bel opened her mouth.

"My name is Bernadett Koloil. Sit down here. Also, it's fine if you call me Bel."

After Bel said that she moved to the next seat to her right and opened a seat to her left between her and Ralpa. Angela made a surprised expression and wondering what she should do she kept looking between Bel and I. I nod to Angela and,

"In my place don't worry about that sort of thing. Sit."

After saying that I saw to the left of Zulu. Angela said, "Excuse me." as she sat

between Ralpa and Bel.

“My name is Ralpa Firefreed. It’s fine if you call me Ral.”

“I’m Zenom Firefree.”

Ralpa and Zenom introduced each other in succession. Next is Zulu.

“I’m Dadino.Zulu. I serve master the same as you. Call me Zulu. Also, all the people other than me aren’t slaves.”

Yeah, it seems that greetings are done. Then, let’s eat.

After calling the waiter and everyone started ordering the things they want to eat. Oh~ I forgot to tell Angela about it.

“Angela, don’t restrain yourself. It’s the job of a slave to eat and create a healthy body. Ask for as much of whatever you want to eat. Ah, I want the pork saute and boiled fish. If you have any Keiswago then make it that. Also, beer.”

“Al. You never eat vegetables. Eat some vegetables as well. Bring a head of cabbage. Cut it into four parts. Then put mayonnaise on difference small plates to dip it in.”

Be quiet~ Did you think the one saying that was Ralpa? That’s exactly right, I don’t know why but this ex-high school girl always tries to get everyone to eat raw vegetables. It seems that even Zulu is starting to fed up with it but recently Bel has started to align with Ralpa. Since you’re a rabbit it’s fine. Furthermore, since it’s something she’s done for quite a while Zenom is completely used to it.

“..Umm, is it really okay?”

Angela asked Zulu in a whisper to confirm.

“Yeah, it’s fine. Feel free to eat whatever you like. I was surprised at first as well though.”

It seems Zulu is asking for fried meat. However, this guy won’t drink alcohol. Since he’s physically older than me, he should just drink. Even after confirming Angela still wasn’t sure what to order and in the end she chose the fried meat the same as Zulu. Today is Wednesday so it’s a day off. After the food came out Zulu paid for his own portion. Seeing that Angela’s eyes went wide. Of course, it’s not a large amount. The fried meat is just 350 Z and the bread is 20 Z. I

smiled at Angela as she was worrying and paid for her food before saying.

“In my party I pay the slaves all at once at the end of the month the wages for that month. For this month I’ll pay for everything that you need. And the days we enter the dungeon are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. We take Wednesday and Saturday off to rest our bodies. Just, on Saturday only in the morning we do training to practice our ability to cooperate with each other. From here on out I’ll be giving you wages but after that starts you’ll pay for your own lunch on Wednesday and Saturday. The meal and lodging other than that I’ll continue paying for though.”

Even looking from normal common sense in this world it doesn’t appear like I’m treating my slaves special. Well, the amount I’m paying I think is decently high for a slave though. Normally you either pay them wages and leave their daily necessities up to themselves or in return for looking after everything for them you only pay them a tiny amount of wages, it’s commonly one of those. If you were to ask which one is more common then in town areas it’s the former but there is a decent number of the latter as well. In farm villages it’s the reverse and the majority take the latter option.

“Putting that aside, today I have a bit of business to take care of after this. After we finish eating I’ll go and buy some equipment for Angela but after that just make sure you check on how to cooperate.”

After saying that I crunched away at some cabbage with mayonnaise. I really want some spicy miso for raw cabbage. The one like which came with fried chicken in Japan. It seems that Zulu isn’t good with cabbage and it’s easy to tell he’s trying to hold back from it but Ralpa is mercilessly telling him to eat it too. Since he’s a Lion-people race, go easy on him.

After we finished eating, we went off to prepare Angela’s equipment. Since it seems her weapon is the sword I figured I would let her choose. I’m sure there’s balance, length, and differences in peoples tastes like that. After that is..I’m sure leather armor is necessary as well. After purchasing a broadsword for 1,000,000 Z we ordered some leather armor at the store which made Zulu’s armor. It was 520,000 Z.

After that I told Zulu to tell everyone to properly teach her about coordinating

movements in the party and decided to leave the rest to them.

.....

Right now I'm entering the dungeon alone. There was a bit of something that I wanted to confirm. Recently in going to the dungeon we've gotten a good grasp on the combat ability of our party and how to properly coordinate our movements, and I've somewhat understood about the rules of experience gain. Next is level up. What sort of rules do ability values increase during level up, I wanted to know that. I've created somewhat of a hypothesis but I want to confirm if that's correct.

【Alan.Greed/5/3/7429 】
【Male/14/2/7428 ▪ Human ▪ Viscount Greed Family Second Son】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 14 Years Old】
【Level: 11】
【HP: 110(110) MP: 7425(7425) 】
【Strength: 17】
【Speed: 19】
【Dexterity: 16】
【Endurance: 18】
【Unique Ability: Identify(MAX)】
【Unique Ability: Gift of Natural Talent(Lv.8)】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic(Lv.8)】
【Special Ability: Water Magic(Lv.7)】
【Special Ability: Fire Magic(Lv.7)】
【Special Ability: Wind Magic(Lv.8)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.8)】
【Experience: 156221(210000)】

It's about the ability points that increased during my level up the other day. Thanks to my running other than my level up my Endurance increased by 1 point. It's limited to my guess but you say that the effect of my training appeared just like Mill. Since I'm continuing my running I feel like it might get even higher.

Different from that something strange happened with my level up this time.

My HP didn't increase. In exchange for that my Endurance increased. MP, Strength, Speed, Dexterity, and Endurance all increased by 1 point each, and in exchange for my HP not increasing my Endurance increased 1 more point. Starting from the conclusion and this is more convenient for me. Rather than gaining 1 HP on level up it's better for Endurance to increase because in the end you gain 2 HP as well (since my Endurance increased by a total of 2 points my HP increased 4 points for that portion), so I think it's more convenient for the ability points in Endurance to increase.

I've only experienced one of my ability points increasing once in the past. During my first level up. Other than my Strength increasing by 1 point at that time my MP increased by 5 points, and nothing else increased at all. I wonder why my HP didn't increase this time? As a matter of fact I thought about this last night. My last level up was at the start of this year when I was still in Bakuddo. All of my ability points increased that time. The difference between that time and this time. I tried thinking about the differences between that time and my first level up. My memories have gotten a bit vague in a few places but I've created a hypothesis which I think is largely correct.

That is what you can see in the sub-window of Identify 【During level up the number one and number two abilities that you used the most prior to leveling will increase by 1 point. HP and MP is included in these abilities. However, if you're in possession of a Unique Ability then the ability points that increase will be the first ~ sixth. 】 I was able to imagine it. The "However" part after that is in red probably because it only involves reincarnated people but the problem is the details written down.

"During level up the abilities that you used the most prior to leveling" is written there but this is the suspicious portion. During my first level up, the majority of the experience I had gained was related to using magic and after that just swinging the sword. In other words, magic and the muscles in my arm from swinging the sword. If I remember correctly it was around when I was 5 years old. I couldn't do any proper swinging of the sword using my entire body so I was just swinging it with my arms. After learning from that level up I started to do as much exercise as I could and started enthusiastically training with the sword. Moreover in order to use my body more I made the bayonet and I

started training bayonet fighting while remembering my past life. I guess as an effect of that, every level up after that all of my abilities increased by 1 point each.

However, while I felt like I was continuing that but this time my HP didn't increase on level up. There's only one difference. The thing that is the same during my first level up and this time and differs from all the others. That's whether or not I was injured between leveling up. During the first time for my first 5 years as infant I never received any injury that could be called an injury.

Of course, there were times when I was bitten by bugs, and small scrapes as well, but HP doesn't decrease for things like that. HP doesn't decrease for small injuries. I think if you take a needle and stab somewhere that isn't fatal as deep as 1 cm then there probably won't be any change to your HP. If that occurs over several places for the first time along with a stabbing wound your HP would start to decrease.

And the period of time I was level 10 until the level up this time. In other words, starting from the end of January of this year until the other day for a period of about 8 months, I was never injured. I think the last time I was injured was when I had the practice match with Mill so it would be before that period. After I hit level 10, whether it be when I killed the parent and child Horned Bear that I had a long history with, when I killed Begulu, after that on my way to Baldukk, and my combat in the dungeon. I don't think I was injured even once.

With sustaining any injuries at all I went from level 10 to level 11. That's why during the period I was level 10, I didn't use my HP ability even once..though that way of wording it sounds weird..but I haven't used it. I wasn't conscious of any time my HP decreased during the period I was level 10. I wonder if I can deliberately select what abilities increase on level up by thinking that I didn't use MP or didn't use my muscles in the same way as that time. I tried making a hypothesis for that.

Honestly speaking, putting aside HP there's one ability that I don't want to raise and in exchange for that I want any other ability to go up. I don't think it even needs to be said but it's MP. In my case, thanks to my Unique Ability I was able to increase my MP by exhausting my mana countless times, so I don't need anymore than this. Currently it's even difficult to completely use up my magic

unless I use intentionally trying to do that. In that case then even if HP increases it's still more useful to my survival. That's why this is an experiment.

It's probably impossible for me to stop using MP. I use it to assist the front attackers and if someone gets injured I use it to heal. There's no other choice than to give up on that. I think I can do pretty well with just close combat but not taking any injuries at all requires too much luck and if I even get injured just once I'll end up using healing magic.

The details of the experiment this time are like this.

- Until I either consume half of my mana or I go as far as I can in two hours.
- I use magic to fight as much as possible. In any case, I keep in mind not to take any injuries.
- However, another large increase in just MP would be a problem so I need to do a bit of close combat.
- I try my best to decrease the enemies and then enter close combat in one-on-one situations.

I'm going to try experimenting like this. If a good number of Orks or Hobgoblins appear then I should be able to level up within a few days. For a while my days off will disappear but either way the only thing I'm going other than running is walking or resting. Since I haven't stood at the front during combat much lately and since we rotate the order of who stands at the lead when exploring the dungeon my mental and physical fatigue aren't as bad as when we first started. If it's no good then it's fine if I run away with my tail between my legs.

After I teleported into the dungeon I confirmed my surroundings. It's in the middle of a cave that we always teleport in to. I guess I'll try going this way. Even if I confirm the map, in this tasteless cave that goes straight in both directions I can't even tell where I am until I get to a curve or split path, so it doesn't matter which direction I go.

I face one direction, brace my legs, raise my left hand forward, and use wind magic. I'm using void magic to send a large amount of air created with mana forward. Unlike outside since this is inside a cave with walls and ceiling the air that's created is limited on where it can disperse but since I'm using void magic

to push the suddenly generated air in front of me I don't get blown backwards. The reason I'm bracing my legs is just because I somehow felt that would be a good idea.

The reason why I'm doing something like this is in order to blow away the dirt that's covering pitfalls. In the 1st floor I'm on the majority of the traps are pitfalls and rarely there's a different trap that just lets out a loud noise. Although, the noise it makes can lure monsters over so without a doubt it's a dangerous trap, other parties of adventurers who try to avoid combat as much as possible hate them.

As far as I can there doesn't seem to be any traps. Even then I can't completely relax so I carefully move forward. After advancing a bit this time I use the spell {Audible Clamor} several times in succession as far as I can see about 40 m ahead and cause a large rupturing sound a number of times. With this if there's any monsters nearby then even if they don't notice the wind they'll come over here wondering what it is. I use Identify look ahead.

In any case I need to decrease their numbers as much as possible before they get close to here and think about the methods that it would be possible to wipe them out with. It's fine to bury them with dirt or ice but if I do that then I might end up burying the cave. If I ended up sealing off the only path the 2nd floor by mistake then things would be bad so I should avoid that. Otherwise only as a last resort. If I really felt like I needed to use it then it would be troublesome but I can erase it later after all.

Also, I'm sure a large number of monsters will attack me. Since I'm alone here I need to pay attention to the speed they charge at me as well. Though, if they can move faster than my eyes can see them it would be different but I doubt there's any that can go at a speed like a jet engine. As far as I know the fastest on Orth is the falcon. Though I think they can go at a super speed of 300 Km per hour during descent but I really doubt there's a living creature that can go that speed inside of a cave so I doubt anything will be able to reach me before I can use some kind of magic. And even if it comes to a dangerous situation it's just a matter of using magic with all my power 50 m ahead and then immediately retreating to the teleport crystal and running out of the dungeon.

After a few minutes a group of monsters appeared. Che...Goblins, I'm out of luck. I used {Wind Cutter} while putting a bit of extra mana into it and wiped them out in a few seconds. I haven't bothered counting them, I think there were over 10 of them but I only gained roughly 1,000 experience points. I guess I'll leave once. I quickly grab the teleport crystal and teleport to one of the small rooms on the side of the small room where you teleport. I go to the teleport room once again. As long as you don't leave the building where the entrance to the dungeon is then you can enter and leave the dungeon as many times as you want.

There's people who make use of this re-entering the dungeon countless times until they get to an easy to recognize terrain. I use the teleport crystal to re-enter the dungeon the same as them. Just the same I lure over monsters and use magic to wipe them all out except for a few weak monsters. If I think I repeat this a number of times then I doubt I'll take any injuries and can earn some experience points.

I wonder how many times I've repeated it? I think I've already done it 5–6 times. The only monsters that appeared every time were goblins. Since the value of their magic stones is low I just left the corpses as is but I've probably already killed 70–80 of them. Oh~ come to think of it, while goblins are weak, they give low experience points, and their magic stones aren't worth much but I can earn experience points towards the Gift of Natural Talent. If I keep putting some effort into it like this then after a few more days of just killing goblins I should be able to get the level of my Gift of Natural Talent to MAX. This was an unexpected byproduct. Then I guess even if the opponent is just goblins it should be fine as long as I make up for in numbers so I'll put some effort into it like this.

The experience points in my Gift of Natural Talent right now is 1524 (2560). Putting it simply the number of monsters I've killed until now is a total of 1,524. Sorry, I lied. Since I occasionally got about 10 experience points from practice matches so I think it's a lot less. I guess about 500 monsters would be right? As expected 1,500 is saying I've defeated too many. The majority of those are Goblins and Leeches. Since there was almost never large monsters like Hobgoblins. Since I was living a lifestyle where I only went hunting 1–2 times a

month, so that sounds about right.

In any case, if I kill another 1,000 monsters or so then the level of my Gift of Natural Talent should increase and it'll be even easier for me to gain experience points. Even gnolls would be fine so once I fight something other than goblins I'll stop for today. Thinking that I teleported into the dungeon again. Gnolls finally appeared. Thinking it would be the last I used {Chain Lightning} in continuously and wiped all of them out but one. The last remaining gnoll was seriously injured as well so I easily stabbed it to death. The experience from 12 gnolls was just above 3,000. It's annoying but I can't overlook the magic stones from gnolls. They have a value of 2,000 each. In terms of money that's 20,000 Z. If I sell them it should be about 14,000 Z each. I can pay the tax to enter the dungeon with just 1 and still have some leftover. I quickly gathered the magic stones and went home for today.

Just as I expected the magic stones came out to a total of 162,000 Z. I earned around 9,000 experience points in today as well. If I crush another 2–3 weeks of days off then I should know the results of my experiment.

If I kill another XXXX monsters or so then the level of my XXXX should increase and it'll be even easier for me to gain experience points.

Welcome to the world of RPGs, AI, you are now officially hooked.

Chapter 85: Anxiety 1

Year 7442, Month 8, Day 16

Today when we were about to enter the dungeon, I was called out by Church-san who was guarding the tax official at the entrance. It seems that on Friday of next week the knight group of Baldukk is going to enforce the punishments of criminals they're holding including Dereonola. Bel and I were told to be there as witnesses. It can't be helped so we'll have to make that into a day off from entering the dungeon.

Furthermore, when I tried asking the reason why there was over two months between the arrest and the judgments and it seems it was for the convenience of the lord. Since Baldukk is the King's direct territory then the lord is the King but obviously there's no way the King would go out of his way to come to Baldukk for this stingy job so normally it's the governor who manages the government of the town. However, as a matter of fact that governor isn't a representative with full authority like in Japan. They're limited to just the administrative authorities. In the first place it's not even an official governor. Since Baldukk is lined up with Rombertia as the King's direct territory in the true meaning of the expression so there's no official governor.

The only one who can administrate justice is someone that has been officially appointed as governor by the lord. Since that's the case the administrative secretary (they're treated as and actually called governor out of custom) that's appointed to take care of only practical work in Baldukk can't perform the judgments of criminals. For that sake, around 4–5 times in a year, when he has some leeway the official lord that is His Highness Count Baldukk Thomas Rombert the Third goes out of his way to come to Baldukk just to perform the judgments. It seems that reason this time was that it wasn't convenient for the official lord, His Highness to make it.

In any case, so it's Friday of next week huh? I need to make sure I don't forget. Thinking that I thanked Church-san and was about to return to everyone

else when I was called out again. This time it was some advice. Bel is a foreigner. She's a noble but since her family isn't in the Kingdom of Rombert her treatment is the same as a commoner. Obviously that means it's the same for taxes and she's going to the government office every month to pay taxes. It seems that just in case it would be best for her to have the documents proving that she's paying taxes at that time. I'm sure it won't be necessary but it's nothing more than a just in case so I guess I should be grateful for the advice.

Bel and I exchanged glances as we returned to where everyone else was and explained to them that in order to stand witness to the judgement and enforcement of Dereonola's punishment we would have a day off from entering the dungeon Friday of next week, then we entered the dungeon.

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Year 7442, Month 8, Day 20

The combat potential of our party went up a bit since Angela joined but what was more useful than that was her special skill as a Dog-people race "Super Sense of Smell". Almost all of the monsters that live in the dungeon give off indescribable sour and raw smell that will make you feel like throwing up. She can accurately differentiate the smells of these monsters.

At least until the end of my experiment I'm grateful that we won't end up charging into a place where a dangerous enemy could be. Even with just that it was worth buying Angela. Thinking that, I was grinning on my own over how I profited, but it was quickly proven that something like that was just a bonus. Her true value was something much more important. Just as you could expect from Angela who has been entering the dungeon longer than we have, compared to us she had a wealth of knowledge about the dungeon.

For example, the location that you teleport to in the dungeon, it seems that there's some restrictions on this place you teleport to. It seems that currently there's over 400 locations confirmed that you can teleport to but in most cases there's a mark left in the area of where you teleport. Was there something like that? thinking that and since I was interested I tried asking and it was simple. The pedestal for the teleport crystal where you end up teleporting to has a variety of symbols like numbers carved into it but among those it seems that

there's always at least one symbol that points to the direction. On the wall where that points to there's a small number written. The number is obviously something was carved out by the adventurers that visited until now. Also, even if you teleport to the same place it seems that the symbols carved into the pedestal aren't fixed so while we obviously noticed the symbols carved into the pedestal, until now we just ignored them not properly investigating.

What the, there was something this simple? With this we should be able to almost pinpoint the location we teleport at the start but I don't get it. Even if there's a number of inaccuracies written on the map I purchased there's a considerable portion of the 1st floor and information about the traps written on it. There's no information included in there about the teleport locations. Was it a partial map I guess? However, Angela quickly answered that question as well.

Normally, the maps that are sold are divided into four types. The first is obviously the one that has the terrain drawn. The next one is that with the information about the traps added. That's the map I purchased. And one more is the one that has teleport information listed. It seems that there's numbers written all over the map. Since this one and the map with traps from just now both have a lot of information on them it's normal that the map isn't just one page. Even the map I'm holding is made up of 9 pieces of parchment about the size of A3 and along with the terrain the information about traps is written but since there's no way it could fit with just one page it's split up. Even on this map the terrain is drawn extremely small. I think in terms of scaling it would be roughly $1/3000$ — $1/5000$ or so? The roughly is just going off our feeling but even what is it drawn on just one piece of parchment I can't help but think that the scaling differs depending on the location. That's why even if we say it's a picture of the terrain there's some inaccurate parts to it as well.

If you were to list the teleport information on this as well then obviously the amount of room you can fit for the map on one piece of parchment will get smaller. In other words it becomes a map with larger scaling so you suddenly need several times the amount of paper. Since it's parchment if it comes to tens of pieces it's heavy and bulky so it seems you split it up. I didn't even know that sort of information existed. I've never heard about it from anyone. As if it was only obvious, according to the story I heard from Angela this information and

the way to obtain the map itself is special. The normal dungeon map dealers who come to the entrance plaza in the early morning don't deal in it and in order to obtain it you have to go to the edge of the town of Baldukk where they're stealthily doing business almost as if to avoid being seen.

It seems that normally unless you have the introduction of an influential adventurer party they won't sell it to you. I used the large amount of 7,000,000 Z to forcefully purchase that map. With this my fortune has decreased quite a bit. I need to earn...Though impatience is forbidden.

Furthermore, there's one more type of map with even more detailed information listed on it and it seems that it's the map created by adventurers who sell it when they retire or who's party collapse and they intend to leave Baldukk. Since it seems those almost ever appear on the market it's best to think we won't be able to easily get our hands on one.

Even with just that portion of information Angela was useful but even more importantly is that she remembered several locations where there were strong enemies. Though even if I say that she could only remember four places but even then it's a big piece of information knowing the information about strong enemies before-hand. Scavenger Crawler, Blue Slime, Propeller Tail, Gargantuan Spider. All of them are dangerous opponents if you enter without knowing them.

It's necessary to test various ways on how to insert Angela into the party for a short while after this. Until things stabilize I'm sure we should slowly train without overdoing it. However, even with being in possession of this much information Angela's skill with the sword is the lowest in our party. Though even if I say that it just falls a bit behind Bel who was born a noble and officially learned how to use the sword so I have no real complaints. The young squires in Bakuddo were like this.

The biggest question I had was how all of her parties until now almost completely collapsed. They weren't literally wiped out but they took enough damage that they can't continue entering the dungeon anymore. I think it's impossible to clear the 1st floor with just her level of skill. Even if you could clear it then I'm sure you'd take damage on the 2nd floor. I wonder why they

didn't proceed more slow and safely? Could it be Angela is receiving money or something from a different party to take on the role of luring her party into destruction?

I can't tell how much of her origins and how she met her masters until now is true so I can't help but worrying about something dangerous like that. If I think about it calmly then it's clear that possibility is so minuscule that it can be ignored but I couldn't help but ask Angela.

"Angela, why did your previous masters try to head to deeper floors? It's weird saying this and don't take it the wrong way. Your skill with the sword isn't all that bad but most likely you've realized it yourself, you probably can't win one-on-one against any of us. I don't understand the thinking of someone trying to head to deeper floors with a member with only that level of skill."

After I said that during a short break in the dungeon and Angela gave me a surprised response.

"Eh? I don't understand why master would say something like that. Slaves like myself are usually made to stand at the front and while I'm enduring it or being killed the other members kill the enemy right? On the contrary in masters party I'm grateful because I don't have very many chances to stand at the front of but.."

And replied like that. Well, it's something that I had somewhat predicted.

"It's not that I don't understand that. But, if by doing that you end up collapsing won't the combat potential of the entire party drop? Since I'm not rich I can't do something as wasteful as using you until you collapse. Were all of your previous masters rich people?"

After I tried asking that and she replied a bit troubled.

"Umm? It's weird for me to say it but slaves are shields. I've heard that it's normal to use us to get through combat that can't be avoided. Of course, we avoid combat as much as possible until that point, but even then, before you can get to lower floors there's always combat that you can't avoid so slaves are something like insurance for those times. If you can just make it to the 2nd floor then after that if you put some effort into it you can find enough treasure to

buy one or two slaves..”

“It’s not as if I don’t understand that logic but I’ve never heard that you’ll definitely find some treasure. You say one or two slaves lightly but there’s close to 8,000,000 Z on just you and your equipment. Alright? It’s 8,000,000 Z? If you add up two peoples worth that’s 16,000,000 Z. Even if you find treasure worth 20,000,000 Z it’s not worth it right?”

“Eh..”

“Eh..”

“Umm, why isn’t it worth it? With the calculation from just now won’t you profit 4,000,000 Z?”

“Eh.. What are you saying? Like that’s the case. As proof of that, while there’s slaves in the parties that are said to be the top teams, but don’t they say that the members haven’t changed much at all over the last few years? That sort of wasteful spending...I’m sure no would do such wasteful investing right?”

I don’t get what she’s saying. It seems that Angela still has something to say.

“That is.. isn’t it meaningless to use the top teams as a comparison? The majority of parties use slaves as shields. During that time they aim to clear through to the next floor.”

This is, not going anywhere. I was about to stick my lower lip out and say something in anger like Chousuke*. I couldn’t help but look at the faces of the other members and Zenom and Zulu were just quietly listening but Bel and Ralpa had the same opinion as me. Bel says.

“Angela, why are you saying something like that? Do you want use to use you as a shield? I’ve never used a slave myself so I can’t say anything much but I think that what you’re saying is strange. Even if you’re a slave, you’re a living person. I don’t intend to say something emotional like you’re pitiful. However, listen carefully. You’re a living person. Do you know what this means? Putting it more simply and...I guess so, I think I can explain it better based on the financial results. Al-san bought you for 8,000,000 Z. In order to recover this money and make enough to profit from it you can’t say it was profitable unless he makes back several times that amount.”

Did Bel major in business? No, it's unrelated though.

"The amount you're worth isn't just the amount of money spent to buy you. After that there's invisible money that's used up through our time spent training together like Saturday morning of last week, or time spent checking our coordination. For example, let suppose you died today. In that case and it's not just the amount of time we spent confirming our coordination last Saturday. All of the time we've spent entering the dungeon together will become pointless. Because our party has been training and fighting under the premise that you're with us. If you die then everything will become pointless. If we changed you out with a new slave then we'd have to start out from the beginning. That's why we can't do anything that would cause us to lose you so easily."

Yeah, well, there's that as well.

"And you know. For as long as you're alive the things you experience are a fortune worth so much you can't buy them with money. There's a lot of things about the dungeon that we didn't know until you came. It's the same about the map and about telling apart the teleport locations as well. That's information that people who are living can bring back with them right? It's living knowledge. It's the same for dangerous monsters. Just listening to stories about them and having someone who's actually fought them is completely different. Just the fact that you're used to fighting in the dungeon is a large asset."

That's right. What was it again? Ah, "leveling up". It was even in Dragon Quest. Since I haven't done it much I'm not too familiar with it but in order to safely move to the next area even in games don't you slaughter countless weak and innocent monsters and earn experience points in order to expand the players combat potential? Something like the hunting I did with Myun at night when I was younger. Even training with the sword in a wider sense can be applied to leveling up. The experiment I'm doing alone on my days off is the same as well and even inside of my right now there's a feeling close to that. However, it seems that Angela still doesn't understand.

"However, in that case wouldn't it take more time to reach the 2nd floor? They say that time is more valuable than money after all. The possibility of earning even more money should be increased by reaching the 2nd floor even a

bit faster. My previous master said that this is was a question of probability. I can't think that person had any sort of special way of thinking."

Angela still isn't willing to bend her personal opinion. Does she want to try and commit suicide or something? this woman. By the way, on average it seems that it takes about one year to one and a half years for a newcomer party to clear the 1st floor. I think it's around there that's the key to convince her, or rather help her understand.

"Bel, it's already fine. But, Angela. Try thinking carefully over what Bel said later. Also, how is our skill compared to the parties you've been in until now? Are we lacking?"

After I asked that and Angela replied immediately.

"No, let alone lacking, even though you have such low numbers I think you're several levels higher. You almost never take any sort of injuries that can be called an injury. But, do you intend to aim for the 3rd floor or 4th floor? I thought that was the reason for coordinating movements and having me participate in the combat. Of course...even I understand that it's a waste to just let me die after one fight. However, I've heard that in order to get to the teleport crystal to the lower floors it's always necessary to pass through at least one room with a powerful enemy. I thought it was my job in order to pass through there though.."

"Hmph, so you think it's difficult for us to clear through the strong enemies in the rooms on the 1st floor even including you. Ah, we still hadn't showed you. Well it doesn't matter. Then I'll declare it to you. Once we enter the next month I intend to seriously start progressing through the dungeon aiming for the 2nd floor. And, since we already have the map I'll show you that we can reach the 2nd floor during next month. After we've earned a bit there I'll buy the map for the 2nd floor this time. It seems that the enemies on the 2nd floor are stronger than the 1st floor but I've heard that they fundamentally they aren't all that different from the 1st floor. After buying the map for the 2nd floor..I guess so... within two months we'll get to the 3rd floor. I'll show you we can arrive there without missing anyone. Obviously since there's danger in combat depending

on the situation I might end up ordering you to become a shield and protect someone. However, I wouldn't use anyone including you as just a shield to clear through a specific place. Let me hear your opinion again at that time. Now then, the break is over. Let's go once more."

After saying that I stood up and started advancing through the cave at the lead.

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Year 7442, Month 8, Day 23

Today is the day of judgement for Dereonola. After waking up in the morning I changed into the highest quality clothes I have and went to the restaurant I always eat breakfast. Since I told Bel about it ahead of time she's wearing some decent clothes as well but they're at best clothes that say she's a slightly skilled adventurer. Well that's actually the case, so even though she's a person from a Sub-Baron family, since she's the second daughter that's left the house and her occupation is now an adventurer it would be strange for her to stand on the witness stand in a dress, so it should be fine. While they're cheap ones she's wearing boots for the time being after all.

We talked about things in the world until close to noon while slowly killing time and when it was close to the time we started towards the government office.

I thought they would confirm the offenses of each person one at a time and then punish them like Keel but they were processed even more carelessly than that. There were even more criminals than Keel and the judge's bench was far from the seats where witnesses wait so I could only get a glance of the King from a distance but just from seeing him he seems like a normal old man. When I tried Identifying him and his age was 48 years old, level is 10. He's either training a reasonable amount or trained when he was young. I'm sure the King is obviously busy so it would be different if it was someone who's committed a grave sin or the greatest thief under the heavens but since it was just at the level of stingy theft, rape, or murder that occurred from a conflict between adventurers so the punishments proceeded smoothly like an operation. They don't even let them complain about the reason why they were captured like in

Keel. Since they're all gagged.

The crimes are stated and after they're informed about the evidence and testimony the majority of them quickly recognize their crimes and nod to it. Occasionally there were some who would shake their heads when it comes to punishments of execution or cutting off limbs and during those times the witnesses are called but after giving a simple testimony and the punishment is enforced without problem. They're already giving out the punishment of the next criminal next to a whipped criminal. The punishments are enforced so quickly that it even feels like that.

Since the King was going out of his way to decide the punishments, I thought it would be more dignified, and how do I put it, would proceed much slower with everyone bowing in dogeza mode, but that wasn't the case. Of course, we're giving testimony according to the law as politely as possible and the surrounding people are trying to act with the proper behavior towards an aristocrat but I think it's only obvious. There's commoners, Free People, and slaves in Baldukk and the majority of the victims and witnesses related to criminals aren't a part of the noble standing. I'm sure they understand that there's no point in expecting the same type of refined courtesy and manners that are expected in the royal court every time. As long as they don't completely deviate from the normal with their manners then it's not seen as a problem.

The judgments gradually pass by and when it was finally Dereonola's turn the incident occurred. Of all things, it seems Dereonola attempted to escape. Obviously he was immediately captured, tied up, and dragged along.

It was abduction and attempted rape of a noble. Bel is a foreigner but she's still a noble. The conflicts with the Kingdom of Devas over the southern border are still periodically continuing. There was a period where I was a bit worried what would happen but according to the stories I've heard from various sources there's no mistake he'll be executed. However, because he caused a disturbance with trying to escape at this time and ended up delaying the progress, it seems that he caught the interest of the King. We were told to stand on the witness stand and give testimony.

I wanted them to quickly get to punishing him without giving testimony but it

can't be helped, after Bel and I stood up from the waiting seats and moved to the witness stand, status open was used on us to confirm we were the actual witnesses and that our social standing was just as recorded, then we gave testimony. We said all of the facts we could other than fact that we're Japanese. Since Dereonola is still biting down on a gag and he can't scream anything so he isn't even permitted to object to our testimony.

After hearing our testimony the King thought for a moment on the stage. In the next moment there was someone who whispered something to the King. He must be the commander of his guard or something since he's wearing expensive looking metal armor. After that person whispered something to the King he asked me a question before handing out the punishment.

"You, you said you were a member of Viscount Greed family right. Were you born in Marquis Webdos territory?"

Eh? What's that? Is it related?

"Yes, I was born in Bakuddo village of the Marquis Webdos territory. My father Heguryiyal is the lord."

"After all so that was the case. Do you have an older sister?"

"Yes, one" "After this show me your face." "

Eh?

"Ha..Then afterwards I will visit."

After I said that and Dereonola was handed his punishment. As expected it was execution through decapitation. He was glaring at me with an expression filled with resentment but since he's still gagged he can't say anything. Well, since you did something bad so just die. And it was the worst that the other side was a noble.

Dereonola was executed at the edge of the execution grounds.

.....

After receiving a summons from the King I was about to worry myself to death.

I wonder what in the world this is about? The only thing I can think it's related

to is about Mill. Since he went to the trouble of asking if I have an older sister. She's an up-and-coming new knight in the elite first knight group of the country after all. I wonder if she did something? Since it's that older sister. Like being told to "serve" the King and after refusing, she slapped him... Since she's a beauty and her outward appearance is good... But, I don't think she's that much of an idiot. Then what is it?

..Could it be..She was killed in action?

Suddenly my body started trembling in fear. I returned to the witness waiting seats and Bel was worried about me as I started thinking with a pale face so she held my hand.

"It's alright. Isn't it just words of praise for cooperating with capturing the criminal?"

That's wrong, that's not it. I see, I never told Bel that my older sister was in the knight group under the direct control of the King...

Chapter 86: Margin

Year 7442, Month 8, Day 23

To Mill...Did something happen to older sister?

Like entering a battle and being killed in action?

It can't be right.

I mean, it's that sister.

Even if it's not as much as me, but sister has an abnormal amount of MP and a considerable level of skill as a knight. There's no way she'd die so easily. I've completely forgotten about the ex-Japanese reincarnated person Dereonola, that's become a part of the execution grounds, while trying to imagine what in the world happened to Mill, but I can't think of anything but bad scenarios.

Why did the King ask where I was born?

Why did the King confirm if I have an older sister?

In other words, I'm sure he was just confirming that I was the son of the lord of Bakuddo. Since it was confirmed that I was the second son of the Viscount Greed family with Status Open, so it must have been him double-checking. It doesn't mean that there couldn't be someone else with the same name.

The connection between the King and my house is light. Just the fact that my mother was born in the sub-family of Duke Sandak a family of politicians in the capital. Since it's a Duke it should have some sort of connection with the royal family but since mother is the fourth daughter of the third son or something like that, so no matter how I think about it that seems unrelated. If we were to go back several generations then it wouldn't be strange for there to be a connection but that sort of thing is the same as being strangers.

After all, the closest connection is that sister is in the direct knight group. However you know, if it's the knight leader or sub-leader then they would be the King's direct subordinates but even if he didn't know the face of a new

knight below that it wouldn't be strange. I'm sure there was at least an audience when she received investiture so maybe he fell for her at that time?

While I'm thinking those sorts of things the judgments quickly advanced and when it was about over a knight came to call for me. I followed after the knight while still trembling. I was even brought into the government office building.

While waiting with a disheartened and pale face and the knight from just now came to call for me. Seeing my facial color the knight got worried and called out to me.

"What's wrong? Greed-sama. It seems like your face is pale? Do you feel ill?"

"Umm..Could it be that something happened to my older sister? My older sister is named Miluhaia Greed, she should be a member of the first knight group but.."

"Yeah, I know of her. Since I'm a co-worker after all. Greed-sama is Lord Greed's younger brother right? Then you should know.."

So this person was a member of the first knight group? What is he saying I should know?

"About what? Is my older sister alright?"

"Eh? What are you talking about? Of course she's alright. Even this morning she was lively and asking for seconds in the dining hall of the quarters in the capital.."

I...see. I quickly calmed down. But, in that case then what is it?

"If it's not about my older sister, then what in the world does his Majesty want with me?"

"I don't know? I haven't heard that far..However, I don't think you need to worry that much. He didn't seem angry...Now, we've arrived. Once you've entered you're in the audience of his Majesty. Proceed to about halfway into the room with your head down and then please offer your gratitude to his Majesty as a retainer. Since it doesn't seem you're in possession of a weapon, then you need to kneel with your right knee standing and place your right arm on your knee, and make a fist with your left hand and stand that on the ground

please. Until you're given permission please face down and don't speak."

After saying that the knight from first knight group opened the door. Simultaneously he declared my visit.

Just as I was told by the knight I bowed down to my knee and offered my gratitude.

"Umu, Greed. You did well to appear before me. It's fine for you to raise your head."

"Ha."

I raised my head and looked up at King Thomas Rombert the Third.

The room is a reasonably large room with carpet. About the size of two school classrooms I guess? There's just enough ornaments for it to not feel gaudy, but the only things that stand out are a vase with flowers, a picture of some scenery, and the kingdoms national flag hanging further in the room. In front of the flag the floor is slightly elevated and the King is sitting on a chair placed there. Behind the King on the left is the metal armor that whispered to him during the judgement.

"First off I want to ask, but you, can you repair rubber products?"

Huh?

"Ha...I believe that if it's most things then I can do it..However, I don't have the materials needed for the repair here, so it would be necessary to return to the inn I'm staying at once."

I felt insanely relieved as I replied. Come to think of it, it's been considerably popular in the capital since several years ago was it? Whether it's sandals or boots I'll fix them. I'm sure it's just the belt that's snapped right? Or did a hole open in a cushion?

"Oh~ I see, then I have a request to make of you, tomorrow, I want you to accompany me to my castle in Rombertia and I have something I would like for you to fix."

After saying that the King glanced back seemed to pay attention to the armor for a moment but after facing me again and continued with his words.

“That cursed Logan, he’s using the rules as a shield and won’t lend me your older sister. If I’m not mistaken, your older sister is in the first knight group right?”

I don’t know who Logan is but he’s most likely Mill’s superior officer in the knight group or something.

“Yes, thanks to that, my older sister Miluhaia is able to serve by your Majesty’s side.”

After I replied like and the King was satisfied and nodded but the metal armor started talking.

“Your Majesty, the knights of the knight group are busy with training. If anyone in the platoon is missing for the cooperative training then it isn’t unified training. Greed is an important member of our knight group as well and since she’ll end up taking command of other knights and knight groups from here on out, we can’t slack off on teaching her the fundamentals. Even rest is a proper mission, even if it’s your Majesty using her for your own personal purposes is..”

Somehow he seems to be talking pretty frankly.

“I already know that. That’s why rather than Lord Greed, I found her younger brother, so isn’t it fine?”

The King replied like that to the metal armor and then looked at me while saying.

“Come to think of it, you, I’ve heard your occupation is as an adventurer, but are you not using that strange armor?”

“Huh? Armor? Ah..that is..”

“Your Majesty, he knew he was going to be called as a witness for the judgement today. There’s no way he would stand on the witness stand in armor.”

Oh~ Nice follow, metal armor. That earns a lot of points.

“Yes, just as your guard over there said just now, I wasn’t wearing my armor for today. If you wish to see it then I can equipment it and return after this but..”

After I said that and this time the metal armor leaned forward.

“Mu, so you’re using that armor as well..Come to think of it starting this year the appearance of Lord Greed’s armor changed, and there’s even some squires who have started to use it but is your armor the same as that?”

“Ha..That is, mine is somewhat different. Normally that armor is matched up to the user and the details are different between individuals, just like plate-mail..”

So the squires who came along with sister are properly using it. Even though it’s the mass produced model that I hurried with. Incidentally, mine has the appearance of a fourth generation protector and looks almost the same as theirs but I’ve modified things with the materials and the structure so you could call it the 4.5th generation. It’s not a big difference though. If I feel like it I’ll talk about the characteristics of each generation later.

“Mu..I see. No, don’t worry about it. Ah, no, could you spare some time for me later? I want to talk a bit.”

“Ha. Since I’m a willful adventurer I have time. Please order me without reservation.”

When I replied to the metal armor like that and the King who had been grinning at the metal armor until then said.

“Fumu, wasn’t the knight group busy? Greed, since you’re cutting your time for this guy’s sake, it’s fine if you properly take money from him.”

I’m not allowed to request money from you? I think I’m going end up using all of tomorrow for your sake. It’s a joke though.

“Ha..That, I can’t possibly do that.”

I prostrate myself while responding.

“Umu, Logan, isn’t that great, it seems he doesn’t need any money. But, you have your honor to keep up right? Make sure you distinguish between things.”

He continues grinning while looking at the metal armor and speaking. So this metal armor is Logan huh? It would have been good if I used Identify on him along with the King during the judgement. If he’s this close then I can’t readily

Identify him.

“Then Greed. Tomorrow morning, you’ll accompany me to Rombertia. I’m relying on you. It’s fine for you to step back.”

“Ha...But before that please just allow me to ask one thing. What is the item that needs repairing?”

“Oh~ That’s right. I forget to say. It’s a bed.”

Ah, a water bed huh?

“Is it a hole? Or did it tear?”

“It’s a hole. Just one spot. She stabbed it with a sword, that cursed Molin..”

What’s that? Well it doesn’t matter.

“I’ll gladly undertake the job of repairing it for you. Tomorrow morning, I will accompany your Majesty to Rombertia and please allow me to repair the bed.”

“Umu, I’m relying on you for it. Now, you’re fine to leave.”

“Ha..Please excuse me.”

I left the room and there was sweat gathering on my forehead. The knight who came to get me praised me that there were no problems with my manners. Also, it seems that tomorrow morning he’ll come to “Boil Manor” to pick me up. Ah, in addition, I’ll ask about Molin at that time.

.....

It’s close to the time for dinner. Ah, I’m glad it didn’t drag on too long. Since I still haven’t given Angela any money I was about to force her to go without dinner. Well even if that were to happen I feel like Zulu would have paid for her. When I was about to leave the government office with a mentally exhausted face and I was called out by a different knight. What is it? is what I was thinking but I was told to wait for a bit. What is it, really? I need to feed my slave a meal. Ah, Logan said to give him some time later was it?

After waiting for about 10 minutes and the metal armor Logan appeared.

“Sorry for making you wait. I’m thinking of taking my armor off and going for some dinner. How about joining me? Also, if possible would you bring your

armor along? I want you to show it to me.”

“..Yes, I understand. Please allow me to join you for dinner. I’ll bring my armor as well.”

“Ah, I’ll send one person with you to hold your luggage. They know the location of the restaurant so come after that. It’s a restaurant called “Dorureon” on the #4 road. From now...I guess so, I’ll arrive at the restaurant an hour later. Sorry about that.”

“No, please don’t mind it.”

“Then, I’ll see you later.”

Logan said that and turned around walking into the government office building. While looking at the back of his head I used Identify. Roddoteri.Logan. Head of Baron Logan family. Level 17. Wow~ Level 17. That’s seriously amazing. Head of a Baron family? A Baron in the first knight group? Eh? Is he the knight leader?

I told the knight(they’re probably a squire though) that was appointed to hold my belongings and stopped at the restaurant we usually eat at along the way to “Boil Manor”. Everyone was already there but after I told them I would be eating dinner with the leader of the first knight group so I can’t together today, and that tomorrow I need to go to the capital so I won’t be in Baldukk for a day, and I said “it’s a bit fast but”, and gave Angela 20,000 Z (2 silver coins) as her wages for this month (to be more correct it’s half a months worth though). If you change it to a weekly pay it’s 8,000 Z (80 copper coins) in wages and therefore 2,000 Z (20 copper coins) less than Zulu. This is your portion as head slave, Zulu. Also, I gave them a bit of extra money for the lodging and meal costs for tonight and tomorrow and quickly headed towards “Boil Manor”. There’s no time after all.

After splitting up my armor with the squire we started laboriously heading towards “Dorureon” while I tried asking the squire who this Molin the King mentioned was. It was the nickname of the Queen. Since her name is Molail, I thought it would be Mol or Mola. However, the Queen used a sword to stab the water bed? Did the Queen go mad?

I somehow or other thought it would be better not to get involved with that.

Once we arrived at “Dorureon” Baron Logan still hadn’t arrived. However, several of the knights who were guarding the King were there. After the squire holding my armor and I entered the restaurant and several people familiar with the squire called out to them but after noticing my armor that we’re holding and they started to observe us from a distance. Somehow this feels uncomfortable.

During that time Baron Logan appeared and we started dinner. Before I realized it the squire had disappeared from our table and mixed in with his co-workers at a different table while observing us.

“Sorry about having you go out of your way like this. Is the course meal fine?”

“Yes, thank you that would be good. And, I’ve brought the armor I’m using right now. This is it but..”

While I was saying that the waiter came and Baron Logan ordered two courses before saying,

“Ah, would you show me it for a bit? Hmm, after all it’s light..Hmm..I see now..Hohou..So it was like this..Oh~ this is..”

stuff like that while spinning around and examining my protectors.

“Umm, Lord knight leader, is there some sort of problem?”

Since he was getting so lost in inspecting it so I tried calling out to him with reservation.

“O..Oh. Sorry about that. No it’s just, I was interested in how it was different from Lord Greed’s armor, and Guroholetz and Amuzel’s armor..”

“Ha~”

“By the way, about this armor but is it true that it only takes two days to create?”

Oh~? Is he going to buy some?

“That’s right, if it’s roughly then two days is fine. In order to finish the really detailed adjustments then I’d like four days but if I just have two days then I can make the same one that I made for my older sister and the squires.”

“Ho~ It’s fast just as I had heard.”

After Baron Logan said that and started looking at the small parts like the forearms and shoulder portions. Since it can’t be helped I’ll focus on eating. I wonder if I’m being treated? Since the King said something about distinguishing between things it’s probably his treat. This is considerably good. I’ll use this restaurant on certain occasions from now on. Thinking that I was chomping away at my food.

“Hey, you all, come look at this. It’s the new model of rubber armor.”

Baron Logan called out to the knights who were observing things over here like that. The knights all came closer to here while saying “excuse me.” and started looking at the armor with great interest. The design has changed slightly to match my body but it’s fundamentally not that much different from Mill and the squires. It’s only limited to some improvements I made to the loins or changed portions of the ebonite plates using D rings in various places like the third generation protector I gave Mill in the past. It’s only evolved a bit generally from the one I gave them. Just, everyone is saying “light” or “if it’s this then it’s plenty strong”. Hmn, it shouldn’t be all that different from the armor I gave to sister or the squires though? Have that not shown enough of it for them to inspect?

“Umm? It shouldn’t be all that different from the one I made for my older sister and the squires but..”

I tried saying that. And,

“We were interested in the model of armor. If we’re going to buy it then isn’t the newest one best?”

“You can make a shield with this material right? Lord Greed’s has a shield attached to her left arm right.”

“If it this, then it should be plenty able to protect the hips.”

And each saying different things. I wonder if this is a chance?

“Umm, if you’re interested in purchasing this then I’ll get into contact with my home town. Should I take your sizes before sending notice? However, in that case since it will be ordering close to 10 suits of armor, I think it will take around 3–4 months for the lot of your order to be ready but..”

I tried saying that. And then starting from Baron Logan everyone jumped at my words.

“I..Is that true!? I had heard from Lord Greed and the others that I would need to go to Bakuddo in order to make it. Even if it takes a bit of time for the delivery it’s just four months right? My metal plate-mail took over a year to make. Compared to that it’s fast!”

“And if you’ll come to take our sizes then that’s even better! It’s not like we can take over a month and a half break just to make some armor after all.”

“Alright, this is the time to use my secret savings!”

“What’s the price? Hey~ around how much is it!?”

“Ca...Can I ask for a shield as well? A kite shield!”

Oh~ this seems like it will be some good business.

“I guess so. Since even I can take your sizes, if you let me take your measurements then we can make it. At latest...I guess so, since it’s already close to September, I think we can barely deliver it by the end of the year. Also, about the cost, but if you’re fine with the same type as me then I think about 30,000,000 Z (30 gold coins) should be appropriate. In order to make parts of this we have to condense the superior quality rubber material so it uses a considerable amount of rubber. Ah, it’s fine if you pay half of the amount in advance and the remaining amount on delivery.”

I tried saying that. I blew up the price quite a bit. Well the real battle begins when they start haggling after all. It’s 30 gold coins. It’s the same type of price that high-quality splint-mail costs. I’m sure it’ll settle at around 20,000,000 Z (20 gold coins). Then if I take around 1 gold coin per suit of armor in profit then I’m sure I won’t be cursed.

“Gu..After all it costs about that much huh..No, but..”

“After all it’s a considerable price. I guess if you think about the weight and defense it’s cheap..”

“No, it’s cheap right?”

“It’s not like we can’t buy it right.”

“What about a shield? How much do shields cost?”

Huh? They aren’t trying to haggle. As expected of the first knight group. They

have a high salary. Then there's no need for me to hold back. Since it's better for me to take as high of a margin for myself as I can.

"Also, since it's an order from the first knight group that is taking care of my older sister. As a special service but I'll even put an emblem in one spot on the chest of it for you. Of course, I'll make it a relief so it doesn't have any effect on the defense of the armor. The size is..I guess around 5 cm in every direction would be good. I don't mind if the emblem is your family emblem, the one for the knight group, or one for the kingdom or anywhere else."

I added that as well. If it's Taylor then I'm sure she can make it without problem.

"Mu, I see. So you'll even put an emblem in for us.."

"Eee..Maybe I'll put in my family emblem?"

"Wouldn't it be cool to assemble this as matching armor for our platoon?"

"Oh~ that sound's good. The commander of the platoon is on guard duty right now right? Let's try asking him later."

"Wi...Will you put the emblem into a shield as well?"

Oh..they're interested. One more push.

"Furthermore, about the repairs, but since my older sister should be able to repair it you don't need to worry. Since one of it's characteristics is that you can wash it with water at any time, it won't take as much time for maintenance as plate-mail, unlike splint-mail or banded-mail which uses layers of leather on the inside it won't start to smell bad from sweat as well. Well, while it's still new there might be the smell of rubber for a bit but it's been about half a year since I made that armor of mine and the smell has about stopped bothering me."

How about that?

"Gumumu..I knew that it didn't take much money to repair at all but..it's cheap.."

"Every time I take a sword my splint-mail ends up costing money.."

"I see, the fact that it's cheap to maintain is also appealing."

"Lord Greed doesn't stink after all."

"I wonder if Lord Greed will be able to fix a shield if I ask?"

I'm getting a good feel. It's no good to get too greedy here.

“Since I’ll be accompanying you to the capital tomorrow as well, it’s fine if you give me a response at that time. And most likely I will still be in Baldukk for a few years so it’s fine if you call out for me at any time.”

It’s fine if I pull back here for today. If you hurry too much you’ll miss your chances after all. Tomorrow, after I finish repairing the King’s water bed I’ll be taking their measurements.

The dinner that night was delicious. The food you eat on other people’s money is delicious (..However, excluding Jabba).

I return to “Boil Manor” while chuckling to myself and immediately start doing optimistic calculations. Umm, I’m sure that father and brother want to get around 20,000,000 Z (20 gold coins) per suit of armor. In other words, I can take out 10,000,000 Z (10 gold coins) per suit. If it’s 10 suits of armor then that’s 100,000,000 Z (1 platinum coin). Uha, uhaha, uhahahaha. I’ve started to get excited at the unprecedented profit. Eh? Aren’t I taking too much profit margin? I mean, it uses more charcoal and sulfur for the ebonite so it doesn’t use as much rubber, and even just one suit of protectors only takes up the amount of rubber used in 50 pairs of sandals or so.

Though it’s true I’m sure there’s also the yield rate of ebonite we have so it will take a bit more though. One pair of sandals is 40,000 Z (4 silver coins). 60 pairs is about 2,400,000 Z. Even with just that it’s a huge profit, so if I’m selling that amount for 20,000,000 Z then the ones who make the most profits are father and older brother. That’s why, isn’t it fine if I take the leftovers of that? It’s amount that makes exploring the dungeon seem idiotic but I’ve heard that the number of people in the first knight group is about 100 knights and 50–60 squires. If I sell it to them once then it’s close to the end but I can still keep entering the dungeon after this.

Chapter 87: Sales Promotion 2

Year 7442, Month 8, Day 24

I'm accompanying the King on his roughly 10 Km return to Rombertia from his imperial visit. Ralph and Bel wanted to accompany me as well but when I said I was going together with the King and they as expected they held back from it. Obviously I'm riding on my war horse. The King is riding on a large carriage with eight horses and the knights have surrounded it on their war horses fortifying it. The number of people was less than I thought it would be. There's only about 50 people guarding the carriage. Come to think of it, even if they're squires, they're all ex-knights aren't they. I doubt that they're all in the first knight group but I guess this is the lap of the capital so the public order must be considerably good. Since the road was neatly maintained we were able to arrive at Rombertia in about two hours.

The capital Rombertia is a huge town. There's two rivers at over 20 m in width that are so large that Keel's central river just looks like a stream flowing through the Eastern side of the town, and that river flows to the West into the ocean. The dike of the river has been properly constructed so there's something like a sandbar in between the two rivers and close to 200 m of the riverside has something like a 6 m stone wall embankment along it, so it could be said that plenty of flood control has been done. No, though I think it's done plenty well with just this.

I don't know if it's because the entirety of the town is on a bit of a plateau but there's close to 4 m between the surface of the river and the ground. There's countless gutters running through the town from there. It doesn't seem it was created with as much planning as Keel but going off the scale you could say it's plenty to call sanitary and there's the wall that surrounds the capital as well, so it looks even more splendid. This might be the ideal location to have a capital.

In the center of the town of Rombertia is where the castle is located. It's a large and beautiful castle with gold leaf on the roof tiles and three moats. I

remember Osaka castle looking at it. It was almost to the point of letting out a groan over how splendid and majestic the castle of a large kingdom is with it's five layers of large castle towers. There's two outer citadels around the large castle towers as well. I can also see a large number of watch towers as well.

There was a castle in Keel as well but it was a castle that you wouldn't realize it unless you were told that was the case. It was a three story compact castle with just another stone wall and moats around it, a castle that felt a bit smaller than Marugame castle. It was at the level where if you were to say it was a large store from a distance then you would respond, "Ah, I see". However, this is the capital of Rombert Kingdom, and if I believe what father and mother said it's the great city that boasts the largest population on the Western edge of the Oladd continent. Since they say it's population is about 220,000 — 230,000 people it's got a population close to that of Tokyo and Chofu city. There's a bit more area than the city though.

We follow the winding roads and enter the castle. After waiting in an open area inside the castle walls for a short while and a person came to call for me. I take the rubber repair kit from my saddle bag and after leaving my weapon and horse in their care I followed after the person guiding me.

.....

I think this is probably a room in the area of the third outer citadel. It's been about 30 minutes since I was told to wait here. Even though it's repairing a bed I doubt I can enter the King's bedroom to do the work so I'm sure they're taking the water bed off of the bed and carrying it right now. Since I was bored I decided to reconfirm my repair kit just in case. If I were to fail here, buy the King's displeasure, and cause trouble for my older sister then I wouldn't be able to forgive myself for my entire life.

A bottle of raw rubber, check. Sulfur power, check. Charcoal, check. Additive agent, check. The small bucket I brought along just in case because it's difficult without it, no problem. I don't think I'll use them this time but I have all of the types of acid in different glass bottles properly coated with hard and raw rubber on the outside so they won't shatter. Yeah, it's alright. After this I just need a bucket filled with water for the final inspection but as expected I don't carry that around so I just asked for one.

When I was confirming my tools just like that and the King went out of his way to come here along with the servant slaves that brought the bucket and water bed. I bow on my knee and take the pose of gratitude for a retainer, with my head lowered.

“It’s fine, raise your head. Since you came at my request and I’m interested in how you’ll do the repairs as well.”

Eh~ He’s going to be watching from nearby...This is going to be really hard to do.

“Ha, then, I’ll get to the repairs right away. Please show me where the cut portion is first..”

Oh~ Isn’t this the limited first edition water bed we sold? If I remember correctly, it’s the one we sold three years ago. So it was bought by the King. Just from a glance it seems they’re taking good care of it and other than the hole from a sword while it’s slightly worn down from aging it’s still pretty clean. It’s proof that the durability was plenty. Furthermore, the hole in the middle of the water bed went straight through the pole between water rooms on both the top and bottom. There’s two holes. But, if it’s the pole in the center of the bed then it’s useless as a bed.

.....

Just as you would expect if it was stabbed with a sword, the cut itself wasn’t rough but a pretty clean cut. If it’s this cut then if I remove the fluffy portions around the cut and use the same material of rubber and plaster it on then stick the same fluffy rubber board on it should be fine. After a short while the work was completed. After this I just need to dry it, put some air inside, and then stick it inside of the bucket of water to check if there’s no leaks. Thinking that just as I was about to use the minimum drying spell.

An old woman entered the room. I’m sure she was quite beautiful when she was younger but since she’s already in her mid-40s she’s an old woman who’s skin has already started to wrinkle. Although, she’s still quite beautiful. Since the slaves in the surroundings were taking the retainer’s pose just like with the King I followed along and did it as well. I wonder if she’s the Queen? Was it Molin-san?

“Is it you? The insolent person who is repairing the bed?”

Huh? Eh? Isn't this person somehow angry? Rather, insolent person...

“Ha, No...Umm..”

I get stuck on my words not sure how to respond.

“What do you mean by insolent person!? Be careful with your words! I asked this person myself to come and do the repairs!”

Oh~ I'm saved. I'm saved but your majesty, King-san, your first person has changed to the formal form.

“Dear, after this is repaired you intend to drag in someone again right? Who is it this time? If it's just a slave then I'll look at it with a big heart, but I won't forgive a commoner or noble that's working as a maid servant in the castle. Do you intend to needlessly increase the number of heirs again!?”

Her highness the Queen has started talking on with an amazingly threatening attitude.

“Wh! I properly paid the doctor's fee to the second daughter of the Kongus family! Even if a boy is born they won't become an heir!”

You...

“It's not that sort of problem!..All of you, leave the room and close the door!”

After the Queen said that and the slaves all ran out of the room as fast as they could. I was about to as well as I stood up but the King grabbed on to my arm.

“Greed, you still haven't finished the repairs yet right? You're not allowed to leave the room! Continue with the work!”

“No, you stop the work and leave the room as well. Dear, I'll have you properly listen to me today already!!”

What do you want me to do? My arm is still being held onto by the King.

“No, don't bother with her! Now, Greed, continue with the work!”

“..I see, if you're going to go that far then I have my own thoughts on this! Someone! Call for Yulu, Becky, and Malin! Right this moment!”

The King and Queen are quarreling with me in the middle. In addition it seems like it's going to increase by several people.

"And..It's fine, Greed or whatever. Continue with the work. Ah, wait just a moment. Status Open..so you were someone of a Viscount family? That's just perfect, it's some kind of fate that you happened to be here. You, after hearing the conversation we're about to have tell us you're opinion. This is an order from the Queen of Rombert Kingdom. Is that alright!"

"yye, Yes?"

I couldn't help but reply.

"..Molin! Do you intend to listen to the opinion of a stranger on a problem of my royal family!?"

Right.

"It's already beyond the level of a problem that we can hide at this point!! Everyone in the capital already knows about it! In the first place, it's not a secret or anything like that, already! Greed! You get to finishing up your job right now!"

What? Is this King laying his hands all over the place that much? I'm envious. I immediately got to drying and after putting the portion of the bed I repaired into the bucket of water I blew air into the cork. It's not like I'm being stingy with MP or trying to hide my magic. I just felt like if I didn't seem like I was doing my job I might get dragged into it.

I blew air into it while Identifying the Queen. Molail.Rombert. The first wife of Duke Rombert. Level 8. Her magic is pretty high all level 3-4 other than fire magic. Umu, she's the Queen. The Rombert family has a Duke, Marquis,Count, and Viscount branch to it. For each different territory it's split up as the lord and used for those purposes. I don't know how many territories they have in all though. I've heard that when it comes to counts there's over 10 of them.

Along with some hurried footsteps another woman rushed into the room. I identified her and she was Yulusufol.Rombert. The second wife of Duke Rombert. I lowered my head with the rubber cork still in my mouth. After a short while another one, Marinen.Rombert. The first wife of Count Rombert.

After that yet another one came in, Rebecca.Rombert. First wife of Marquis Rombert. They're all exceptional beauties.

The King, his four wives, and a young man with a rubber cork in his mouth. There's no other sound in the room than me blowing air. The three who came later can't seem to grasp the situation. They're paying attention to me as if I'm the culprit of some sort of calamity. The King and first wife are also looking at me along with them.

I continue breathing as I blow air into the rubber pipe of the cork. It's should be about good. I put the cut portion into the bucket. There's no leaks in the air. It's OK.

I take it out of the bucket and after sticking a rod into the rubber cork to let the air out, I quickly wipe off and dried the surface. I politely folded up the empty water bed and after cleaning up my tools and,

"The repairs are completed. Now then, I'll take my leave.."

Said that. I wonder if they'll just let me go on feeling?

"I won't allow that. I just said it right. Now, listen from over there."

After all. I once again take the retainer's bow and remained silent.

"Now then, Greed. Do you know how many children his majesty the King has created?"

And Molin asked me. I don't know.

"No. Your highness the Queen. I'm from the countryside and I just left Bakuddo in Marquis Webdos territory the other day therefore, I only know of your eldest son, his highness Duke Ronbald, the crown prince Richard, your second son, his highness William the Marquis Rondol, and your eldest daughter her highness Biagitte who's already married to the eldest son of Duke Baguwel."

Well that sort of stuff is common sense so even I know of it.

"Ho~ So you were from Bakuddo..So that's why..Well it's fine. The correct answer is 8 people."

Molin said it. Well if he has four wives and each one gives birth to two then

that sounds about right. It's less than my mother after all.

"Ha..I'm amazed at my own ignorance."

"It's fine. And, what do you think about this number?"

What do I think..It's not unusual right. Since they're royalty it's not like they wouldn't have to worry about their children dying in infancy, so it's not a low number but it's also not a high number right?

"Ha, since they are the heirs that will rule the future of the large Kingdom of Robert, in order to continue with the reign of peace and bring relief to the next generation, I believe it is a good number.."

"That's right. If it was just that then I'm sure it would be quite easy to relax. The number just now was the children of legitimate birth. The illegitimate children just of the ones that we know were born is 65 children."

Wha!? 6...5?

I couldn't help but be dumbfounded unable to believe her words.

"..That is..Um..While I'm very sorry to say..that is a bit..umm..."

After seeing that I wasn't blocked on speaking Molin said.

"You don't need to be afraid. Speak honestly, I just ordered you to do so."

That tone of voice was severe.

"I..thin..think it's..a bit too many.."

"It's already fine! I'll be careful not to make any more children than this! Isn't that fine!"

The King interrupted. He..help me. Please let me leave before a hole opens in my stomach.

"Dear! We haven't finished talking yet!! Greed, among those 65, 59 of them we're born in just over the last year. And after that there's 34 people pregnant with illegitimate children. What do you think about this matter?"

Huh...In other words..Hey! What in the world is that!

"I...I see..He must have given it his bes..No, his majesty must be in good health.."

“As if he could have that many children if there was a problem with his health! Respond seriously!”

Sc..scary~

“A, no ma, no matter how you put it I think that’s too many..”

I couldn’t help but say it.

“Hey, Greed, you..there’s things you mustn’t say..”

The King put his hand to forehead and is looking up. I..I mean.. No matter how you put it 93 children in around two years, you...There’s no way you can explain that..

Hn? In around two years? Somehow it seems like a coincidence...

“That’s right! It’s beyond the level of common sense!! Yulu! Becky! Marin! I’m sure there’s things you all want to say as well right! Say them!”

“Your majesty! My patient has already reached it’s limit as well!”

Yulu’s drooping eyes raised up.

“Today of all days is!”

Becky’s face flushed.

“I’ll let you say me everything!”

Marin’s determined looking eyes went triangle-shaped.

Oh~ how frightening.

After that it was terrible. All four of the Queens were criticizing their husband the King one after another. I just hung my head down and didn’t say anything. They were speaking ill of him for around 20 minutes. How if that’s okay for a King, or isn’t that the reason why maid servants are hired to work in the castle, or about the elasticity of the water bed and how it started after that came, or about possibility of him getting a disease, or that the doctor’s fee has exceeded 1,000,0000,000 Z and it’s putting pressure on the treasure, or recently how the people are calling him the sex crazed King or Pink King or bad names like that, or how they said he won’t lay a hand on the Queens because they have no charm and they find it mortifying...

However, I guess as expected after saying all of that, I don't know if they were able to completely say everything they wanted to but the verbal abuse gradually stopped. They might have just gotten tired though. Well, I was just quietly watching so I'm able to calmly think. There's no springs in this world. That's why even for a King, while I'm sure they're of the highest quality, he just slept on futons on top of a wooden bed.

While he was in the middle of his life like that he suddenly got his hands on the water bed, which is comfortable to lay on, durable, and made of rubber so it can handle pro-wrestling play. Even if you just normally lay down they usually transform to match your figure a bit. Regardless of whether you're on the top or bottom, or even if you move a bit intensely it won't go to the level of bouncing, there's something close to a rebound. I'm sure it was more comfortable.

In other words, it's my fault.

And at the same I remembered something important.

The average wallet in this world is made pretty big since they only hold coins. They're large like both thighs of military pants and having deep pockets to fit that wallet is normal. And since I was young in my past life, there's something that I always made sure to keep in my wallet. Even when I went out during the time I was enrolled in Self-Defense College I had it in my wallet. After I married as expected I stopped doing it though. However, as expected right now, I don't have just one, but I have a pack of 10 in it. Just in case I ever need to enter live combat. Since the enemy will never think about the circumstances on my side. Since I gave one pack as a sample in Keel and another pack to those idiots at the end, I still have 8 packs remaining. I have 80 cartridges. Though I'm only carrying one magazine of 10 shots with me.

Ah, bro...I'm going to be saved by brother again... I might really never able to hold my head high to Farne again in my whole life.

"Your majesty, and your highness-es, it's presumptuous of this humble retainer, but I have a good idea."

After I said that and everyone looked at me. Yulu raised her voice.

"You, weren't you a rubber artisan? A commoner or Free Person will be

charged with disrespect for interrupting a conversation between royalty?”

She said that seeming worried about me. She’s a charming beauty with drooping eyes. However, what about it was a pleasant talk? Also, I was being called Greed. Though I guess after all she wouldn’t know a Viscount family from the countryside.

“It’s fine, that person is a member of a Viscount family. In the first place I ordered him to speak his opinion. Since I’ve given you permission, speak your idea.”

Molin said that to me. I take a breath and after resolving myself I open my mouth. This is the critical moment.

“Ha, first off, about the matter this time, but after listening to everyone’s conversation just now, there is something that I thought. It’s true that his majesty is energetic. However, as the King of a country... it’s not like he’s gotten so absorbed into it that he’s abandoned his obligations right?”

“Obviously. Even with this I’m the King after all. I’m properly taking care of my job. In the first place, whether it be the flood control, petitions, or resolving the conflicts between lords these past few years, I’ve actually raised the efficiency in getting things done!”

Even if you say that to me.

“..It’s true that almost all of the problems have been resolved.”

Molin said that. Is that so?

“Right? I’m sure there’s no King who has worked as hard as me in recent years. I’m carrying a lot of stress. You all lower nobles are fine just adequately eating and dancing with other nobles though! Listen well, I’m tired! Isn’t fine for me to have a bit of an outlet! Hey! Molin. The floor control construction in the Reida region has ended perfectly right!? Who is that thanks to! Yulu. Investigating the terrain of Sanglal is over as well right!? That place has been on hold since the time of my grandfather!? I finished taking care of that without even taking three years! Becky. I managed to negotiate an extension to our anti-war pact with Guranan Empire in a way advantageous to us right!? That’s something that the previous generation, my grandfather had shelved!? I

resolved it! Marin. The problem of debt since 300 years ago between your family Count Faruelgaz and Marquis Rodail, that, I coordinated it so both sides would come to an understanding right! I even made a law after all. I used my head quite a bit when making that law so the next era wouldn't make the same mistake! Thanks to that I've even been thanked by the other lords! If I had just been throwing down my obligations in order to indulge in pleasure then I'd be fine with no matter how you criticize me! But, it's something saying it myself, but I've putting quite a bit of effort into it right? Isn't it to the point where I would be called the forefather that restored the kingdom! I inherited the throne when I was 35 years old. I'm 48 right now. I did this much in just 13 years, no I've done even more right! Eh? Who is it thanks to that you all can eat and dance. Speak! Try saying it!"

After the King yelled all that in one breath he was breathing with his shoulders. That's amazing~ If it's all that then I'm sure it wouldn't be strange for him to name himself the forefather of the restoration. However, separate from that, he's still given birth to too many kids.

""Yo..Your majesty the King.""

The younger wives Becky and Marin said that while prostrating themselves but the older two were different.

"That's only obvious for you to be doing! Becky, Marin. Stand up! Dear, it's true you're making achievements in politics. However, this and that are completely different. Understand that!"

Molin is pretty harsh.

"That's right. Your majesty. I understand that you're carrying a lot of stress and I won't stop you from laying a hand on women. It's fine. However, this number of illegitimate children is abnormal. Won't it reach triple digits after just one? And do you think we're just dancing? That's our battlefield. We gain information from other lords while dancing and we're reporting all of that in detail. If possible we also include our own opinions. And so you can focus on the political end of things, I'm acting as an adviser to the military affairs front. Close to these past 10 years, Marin and I are the ones who've always been inspecting the conflicts, and between watching the progress of the knight groups, and

updating their equipment, there's a lot of troublesome jobs. Molail-sama has the imperial court under her grasp and ensures that all of the nobles are bowing their heads. Isn't Becky acting as an adviser to you in the office work? It's not just the achievement of your majesty alone."

Yulu may seem like an obedient, pretty old lady with drooping eyes but she says some pretty severe stuff.

"Since Molin is my legal wife it's only obvious she'd hold a grasp on the imperial court right? And Yulu, you made it up to a company leader in the first knight group at 24...You, I was in the first knight group until I was 35 but I finally made it as a platoon leader at 28. Office work is Becky's specialty because she was educated thoroughly at Marquis Rokkmolt's place, and even Marin was known as Fireball {Cannon Ball} one of the top five in the knight group at Faruelgaz's place...You're just doing what's obvious for the right person in the right place right?"

Aaa, that's something you're not supposed to say. By the way, so Queen Yulu was a young company commander in the first knight group? She's the senior of my older sister. So that's why this person is level 12, a head above the rest.

"Oh, right person in the right place. It's a good expression right. It's only obvious that you're doing the job of a King because it's the right person in the right place! It's just as Yulu said! Three digits! No matter what I won't forgive three digits! That Greed over there even said it was too many didn't he! In the first place without even using contraception..just how much are you lacking in common sense! Did you not know that we're lowering our heads to the other parties parents every time! Becky and Marin were even lowering their heads to the parents of commoners because they said they're still young!!"

Molin is criticizing him.. Oh my..After all.

"Haven't we said countless times to use the bowels of a pig!"

Becky retorted as well.

"That's right, and if that's not the case then at least outside.."

Marin continued to say.

"But, it feels better to let it out inside.."

Hey! Old man! I can't listen to anymore of this..Now then.

"Everyone, I feel that everyone is just a little bit too excited.. you should return your tone of voice. Now then, I just stated that I have a good idea, there's no way you could have already forgotten right...That's fine. First, please let me confirm two points. The first thing to confirm is with Queens. You're not opposed to his majesty the king laying his hands on women right?"

I calmly said that as the only one with a composed expression.

"..I think it can't be helped. I'm sure there's a lot of stress and there's a lot of things that his majesty must decide on alone, so I think that letting loose a bit is fine. However, that and creating children is a different problem!"

Molin said while glaring at the King. The other two are nodding as well. The King is awkwardly facing a different direction.

"Then, as long as it doesn't involve any conception then he has your permission right?"

"I guess so. However, it's no good to impregnate the other party. It looks far too bad for our reputation. If it was just around 10 or so we wouldn't think that much. The current situation was gone to another a level and is even about to reach beyond the heavens."

She continues drawing closer to the King while saying that. If I let it go like this it'll be a repeat of just a moment ago.

"Then, the next confirmation. Your majesty, I was born in the countryside but it isn't difficult for me to imagine your majesty's exhausting amount of work. However, even though I'm incompetent I also understand the feelings of the Queens. Also, while I am inexperienced in terms of age but as a man the same as your majesty I feel I understand your feelings. There, I would like to introduce this product to you. Since even I'm on the end of the nobility..it's a product I'm normally carrying around in order to prevent the undesired conception of a woman."

While saying that I took the rubber bag out of my wallet and showed it. Obviously they would have no idea what this thing is.

"Just a moment ago I stated that I was born in Bakuddo village on Marquis

Webdos territory. I believe you already know but Bakuddo is the area where rubber products are produced. Along with a strong elasticity, it stretches and contracts well. It's just a fragment of the properties of rubber but this product can display all of those properties. This is a product used as a replacement for the bowel's of a pig. Please try taking it in your hand. There's 10 of them inside of the bag but up until now the bag has been sealed so there's no problem with the quality. Also, in order to improve the comfort and sliding it's covered in lotion. The lotion was made from a natural material of marine plant so, you could say it's a manufactured food product, even if it gets stuck to your body, you lick it, or swallow it there's no harm at all."

After hearing my statement Yulu looked at me with great interest and said.

"You, so you're a member of the Greed family of Bakuddo..Is Miluhaia your older sister?"

"Ha, Miluhaia is my older sister. Right now she's serving his majesty in the first knight group."

"I see. Then I'm sure there's no problem with this product. Morail-sama, please take it."

After Yulu took the rubber bag from me and she handed it to Molin. After taking the bag in her hand and timidly inspecting it Molin tried to tear the seal on the bag all at once but it seems she was having trouble tearing it. Since Marin pulled the sword (I wonder if only royalty and their guards are allowed weapons in the imperial court during times of peace) out from her waist and was about to cut it I stopped her and said.

"Your highness Marinen. If you just tear a bit of the edge on the corner of the bag then you can push the contents outside. After you break the seal then it's best to store the remaining bags in ice water without letting water get inside...If you carefully push them out they'll come out one at a time so...Yes, that's the real form of this product, the product name is "Saya". It's a new product from Bakuddo, the producer of rubber. The way to use it is the same as the bowel's of a pig but that "Saya" is normally rolled up so it's not unreasonable that the shape will feel different.."

After this was the same as the time with Haritaid at "Ritton" the brothel in

Keel. I just need to watch as she timidly touches the condom and checks the sensation of it.

“..Now then, right now it’s just that one bag, but at the inn I’m staying in Baldukk I still have six more bags like that. If I write a letter to my older brother then I’m sure I could get even more by the end of the year. Well, I’m well aware that you can’t suddenly trust what I’m saying. However, how about trying the usage of it with the her highness-es tonight even..Since the bed is already repaired.”

After that, I brought up several points to be cautious (To be careful not to let any air in when putting it on. Once you use to get rid of it and not re-use them.) about when using them before leaving. If he likes them then I’m sure he’ll get into contact with me. There’s no way he wouldn’t like them though.

Eh? There should be one more bag? I know. I can count numbers.

Chapter 88: Branding

Just a note on something that might have been confusing for a while. There two different Viscounts for the Japanese, they use different kanji but both are translated as Viscount. One is the quite literally Vice-Count, it's below Count, and above Baron rankings. The other one is what is normally considered the Knight nobility, AKA the lowest noble ranking. It's harder to use knight because they are considered separate from nobility in this series. The Knight type Viscount nobility might be easier to think of as Baronet but that also seems a bit different, usually they are essentially knights who were given XXX serfs and told to pave the way for a new village and they only have one-two villages in territory, like Bakuddo. There's also the sub- classification like associate/vestment/honorary/in-name only noble ranking. I've been using Sub-Baron etc.. for that.

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Well not quite as much as I wanted to get done but at least only SS16 is next, so I should be able to do that later today.

Year 7442, Month 8, Day 24

After I was released from the King and Queens I returned to my horse with an exhausted face. I put away my tools for repair and this time I took out my measure tape while asking the slave or whatever that was watching after the horses where Baron Logan of the first knight group is located.

Just as I was told when I tried going to the area between the second and third inner citadels and I found the group of about 10 knights from last night gathered together. Hey now, wasn't the first knight group busy? After greeting them and I was politely lead to a room. I guess I'm going to take measurements here. There was one guy who was about to get naked so,

"The rubber armor is something you put on above your armor padding so it's fine if you keep your padding on."

And after saying that I quickly started taking measurements. Since it took around 15 minutes per person, I ended up spending close to three hours measuring sizes and keeping a record of them. They ordered 10 suits of rubber protectors, 2 kite shields, and 4 small shields like bucklers like what my older sister uses. Uwa, this is some pretty good business.

I was trying to control myself from letting the fact that I was grinning on the inside from showing while making records and Baron Logan started talking to me.

“However..can you really finish 10 suits of armor by the end of the year? I’ve started to worry about it a bit.”

It’s not particularly a problem. After I left Taylor was making armor all on her own after all. I’m sure if someone else helps then they can finish it much faster and older brother and sister-in-law would gladly help out. Even in terms of rubber they should have started gathering from field #5 by now and #6 might even be ready pretty soon. And..we’ve been under the care of the leader and Queen Yulusufol after all.

“N~~ I don’t think it will be a problem though...Since it’s a job from someone my older sister has been under the care of we can’t treat you badly. The problem is how much time it takes for my letter and the advance payment to arrive. In the case of the letter, if there’s no caravan going in that direction then it will take some time..so at the longest it might even take up to a month and a half for ti to arrive.”

“If it’s about your older sister then you don’t need to worry about her. It’s become a problem for us whether or not she might overtake us. However.. it’s true that there’s some distance to your household.. Oh~ come to think of it was Bal still around?”

“Ha, right here.”

“You were going to Viscount Penlaid’s place supervising a practice maneuver right? Take the letter and advance payment along with you when you go then. And, find a caravan that’s heading towards Keel from around there and order them to take it. Were you departing the day after tomorrow was it?”

“Ha, that’s right. That’s a good idea. Greed-kun, on the morning the day after

tomorrow I'll go to your inn to receive the letter. Is it fine if I take the advance payment along with me at that time? It would have been fine today as well but the reception window for luxury tax in Rombertia is closed in the morning so I don't think it would be a problem to pay the taxes in Baldukk. If it's too much trouble then I'll pay the taxes for you over here but...What's the company registration number for Bakuddo?"

The knight named Bal asked me that. I forgot about taxes. Shit. Also what's a company registration number? I don't know about it.

"Eh? Company? Registration number? Ah, we don't have our own company. Up until now everything that Bakuddo produces that is being sold outside of Marquis Webdos territory is products we mediated through Webdos Company. What would be best to do?"

If it's something I don't know then it's best to ask honestly. If you get too proud over these sorts of things it turns bad.

"Mu, I see, if you're not registered as a company then it will be bad from here on out...Hey, someone go to the government office and register them. Since you're a member of a Viscount family it will only take a bit of money for the registration. It's 500,000 Z. If one of our members goes along with you then I'm sure they'll register you immediately as well. Also, since it'll be categorized as doing trades across multiple territories make sure you register as a Type-2 Third Variety. With that you'll be able to freely do business anywhere inside of our country. It's fine if you pay the taxes in either Rombertia or Baldukk."

Baron Logan taught me about it. I guess when you make it to the leader of the first knight group you need to know a variety of things. It's some appreciated advice. But, 500,000 Z is just a little bit of money..I don't know if it's because he's a Baron or because he's the leader of a knight group but..

"Thank you very much for teaching me about it. Well then, since I've finished recording the measurements I would like to go and register. Also, before that I would like to greet my older sister, but is it possible?"

After I said that and Baron Logan said,

"Eh...Well I guess it's fine."

He says that while grinning and,

“Ah, the third company is by the riverbed today right? I guess so..Hack. You go together with him. Including the procedures for the company as well. That thing the other day...What was it..when I bought that spear from a company in some count’s territory the one who went along to register was you right? I’m leaving it to you.”

He called out to one knight.

“Ha..I understand.”

After the knight named Hack who looks to be in his late 20s responded like that to the Baron and he said to me.

“I’ll go together with you. Then shall we go?”

I straddle my horse and then followed along with Hack to the government office. According to the explanation by Hack and the one in charge of the government office, companies require registration in each territory and it seems that depending on their classification the products they can deal in, the taxes, and the territories they can do business are different. It seems that the ultimate company that can do business in any territory including outside of the country and can deal in any type of merchandise is a Type-1 First Variety. A company which can do business in any territory including outside of the country and is limited only by not dealing in military goods is a Type-1 Second Variety. The opposite of that where it can only deal in military goods is a Type-1 Third Variety. It’s split up in the same for companies that can do business anywhere within the country under the Type-2 classification. The final classification Type-3 is limited to only the territory they’re registered like only doing business within Baldukk and Rombertia. Obviously the largest number of registered companies are Type-3 Second Variety. Restaurants and inns would be under that classification. Next is Type-3 First Variety.

Furthermore, what is considered military goods isn’t just weapons and armor, but preserved food, war horses, saddles, other horse equipment, and even military purpose tents and carriages are included. The only thing not included in military goods in modern day Japan is the food. Medical supplies, normal food, and furniture aren’t included in military goods. In other words, putting it in

terms of Bakuddo's products, it's possible to force sandals through as military goods but simple rubber cloth that hasn't been sewn isn't included. Cushions and things that you can attach to the saddle are included but things like normal mats aren't included. The water bed is included..probably not.

The fee for registration is 100,000,000 Z for Type-1. However it's only in the case of commoners and Free People. It's only 10,000,000 Z for nobles. Type-2 is 50,000,000 Z. 5,000,000 Z for nobles. Type-3 is 1,000,000 Z. 100,000 Z for nobles. And in terms of classification there's no additional cost for the second variety. The first variety costs three times more. The third variety costs two times more. Huh? Don't you think it's strange? Normally it would cost me 100,000,000 Z for the Type-2 Third Variety. Even if I deduct the fact that I'm a noble it's still 10,000,000 Z.

Obviously the amounts I just said are when you have no connections or backing. However, I have with me what would make my plate from Marquis Webdos go pale, the first knight group. In order to purchase and research various equipment the knight group purchases small amounts of equipment from various places so only the first knight group has the authority to forcefully push a Type-2 Third Variety of company through for just a handling charge. If that wasn't the case then for just buying a single sword or spear there might end up being tens of companies taking their own margin between the sale.

Since my household is the one manufacturing the products it's seen as a blessing that they can deal directly with the producer. It doesn't matter if it's a Third Variety as long as the official company has been created then it's in my favor. Normally the condom's are medical supplies as well but the name of them is "Saya" after all. If I were to say they're equipment for men I'm sure the King would say, "Yeah, that's OK." If it's no good then I'll just ask a favor from them King and get the classification changed to First Variety. Well, even if I go the formal route then it's only 5,000,000 Z to make the change so if I put half a month of profits from the dungeon into it then I can do it anytime.

Rather than that it's bigger that I was able to skip over the annoying qualification inspections and procedures for issuing my license. Viva! Absolute monarchy! It wouldn't go this way in a constitutional rule or democracy I'm sure.

Also, it seems I can create a plate for the company. I wonder if it's something like the Marquis Webdos plate for proof of passage inside the country? No, a noble like myself can move around within the country with no proof of passage with no problems. Ah, I'm sure it would be convenient to bring Zulu and Angela to Bakuddo. It seems this plate will take about 2–3 weeks to be completed.

Now then, my business at the government office is completed. After this I just need to take a look at sisters sullen face before returning to Baldukk. I follow after Hack to the riverbed. Oh~ They're training. It doesn't seem like they're on horseback for today but I guess that's the training of the first knight group huh? Come to think of it I never properly saw the training of the knight group in Keel. Hack says,

“Right now, the third company is in the middle of training. I'll go get permission from the commander of the third company so could you wait here for just a moment?”

After saying that and he prodded the stomach of his horse and headed towards the knight group in the middle of training. I wonder if the company commander is backbitten and called Chuusuke* in Orth as well?

“Short rest!”

The one who seems to be the company commander raised his voice. Everyone seems to have fallen over in exhaustion. Ah, is that armor sister? It was different. I guess one of the squires because sister doesn't have a physique that good. Ah, so that's sister. After being called out by Hack what seems to be Mill looked over here. After seeing me waving my hand and it seems she finally noticed me and dragged her exhausted body over here.

“Sister, it's been a while.”

I say that with a smile on my face and,

“Hey you. Get off your horse. And, what is that? That head? Did you awaken to beauty even though you're just an AI? How cheeky.”

and said that. It's true. It's painful that I can't say the real reason in response to that. It was my best effort saying “It looks good on me right?” to try and cover it up.

“What’s going on with this horse? Isn’t it a good horse?”

Sister said that while patting the neck of my war horse.

“Ah, when I left the house brother gave it to me. Supposedly it’s the one that brother used when he was in the Webdos knight group. It’s a good horse right?”

I said it proudly to Mill. Just as expected of the horse brother used it’s well disciplined and I said that it listens to my orders almost like telepathy.

“Eh? This child, it’s the one brother used..”

That’s right~ You want it right? I won’t give it to you~

“And, did you become an adventurer?”

Mill is patting the neck of my war horse while saying it.

“Yeah, I’m in Baldukk right now. I’m entering the dungeon.”

I stick my chest out a bit.

“I see..I guess if it’s you then you’d be fine on your own...Be careful that you don’t get injured.”

What the, saying such kind things.

“Fu..Did you think I was alone? I already have 5 subordinates~ I met three of them along the way and hired them. Two of them are slaves I bought. Though I say that one of them I bought using the money I got from father when I left the house though, the other one I bought with the money I earned in the dungeon~”

“Ehh..Are you earning that much? You’re amazing!”

Oh~ praise me more.

“That’s right. When I save up some money and become a rich person I’ll treat you to something.”

“That pisses me off. But, what about your armor? You have some right?”

“Ah, I was called by his majesty the King today and went to the castle“eh..Why!?””

It seems she was surprised that I was called out by the King and appeared in

the castle. Well, I guess that's true.

"His majesty was using the water bed. It was for repairing that."

Mill was surprised it seems. I guess she didn't know.

"He~! That's amazing! So the stuff we make at home was even used by his majesty!"

"I know right. Not to mention, it was the first lot we made after sister-in-law got pregnant with Zett and Becky! He's a frequent customer. That had a sale price of 7,000,000 Z (7 gold coins)."

She was pleased along with me.

"7,000,000 Z huh? I can't pay 7,000,000 for a bed~"

That's only obvious.

"What's that, sister has the one I gave you at the start of this year right? You're still using that right?"

"Yeah, that bed is nice. Thanks to it I can sleep soundly."

Oh, come to think of it everyone in the first knight group was rich. I wonder how much their wages are?

"Come to think of it, since sister is in the first knight group as well your wages must be quite high right? About how much are you getting?"

I tried asking like that.

"Hnn, since I'm still young and a new knight it's not that high. Just 13,200,000 Z per year."

Huh? You're still 18 right? Rather, 13,200,000 at that age..Ama..amazing~ Excluding bonuses Ralpa is only making 2,400,000 Z per year. Putting aside me treating you, you should treat me to something. I guess she misunderstood since I was surprised so she said even further.

"Even with this it's increased quite a bit since I was a squire."

No wait, I'm not surprised because it's too little, I'm surprised at how much it is. Ah, I see, after leaving the house Mill entered the knight group right away. I'm sure she doesn't know the value of money. She shouldn't have even used

money for shopping once until she entered the knight group.

“Sister..that’s a crazy high amount. It’s probably way more than the average expenses for a year of our house in Bakuddo. The weekly pay of a squire in the Webdos knight group is 43,000 Z. It’s about 2,5000,000 Z per year. I’m sure true knights don’t even get double that amount.”

I said while amazed.

“Eh? Is that so? How much was it when I was a squire again? I don’t think it was 10,000,000 Z last year. Come to think of it, according to what I’ve we’re receiving three times the wages of other knight groups. I wonder if it’s a lot?”

Don’t joke with me, shit. Mother, let’s at least teach her about the value of money before letting her out of the house~

“Sister you know..Don’t you go shopping on your days off? Do you not eat outside? You at least go and buy clothes right..”

“Eh? Since we’re told to rest on days off, I review for my academic lessons. After that is sleeping. I’m fine with just my armor padding for clothes so I don’t have any. The food is free in the knight station after all. In my case, it doesn’t cost any money to repair my armor as well. Ah, that’s right. I’m still using the sword I received from older brother while maintaining it. Even though other people’s swords got worn-out in around half a year. This sword doesn’t get damaged at all. Even when hitting them together it’s quite durable. It’s a good sword.”

Obviously don’t put it together with the average caste sword around there. It comes out as Special Forged Steel even with Identify. Even in terms of value while it doesn’t reach your annual salary it’s about the same price as 10 average swords. Rather~ so she was training seriously..I guess if that wasn’t the case there’s no way she would have been able to become a true knight. Even though I’ve been wandering here and there to try and lose my virginity..in the end I still haven’t been able to do it, but somehow I’ve started to feel apologetic.

“Is all the money you’ve received up until untouched? You aren’t using it?”

“Yeah, there’s almost no spare time to go shopping after all. Ah, when I went home on my breaks I used it on food and inns. I was surprised at how cheap it

was. I wonder if they gave me a discount for being in the first knight group?"

It's already fine. I've understood.

"Well, it's not a bad thing to have some savings though, I think it would be good if you walked around the town a bit more and learned the market price of various things. If it's like that then you'll have some trouble when you get married in the future. When I left the house I was told by father to watch the town for about 10 days and learn various things."

It was my limit just saying that.

"I see. Next time I have time I'll try taking a look at the town."

"Yeah, I think it would be best if you do that. Since I still intend to remain in Baldukk for several years, let's go and eat together sometime. I'm staying at the "Boil Manor" in Baldukk. If you send me a letter than I'll match my days off with you."

"I guess so. Another time."

"Ah, and I forgot to say it. I took orders for armor from Baron Logan and 9 others. I guess it's because sister and the other squires advertised it? It seemed like everyone wanted it. In addition with Baron Logan as the mediator I was able to make a company. It's called Greed Company. I'm going to sell Bakuddo's rubber products wholesale to the first knight group. Also, what was his name again? That's right, the person named Bal-san is going to head out the day after tomorrow right? Since it seems he's going to deliver the letter for the order, if sister writes a letter before then I'm sure he'll deliver it if you ask as well."

"Eh? Bal..? Isn't that platoon leader Balmisshu of the second company! There's no way I could make a request of someone like that! You show some restraint as well."

No, there's no way I could know that...It just showed him as a Viscount with Identify after all. Since it's a knight group after all, I thought there would be Viscounts all over the place...

"And, it's fine if you take orders for armor though..It's no good to take orders for swords. There's a lot of people who want this sword. I've been deceiving them this is a heirloom that I received from my older brother but you made the

materials for this right? It's not something you can make a lot of right? Be careful."

O..Oh, so that's how it was. Come to think of it, I made just one for the purpose of selling in the past. I wonder who obtained that? Well, it's fine. It seems that someone is approaching us. Viscount Segan.Kendus huh? Level 14. Since he's a viscount I wonder if he's a commander?

"Ah, commander. Please excuse me for taking up so much time."

Mill is acting respectfully. After all he was a commander huh?

"So you're Greed's younger brother? My name is Kendusu. I'm the commander of the third company. I've heard about you from Greed. It seems you're strong. If you have some time would you have a bit of a match with me?"

That's no joke, I'm still in the middle of a level up experiment. I want to avoid even taking on a scrape.

"Ah, that is..It's no good if I don't return to Baldukk after this. If it's a match then could I please request it at the next occasion. Since I'm staying in Baldukk right now, I'll be showing my face here several times for delivering armor after this. It would be fine on that occasion..I'm sorry for not be able to meet up to your expectations for today."

I politely lowered my head apologetically.

"Eh? Delivery of armor you said!? Is it this? Is it this armor!? Did someone go to Bakuddo to take measurements?"

Viscount Kendusu put his hand on Mill's shoulder while talking. Why do they all jump at it like that.

"Ah, no, it was requested by Baron Logan, today I took the measurements for those who wish to purchase the armor at the castle. Thanks to that I was able to take orders for 10 suits of armor of the first knight group including Baron Logan. Thank you very much."

I politely lowered my head again. Since he's sister's superior, I need to make sure to leave a good impression.

"Eeeh!! I didn't hear about that!! What does that mean!!"

No, I seriously don't know though.

"Eh? Ah..Even if you say that..Umm.."

Since I was getting a bit incoherent and grumbling as I said it. Sister has suddenly gotten pale over how the commander suddenly got angry.

"How could this be...Hey! Hack! You bastard! Come over here a bit!"

While Hack was talking with the knights of the third company during their break he called out to him. After being surprised he came running over. The other knights were surprised by the commanders yell as well.

"Ha, what is it?"

After running over while panting Hack stood up straight and steadfast as he said.

"Hey, you bastard, it couldn't be..you couldn't have possibly ordered some armor from Greed, this guys household right?"

Eh? What? Is it not allowed?

"Ha, eh, that is, I ordered some."

"I haven't heard about this. Hey! You bastards! Gather over here for a bit!"

The knights who were taking a break started to gather wondering what was going on. Is it no good if they order equipment all on their own? No, there's no way that's the case. Since the leader himself ordered it and Balumissh-san ordered some as well. The knights and squires all gathered together.

"Hey, you all. It seems that today Greed's house is taking orders on the armor they make!"

"Are you serious!"

"Eh? Didn't we have to go all the way to Bakuddo village?"

"I'll buy some."

"How much is it?"

All of them are saying whatever they please as they closed in on me. Hnn, so it was this popular~ I had expected it a bit after taking measurements last night but... This is troubling. Thanks to platoon leader Balumisshu the letter should

arrive considerably fast but if it's this many then it would be quite difficult even if Taylor, older brother, and sister-in-law all help in the production. Since father was aiming to make it into a brand as well, it's no good if it's that easy for them to get their hands on it. I need some backup fire here.

"Umm..I'm very sorry to say this but the 10 suits of armor that I took orders for this morning was the deadline for orders this time..The next time will be when we deliver the products I took measurements for this time..So it should be 10 suits at that time as well but..I'm sorry about that."

...

.....

"Ho...How cruel~ Company commander~"

"What in the world is that~? What a useless company commander. Getting us so excited for nothing."

"But, we can still buy it right?"

"When is the next time?"

"..Hack..What does this mean?"

Viscount Kendusu says to Hack with a tone of voice several levels deeper.

"Eh? No, that is..I went to Baldukk as a guard for his majesty yesterday..and after eating at the usual restaurant last night, the leader and Greed-kun came there, and Greed-kun showed us the new model of armor. Since he said a bunch of things that made us want it, umm? He said it would be fine to take orders for 10 suits of armor.."

Hack hesitantly replied.

I couldn't help but watch the series of events with my breath held. But, if I let this chance flow by then the brand power will decline. I need to take their orders. I told myself once again.

"And?"

There's a vein popping out on Viscount Kendusu forehead.

"It was leader Logan and 10 people from the first and second platoons of the second company so...The leader said not to talk about it until the sub-leader

and second companies Balukisas company commander make their orders as well..”

Hack is about to cry.

“..So it was that sort of thing..Che..That old man...He’s pulled one over on us..Not to mention, for it to be a new model..”

Sca...Scaryyy..Viscount Kendusu replied with his anger boiling over. Since I had a debt of gratitude towards the leader for covering for Mill I felt good will towards him but there’s no way this person would know about that after all.

“..Greed-kun. I’ll request that you “without fail” come to this third company for the next time you take orders. Also, would you tell us the price?”

He suddenly started saying that while saying with a vein popping out in his forehead.

“Yes, I understand. Next time I’ll orders from everyone in the third company. Furthermore, the armor is 30,000,000 Z per suit (30 gold coins), and you have to pay half of that amount in advance. In the center of the breastplate we can put a relief of an emblem that’s up to 5 cm in every direction as well. And I’ll just add that the people who took orders today said they would like the emblem of the first knight group added. Also, there’s an option of either a Kite Shield or Buckler Shield for a shield. The kite shield is 6,000,000 Z and the buckler shield is 3,000,000 Z. We can put the emblem you wish for on the surface of the shield. This one everyone decided on the emblems of their families. In the case that you wish for a buckler shield then the left arm-guard of the armor will have an attachment for that but the simple metal shield inside of the left arm will be omitted. It’s just the same type as my older sister. Just take a look. Also, when it comes to the simple metal shield without the buckler shield option then have Amuzel-san and Gulohoretz-san show you theirs for examples. Furthermore, please excuse the fact that the design will differ slightly from theirs.”

I said all of that in one breath with a business smile on.
And after taking another breath I continued opening my mouth.

“When it comes to after maintenance I will be visiting the station of the knight group every month on the 15th for the time being but in the case that it’s

urgent my older sister can do it as well. The cost of the maintenance depends on the condition of the damage so I won't know until that time comes but if I were to raise one example of a cut on the surface of the chest, arms, or thighs then it would be 10,000 Z (1 silver coin) per spot. If it's to repair a hole made by a bolt then it's 20,000 Z per spot. In regards to the damage to the shields then we'll only accept slight damage. Please understand that at that time a portion of the relief may be damaged during repairs."

I guess this is about it. Personally I think the cost of maintenance is a bit expensive but since it seems that the cost of maintenance for metal armor is ten times that amount, so well, it should be fine.

After hearing my speech everyone of the third company started talking about how it's cheap if you think about the maintenance cost or how the second company selfishly managed to get away with it well on their own. After that, I was forced to give a promise that I would take orders from them next time before finally being released.

.....

On my way back to Baldukk, next time should be fine, though when it comes to a different lot in the knight group after that I can raise the price saying that the raw materials are limited, and I was satisfied all on my own.

Now, it's troublesome but when I get back I need to write a letter to older brother and the others.

.....

Year 7442, Month 8, Day 30

Yesterday night, just as I predicted an envoy from the castle came to my "Boil Manor" and my remaining ammunition was reduced to 1 magazine of 10 shots. In regards to the price of 60,000 Z (6 silver coins) but it seems they'll pay at a later date. As expected I couldn't say that I can't do deals based on faith with the King, so I started thinking about weird things like taking into consideration this time I might need to think about implementing a bulk pay system in the future.

On Saturday afternoon, in order to continue with my experiment I've entered

the dungeon on my own again. My level should increase in another 10,000 or so experience points. After reducing the number of monsters with magic I was consciously killing them like crazy with close combat. I luckily managed to run into a group of orks today so I was able to gain 8,000 experience all at once and I should be able to comfortably level up.

It's doubtful whether I will level up after wiping out this group of goblins. I used magic to quickly reduce the number of screaming goblins to half. The guy who charged in all at once and is flustered not sure what the situation is I cut his throat while using my gun-stock to send the one next to it flying, while simultaneously using that force to roll to the side and stab into the flank of the one on the left with my bayonet and kick off. It's a movement that I did all the time in the past during encampment assaults. I immediately rendered three goblins powerless and there's three more remaining. I used {Stone Bolt} on the one on the left side and simultaneously stabbed towards the one in the center with my bayonet. This is just a feint and I'm holding the one in the center in check. After that I used {Wind Cutter} on the goblin on the right before smashing the magazine of my bayonet on the one in the center that had fallen over.

After that I stabbed them in the throat one at a time finishing them off.

It seems I leveled up.

【Alan.Greed/5/3/7429 】

【Male/14/2/7428 ▪ Human ▪ Viscount Greed Family Second Son】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 14 Years Old】

【Level: 12】

【HP: 116(116) MP:7426(7426)】

【Strength: 18】

【Speed: 21】

【Dexterity: 17】

【Endurance: 19】

【Unique Ability: Identify(MAX)】

【Unique Ability: Gift of Natural Talent(Lv.8)】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic(Lv.8)】

【Special Ability: Water Magic(Lv.7)】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic(Lv.7)】

【Special Ability: Wind Magic(Lv.8)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.8)】

【Experience: 210008(270000)】

Alright. Everything other HP increased, and Speed increased by a total of 2 points. Among the Patterns that I had predicted this is D. I had predicted four patterns in my hypothesis on how ability points increase during level up. The first was that completely unrelated to my will something like God was counting all of my actions during level up and manages the increase in ability points by strictly counting those actions. This is Pattern A.

The second one is where while it's being counted strictly the division of increase to ability points is decided on the number of times those abilities are used. This is Pattern B. The third one is where it isn't managed at all and it's decided entirely based on whether you were consciously using the abilities or not. This is Pattern C. The fourth one is this case. Similar to Pattern C, it's unrelated to the number of times I used the ability, the increases are decided based on what abilities I made conscious use of on a common basis. Pattern D.

The thing I made sure of during the experiment this time was to not take any injuries. For that sake I avoided all of the opponents attacks. Of course, during combat I used magic to decrease their numbers and remained strongly conscious of how I can dodge the remaining opponents in order to not take damage as I shifted to counterattack. In any case I was focused on this. Regardless of whether it was the sword or bayonet I didn't try to take their attacks and parry them, but rather I put emphasis on completely avoiding attacks without even letting them graze me.

If I calmly analyze it then the number of times I directly stabbed the opponent or even further used my Unique Ability and thus MP was far more than the number of times I dodged. But, Speed is what increased this time. In other words, what's important is how much emphasis I consciously put on the abilities while making use of them.

With this I can create a bit of a plan. Ralpa is training with magic but since she only has a little bit of MP, the actual number of times she's consciously

training with magic is limited. I'm sure she's more conscious focused on how our lives are on the line in combat while exploring the dungeon than that. That's not a mistaken behavior but it's a bit inconvenient for me. Of course, for her sake as well it would be best to properly get her to consciously use MP more.

Come to think of it, we're going to start putting some effort into aiming towards the 2nd floor was it? Then, after I give it my best for a bit longer I'll go and have some food with everyone.

Side Story 16: In the case of Tezuka Yukino (Age 17 at time of accident)

Ah~ Why doesn't Misa understand how awesome Takashi-senpai is I wonder.

I got to know Misa started in high school. I was able to hit it off with her right away and become friends but she's a bit out of it. She joins into the conversations just fine when everyone is talking and you can't particularly feel any problem. She laughs along with us, gets sad with us, and gets angry just the same as us. Although, I'm probably the only one that's realized it but she's always somehow got her head in the clouds.

It might be more correct to say you never know what she's really thinking inside. Of course, she never lets out that she's thinking anything like that. I only realized, off of just a feeling somehow or other after I got to know her. That's why sometimes I think it's just my imagination. Normally she has fun chatting and getting excited over talking about celebrities on TV and cool people. I don't think Misa has her head in the clouds at times like those.

She's sociable as well. Even today she accompanied me and another girl to buy some when we forgot our obligation chocolate. It was when I was thoroughly explaining to her how good of a person Takashi-senpai is on the bus returning to school when the accident occurred.

.....

When I realized it I had started my life over. I was reborn. Since I was born as the daughter of a serf in a remote place called Roguhots village, I wasn't just in the house all of the time but I was also made to help out with the farm work. I knew that I had a Unique Ability thanks to the Status Open I learned during my infancy but I don't know how to use my ability (I don't even want to know though), and even if someone else uses Status Open on me they can't see it so I just remained silent about it. There might be a chance for me to use this Unique Ability from here on out, or there might not be. I think it would be a happy occurrence if I can use it with my feelings behind it though. In regards to my

special skill I can use it but it's normally useless so I there's no need to.

I wake up before the sunrise everyday and go to sleep with the sunset. The farm work is all done by hand and heavy labor. I don't even know how many times I regretted the fact that I didn't study more about social sciences or history. My parents and siblings all gradually work through that lifestyle without complaining. However, I'm discontent. The family of commoners that owns my family and I lashes out bitterly at the slaves and pushes one job after another on us. If this is normal for this world then this must be a cruel world.

The only consolation is that even if it can't be called plenty we receive enough food everyday for it not to be a problem and while it's small we get wages as well. It's a luxury of my household to save up our wages and buy meat from the hunter and cook it in water before eating it.

During that time I turned 7 years old and met God. God told me. The cause of that accident and reincarnation and that this isn't Earth. The fact that the other victims of that accident reincarnated in this world as well. The amount of time I was allowed to ask questions was just 1 minute. Magic. Non-humans. Social standing. It was a fast pace but I was able to hear up to there. Not to mention I was only able to understand just the surface of it. However, in any case it became clear to me. No matter what I can't return anymore. There's no other method than for me to live in this world of Orth. The despair that's befalling me.

After that I started searching for methods to escape the slave standing again. The only method I knew until now was paying 100x your price to your owner. And the fact that my price is probably about 1 gold coin. And the fact that my wages are 2 copper coins per month...It's impossible that my wages won't increase from here on out but supposing that it stays the and I don't use any of it while continuing to save it then will take 42,000 years of despair for me to be able to afford it.

There are other methods as well but I can't do them with just my own power. Somewhere I absolutely need the help of someone else, not to mention someone greater than that of a Free Person. If I can't get the help of someone else then after all I have to do something about it myself but no matter how I think about it, it's impossible. Also, even if I was able to borrow the power of

someone else, if my owner doesn't accept selling me then it comes to nothing.

In other words it would be best to be hated by my owner. It's necessary to become a person who they wouldn't regret losing if it comes down to it. Should I slack off in farm work? No, that just places the burden on my family. The best thing I can think of is acting cheeky when I talk to my owner.

Isn't there any other method? Think about it. I need to think it through carefully. Should I run away...that's no good. Even if I can get away from Loghots village, if a slave is wandering around all on their own then they'll be caught right away I'm sure. Of course, if I can steal some nice clothes from somewhere and make it seem like I'm not a slave at a glance then I'm sure they won't notice but when I try to find a job they'll definitely use Status Open. If the owner isn't nearby and they don't have proof of their purchase then there's no way they could be anything other than an escaped slave.

There's the option of marrying a child of the lord as well but unfortunately the lord is a gnome. It's not like there aren't marriages across races but since it seems that the conception rate is considerably low, it's hard to imagine that a noble like the lord or his family would do something like that. Other than the merchant who comes to the village to buy and sell there's almost never any outsiders who come. Since this is a village on the edge of the kingdom we're at a dead end with the border. On the other side of that mountain is a foreign country.

..!Foreign country? What about escaping outside of country? If it's within the country then the probably I'll get caught as an escaped slave is high but what about outside of the country? On my status it says I'm a slave owned by the Ronz family. Even if I get caught as an escaped slave outside of the country, what was it again? That's right, I wonder if something can be done if I say I'm seeking asylum?

I've heard about asylum before. I feel like it was reported that there were foreign people who sought asylum in Japan as well. There's no other choice than to do it. However, I'm still a child and I don't have any stamina. I might end up dying trying to cross the mountain. It seems there's something dangerous like a monster as well. It's impossible to cross that mountain right now. It's necessary to save up my power a bit longer. I don't know if there's a village on

the other side of the mountain. I'm sure I need food as well. There's no other choice than to endure for a few more years.

.....

When I turned 10 years old my wages went from 2 copper coins to 1 large copper coin. It went up by five times all at once. With this in 8,000 years...let's stop thinking about it. One such day, my sister seven years older than me decided to get married. The other side was another slave in of the same race in the village and two years older than my sister. It seems that since they both have the same owner there's no problems with them getting married. The day before her wedding my older sister skipped out of farm work to go report her wedding to the lord Viscount Dovun's family. It remained in my impression that my parents were looking down as they saw her off.

My older sister returned at night. Since her face seemed tired after returning she didn't eat anything and went straight to bed. Even though she just went to greet them it sure took quite a while. Well, since it's my older sisters wedding tomorrow I'm sure there will be lots of delicious food. I'm looking forward to it. I only have to do the bare minimum farm work after all..thinking that I slowly fell asleep.

My older sisters wedding ceremony took place extravagantly. Of course that's by the standards of our family. The food that doesn't even reach the level of a family restaurant in my past life was considerably delicious. I ate until my stomach was full along with my older brother who's four years older than me and my other older sister who's two years older.

.....

Four years later, my older brother got married. The marriageable age in this world is early. Particularly since slaves are assets in this world once they reach their late teens they're even pressed into marriage by their owners. My older brother's wife was the daughter of where my older sister had married into. Since our families normally are pretty familiar with each other my second older sister and I were able to give them our sincerest blessings.

I got to eat delicious food again, I was able to go to sleep satisfied.

.....

The next year after that I finally became an adult. 15 years old. I wonder if it's about a good time? My family and relatives are good people but they don't make any complaints about their current lifestyle and just act as if they've given up on things. If it just keeps going like this then I'll eventually marry in this village, give birth to a child, raise it, and die I'm sure. I'm starting to become unable to hold back my longing for outside of the village. Furthermore, along with becoming an adult my wages went from 1 large copper coin to 2 large copper coins. It seems that after this it would increase to 3 large copper coins at 20 years old.

Like I could do that. I need to sneak away no matter what. I've started making preparations in secret. The wages that I've been saving up are nowhere near enough to be able to protect myself with. Even a worn-out cheap knife costs 2 silver coins. However, this money is in order to obtain food when I'm going to escape. If it goes well then I'll need to be able to obtain food where I end up going so it's my important war funds. I'm sure a worn-out knife would be reasonably useful but I can't ignore food which has direct relation to my life. Since I don't have the skills to catch or handle meat with a knife like a hunter after all.

When I have free time I try asking the hunter in the village what the mountain is like or about the paths. I thought there was no way there would be proper paths but after all there wasn't any. What I wanted to know was the types of places the hunter normally wouldn't go and the reason why. If I end up being chased then I'm sure this hunter would be dispatched to search for me. I need to be able to escape from that.

I need to go behind them and escape along the mountains with no paths. That's why I thought it would be better to go through areas with difficult terrain that they wouldn't approach.

While that was taking place, a reason for me to hold back on my plans to escape occurred. It's only obvious but magic training. The healer in the village said they would teach me magic. However, no one around me including my family can use magic. Even if I have the talent to use magic I'm sure that possibility is minuscule. But, I feel something more than simple aspiration towards magic. Depending on how it's used it could become a great power

helping in my escape.

I'm sure there's nothing to lose in learning it. I once again had regrets about my past life here. Why didn't I study even more seriously in school? Since I realized that there were English words included in this world's language, if I had studied English I'm sure it would have been easier to learn the language, even math should have been useful. Particularly when it comes to making tools or working with wood I can't even imagine how useful geometry and physics would be. It doesn't even need to be said for history and social sciences, I'm sure even science and biology would have been useful. The only ones that don't have any direct relation to life are music, art, and calligraphy and those sorts I guess.

I seriously started engaging in magic trying without letting myself miss even a single word of the healer. In about one week we knew that I had talent with magic. I was simply happy. I thought that maybe even if I don't run away my treatment might change. However, while I predicted it that obviously wasn't the case. I was a bit disappointed when I realized that. But, no matter what is it, even if it's weak, power is power. I'll put a bit more effort into using magic properly.

.....

The next year, a short while after I turned 16 years old my older sister of two years decided to get married. I'll be able to eat my fill of delicious food once again. The day before her wedding my older sister skipped out on farm work in order to report her wedding to the lord. Around the evening she returned with her head hanging down. Her face looked very sad. What in the world happened? I tried asking my older sister who had her mouth shut what happened. After finally giving in my older sister weakly smiled and since it'll probably happen to me in the future as well started telling me about it.

I was terrified after hearing about it.

Bridal night tax.

What a repulsive sounding thing.

The right to take the bridal night of a new wife preparing to marry.

It's unforgivable that something like that even exists.

I've heard the lord Viscount Dovun say "it's immoral to have sex before marriage" and when I was young I admired those words but it was this sort of reason...

We're Spirit-people race, Elves. Going by my own standards my parents and older siblings are considerably beautiful looking. Even though my facial features are light and there's traces of my previous life strongly remaining, I knew I had become considerably beautiful as well. However, I also understood that it seems uncommon for people across races to have romance or be sexually attracted to each other. In my case, since my values of my past life are still remaining whether it's a human or a non-human, I thought cool looking people were cool.

Since I found out that people with this way of thinking were the minority when I was still young after that I stopped bothering with outer appearances. Though it might be more correct to say I was too busy finishing up my jobs in order to be able to eat dinner that day.

I wonder if even though the lord Viscount Dovun is a gnome, he sees not just other gnomes which make up 1/3 of the village, but the second largest group of humans, and even more so dwarves, elves, and other non-humans as targets of sexual desire? I suddenly felt as if everything turned black before me as if I had been hit, shortly after, the anger swelled up from the depths of my body like smoldering magma.

Are we slaves just the tools of our owner and the lord!? We're barely even able to allowed to live like humans but do we even have to hand over our pride!? After finally finding a partner to marry, are we not even allowed that small bit of happiness during our harsh lives!?

My above older sister, my older brother's wife, my second older sister, and..me as well.

Isn't this literally slaves that are less than people! When the blood went to my head in an instant, I shook off my surprised older sister, and after grabbing the weeding sickle from my owner's shed I ran to the lord's house at full speed. At that moment the lord's family was in the middle of dinner. Just from a glance I

could tell that there was luxurious menu we slaves would never get to eat even on wedding ceremonies and at the end of the year.

The lord and his family was dumbfounded seeing me suddenly intrude in the middle of their dinner with my hair disheveled. I don't remember what I was screaming but I attacked Viscount Dovun swinging the sickle.

.....

When I realized I had been completely tied up with bruises all over my body. I can feel my body shrieking from all over. Including my owner, the commoners of the village who are squires that serve the lord at guarding me as I'm laying on the dirt floor in the shed.

"What did you suddenly attack the lord?"

"What in the world have you done!"

"Even though you're just a slave, for you to raise your hand to a noble.."

"Capital punishment is appropriate here."

"It's violence towards the lord. We have no choice other than to hand this heinous criminal over to Fogulu."

Fogulu is the name of a large town in this region and I knew that it had quite a bit of distance to the Southeast from this Loguhots village. Including this Loguhots village the one who owns the vast territory of the western Ladonna region and Ladonna region..if I remember correctly it was something or other Duke. It seems that I'm going to be brought to Fogulu as a heinous criminal and judged there.

I was already resolved for being executed after committing the felony offense of raising my hands against a noble in a rage. However, I want to complain even just one to that Duke or whatever before I die. I'm in lucky that I wasn't just executed in this poor countryside village. In the end, I'll complain about how miserable of a life slaves live and the irrationality of not even being allowed human rights before I die. There's no way I'd raise a sound no matter what happens to me until then.

.....

A few days later, with handcuffs on my hands and both my legs tied with a 60–70 cm rope, I was made to walk a distance of close to 200 Km in a mere 10

days while tied by the waist. Since I was used to farm work my legs weren't injured but being forced to walk with such a small pace by the time I arrived at Fogulu I was worn-out stamina wise. In Fogulu I was thrown into a prison that the knight group manages and ignored for close to a month.

Obviously I had no freedom in the prison but I was properly given three meals, a decent amount of food. Of course, it was a luxurious menu but it wasn't all that different from what I was normally used to eating. So in the city they even give criminals this sort of decent food? It was a shock. I thought for sure, I would be given barely enough to keep me alive of something like scraps. In reality, on the trip until Fogulu the food I was given was that bad.

One day, I suddenly dragged out of the prison. I'm sure the day of judgement has finally come. Well it's fine. At the very least I won't lose my pride as a human before I die. I'll say everything I want to say to my heart's content, and glare at the one who hands down the punishment as I die. I was dragged to the place of judgement with feelings of abandon.

It seems that the punishments are performed in a place like a plaza in Fogulu. The one handing out the judgements on the stage must be the Duke that is the lord. I guess he's before 40? He's a human man wearing nice clothes and a good looking face. It seems that there's 50 criminals waiting for judgement including me but they all supposed committed felony crimes. I guess that's only obvious. Criminals for petty crimes like theft were judged in the village after all. I'm sure they only leave the judgement of felony crimes up to the upper nobility.

of the close to 30 criminals who were judged before me almost all of them were given punishments of execution or a fine along with having their limbs cut off. There's no way they'd be able to pay a fine of several gold coins, the capital punishment sentences keep being handed out. However, it seems they at least let you speak your defense. In that case, the witness to your crimes gets called. That's great, I'll at least have a chance to say what I want to. I'll complain about how our existence is even considered a crime to the nobles before dying.

.....

It's my turn. I was brought before the Duke on the stage and the official read out my charges. And they asked if I admit to my crimes or not, if I don't then the

Duke will ask me the reason. My charge was assault of the nobility. That's great, I was at least able to injure that Viscount. I almost naturally smiled. But, I need to deny my charges and say what I want.

"You, Arakel.Karifulolis, do you admit to that crime?"

The Duke says. It's the same format as up until now.
Since my gag was removed I said exactly what I had planned.

"I don't admit to it."

I looked at the Duke's eyes and clearly declared it.

"Then state that reason. And the witness to this case come forward."

Up until here it's just as planned. After the eldest son of Viscount Dovun stood on the witness stand I opened my mouth.

"The lord of Loguhots village that is Viscount Dovun abused his position and repeated inhumane treatment towards the slaves. I just tried to avenge the enemy of my siblings. Calling it a bridal night tax he forcefully stole the virginity of women before their wedding. It's a behavior that tramples the dignity of humans. The one who forcefully stole the virginity of my two older sisters is Viscount Dovun who is standing there. There's no doubt that my sister-in-law who married my older brother is the same. I just trying to get revenge for the dignity of my siblings. And"

When I had said up to there the Duke raised his hand interrupting my speech. This is just as planned as well. Most likely he'll question the witness on the authenticity of my statement just like the criminals until now.

"I ask the witness. Is that story from just now fact?"

See. But, I'm sure he won't admit it. I'll struggle until the end.
It was at that moment. A loud voice was raised from behind the stage where the Duke was standing.

"I object! Father, please give me a bit of time to talk to her!"

What? In the world is it? The one who raised their voice as far as I can tell is a human man who seems to be about the same age as me, and judging from the details of his statement he should be the son of the Duke but when I saw his

face I doubted my eyes. It's a Japanese! He's got the facial features of human like those of a Westerner in my past life but they're somewhat light. Thin layered eyes and a nose that isn't too high. A round chin that isn't as sharp as elves. It's a face like that of a half-Japanese half-Westerner but between that glossy black hair and black eyes..Ah, so this man has followed the same fate as me...

Without waiting for a reply from his father the Duke, the man walked over to me. The events were so sudden that no one including me were able to say anything, he continues looking at my face while walking closer. He even had a light smile on his face.

"Hey, you're Japanese right. Do you know what I'm saying? If you do then nod."

He whispered to me in Japanese (!) like that. I was so shocked all I could do was nod several times while trembling.

"Alright, next. I don't know what you did and the reason doesn't matter at all for right now. Of course, I'll have you tell me about it properly later. If you'll become my slave then I'll save you. The only one who can save you from this situation is me. Decide right now."

After he said that he looked at my eyes.

"I don't care what happens to me. But allow me to say it. Why is there differences in social standing? What are you going to say I did? Is it okay for a noble to forcefully steal virg" "It's fine already. I already know exactly what you're trying to say. We want to try and change that sort of world. Will you come along with me?"

After interrupting my words the man smiled with a kind tone of voice and said. What did he say just now? Change the world? Can it be changed? This, far too unfair and irrational world!?

When I'm stuck on my words with my eyes wide open the man continued with an extremely kind tone of voice.

"I'm sure it was painful. This world is strange after all. What do you want to do? Will you become my slave and cooperate?"

“I want to kill him. Then I’ll listen to anything you say.”

After I said that and.

“Ho~ This is.. Alright, I’ll save you. Don’t forget those words. I’ll kill that Viscount. And, remain quiet for the time being.”

The man narrowed his eyes while saying that satisfied.

“Father! I was able to confirm it! Arakel.Karifulolis was one of my subordinates. I received the report from her. I once again raise charges against Viscount Serumunk.Dovun at this place! The charges are treason against the lord! She said that they certainly were planning to rebel against father. I heard the evidence myself just now! I’m the witness! Furthermore, her statement just now was a password that we had decided before-hand. I, as Count Rojibul, and as a man of the Stohlz family cannot close my eyes to the fact that a Viscount who was entrusted with our citizens to plan a rebellion against father! I myself will give judgement to this traitor in this place, purge the law and order within the territory, and show an example of a true noble left in charge of a territory! Guards! Seize Dovun!”

The man screamed that and at the same time pulled his sword from his waist as he ran towards Viscount Dovun and his eldest son. At first Viscount Dovun was dumbfounded but started to declare that they’re innocent and he had no intention of that, but he was immediately surrounded by the knights and pushed into the ground.

Without offering any time for them to say anything, the man swung his sword into the Viscount father and son’s head silencing them. It all occurred in no time at all. It was such a sudden series of events no one other than the man and the knights were able to move. Even the Duke on the stage was taken aback.

“Release the restraints on Karifulolis! She’s committed no crime! I’m her guardian!”

After the man said that a knight came to me and cut the rope that I was tied up with.

“Father! Please praise me. Just now, I, Count Rojibul, Senleid.Stohlz have given punishment to a traitor!”

It was such an overwhelming situation that the surroundings went silent. I just had my eyes opened wide and couldn't comprehend the situation. Did this man just kill Viscount Dovun right now? I timidly look at Viscount Dovun's corpse. Both father and son have had their head's split and some sort of flesh or brains are coming from the wound as they lay face down without moving an inch. Honestly speaking, putting aside the Viscount himself, I didn't have any grudge against the Viscount's eldest son. I didn't but I thought it served him right.

.....

Several months later, after I turned 17 years old I had become Senleid's mistress. I'm sure it was just a matter of time before I fell for him. Since our social standings are too different and in the first place our races are different so I couldn't marry him but thanks to him I was able to become a Free Person. I wasn't just saved from peril but he hired me as his maid so I wouldn't be troubled in life. After that, I don't know how he dealt with the incident involving me but I have a debt towards him I can't return.

We each gave our real names and exchanged information on our upbringing. When I noticed that I was starting like him, I understood the method to use my Unique Ability for the first time. My Unique Ability is {Sexual Technique}, one of the conditions for using the ability is that I need to have at least a bare minimum of sexual desire towards the partner I use it with. If I use it consecutively then along the way I end up becoming controlled by sexual desire to the point where it's maddening, and that further stimulates our sexual feelings. Simultaneously he indulged in me as if he had endless stamina as well. The fact that our races are different is actually a good thing for both of us at this point. Since there's no need to worry about an undesired conception. We can always feel each other directly.

I was unbearably happy about that.

The first Japanese I met after reincarnating was literally my prince on a white horse.

.....

Several more months later, I was even more surprised after accompanying Sel to the capital Randgriz. It seems that Sel remained silent about it in order to

surprise me. The next King that is his highness, Alexander.Belgriddo was a Japanese as well. It seems that Sel spends half a year in Fogulu, the capital of Duke Stohlz territory and the other half in the capital of Randgriz. It seems that he spent a bit longer of a period at his main house for my sake this year.

And, Sel was best friends with the next King, his highness, Alexander.Belgriddo, to the point where they call each other Alex and Sel. I was immediately introduced to his highness Alex and talked about various things in Japanese. There were several Japanese people around his highness Alex, and I quickly got close to them as well.

When I tried asking their upbringing and it seems that I'm the youngest one. I lowered my head to the sorcerer of the royal court that was an old woman when she died and asked her to make me her disciple. Both of this person's parents are sorcerer's of the royal court and it seems she herself has started to attend to the castle as a sorcerer of the royal as well since last year. It's completely a rumor that let alone within the country she may be the most skilled sorcerer in this entire world, and there's a lot of hopes placed on her future. It's a common phrase of hers, that she says it's because she's an old woman, she's a very charming person and since her personality is good as well I even felt like she was my own mother.

When we first introduced ourselves, I didn't want to reveal my own Unique Ability. Since it was embarrassing. However, since Sel put his arm around my shoulder and declared that I was his woman, I went all out and said it. After a short silence everyone broke out in laughter. I couldn't do anything but pinch Sel's cheek as hard as I could.

Just like this I was able to solidify my position close to the center of Devas Kingdom. I can't fight and I don't have any knowledge from my past like everyone else that I can make use of towards the future so it's difficult for me to help out, but it's a satisfying lifestyle. It's still a time of remaining in obscurity right now but when everyone has gained a bit more power they say they'll start moving towards reform. Since I'm the youngest I'm like a mascot but even then everyone has accepted me as an ally without isolating me. I somehow need to return this favor.

Since it's this type of world, everyone has already given up on bloodless

reform from the start. In the worst case, Alex and Sel have even resolved to kill their own parents in order to grasp authority it seems. They believe that it's for the sake of all the people who live on this land...

Slowly moving forward one step at a time has engulfed everyone in feelings of excitement and how wonderful this lifestyle where we all drink together while speaking of our dreams is.

Side Story 17: In the case of Tomura Yugo (Age 35 at time of accident)

It's been over 10 years since I started driving this bus route. It's an occupation which you can't call interesting just driving along the pre-decided road at the pre-decided time just as listed in the diagram but I like it. This time in the early afternoon, there's a comparatively low number of customers.

An old woman on her way back from shopping sits on the opposite side of the driver's seat and fee stand, there's an OL who's age I can't tell but has a good looking face sitting in the seat behind me. I saw her when she got on the bus but she's just my type. Her appearance in a suit with grey pants and coat tickled my inner fetish. After that is an exhausted salary-man and a couple of brats that seems to be high schoolers. The boys are quietly sitting without making a racket but the girls are loudly chatting. Although if it's just this level then it's not enough for a warning. It's the usual scenery.

I stop once before driving onto the railroad crossing and then enter the rails.

I died after seeing an unbelievable spectacle.

.....

I wonder how much time has passed. How many days, weeks, or months? It's vague but I've finally started to get a grasp on the situation surrounding me. Strangely it seems that I've been reborn in the remote regions of a foreign country with my memories in tact. I can hear words that I've heard before mixed into the language they're speaking. In any case it's first priority to learn the language.

I tried speaking Japanese secretly when no one was nearby but I guess since my body still isn't ready as a baby I couldn't speak well. I'm sure it would be a problem if I spoke carelessly as well. If I eventually talk in Japanese and reveal that I reincarnated I might be able to meet my wife and son.

However, I'm sure that's a story for a bit later.

.....

I came to realize that this wasn't Earth around such a time. I noticed it because my parents, siblings, and relatives or people whose face I've seen for the first time all kept taking a certain action towards me.

"Status Open"

I didn't know what it was at all first so I just ignored it. I didn't think of it as anything more than a prayer or something.

When I found out the real reason and I felt like I would go insane. To the point where I thought I might already be insane.

There's a blue color window floating in my vision and it says this.

【Bed(Infant use)】

What? In the world is this?

No matter what I look at regardless of whether it's a blanket or a piece of cloth as long as I can touch it the name is displayed in Japanese. However, after a short while I got bored of it.

After another short while it seems that they give names to babies that are over one year old. I already knew that I had splendid name, Myul. Why at this late point? Is what I was thinking but suddenly it came to me. I couldn't help but to touch my face and say it.

"Status Open"

【

【Male/14/2/7428】

【Human Race】

【Special Skill: Disguise Lv.0】

【Unique Ability: Resistance(Paralysis)】

Oh~ I can use it on myself as well. Since there's more details shown the window gets bigger as well. Come to think of it everyone would touch my head and hand while saying it. I don't get what special skills and unique abilities are and the different colors of the words bothers me a bit as well but I guess this is my status. I guess the reason I have no name is because I wasn't named yet? I

wonder if it'll change once I'm named?

A short while after that the naming ceremony took place and just as expected it changed.

【Myuneil.Sagal/15/4/7429】
【Male/14/2/7428】
【Human Race.Sagal Family Fourth Son】
【Special Skill: Disguise Lv.0】
【Unique Ability: Resistance(Paralysis)】

Oh~ so my real name was Myuneil.Sagal? Myul was just a nickname I guess. However, to think I was the fourth son. It seems that I still have some older brothers and sisters but I only knew about an older brother 5–6 years older than me and an older sister that's about 10 years older. That's why I could have sworn I was the second son.

My father almost never shows his face but he looks like he's long-since passed 40, my mother looks like she's just passed 20 years old. Other than that, there's a woman that seems to be the same age as my father but since I didn't know the words at first I thought she was a maid. After thinking carefully about it I realized there's no way my mother could have given birth to a sister that's more than 10 years older than me. It seems that both of them are father's wives. I'm envious but while she's a bit plump I have a loving wife. I'm sure I won't be able to see her again though so it's not much different than being dead.

.....

Several years passed. It seems that I'm the heir to the Sagal family. Putting aside my older sister, I have at least one living older brother so why am I the heir? It was simple. It seems it's because I was born with the special skill "Disguise". It seems to be a rule that's been passed down through generations in the family that the next head is a male born with this special skill. Something like a special skill passed through the generations, what sort of fictional novel is this?

It seems that in reality the eldest son Myulail was supposed to succeed it but he died from disease when he was still young. Other than the eldest son it seems I have three older sisters but the eldest daughter Myulis has the same

occupation as our father of being an intelligence agent and she's currently infiltrating a foreign country. The second daughter Myunelin was born without "Disguise" so she was raised normally and has already married into a different family. The third daughter Myulos is currently away from the house in the middle of training. It seems that the fourth daughter, sister Myutans also has "Disguise" but since she's a woman she's not only excluded from being able to succeed the family but she has to undergo strict training in order to infiltrate other countries. The second son Myulond also had disguise but when he was still young he died an accidental death due to overdoing it on training. The third son my older brother Myuleil unfortunately was born without "Disguise". For that reason rather than his first wife who was in her 40s my father took on a new wife and had her give birth to me.

Also, it seems that only his highness knows currently that the Sagal family inherits the family business of gathering intelligence. Up until last year it seems that the previous king was still alive but now it seems that other than our family only the current King knows that our family does spying activity. And it seems that even his highness himself doesn't know about our special skill "Disguise". I was strictly told that I must never tell anyone outside of the family about our special skill. Unique ability, secret special skill, and my occupation is a spy. This is really a novel or manga.

It seems that I'll start training to use my special skill in a few years as well. It seems that in order to use the "Disguise" special skill preparations are necessary. In the first place, even if I've noticed my special skill or unique ability since I don't know how to use them, there's no helping it. Thinking that I just spend everyday absent-minded. Since I'm going to become the head of the family after all, I doubt I'll end up being sent as a spy so I can rest easy.

.....

It seems that the preparations to start training the special skill "Disguise" unusually require someone of the same gender, same race, and same birthday. If they can't prepare anyone like that then it seems that they find someone who's birthday is slightly off and it seems that someone of a different age works as well but in that case there's something like an affinity and if it doesn't match you supposedly can't use the special skill "Disguise". As long as your affinities

match up and the preparations are done if you think about that person in your head then you can use the skill.

It seems that they couldn't find someone whose birthday matched for the eldest daughter Myulis but in the end she had good affinity with the second daughter who was born without "Disguise" so she was used as the base for her training. In other words the "Disguise" special skill is a skill that lets you falsify your status and skill levels to the person whose status you're copying.

It seems that they couldn't easily find a boy with the same birthday as me.

However, they found one in an unusual place. The heir of the king, his highness Alexander.Belgrid. It seems that name and your affiliation are based on the target selected for disguising so I can't hide it but other than that I can, in other words, if I can hide my special "Disguise" then it's hard to call perfect but at the very least similar to the eldest daughter Myulis I should be able to hide my special skill "Disguise". He barely passes a base for disguising.

It seems that in order to register(?) the base for disguising in your consciousness you need a portion of the body of the base you're disguising using. It seems that blood is the best. It's by chance but as a front our Sagal family is a squire family that directly serves the King. Every time father was appearing in the castle he was frantically, quite literally with bloodshot eyes, trying to find a hair of the prince but all of the hairs brought back were of people who I had no affinity with. I can't even remember how many hairs I was made to eat but I remember feeling sick to my stomach countless times. Eventually father was able to discover a person who had the same birth date as the prince, in other words the same birth date as me as well. This one was a surprise as well since it was the eldest son of Duke Stahlz, Senleid.Stahlz-sama.

If it's a duke's son then I guess you could say it's an easier choice than the prince. This time for sure father started running about like crazy in order to somehow get his hands on a hair or blood. He was finally able to get his hands on a hair around the time I turned 10 years old. By that point I had already obtained the blood of a different person so the hair of such a high person in the nobility was really necessary but it's certainly true that the more base samples you have to disguise to the better. It was an idea I only realized at this point but in the worst case I could disguise my status with the princes or duke's sons and

act as their body double as I die, though I noticed that it wouldn't be a joke if I were seriously ordered to do it so I shut my mouth.

In any case, we got our hands on a hair from the stepchild of Duke Stahlz. Thinking I should add the additional data to my disguise bases I swallowed it and then used my special skill Disguise, afterwards when I used Status Open to confirm I was shocked to the point of falling over.

【Senlaid.Stahlz/21/1/7429】
【Male/14/2/7428】
【Human Duke Stahlz Eldest Son】
【Special Skill: Small Magic】
【Unique Ability: Ultra Recovery Lv. 4】

..What..the hell...looking back to three years ago from now, it was soon after the first disguise base was found and short while after I started to seriously take on my combat(since our official stance is that of a squire family we have to do sword and combat training) and language training, I ended up meeting God. I found out then that, Unique Abilities are something only the victims of that accident are born on Orth with...Not to mention this duke's son's Unique Ability is extremely high at level 4. If this was the magic special skill of an adult then the level is high enough to be seen as a full-fledged magician. I wonder if this guy learned how to use his Unique Ability quite a while ago? Furthermore, even when I'm using disguise Unique Abilities can't be seen by strangers from Status Open so that was a relief.

This is a chance. I wonder if somehow I can make contact with this Senlaid.Stahlz? If they're Japanese and the stepchild of a Duke then by using them as a mediator I could get promoted. Since the Sagal family is that of squires that directly serve the King, I'm sure it would take the shape of me serving them in the background but that's fine. If I receive some money then I can get a bit closer to living a comfortable life. I'm sure the words "home town familiarity" exist even on Orth.

I twisted my head over how to get into contact with him. The best method would be to meet him in person but it's a bit too unrealistic I'm sure. The next method is to write a letter but we're not familiar enough to suddenly exchange letters. In the first place, since it was a hair that was obtained in secret it's

strange to write a letter of thanks. The Sagal family is certainly a lineage that directly serves the King but for the sake of training the family, we live in a place away from the capital. Only father periodically appears in the castle. I guess there's no helping it right now? I continued my days of studying language and training with the sword to inherit head of the family while worrying endlessly.

However, the situation underwent a sudden change. During the spring of the next year, there was a garden party held by his majesty. There's a garden party held once a year and all of the officials soldiers, and influential nobles from the regional areas are invited. The Sagal family is one of the few squire families that directly serves the King. Our social standing is low but since we have the position of directly serving his majesty we're invited to the garden party every year. Father and mother always go but by chance mother's condition wasn't good this year so I started throwing a tantrum which I rarely ever do that I wanted to go. I wanted to make use of this chance to somehow get close to the duke's son Stahlz.

On the location of the garden party the children were gathered together a corner where they won't get in the way of the adults conversations. I went out to the garden party feeling excited but let alone the duke's son, I wasn't even able to meet the prince. The royalty that is the Belgrid family and the Duke that is the Stahlz family including Dantes Duke's territory have a different treatment in Devas Kingdom in the first place. Their children are different from the children of normal nobles in how they're treated so they are in the formal garden party mixing together with the adults.

I wonder what in the world I should do? I twisted my head but no good ideas came to mind. I was drinking some juice while watching a child a bit younger than me drawing something like a picture on the ground. In that instant, it came to me. It's a one in eight gamble. If they're Japanese then they should definitely notice it. If they don't notice it and in the worst case it's ignored, if I just pretend that I accidentally had some alcohol and pretend to be drunk I'm sure I won't be criticized too much. I'm still 11 years old after all.

In any case, for the sake of my excuse I need some alcohol. I quietly sneaked out of the area where the children were gathered together and moved along the edge of the garden party hiding from the eyes of the patrol knights or

squires before drinking some wine from the barrel and then I returned to my original location before taking off a tablecloth. And then I spit some of the red wine I had in my mouth into the center of the table cloth. It's an improvised Japanese flag. In order to stand out with this I'll climb a tree and wave it around.

I drag along the table cloth while climbing a tree. The children are clapping their hands and laughing. I stretched out the table cloth widely and started swinging it. By the time I had started to swing it around the knights and squires had already started to gather to try and take down a stupid child who climbed a tree before they get hurt. I don't have much time.

I wonder if they noticed the disturbance? I'm a bit worried but I keep ignoring the knights words of "it's dangerous so climb down" while I keep waving my improvised Japanese flag. I'm already down to my last resort. Just when I thought about yelling something in Japanese, from the garden party I saw two children start walking over here. After being pulled down by the knights I continued to pretend like I was drunk but when the child called out "open the path" I replied in Japanese with "I'm saved you noticed it." I won my bet.

.....

Unexpectedly the prince was a Japanese person as well. It was the first time they had met a Japanese person other than themselves as well it seems. Since I can't afford to talk about my special skill, I said I caught sight of them from a distance and since I was sure they were Japanese I couldn't take any other action than that to cover it up but it seems they believed it without particularly doubting me. Since the three of us have black hair and eyes and our features look somewhat Japanese, there's no way to hide the fact that our features are Japanese enough for a Japanese person to recognize after all.

I thought I couldn't afford to talk about the special skill "Disguise" but when they requested to use Status Open on me I released it. I had several samples for "Disguise" but the only sample I could use with a Unique Ability was the duke's son. Since having the same Unique Ability contradicts the conditions that God mentioned even if my name was the same they would be suspicious of it. It would probably be best to remain quiet that I have the duke's son's data as a base for "Disguise". From here on out I'll try to get the prince's status in secret

as well.

After that, the three of us met a number of times. It seems the two of them were victims from the train side. I'll remain quiet about the fact that I was the driver of the bus. Everyone already knows the cause of the accident but in the worst case if someone holds a grudge against me it could be troublesome. If I just say that I was a salary-man then it won't be suspicious. Since there was no need to lie about anything other than my occupation I just talked about everything.

It seems that the prince and duke's son met five years ago, at the point they were six years old. They were just starting to think about how the two of them could search for other Japanese people. Even if you say to search for black hair and black eyes the Kingdom is vast and since both of them are still children at this point they don't have any authority to move officials or the army. Thinking they should make the country a better place, while they're testing out various things, since just like me they have no knowledge of agriculture at all they didn't even know where to start.

There was also the idea to strengthen the army by making black gunpowder but if they were to start making it right now without holding any sort of power it could end up becoming a hindrance in the future when they intend to usurp the authority from the country so they still haven't tested gunpowder yet. The skirmishes with Rombert Kingdom have already turned into a periodic event that's just a framework, since there's occasionally some losing and winning they came to the conclusion that it wasn't urgent business since in some meanings things are stable.

When I complained about me being the only commoner among the heirs to royalty and a duke, I received their word that one day they'll get a grasp on authority and make me into a noble as well so I accepted it. It seems that I need to make some decent achievements but I thought the conditions were better than doing a job with no prospects for the future at all.

I talked to them about my families business as well. When I told them that I was forbidden from speaking about it by my father and the only one who currently knows that my family spies on foreign countries is the King, in other words the prince's father, and the two of them were pleased. We also came up

with a plan to somehow get rid of or force my father into retirement after I become an adult so I can grasp the power over my family.

We exchanged various information and guesses about Orth. Most of it was centered around things we heard from God but it seems that when the duke's son met the prince he still hadn't met God. It seems that the prince had about 3 minutes of question time but he regretted not being able to ask anything important. That's why the two of them came up with a number of questions to ask God on the occasion the duke's son meets with God ahead of time. And it seems the duke's son memorized those questions. In reality when the duke's son actually ended up meeting God he only had 1 minute to ask questions the same as me so he wasn't able to ask all of the questions they had prepared in advance but rather than the prince and I who only came up with questions on our own he was able to find out quite a bit more.

It seems that a rough outline of it was about how the Japanese people that reincarnated were scattered through various locations in Devas and Rombert Kingdoms. It seems that God wouldn't disclose the specific locations but even just this is advantageous information to search for future allies. If you know the location you were born then you can tell that there's no reincarnated people in the immediate surroundings after all. It seems that the prince wasn't born in the capital but in a villa in Radobagel around 200Km to the North of the capital. The Duke's son just the same wasn't born in the Duke's territory but rather even further North in Marquis Besshuwaid's territory, which seems to be his mother's house. I said was born in the East-Northeast over 100Km away from the capital Randoguriz in a village of my family as well.

Putting our stories together we came to the conclusion that it wouldn't be strange for a Japanese person to have born in the capital as well. In regards to the reincarnations on the Rombert side since it's a foreign country we had no choice but to ignore them since it can't be helped. That's only obvious. Also, among the information about advantages of reincarnating that we heard from God we thought about some of the uncertain points as well. I was relieved that their thinking on leveling up was the same as my own. In other words, increases in level to Unique Abilities and Special Skills are called leveling up. The time I met God should have been right after my "Disguise" special skill leveled up as

well. This is something they confirmed by having the Duke's son level up in order to meet God. It seems that when his Unique Ability "Ultra Recovery" leveled God appeared.

In regards to those bonuses or whatever when leveling up we're still unsure but it seems to be related to the number of times we can use our special skills. It seems they were convinced it after nervously testing their special skills out when the skills increased in level. A short while after the level of special skills increase the number of times they can use it increases as well. My Disguise is level 3 right now but if I overdo it then I can use it over 10 times in a single day. Since there's almost no need to change the data-set with Disguise often there's not much meaning to it though. Once I use the special skill "Disguise" it keeps my status disguised for three hours. If I use it consecutively without sleeping then I can cover pretty much an entire day.

Since my Unique Ability hasn't leveled up I wonder if this one levels up the number of times it can be used increase as well? They were envious of the fact that I had two skills.

It seems that when we turn 13 years old through their introduction I can enter the number one knight group in the country the white phoenix knight group together with them. The one among us who has the highest aptitude as a knight will remain in the knight group and finally be the one to seize the army, is what we decided on. The remaining two will retire from the knight group as soon as they receive investiture and start moving to take control of the political authority.

I can tell from their expressions that they're putting their hopes on me. Among us the only one with no social standing close to politics is me. Even as a knight since I'm a commoner it would take some time to rise up. They pat me on the shoulder while saying "We'll back you up as much as we can. We'll make it so that even if you make some sort of small achievement you can easily rise up in the knight group. So we're counting on you". Damn it, so after all that's my role...Though you can say it can't be helped, once I become an official knight there's even the chance that I'll have to enter live combat you know, and all I could do is make complaints like that.

However, if I think about how even if I were to succeed the Sagal family, since

I'd still be a commoner unless something unusual happened I wouldn't be able to rise up then there's no mistake that my connections with the prince and Duke's son letting me enter the white phoenix knight group is certainly nothing but good things. My father, two mothers, and older brother were all pleased as well.

Furthermore, in regards to the spying but I reported that stuff without hiding the facts. In the first place since foreign countries are far away and there's nothing like wireless devices there's nothing like intelligence exchanges in real time. The information that comes in, or rather the best information we get is the name of the commanders of the next unit being dispatched here. If the commander is over a Viscount then the amount of ransom gets enormous so we aim for those times and send the elite knights in bulk. If we can luckily manage to capture them there's nothing more to say.

In the first place it seems like a large war that has to do with the life or death of the country only happen at a frequency of once in a lifetime so the things we can learn from Rombert King and Kanbitt Kingdom on a normal basis isn't all that important. As expected if we could move several thousand or tens of thousand then the intelligence network of the Sagal's would be able to catch on to anything in the early stages. If we can just get a grasp on their numbers since the speed of the advance is extremely slow we're fine even taking our time to prepare.

All three of us know full well that the information war is important as well but it's not like this is modern day Earth, things like a rebellion that starts right after the outbreak of a war are unlikely. In terms of military affairs if we can just earn some decent ransoms as a bonus from the conflicts along the borders then that's no problem. Even the struggles on the Dirt Plains is something that just happens in momentum between the two countries. It's certainly a good plot of land but(none of us three have actually seen the Dirt Plains) if you were to seriously grain and obtain it you would need to concentrate even more forces there and quickly take over some sort of choke point, then pour even more people in that choke point until you can fortify it into some sorts, then you should be able to have the advantage there at any point, or at least that was the opinion of the three of us.

We came to the conclusion that this is something we should leave ourselves as a future achievement. Though it is a bit worrying whether the Rombert side might do this first but in that case, we tried reversing our way of thinking on it. If someone were actually to try doing that then it would almost be guaranteed they're the same Japanese as us. In that case there should be some room for conversation and while we'll be at a bit of a disadvantage we can claim our rights to it and at least get them to recognize that. If it's between two Japanese then they should comply to things like mutual profit, as a result of that, we could gain the achievement of protecting the country from a large scale invasion through just negotiations as well, so we've decided to ignore it for now.

Rather than that in our to raise the national power, we need to reform the social structure, and make innovations on the technological portions and in terms of reform rather than aiming for a military based government we thought a socialist government would be better. The current system has a lot of useless points to it and it's easy for talented individuals to get buried but trying to make large changes to this is difficult and above all it could end up threatening our privileges. Making it into a democratic republic might be good as well but it should be fine if we just create the foundation for it to become like that after we all die. In order to keep Rombert Kingdom in check we need as much military power as possible but rather that might end up stimulating the Japanese that should be on their side so we're holding back on that end and rather focusing our military forces in the direction of Kanbitt Kingdom where there's believed to be no Japanese people, we'll focus our ambitions for more territory there, increase national power, aim to rival Rombert Kingdom in strength, and we came to the conclusion that after that we would make a treaty of friendship for both of our sake.

There were a number of reasons for this but the biggest one is that if we were to seriously fight with Rombert Kingdom right now, no matter how we thought about it unless we make use of new weapons, Devas Kingdom has no chance of winning. The new weapon is firearms. It seems they started making black gunpowder before they met me but it was quite crude and it seems it could only be used as an explosive or to launch off something like a cannon. It seems that the primary cause is how beyond developments are in regards to

technology of manufacturing metals. I don't really know much about it but it seems that in order to make guns you need durable iron and steel and the current techniques to make swords and spears are nowhere near that level.

Since the Duke's son used to be a police officer that was a part of public safety, he had some knowledge about weapons and that was the conclusion he came to as a result of various investigations. The guns we're familiar with can't be created. The best we can make is matchlock guns. However, because of the immaturity of techniques to manufacture metals and the fact that we don't remember the ratios for metal alloys in the end even if we make matchlocks it would be about the same. Even then it would be something crude that can barely fire off several shots and has no method of properly being aimed. When it comes to a metal shield or suit of armor then unless they were considerably close it wouldn't be able to deal a fatal blow either. The crossbow feels like far more of a threat. Is what they concluded.

Even then I tried insisting that guns are strong and we should make a ton of them like Oda Nobunaga and have them fired in three stages. And then the prince objected. It seems they can't afford to make several thousand guns. Currently there's only a handful number of people who can use the highest level of techniques in metalworking and in order to spread knowledge about techniques something like the development of the printing press would be necessary. If we push ourselves it seems we could somehow make the printing press but since there's no technological development towards the foundations of it, it would just be used for news and wouldn't help much at all for spreading technologies. Unless we can do something like printing pictures or illustrations it's close to an empty dream is what they said. What about woodblock printing? is what I tried saying but it seems that minute figures and pictures require a considerably amount of work and even just making enough text for one book would take several years. In that case even I understood partway through that it would be faster to just make a copy by hand.

Their conclusions were the same as well. Even if it comes to trying to do something about it with magic, the three of us still haven't started magic training yet and according to the stories I've heard magic isn't something as convenient as that. It shows peerless power in regards to healing injuries and it

can be used for attacking as well but when it comes to large scale things like wars a magician on the level of the imperial court sorcerers are needed and since there's only a few of them in the country it isn't worth taking into consideration. Of course, magicians are a strategic weapon, no, a valuable force that can influence a local battle so we decided to try and gather as many of them as we can either way.

It seems that only one in ten people can use magic and even among those only a small handful are talented with it. It seems even for those talented people it's considered plenty if they can use a weak magic like {Fire Ball} twice and the imperial court sorcerer Count Robotoni can at most use two shots of {Fire Ball} with a reasonable power as well. Even then the power of that attack when aimed at a group of people crowded together it will kill one person it hits directly and injure another two or three nearby. If they hold back the number of uses and pour their mana into the damage then it seems it's just a bit stronger than dynamite. However, even if it's just one blast of dynamite it has the ability to change the flower of the battlefield. It seems that a first-class magician has void magic of level 5. It seems that there's only about 100 people at that level in Devas Kingdom right now. The one who was the top imperial court sorcerer until last year has void magic at level 6.

If it was just something on that level then even if they blast one or two shots into an army of several thousand or several tens of thousands there's no way they could overturn the battlefield. After that it seems that if their level with elemental magic like earth magic is high then they can bury them to death but it seems that even with level 4 it uses a considerably amount of mana just to bury one person to death so it's unrealistic. It seems it's not unrealistic unless they're at least at level 5 but let alone the imperial court sorcerers, since the top class adventurers challenging the dungeon Benkelish only finally have level 5 elemental magic, they're far too valuable of talents. It's more frightening you might get hit by a stray arrow and die.

Rombert Kingdom and Kanbitt Kingdom are different from Devas Kingdom in that they have a reasonable amount of national power and quite a few magicians as well. According to rumors the top court sorcerer of Rombert reached void magic level 7 this year. In that case then their elemental magics

should be at least level 5 or 6. I'm sure that it's necessary to train magicians for military purposes as well.

In other words we can't create any guns of decent quality, mass production is pretty much impossible, magic is crude in terms of attack power, and at best can be used to protect a commander from sudden attacks. Is the conclusion we arrived at. It seems that a frontal attack from an army with decent numbers is the strongest. For that sake it takes a considerable amount of time. We arrived at the conclusion that it wasn't something we could complete in just a plan that covered a matter of five years or so. There's almost no path other than spending the next ten or more years strengthening the army. In order to accomplish that it's necessary to raise the potential of the country and slowly increase the national power as well.

The conclusion they arrived, seems to have been to propose introducing livestock in agriculture. However, the cost of horses and cattle is extremely high and a weakness is it's difficult to increase their numbers. It seems that they're currently focusing their nerves on gathering information in that regards and trying to overcome superstitions.

It was one such day. While the three of us were in the usual empty space of the royal castle discussing our plans in Japanese a single imperial court sorcerer passed by us. Even though they're an imperial court sorcerer it's not as if they're always taking part in military activities. Rather than the magicians are closer to something like scholars in treatment and they often partake in politics and office work. Imperial court sorcerer is something like a title.

"Oh my? If it isn't Prince Alexander and his friends, the weather out today is quite good isn't it. Should I request for one of the slaves to bring you all something to drink?"

The imperial court sorcerer said while smiling.

"Ah, Baron Geguran huh? I guess so, anything is fine, so would you ask for them bring out something for everyone?"

After Alex said that and the court sorcerer called Geguran responded.

"I understand. Is peach-roll juice good? By the way, it seems that everyone's hair and eye color is the same. As a matter of fact my daughter is the same as

well, she has black hair and eyes as well. If it's alright with you, would you include her in your group?"

Geguran might have simply just wanted to have his daughter get closer to royalty and the Duke's son. However, all three of us lost our words at hearing his statement. After the prince somehow managed recover he said.

"Ah, Yeah, peach-roll juice is fine. And then, baron. In regards to the Baron's daughter but there's no problem with at least meeting her. Si..Since we're all men over here, I don't know if we'll be able to get on good terms with her so I can't promise that we'll include her in our group though.."

"I understand, then I'll have someone prepare three cups of peach-roll juice. In regards to my daughter please don't mind it, it was just something like a greeting. Just as you said, I wasn't seriously thinking of adding her into a group of men."

Geguran said that but this time we were the ones who were interested.

"Ah, no, since it's just men we sometimes get a bit crude with our conversations so I would definitely like if you introduced her to us next time? I'm counting on you."

After Alex said that and Geguran apologized for the trouble but after Alex forcefully told him to bring her tomorrow he finally released Geguran.

After that we discussed it quite excited but we also laughed that it was getting impatient when we still don't know if it's really a Japanese person.

.....

The next day, Baron Geguran brought along a girl who introduced herself as Rentia. Geguran and joined us as our fourth ally. Thanks to the knowledge about magic she brought us we all ended up becoming her disciples and started magic training.

.....

The following year, we received news that the eldest daughter Myulis who was infiltrating Rombert Kingdom had passed away. We couldn't tell the circumstances but it doesn't seem that her identity was exposed but rather she

just happened to get killed by a monster by chance. The Duke's son lamented that one of our pawns for gathering information was lost but the prince and I just saw her as a single long-term spy that had been useless up until now so we weren't bothered over it at all. Something like an eldest daughter that I've never met and who left the house before I was born, she's on the same level as a stranger who's name I had heard of before.

I finally was able to use magic. Other than void magic it seems I had aptitude with all elements except for fire. Ren can use all elemental magic. Her talent with magic is no comparison to us and she seems to be quite skilled on that end. According to what she said her void magic was already at level 4. Truly a genius of magic. It seems her Unique Ability was related to magic as well and all of us agreed that she's the future top court sorcerer in our group.

Our future is bright.

Author's note: (Translator: there's some notes in regards to Myun's special skill "Disguise/Deception" and how it's easier to copy stats based on blood types/genetics, etc... Also an abbreviated chronology of how Myun was born in 7409 and a listing of all the members of the Sagal family since they have such similar names. Also how Myuns real name is Myulis, and Myunerlin was her little sister who's status she used as a disguise base.)

Chapter 89: 2nd Floor

Year 7442, Month 9, Day 1

“Then, shall we go. Is everyone ready?”

After confirming that everyone nodded I teleported us into the dungeon. We started carefully examining our surroundings and determine our current location using the map. Going off the number it's probably around here.

After advancing down the cave for a short while and it turned right. Soon after that there was a split path. Ah, then, after all our current location is here... In that case then we have to pass through three rooms in order to get to the teleport crystal to the 2nd floor. Usually it's dangerous we turn back and re-enter the dungeon to avoid the rooms but since we're aiming for the 2nd floor starting today we can't mind it. We just advance forward. Since we have the map of traps as well it's become quite easy to explore the dungeon. I wonder if we can make it to the 2nd floor in today? It would be good if no one gets hurt though.

After moving ahead for about 30 minutes and we arrived at the first room. I said in advance that I would wipe out the monsters in the rooms. When I tried peeking in with Identify and it was a Green Slime. Hmph, it's already exposed that you're weak to fire. I sterilize the deep green viscous liquid like sewage with {Flamethrower}.

I easily burnt the close to 30 slimes in the room with the spell {Flamethrower} while standing at the entrance. Angela was watching that spectacle with her mouth wide open. How's a glimpse of your master's true ability? Hn? I won't easily throw away the lives of my slaves. Since I'm a cheapskate after all. I think I probably burnt them all to death. I tell everyone to start searching for the bonus items that are the magic stones and items of deceased adventurers while I keep watch in case monsters come to the room from the path further in.

After a short while it seems that gathering the items was completed. After all

it seems that there were some worn-out swords and spears but they are all too old and covered in rust so it was just stuff that hadn't even retained their original shapes. It seems that no one had entered it recently. Since we obtained close to 1,000,000 Z in cash mostly in silver coins then I guess that's enough to call plenty.

We quickly started down the cave going further in. We continue for another ten or so minutes while being careful to avoid traps. We should arrive at the next room soon. Now then, I wonder what is making it's nest in this room? Even after looking in from the entrance with Identify vision I wasn't able to see the monster. I wonder if it's hiding near the edge? I slowly approach the entrance of the room...There it is. It's like a huge insect. It has four legs and there's two feeler like tentacles growing from the sides of it's small head. It's body gets thinner as it nears the tail and at the end of it's tail there was a strange protuberance like a propeller. When I tried Identifying it and it was a "Propeller Tail".

Hmm. It's my first time against it. It's not too late to slowly read the Identify window after I kill it. I put the sling-belt of my bayonet on my shoulder and fire {Lightning Bolt} with my left hand and then immediately launched a {Stone Javelin Missile} with my right hand killing it. I feel like it probably would have died with just the {Lightning Bolt}. Since I did even further damage to the corpse it just comes up as Corpse (Propeller Tail) with Identify now. Well I guess it's fine. Since there doesn't seem to be anything else I guess we should head for the next room. Since I've already heard about this thing from Angela there's no need to make the foolish move of trying to take the magic stone from this monster.

It seems that Propeller Tail's have a special skill where any metal that touches those feelers or tentacles rust away. If you touch them with a knife on accident then it's already too late. And I'm sure any items of adventurers have just become a mountain of rust as well. It's best to just ignore them. If the corpse is still remaining on our way back and I have room to spare with my stamina and mana then I'll use earth magic to made a stone axe or something to disassemble it with. Well, I think we'll end up returning to the entrance directly from the teleport crystal of the 2nd floor though.

Up until here we've still only fought against the monsters in the rooms so far this time. If it's like this then we should be able to make it to the 2nd floor in perfect condition. Since we don't have a map for the 2nd floor we're just going to check out how things look and then return though.

We continue ahead again. Along the way there were 6 gnolls wandering around. It's fine to let my subordinates earn some experience as well but we're heading towards the 2nd floor today. I still have an excessive amount of MP after all, there's no point in being stingy with it. I felt like I wanted to show Angela my close combat skills as well so I raised my head but when I was about to put power into my legs and charge in I thought again and just killed them safely with magic.

And we arrived at the room which should be the last one. I couldn't see the enemy this time at a glance as well. However, I already know the enemies identity. If the map of the cave we've gone through up until now is correct (probably, at least on the path up until now I'm sure it's correct) then this room should be connected at the corner.

I'm sure I won't be able to see inside of the room until I get considerably close to it. However, I can grasp it plenty from here. I can see a huge spider web at the edge. I guess this is the entrance of the "Gargantuan Spider" I had heard about? I guess it's fine if I just burn the spider webs with fire magic.

I immediately shot a {Fire Ball} in. It hit the edge of the spider web and sent burning stones flying all around the surroundings. It seems that the spider web is burning well. I quickly raised both of my hands and use {Flamethrower} to send flames spewing out as I enter the room. There it is. In the center of the spider web in the middle of the room there's a huge spider that's about 2 m high, probably about 5 m if it spreads it's legs out. I sent my {Flamethrower} flying aimed at it. The small hairs all over the surface of its body caught fire. The spider is rolling around in pain.

Without letting my guard down I continue pouring mana into the {Flamethrower} increasing the intensity of the flames and burnt it to death. Since it seems these have poison, I didn't want to fight it in close combat. After I safely killed the "Gargantuan Spider" I looked around inside of the room.

Mu, is that..an egg..No, a cocoon?

There's prey wrapped up in what seems to be cocoons all over the spider's web. Goblins, gnolls, and even some adventurers that fell victim to it. Since it seems they died quite a while back we couldn't save them. The items we found that were in good condition were three long swords, two broad swords, and two spears. We couldn't find any shields. Also, we found close to 1,300,000 Z in money. Uhha. It's a large haul. The magic stone of Gargantuan Spider had a value of close to 10,000. If we sell it then it should come out close to 70,000 Z.

I peaked into the other caves confirming if it was safe while watching my subordinates gather the items. Hmn, we've earned quite a bit Oh~ that sword is in considerably good condition. However, the end of that spear is broken. Since it isn't rusted I guess we should at least take it with us.

After that we continued walking for close to an hour, after blowing away the goblins and gnolls we met along the way with magic we were safely able to arrive at the small room of about 30 m in every direction with the teleport crystal rod to the 2nd floor. I guess we should take a small break here. I tried asking Zenom the time and he checked the time on the clock magic tool. It seems it's still just past 10 am.

It's just the right time for having some tea. As expected we didn't bring any water that will add to our luggage in the dungeon but we've at least prepared flasks. I use water and fire magic to create hot water and put it and some tea leaves into each persons flask. Putting it frankly the tea of Orth isn't all that good. I guess it's different from the tea of Earth. The bean tea that I like needs boiled beans to make so as expected we can't prepare it here.

We took a break while everyone was blowing on our hot tea that doesn't taste particularly good.

Everyone was worrying about my remaining mana.

"Al, is your mana fine? You've used quite a bit of magic right? Isn't it best to turn back for today?"

Zenom said that.

"That's right. It seems that the monsters on the 2nd floor are the same as the

1st floor but we can't take things back in the worst case situation."

Ralpa said that as well.

I guess since Bel has limited knowledge about magic she's making a face like she doesn't really understand.

Zulu is sipping his tea while remaining cautious of the cave connecting to the small room.

Angela is looking at me in a daze.

I started to feel the urge to start bragging to Angela but I already said I would listen to her opinion after we reach the 3rd floor. Even if I ask her opinion here I'm sure it'll probably just be my boasting so I'll remain quiet.

"Ah, I'm still fine. Then, let's take a look around the 2nd floor for a bit before returning today I guess. Let me drink some tea before that."

It's true that I've used up some MP after fighting several times but I still have around 7,100 remaining. I haven't even used 500. Particularly against the spider or the Propeller Tail that seemed like they could be strong opponents I didn't hesitate on adding extra mana in to kill them all at once. I even feel like I used too much. It seems like it would be best to master the method of using an appropriate amount of mana against those types of enemies as well. It's too inefficient. I guess I should keep entering the dungeon alone on my days off for a while longer.

The sounds of pointless chatting and sipping of tea echo through the teleport room. And then we started to hear multiple footsteps from somewhere. Is it monsters!? We throw out our tea and after throwing our flasks into the corner of the room we stand up with our weapons in hand.

We watch the cave where the footsteps are coming from. After a short while a party made up of 8 people appeared. There was the color green mixed into their equipment and the cloth wrapped on their arms. There's a face I've seen before. The {Verdure Brotherhood} huh?

After the elf leader saw us in the room and he opened his mouth.

"Oh~ so there was someone who got here faster than us huh...Those are faces I don't know. I'm Robert. My name is Robert Vilhaima. I'm the leader of this

{Verdure Brotherhood}. Who's you guys leader? Why don't we talk for a bit?"

Oh~ his voice is quite a bit deeper than I imagined. Since the appearance of elves is beautiful, even though he's a decent age, I imagined his voice would be higher.

"I'm the leader. My name is Alan Greed."

After I named myself and the members of the {Verdure Brother} started laughing.

"So that dwarf wasn't the leader."

"Isn't he still a brat?"

"That's some weird armor."

"One brat and two young girls. For half of the party to be kids.."

"The Laios man and Dog Warrior woman seem like they can fight decently well."

"Since they don't even have any blood on their clothes, did they manage to get lucky and arrive here without fighting?"

"Since you always have to pass through at least one large room after all, they probably just passed through after someone else killed the boss."

They're saying whatever they please all on their own. Well I understand their feelings though. Even if we're made fun of a bit by super veterans like them I don't even feel the urge to get angry.

"Hey, leave things around there. Sorry about that, Greed-kun. We want to go to the 2nd floor. I'm sorry to say it when we came afterwards, but do you mind if we teleport first?"

Just as you would expect from the leader of a top team, he didn't pointlessly look down on me in his statements. Yeah. The wealthy don't pick fights.

"Yeah, please do. We intended to go ahead after we took a short break, so feel free.."

After I said that and,

"Hey, let's go...do.ge.nu huh? Everyone's properly grabbed on to it right. Dogenu!"

After saying that and an instant when they seemed to turn half-transparent they disappeared leaving behind something like a powder of light. So this is how teleportation feels looking from the outside.

“What was that? They were acting so arrogant~”

Ralpa looks displeased while saying.

“They’re {Verdure Brotherhood}. One of the top teams in Baldukk. Supposedly they’ve reached the 5th floor..”

Angela replies to her. I guess they’re famous, as expected of a top team.

“I don’t get what it is about greed but I already knew since I just heard their name. In any case their attitude is too L. Do they have green rust growing in their heads or something?”

How many decades has it been since I heard attitude L. Ralpa, you, aren’t you seriously lying about your age...even if you are though it doesn’t cause any sort of harm. It’s stating false details on your resume..Ah, I didn’t have her write something like a resume.

“The 5th floor huh..That’s amazing.”

Zulu whispered while showing admiration.

“I’m sure they have a considerable amount of skill as well.”

Bel continued after Zulu.

“Well they can say that because they have that much level of ability. I can understand just from seeing them. All of them were considerably strong.”

Zenom said that closing things.

After gathering our flasks we inspect our equipment.

“Then, it’s not like we’ll end up teleporting to the same place as them so let’s go as well. We’re just taking a look for today. After we do that for a bit we’ll return.”

I said that while putting my flask into my bag and read the purple chant that floated to the surface of the teleport crystal rod. Do.ru.he.me huh. The chant that’s in yellow is the one used to return to the surface. The “return us” one.

I'm sure it teleports you to one of the large amount of small rooms lined up along the teleport room near the entrance.

"Then let's go...Everyone's holding onto it right. Doru he me!"

.....

At first glance the 2nd floor resembled the 1st floor but there's a lot of humidity. If it's this much then collecting the articles of deceased adventurers on the 2nd floor probably requires more luck than the 1st floor.

The teleport crystal rod is in the center of a cave that somehow feels very humid. We were able to confirm a symbol-like indicator as well. We searched the wall as well but we weren't able to find any place with a number carved into it. I wonder if there's no map with the teleport locations on it for the 2nd floor like the 1st floor..even if there was I'm sure the price is even more outrageous though.

Either way it's our first time after all, no matter which hall we go down I'm sure there's not much difference. I randomly said "lets try going this way" and started leading the way. Quickly Zenom lined up to my right and started hitting the ground with a 3 m or so pole. After spending time slowly going down a slightly curved cave for about 100 m or so. The sound of the pole hitting the floor changed. A trap huh? We hit around the trap that seems to be a pitfall looking for the method around it but there was the same light sound from every direction.

No way, are you serious? There's pitfalls which completely block the path?

Everyone looked at me. 1. Return and go down the opposite hall. 2. Return and go down the opposite hall. 3. Return and go down the opposite hall. Is there anything else we can do!? Why are you looking at my face?

"Let's return. We'll try going down the opposite side of the teleport crystal."

Since we don't need to be careful of traps, we walk back down the path we just came from. It took us about 15 minutes to carefully walk up to here but we were able to return to the teleport crystal in less than 2 minutes. Now then, let's try going down the opposite side.

Just the same way we start carefully going down the opposite side while hitting the ground. This when we advanced about 200 m we heard the sound change again. We carefully tried hitting some other places . Yeah, the sound on all of them is light.

..Aren't we surrounded by pitfalls on both sides!

Ah~ Shit.

"Everyone, take a few steps back. I don't know what will happen but I wanted to try it a bit."

Further. Step back further. I lead everyone to about 40 m behind where the pitfall seemed to be. I stand in front of everyone and used wind magic to blow the sand on the trap away. I was doing it all the time when I explored during my experiment but I never found a trap with this method. I wonder what will happen when I know there's a trap for sure, is what I thought while feeling like trying it.

Baon!

A large amount of air suddenly was generated and I used void magic to make it expand only in front of me, or rather, I use wind magic to make a wall that's sending it back only ahead of me. The diameter of the cave is around 10 m so the amount of air created with level 5 wind magic should be plenty. Unless there's a large room ahead of here then if I think about it really simply then I should create enough volume of air released in one direction to cover up to 270 m ahead of me in an instant.

Since it seems like everyone didn't know what I was going to do, I said I was going to use wind magic to create a large amount of air and use it like an {Air Pump} then Ralpa and Bel understood. However, let alone {Pump} the other three have no idea what an {Air Pump} is. They were making a strange but I just ignored it. Zenom can probably guess the situation right away so that's fine but I'm sure Zulu and Angela wouldn't know. Though that can't be helped.

If they're thinking something so naive that we'll explain every word they don't know to them then I'll blow that thinking away at the same time. It's not like I know the words and names of everything on Orth either. If I hear someone talking about a type of product that I don't know then I think I would want an

explanation about it but I at least think of the time and the place. If you're really interested then take your time and ask after we leave the dungeon.

I try going and taking a look at the place where the trap is. It can't be called completely gone but the dirt on the surface was somewhat brushed away. Yeah, it was the right answer to blow it away with wind magic it seems. It almost covers the entirety of the hall and it has a depth of about 4–5 m into the other side of the hall. It's absurdly mysterious. As proof of that everyone including me has their mouths opened dumbfounded at the trap.

The pitfall opened up. It's probably not all that deep. I can even see the bottom. I guess it's around 3 m?

Right. I can see the bottom. There's a board or something with dirt on top of it to camouflage it and it's not like I can see the board itself. Was the board blown away together with it? Since it was covering up a pitfall that's about 4–5 m across, the size of the board would need to be at least 7-8m. It depends on the material but if that wasn't the case then it would curve I'm sure. Well, if even if several layers of boards like that were blown away even with the low amount of light it's strange that we wouldn't notice it, and I'm sure it would make a noise. I didn't create enough air for it to blow away a board of that length and a decent amount of thickness far enough to be beyond our sight.

I timidly grab a bit on the floor while scraping it off and (since all of the dirt that I could easily grab was blown away) threw it at the hole. I already knew the outcome before I threw it but I couldn't keep myself from trying it.

Just as I predicted the dirt that I threw was floating on the ground. If you're asking why I was able to predict it and it's because not all of the dirt that was on the surface of the pitfall was cleanly blown away. No, you could say it was blown away but it was just a portion of what was on it. I did say "the dirt on the surface was somewhat brushed away" right?

I'll try identifying it. After all it seems to be an object that can be targeted. In other words it's not a vapor, or at least not just a vapor.

【Besshuz.Floating Disk.Automending】

【Wind.Void】

【Condition: Good】

【Manufacture Date: -/-/-】

【Value: -】

..It was magic. Not to mention a type that I don't know. Well, the number of spells I know isn't all that large of a number. It seems to be a combination of wind and void magic and it's currently activating normally I guess. The value of manufacture date aren't normally displayed in the case of magic so that's no problem.

The problem is the fact that I can Identify the magic, or rather spell name. Normally, even if you identify the phenomenon that occurs when you use a spell nothing happens. Even if you use identify on the warhead or flame you create while it's in the middle of flying it just shows the type of magic and the condition of it.

There's nowhere I can open on the sub-window.

Zenom is hitting it with the pole. I can hear a light sound from it.

Zulu is stabbing it with the end of his two-handed sword.

Bel is trying to poke it with the of her sword as well.

Angela is timidly stretching out the end of her broad sword as well.

Only Ralpa was different. She's tapping it with the end of her foot. As expected.

"It feels kind of like I'm floating on water. It feels like it vaguely sinks down."

It's called floating disk after all. I guess I should call out to them pretty soon.

"Hey, Ralpa. That's dangerous so stop already."

Ralpa obediently pulled her foot back.

Now then, what should we do. The pitfall (?) on the other side is probably like this as well. Though it might be different but it's more natural to think that it's the same. We've been exploring the 1st floor for close to three months but we haven't tread on a trap even once, and we've never tried investigating the structure of a normal trap as well. Since we had seen pitfalls that had no cover like someone had already fallen into them a number of times I had already confirmed that even if you fall in there was nothing like spears or needles planted at the bottom. I figured that the only difference would be the shape of

the hole so I never bothered trying to wipe away the dirt on the surface to investigate them.

There was never a case like this where the pitfall covered the entire hall of the cave as well. I was afraid that it might not just be the pitfall but some kind of switch and we might accidentally activate that.

However you know...as far as I can tell the depth of the hole is about 3 m. Even if you accidentally stepped on it without realizing it, I'm sure you would get hurt, if you were careless you might even get bone fracture, but I doubt you would die. Since the walls and floor seem like dirt. It doesn't like it was cleanly dug out as well. Obviously there's nothing like a corpse in it either.

"Alright, everyone, back away for a bit."

"What are you going to do?"

Bel tried asking.

"Fill it."

At the same time as I said that I held my hand over the pitfall and used earth magic to create dirt. Using my hand as the starting point the dirt appears in mid-air and falls down. It stopped in mid-air for a bit but in less than a second the floating disk spell was unable to endure the weight of the dirt and started sinking. Even if it wasn't all the way I was able to fill the hole. Since it's not like it's been stomped down I guess I'll add a bit more to it.

"I'm advancing."

After I said that I stuck my leg out and stepped down on the dirt. About 10 cm of my foot sunk into the dirt under my weight but there was no problem other than that. After I quickly crossed the pitfall everyone else came along with me.

That pitfall probably has a spell cast on it to create something like a magic board and that board can hold up a certain amount of weight, thinking that seems the most natural. I don't know if it's the weight of one person or so but when it exceeds a certain weight then the spell loses its effect. Going off the auto-mending it probably automatically restores itself or repairs itself afterwards I guess. I don't know what Besshuzu is though.

However, it seems like there's a considerable number of pitfall traps and since they're famous you can even hear about them pretty often from the mouths of adventurers in a bar. But, I've never heard of a pitfall like this before. This, is the 2nd floor right? It might be best to quickly level up Ralpa's Spatial Understanding and have her use it. Since it's still level 1 after all. Even if you say 10 m radius or so, it barely reaches the ceiling of the cave.

I was thinking about things like that while walking for a few minutes. It seems we still haven't proceeded very far since we crossed over the pitfall. We figured there wouldn't be another pitfall for at least 100 m or so after the last one so we continued hitting with the pole while moving about 30 m at a higher pace than usual when it happened. I discovered something ahead of us. It seems to be close to the floor.

It's a snake. It comes up as **【Cave.Rattlesnake】** with Identify. Level is 2. It's nothing special but it seems to have poison. The poison is...Neurotoxins huh? I guess you'll become unable to breathe. Close combat isn't a good idea.

Since there's just one of them, it seems like it would be good to kill it with a spell.

"There's a snake ahead. It would be bad if it has poison. I'll get rid of it."

I said that and used {Lightning Bolt} to kill the snake.

I got close to the snake's corpse and observed it for a bit. I was interested in it. The thickness is about 5 cm? It has a bit over 1 m in length. Just as the name sounds there's a rattle-like skin stuck to the end of its tail. Since I hit with electricity from the front its head is burnt. Che...I thought I might be able to gather the poison but I picked the wrong spell to use. However, I'm sure it would have been the same if I burned it to death with fire, and missile type would have smashed its body as well. Even if I smash it, I felt like the portion that has the head would still be alive after all. Well, you could say it's true I was afraid of the poison.

Zulu took the magic stone.

Furthermore, this time we carefully advanced forward. The path split up along the way. It's shaped like the letter Y and the right side feels the same as where

we came from. I wonder what we should do?

Well, we had just came to the 2nd floor to take a look this time. We still haven't seen any actual combat on the 2nd floor yet but it might be about a good time. I asked Zenom the time and it was around 11 am. I guess we should return.

We returned to the 1st floor from the teleport crystal on the 2nd floor and then returned directly to the small room at entrance of the dungeon from there. We made 4,000,000 Z (4 gold coins) including the money from the items we found today. I gave Zenom and the others their monthly compensation for the start of the month of 200,000 Z (20 silver coins) and another 80,000 Z (8 silver coins) bonus to each of them. It's our first big profit in a while.

When we were having lunch I said to everyone.

"Let's gather information about the pitfall from today. I've never heard about something like that until now. Though there should be a considerable number of people who have gone to the 2nd floor. Though it's weird that I've never heard about it in the case. Zulu and Angela I'll give you money separately for you dinner for today. Let's all eat at different places and meet up at the usual restaurant for breakfast tomorrow morning. Is that fine?"

Everyone nodded. I handed Zulu and Angela some money and said "I'll try seeing if the knight group has any information on it." and left the restaurant.

I couldn't obtain any information on the strange pitfall from the knight group.

That evening I tried going to a random restaurant and asked some people that appeared to be adventurers about it but I was told they didn't know about that strange pitfall. Rather, they reacted to it like I was trying to sell them some sort of fake information or confuse them.

After I finished eating I did my running while thinking.

Hmm. Was it making it to the 3rd floor two months after we buy the map for the 2nd floor? I've started to get a bit worried if I can protect the promise I one-sided declared to Angela. Just a bit.

Chapter 90: Training

Year 7442, Month 9, Day 2

The next morning, after gathering at the restaurant we started to summarize all of the information we had gathered individually last night. However, it seems that no one was able to gather any information on that strange pitfall. Come to think of it, everyone is making slightly undecided expressions. I am as well though.

In any case, putting aside that pitfall the information we were able to gather on the 2nd floor is as follows.

1. According to legend it seems that there's a pond where fairies live on the 2nd floor but the only one who has confirmed this is the founder Rombert the First so it's believed to be a story for drunks.

There's no point thinking about that for now.

2. There's something like a fountain which spits out snakes.

Come to think of it, there was a snake. Well, I thought, if I stand near the fountain and burn the snakes to death with {Flamethrower} wouldn't I be able to earn all the experience points and magic stones I want!? but it seems that after a fixed number they stop coming out. What the, how boring.

3. The teleport location map for the 2nd is sold. The price is 9,000,000 Z.

As expected it did exist. Though I predicted that sort of price. Then, in that case, I guess the place we went to yesterday was still an unexplored region? I wonder if it's related to the pond of fairies which comes out in the legends of Rombert the Firsts adventures?

4. The monsters that normally appear on the 2nd floor at Orks, Hobgoblins, Gnolls, Kobolds, and snakes. However the rooms are different.

I see. Then, putting aside the poison of the snake, you could say that's a relief.

5. The types of traps are the same as the 1st floor the pitfalls and device which makes noise, it seems that other than that, while only a small number have been confirmed, but there's a crossbow like device as well.

I guess if you step on a switch or something on the floor then a bolt from a crossbow comes flying from somewhere?

How frightening.

The information was around there. After that it's fundamentally not all that different from the 1st floor it seems.

Also, it's not information about the 2nd floor but it seems that there's point of view or rather common sense that applies to all floors, it seems that the monsters that act like bosses of the rooms have a pre-decided range they can move within. Fundamentally if you move more than 100 m away from the room then they give up on chasing you and return. For the time being we're killing them mercilessly on the spot so it's not a problem but thinking about from here on out this is an important piece of information I'm sure. Also, it seems that on the 1st floor Propeller Tail and Black Gargantua Leech (I still haven't seen it) are considered the representatives for easy bosses. Both of them are not only alone quite often for some reason, but their movement speed isn't fast, so if you throw a rock in and grab their attention, then after they've moved a bit away it's easy to just run past them all at once.

Even though I gained close to 8,000 experience points for killing that Propeller Tail yesterday. Well, if we assume that it's a party of 8 and they all do about the same amount of damage then they would only get about 350 experience a piece, so it's limited to just me. It's completely different whether or not you have the Gift of Natural Talent.

Then, shall we head out?

Just like yesterday, after we confirmed our current location I used magic to pass pass through all at once. We weren't able to get our hands on the belongings of any deceased adventurers today. However, as expected the experience points from the boss room monsters is amazing. Tomorrow is Wednesday but if I give it my best on my own then won't I level up by Saturday? I guess I'll try doing some close combat against goblins tomorrow.

We teleport to the 2nd floor. After that we tried confirming the pedestal of the teleport crystal for an arrow symbol and investigated the wall. We found a number. It's 124. It can't be helped, since we made some decent earnings yesterday, I guess I'll go and buy a map later...Starting today thinking about the experience points of my subordinates we're moving slowly without me as the lead. Since we found a room, I was wondering what would be in it and tried using Identify. It was an {Owlbear}, which I can't tell whether it's an owl or a bear or whatever. It doesn't seem to have any special skills, so I guess I'll let them try it out.

Zenom and Zulu stand at the front center, on the outside of Zenom there's Angela, and outside of Zulu there's Ralpa, and from behind Bel and I assist is the formation we're going with. After I gave instructions to everyone and Zenom charged in with his axe while Zulu charged in with his two-handed sword. Angela and Ralpa who were following behind them ran in as well and immediately spread out. Bel is preparing an arrow at the entrance of the room. I'm standing by in a position where I'm not in Bel's way while looking over the entirety and concentrating on the other caves.

There was only one Owlbear. Zulu charged in without lowering his pace and with that momentum he dodged the attack by the Owlbear's armor while stepping in and stabbing it's body with his two-handed sword. Almost at the same time Zenom who had been running on Zulu's left rolled under the arm attack as well and slammed his axe into the back right leg of the Owlbear then just like that went around to behind the Owlbear.

Angela who was running even further behind Zenom on the left aimed to cut the left front leg of the Owlbear with her broad sword as Zenom rolled through then quickly pulled back. Ralpa who was standing outside of Zulu was moving in a way to hide herself from the Owlbear using Zulu's large build but after Zulu stabbed with his two-handed sword she jumped out from Zulu's shadow and smashed her hand-axe into the left body of the Owlbear then quickly moved around behind Zenom.

Shortly after I heard the sound of a bowstring from my side. It seems that Bel fired an arrow. While the Owlbear was screaming in pain from the swords and axes the arrow flew in through the beak-like mouth of the Owlbear and stabbed

into it's mouth. Uwa, that looks like it hurt. However, for her to shoot an arrow into that curved beak, what kind of God-like skill is that? Isn't it just a coincidence?

I guess Bel's arrow was the fatal blow, the movements of the Owlbear clearly got weaker. The arrow's already been bitten in half but I'm sure the arrowhead is still stuck in it's mouth. Bel lowers her bow to the ground and after drawing her sword it seems she's going to join in owl-beating* it as well. Just because it's an owl. After that I'm sure as long as they don't completely let their guard down it's already over.

We weren't able to find any items in this room either. After collecting the magic stone from the Owlbear I tried identifying it. It's value was about 8,000. About 56,000 Z sale price huh? Not half bad.

It would probably be best to keep moving forward before any monsters that might have been nearby come hearing the screams of the Owlbear. Honestly speaking, I want to avoid combat in the rooms as much as possible. If it's one where there's exits in only one or two places then it's not a big problem but since it's often for them to be connected to a number of caves, you never know from where or how many monsters might appear. If we were to get surrounded it would be a bit dangerous.

After re-inspecting everyone's equipment we stepped foot down the cave in front of us.

We advanced carefully until 4 in the afternoon today but after that while we entered combat with monsters wandering the caves we didn't find anymore rooms. Around the time we used teleport and returned to the entrance there was a long falling shadow across the town of Baldukk from the setting sun.

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Year 7442, Month 9, Day 6

Since today is Saturday we have the day off. After eating breakfast and running for about two hours to help the digestion, I wiped the sweat off, and entered the dungeon alone again. Today I'll practice some close combat against the small fried and try something out that I've planning for a while after my level goes up. If I ignore gathering the magic stones and just repeat combat

then I should be able to level up around noon.

I buy a sandwich for 150 Z to use as a bento and after putting my flask inside I hung them from the D ring on my waist.

After putting the sling-belt of my bayonet on my shoulder and confirming that my knife is hanging from the opposite side of my flask my preparations are {OK}.

I start using {Audible Clamor} to create a large consecutive rupture sound and then wait for monsters to approach. After repeating it a number of times my level increased.

【Alan.Greed/5/3/7429 】
【Male/14/2/7428 ▪ Human ▪ Greed Family Second Son】
【Status: Normal】
【Age : 14 Years Old】
【Level : 13】
【HP : 122(122) MP : 7345(7427)】
【Strength : 19】
【Speed : 23】
【Dexterity : 18】
【Endurance : 20】
【Unique Ability : Identify(MAX)】
【Unique Ability : Gift of Natural Talent(Lv.8)】
【Special Ability : Earth Magic(Lv.8)】
【Special Ability : Water Magic(Lv.7)】
【Special Ability : Fire Magic(Lv.7)】
【Special Ability : Wind Magic(Lv.8)】
【Special Ability : Void Magic(Lv.8)】
【Experience : 270022(350000)】

Alright, just like like week, my Speed increased not my HP. Hn? Last week? Oh~ so I leveled up in a mere week huh? In addition to the Gift of Natural Talent we're not avoiding combat with the bosses in the rooms and beating them to death all over the place after all. The bosses of the rooms which we had avoided for several months until now in just this week I've killed close to 10 of myself. I've been working~ I've been working quite a bit~

No wait, this sort of self-satisfaction is completely pointless. Now then...I guess I'll test it out.

{Fire Ball}
{Kill Cloud}
{Sleep Cloud}
{Acid Cloud}
{Stun Cloud}
{Disintegrate}
{Web}
{Grow Spike}
{Quagmire}
{Collapse}

I'm practicing all of the combat-use spells that were my weak point until now. I want to be able to make use of the attack spells that mother taught me in the 13 years of magic training until I left the house. For the time being it's pretty pointless to use them just the amount of mana they normally use so I'll practice them while increasing the power and range of them. There's several others beyond these but along with {Gravel}, {Arrow}, and {Javelin} the various projectile types and the various electric-type spells starting from {Shocking Grasp} I'm already using, well, it shouldn't be problem. For the time being I'll start intensely practicing these types of magics that are my weak point while I'm in the dungeon my days off.

I want to practice the {Remove Paralysis} and {Detoxify} magics as well. But you know~ Putting aside the recovery of a wound, I don't want to drink poison. Maybe I'll practice using the fish that Mary mentioned. For Paralysis...I guess it would be fine to buy some paralysis drugs. Everything is an experience. As long as I don't die then it's not a bad idea to experience it at least one..probably. In particular I should be able to do that in the room of my inn as well.

After that is..especially leveling up Ralpa and my subordinates. I've already told them about the body level, and putting aside the slaves, even if it's just Zenom, Ralpa, and Bel..No, even Zulu and Angela as well...Mwu..In the end isn't it the same as now? For the time being I'll start practicing from {Web} which is for restraining purposes. Since it's fine if I used an extra amount of

mana, it should be more efficient to use it on a large monster or to bind a group of 2–3 Hobgoblins or Orks. However, if it was just about restraining them then I could freeze around 50 cm — 1 m above the floor as well. I guess for the time being freezing them as a method of restraint is best. Let's start with {Fire Ball} after all. I've always wanted to try using it with as much power as I can.

Just like this we continued repeating combat on the 2nd floor for about a month and I used the days off for training my magic. It was my first time using my mana to it's limits and after returning to the inn in the morning I used the remainder before sleeping in until noon the next day, and after my mana recovers I woke up and went back to the dungeon to practice some more. My MP didn't increase.

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Year 7442, Month 10, Day 1

When I returned from the dungeon to my inn some luggage had arrived for me. There was a letter together with the luggage. They were delighted that I made some subordinates. The fact that I properly employed them and that's continuing is proof that I'm not using them crudely, is what it said. Though I had only just started employing them when I wrote that letter so they're praising me a bit too much. They also sent me a large amount of extra latex, sulfur, charcoal, and wood acid because they thought it would be difficult to repair my armor when exploring the dungeon in Baldukk. There's not even a single scratch on my armor though I'm grateful for father and the others sentiments.

The luggage is the boots I requested for Zenom, Ralpa, Bel, and Zulu before. Sorry, Angela. I don't have any for you. There were some sandals included as an extra but if the size doesn't fit you then I'll at least modify them with the repair kit for you. Ah, by the way, I wonder what I should do about the money for these boots. Well, I guess it's fine. Since I can earn a ton of money from the armor for the first knight group, I'll at least treat them this much. If I include the sandals then the sale price would reach 800,000 Z (80 silver coins) though.

I'll take the boots along with me when I go to have dinner with them. Thinking that it was when I was about to pack the boots into my bag. I noticed that several of the boots were heavy. They had some straw packed into them so

they don't lose their shape but the heavy ones had some rubber bags on the soles. There's 20 bags. If I were to include it with the boots then it's 1,000,000 Z (1 gold coin). However, they're inside of Ralph and Bel's boots. If I had handed them over without realizing it would have been a disaster. There was a letter from brother along with the boots.

"Al, it seems that you promoted us to a brothel in Keel. The store I told you about was good right? Thanks to you we received a lot of orders. Thanks. Since I think it's about time you run out so I included some Saya. Since you're a member of a Viscount family as well don't impregnate a strange girl. Since it's you I'm sure you're taking proper care on that end so I can relax though. Don't worry about the village. Due to the unexpected orders of the Saya we were able to buy more cows again. It's been a big help. Take care of your health and give it your best. Farnestan."

I couldn't help but feel the tears go down my cheeks from the letter filled with brother's love.

Around today the orders and lots of advance payment from the armor of the first knight group should be arriving, as well as my letter requesting for more Saya. Since the first knight group should have been delivering it up to Viscount Penlaid's territory which is right before Marquis Webdos territory, and after that they should tell the caravan they give it to take good care of it, it should have shortened the time it takes by quite a bit. I'm sure they already know about the fact that I made a company as well.

.....

When it was dinner time and she saw me enter the restaurant carrying boots and sandals Bel raised a cheer with how happy she was. I gave the apologetic Zulu and Angela their boots and sandals and had them put them on right away. There was no problem with Angela's size.

I'm glad they were happy. When each of them was about to pay I interrupted, "It's a gift from my family so the money is fine." and understood with that. I told the boots group to buy some socks at least but socks are considerably expensive after all. Since boots themselves are a luxury product. Well, I guess that much can't be helped. Even if I say expensive it's about 1,000 Z per foot for

socks. I'm sure even Zulu could buy some.

Incidentally, it seems that Bel and Ralpa re changing inns starting tonight. It seems that staying in an inn with no shower is difficult after all. I'm amazed they made it through this summer with no shower. I was even going to the point of buying several large barrels and making ice in those in my room. I used wind magic and the void magic Continuation in combination to make a cool wind circle the room. Even if I didn't have the air circling around it felt 5–6 degrees lower.

Even if it's an expensive shower at 100 Z but it's still much better having it than not having it. And it's got quite a few services other than just laundry, cleaning the room, and taking care of horses. It's big that you can relax leaving your wallet in the room as well. I'm sure it's learning about life for them to regret their past foolishness after understanding the pleasures of an expensive inn. Oh Young'ens, give it your best.

Furthermore, since it's only obvious that Zenom is in the same room as Ralpa, Zenom is moving as well. Well, when they're getting a base pay of 200,000 Z each and it costs 150,000 Z per month for the high-quality inn at 5,000 Z per night, it's understandable that it's difficult to justify so that's why I ignored it. However, I'm sure they're confident now that they'll gain quite a bit in bonuses beyond just their base pay now.

Last night, when I was calculating the income and expenses I had kept record of until now and the average amount of bonus I was giving per person was 17,870 Z every day we enter the dungeon. For the period from the start of June until near the end of September, roughly though, I've been giving them close to 350,000 Z — 360,000 Z in bonuses every month for those four months. I don't know if they were waiting to see for a bit and realized that with this things will work out, but I'm glad as well that the level of lifestyle for my subordinates is going up as well.

If I think about the expenses then it might be better to think of buying a house but in that case we would get dragged around by the miscellaneous matters of living. Like cleaning, laundry, meals, it's fine if I just buy another slave but I don't feel like I can buy the peace of mind of leaving my assets and the care of my horse at home when I'm gone. In the first place, if the amount of

money I had set as my goal was a small amount like 100,000,000 Z then it wouldn't be a bad idea to think like that in terms of reducing expenses but unfortunately the amount of money I'm hoping to earn is more than 100 times higher than that. And I'm sure that I won't be able to fulfill my dream if I can't at least make that amount by my 20s or at latest by the time I reach my 30s.

There's no point in being stingy on small expenses. In any case we need to quickly aim for the lower floors, and set the objective on obtaining a rare magic item then selling that for a lot of money. I need to make preparations for that sake.

After eating, when they had finished moving over the little bit of belongings they had I told Zenom and the others about our goal for this month.

"During the last week of this month we'll clear through the 2nd floor and aim for the 3rd floor. In the four weeks until then, I've said it a bit before but we'll focus on raising the body levels of everyone. Since I'm sure we've already gained quite a bit of combat experience from fighting on the 1st and 2nd floors, in order to raise everyone's combat potential we need to focus on earning experience points and raising the body level individually."

After I said that and Zenom opened his mouth.

"Yeah, that's a good idea. In our case, since your combat potential is heads above us, honestly speaking, it's difficult because we're just holding you down. However, I've heard that the largest number of adventurers die on the 2nd and 3rd floors. I'm sure it's no good to let our guards down."

After hearing that I,

"That's certainly true. It's just as Zenom said. Unless it's a considerably dangerous boss of a room, I think fundamentally everyone can fight plenty on the 2nd floor without me. The level of Ralpa's voice magic finally went up and Bel hasn't learned just void magic but two types of elemental magic as well so even if one of us gets injured it should be a bit easier. However, I'm sure what I just said is the type of thing that leads to letting your guard down like Zenom mentioned. I'm sure other adventurers let their guards down after finally passing through the 1st floor the moment they enter the depths of the 2nd

floor. We need to make sure we're just as careful as always."

Ralpha and Bel were listening quietly but it seems that based on their expressions they've gotten motivated.

Starting tomorrow we'll aim to level up everyone. It's necessary to create a plan on how to earn experience points in the most efficient way possible. I had been investigating the rules on how experience points are earned for the sake of today.

In order to convince Angela, either way we would have needed to clear the 2nd floor and aim for an even lower floor some day. It's not really all that related to Angela though. Isn't it fine, it adds to increasing my motivation after all.

Chapter 91: Qualifications

Year 7442, Month 10, Day 2

Starting from today until the end of the month we need to earn some experience points in order to level up my subordinates. In order to efficiently earn experience points we should go around as many rooms as possible so we repeatedly entered and left the dungeon. If possible I'd like a place that passes by over 10 rooms until the 2nd floor but it can't be helped taking time here. We just have to endure where appropriate.

Just what has been confirmed there's over 400 locations you can teleport into on the 1st floor from the entrance of the dungeon. And there's only one place in the center of the dungeon where a teleport crystal capable of teleporting to the 2nd floor is located. Of the over 400 teleport locations not even half of them make it to the location you can teleport to the 2nd floor from. At the very least if we can't make it to the 2nd floor then our efficiency rate at earning experience points will drop a bit so as long as it's connected to teleport point for the 2nd floor it doesn't matter where we end up.

We luckily (?) were able to teleport to a location which has to pass 8 rooms before reaching the teleport crystal to the 2nd floor. Other than slimes my subordinates can directly do damage so let's start from here. The same as usual Zenom is holding the pole and hitting the ground as we start advancing. Along the way we ran into a group of 6 hobgoblins. Since we realized them first, I told everyone sorry for the wait and went ahead. Thinking that I was alone, they let their guards down in thinking they should attack me, I froze the lower bodies of the hobgobs (adding lin is a pain~), and after that I called my subordinates and let them kill one hobgob each as they screamed in fear. I let Ralpha kill the remainder.

Zulu and Angela had a bit of resistance against killing an opponent who can't move their lower body and can't counterattack at all so they looked at me with

slightly critical expressions but I put power into my eyes and said “kill them”, and they honestly obeyed. Zenom, Ralpa, and Bel indifferently killed their targets but I’m sure this is because I explained it ahead of time. Ah, thank goodness the boots and sandals arrived. I’m sure it would have been painful to walk on the ice without shoes after all.

Putting that aside, hobgobs are monsters that are shaped like people and have their own thinking process and will. Just like before if they feel fear then they’ll scream out. I figured Zenom would be different but I thought it would be a bit heavy for the two women. Among the two of them when I tried asking the thick-skinned one about it and “It’s something that’s necessary for us to go on living. We talked about it a lot last night. Bel said that in order to meet up with her boyfriend she needs power as well. We’re alright...It would be a lie to say we’re okay with it but in the past I finished off a lot of goblins after Zenom had knocked them down so it’s not a problem. Just think about following up with Bel.” Sorry I referred to you as thick-skinned.

Bel was just like Ralpa said, “It can’t be helped after all. I want to become stronger and while monsters resemble people they’re not people, is what I’ve decided to think. If I were to die before meeting him then my life would be meaningless, so it’s fine.” She’s quite firm on it. The two slaves don’t matter at all. It’s fine as long as they move as I tell them. If they hate it then it’s fine if they quickly pay up and buy themselves back again. However, I wonder if they can escape from me?

However, without the Gift of Natural Talent and they aren’t gaining much experience points. Hobgobs are lined up with Orks as some of the most efficient monsters for experience points while exploring the dungeon but even then they’re only getting around 300 for each one they kill. Even when it comes to the room bosses they’re getting an average of around 2,000. While continuing with the combat almost as if it more than half just an operation, while gathering the magic stones we were able to arrive at the teleport crystal to the 2nd floor quite a while past noon.

Usually it’s about the time that we would turn back. However, it seems that we were able to earn quite a bit of experience points for the half-day from morning until past noon. They’ve earned an average of about 4,000 experience

points per person. If it's like this then putting aside Zenom, the other four should level up once between this week and next week I'm sure. I've told Ralpa to main strongly focused on the fact that she's using mana. In any case, the objective is to quickly get Ralpa's MP higher than 7.

The reason I'm letting Ralpa earn a bit more experience points is because of that. If Ralpa just had 7 MP then she would be able to use a special skill once every five minutes and if it's the most basic of void magic that only uses 1 MP then she would be able to level it up quicker. In reality it's to the point I'd like to enter the dungeon with just Ralpa on the days off and have her earn a large amount of experience points. But, I still don't feel in that much of a rush to order that far. I'm sure that in order to rest the body and mind the days off are necessary so I'm letting her do as she pleases for now.

I think it would be fine as long as she understands a bit at a time. It's simple to push things on to her aggressively and if you look at the short-term then you can expect some effect to that end but she's not like a slave after all. The best method to earn experience points towards magic is to use magic to damage living creatures but since that involves danger it was too frightening to do. Let alone because when they first start learning magic it takes quite a bit of time of concentrating in order to complete the magic.

Normally you can earn the most with magic when you're trying to do some kind of operation. Even if you just use attack spells or elemental magic you can earn some experience but that amount is less than a decimal point so rather than earning experience it has more meaning in practicing using specific spells. On that end, working with rubber is close to the ideal method of earning experience with magic. Even then it's a matter of whether or not you'll earn 1 point though.

It's almost entirely something like a measurement error but the efficiency is several times higher. Depending on things go it could even change up to 10 times. I think that this difference in the amount of experience points acquired is whether or not you remain conscious of a suitable objective when you use the magic. Normally in the case of the people of Orth, after they turn adults they start training and if they have aptitude with void magic or elemental magic then they'll be able to learn at least once magic special skill. Furthermore, until they

go from a state of having no magic special skill to having it, in other words until it becomes level 0 there's probably not concept of experience points for it.

The aptitude for whether or not you can use it is probably decided when you're born. I've already guessed that there's some difference in individual whether or not you can get a handle of the trick on learning it. There's some like Mary who even if they give it their best training and after three weeks or so they still can't use it, on the contrary, there's people like Kuro and us siblings who were able to use it within 1 day or a few days as well. It's just how I think of it but I feel like doing it while you're young is better. Also, the more MP you have the easier it is to learn it seems. Ralpa is different but I think that Bel proves that.

After that, they finally enter training of their magic special skill that's turned level 0 but if they just keep creating a spoonful of water without particularly being conscious of it and the people who are happy with just being able to use a slightly powerful Cantrip will probably take quite a while to reach level 1. If they're creating water then they should make sure to remain conscious of carefully giving that to the fields or if it's the Cantrip then use it to move a flame, it's necessary for them to remain conscious of their objective while they use the magic to do something. If they do that then magic should level up faster than just using it. And, after the elemental or void magic you've started training reaches level 2 you start training with a different elemental magic or void magic for the first time.

It seems that it's quite a bit easier to learn other magic if you have some kind of magic special skill from the start. I guess it's because you already understand the feeling of using magic. And then next you give it your best to get it to level 2 the same as the skill you learned first. By this point, your MP has already increased by 4 compared to when you weren't able to use magic. If they're already around adulthood then it's often the case that they'll have about 3–4 MP so it would mean they have a total of 7 or 8 MP. The training from there should become much easier.

After all as long as MP is over 6 then it recovers at a rate of 1 per 5 minutes. The trick to leveling up from there is to make sure you don't try to get arrogant use void magic or elemental magics in combination with each other at level 2 or

level 0. It's best to use the same magic at level 0 or 1 where it only consumes 1 MP per usage. From here you can explosively earn experience points. After one of the two magic special skills you learn reaches level 3 you can finally start training with the third special skill.

It's around here that the individual differences in people who can use magic start to appear. There's people who can learn their third special skill and people who can't learn it as well. If they can learn it then they should start aiming for level 2 with that skill as well. If they can't learn it then it can't be helped so they have no choice other than to keep trying to level up the skills they already have. The training with combining them is after that.

I noticed this method when I was still in Bakuddo training the younger squires in magic for the sake of producing rubber. It's probably the most efficient method for a normal person to train with magic. Though in reality it's best to start training around 5 years old like sister did. Since that can't be done after I realized this method I use persuasive words to guide them when I was supervising the rubber production. In the first place, I was able to realize that there was a difference in the growth because those were in charge of the rubber had a clear objective in mind when they were using magic compared with the other squires and serfs who were just randomly using magic.

Just as I was thinking that the way to train with magic was to use it up close to the point of running out on a daily basis was normal, I brought this sort of method in as an excuse in to focus on the magic. From a glance it might just seem like a small difference but when it accumulates it's huge. I'm sure that people who can't use Identify wouldn't notice it. It might be possible for them to notice but I'm sure they wouldn't be able to prove it and since I'm sure there's few samples they probably wouldn't notice it. Even I was only able to confirm it after I passed 10 years old. In the first place, as long as you can increase your MP when you're a child then it's actually a method which doesn't have much meaning.

Up until you turn 10 years older rather than something like leveling up your special skill you should just focus on exhausting MP to increase it and after that the efficiency of making use of that excessive amount of MP for training will make it seem idiotic to even compare them. Bel and Ralpa are proof of this.

After that is..I guess so. If you're consciously tired at night then if possibly it's best to use up all of your MP before going to sleep. If you're lucky then your MP might increase after all. This is a method that can't be made fun of when your MP is still low. Every night, if you continue it when you start to feel tired then it's possible you could earn about 3 MP per year. An increase of 1 MP is a lot when your total MP isn't even 10. Although, as expected I wasn't suggesting this method. About the only weirdo that would do it is older sister.

Well, in the worst case, if they become able to use some kind of attack magic then I think it's also possible for them to gain experience using it on me. I'm sure it would be painful but damaging a living thing is the most efficient method of earning experience. In any case as long as they don't hit a vital point I can recover from it right away. Though if it came to that then I wouldn't let them complain about using up one of their days off.

I haven't told anyone, even father or mother about this method to efficiently earn experience points towards magic.

.....

On this day it was already past noon when we arrived at the entrance of the 2nd floor so after eating lunch we tried going to the 2nd floor. After earning the experience from two rooms on the 2nd floor we decided to withdraw for today. We were able to gain some items and none of the room bosses were opponents we hadn't seen before so we were able to earn quite a bit of experience after I froze them all in ice. In the case of only slimes I burn them all to death so as a matter of fact I earned quite a bit of experience as well.

After that, we left the dungeon and disposed of the items we found and when we were about to head out for dinner I returned to leave my equipment in the inn and there was message for me. It was from her highness Queen Molail. I thought it would be about time but it came surprisingly fast. But, something like come tomorrow, so they're completely ignoring my circumstances. It's fine though you know. If I remember correctly it's been about a month since last time. So his majesty the King has kept it up at a pace of almost twice a day?

Since tomorrow is Wednesday and a day off, my magic training will get a bit behind but it's not too bad to occasionally travel to Rombertia. After running

and breaking a sweat, I went to sleep early.

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Year 7442, Month 10, Day 3

After eating breakfast, I became a person on a horse, and started heading towards the castle in Rombertia. It's only a distance of 10 Km or so and the road is well maintained so if you're alone it doesn't take much time at all. I guess I'll let gallop a bit occasionally..it feels good. Since I was in a good mood I bought some sugar at the harness shop and let my war horse lick it while burning time until 10 am.

After that, when I arrived at the castle before 10 and obviously I was stopped by the guards. After showing them the letter from the queen and it seems that they had already heard so they assigned a soldier to be my guide.

Since I was told to wait around the start of the second inner citadel, I just held onto the reins of my horse while restlessly looking around like a tourist. There's something like takes to tie up your house but I can't decide if it's okay to tie it up there all on my own.

"Oh~ Greed. It's great of you to come. Now then, just tie up your horse to any of the stakes. Come over here."

Molin came out and said that to me.

"If it isn't your highness Queen Molail. Thank you very much for invit" "That's enough for greetings. Now, come along."

It can't be helped so I quickly tied my horse up and followed after Molin.

It seems that they wanted to thank me for bringing in the rubber hygiene product and that's why I was called, or at least using that excuse but their true intentions are obvious. I'm sure they want to say hand over some more.

After being invited into a room in the second inner citadel and it wasn't just Molin but the other queens as well. I thought they were just going to ask me to sell some more since they ran out but I wonder what in the world this is about, and just as I was thinking that they each started thanking me. It seems that thanks to the condoms the queens were able to be satisfied with their night

lifestyle as well. Up until now there were fears that the concubines and legal wives that are the queens would get pregnant so he would embrace other women but as a result of that he ended up giving birth to illegitimate children. Since his majesty the King hated the feeling of using the pig's bowels he didn't bother with contraception and kept laying his hands on women but since then it's calmed down almost as if it was a lie and his wives the queens are satisfied as well.

"In any case, we're grateful to you. His majesty has stopped laying his hands all over the place and every night he's become satisfied with having one of the queens as a partner."

Molin said as a representative of everyone.

"I'm grateful to you. His majesty has finally paid attention to me again."

Yulu has her usual drooping eyes but even though she's in her late 30s her skin still has a gloss to it.

"I was relieved that his majesty has stopped laying his hands on other women."

Becky is in her mid-30s but just as her obedient looks suggest she has a gentle tone of speech. I wonder what was up with that appearance of getting bright red and screaming last time?

"I thought that I would never again be his majesty's partner..it's thanks to you."

Marin is a strong-willed person around her 30s but she's modestly offering me her thanks this time.

Although, I wonder if it's okay for some women past their 30s to lower their heads to a 14 year old brat in regards to their night life? Well, I'm sure there's no relation to age and offering your thanks to someone, and while I'm at the bottom I'm still a noble as well, so it might not be all that strange of a sight, but it makes me feel a bit embarrassed. Hmn, the fact that I'm getting embarrassed over something like this makes me question once again if my mental age is really 59?

Since I have the experience in and knowledge in life in my memories, I was

aware I had some amount of preparations ready for it. However, it might best to think that my sensitivity and logical thought process is being pulled back to close to the age of my body. I feel like I've heard that the thought processes of people growth the most in their late teens to around 30 years old though it depends on the individual. Of course I'm sure there's exceptions that exist for everything but I'm sure there's no point in taking exceptions into consideration.

I ended up thinking about it a bit but I'm sure it wasn't all that unnatural and just seemed like I was confused suddenly being thanked by the queens. I bow to my knee and take up the pose of a retainer and,

"What are you saying, your highness queens. Remember once again what you said yourselves. Didn't his majesty seek after your highness-es from the start? It's true that there's some fault with his majesty as well. However, the source of that is because his majesty was to your highness-es...it is my humble opinion that it occurred because his majesty was worried about not causing a burden on the bodies of your highness-es. I can feel the deep love and feelings his majesty feels for your highness-es. I wish to follow in the footsteps of his majesty and marry a woman that is beautiful and I can spend my entire life loving like your highness-es as well."

And respectfully stated.

"Oh~ Greed, you don't have any greed I see. Normally one would boast about their achievements here."

"That's true, Greed's younger brother has quite a bit of promise."

"Yeah, and to say something like that..I'll feel embarrassed."

"Really, saying just the words that we want to hear. You do. If you're interested in serving us then it's fine if Marinen becomes your patron."

Hmm, I'm glad they were delighted. That's the crystallization of older brother's improvements. It's true that I made the prototype but the improvement of the materials and the one who took the time to test out the fit and completed it was older brother. Somehow I feel happy that older brother's troubles were recognized by the royalty. In the first place I didn't do anything more than remember my knowledge from Earth. Salute to the first person who developed the condom!

“No of course not, I’m just a countryside brat who doesn’t know his manners. Something like serving you is impossible... It’s true that product was developed and produced by my family in Bakuddo village of Marquis Webdos territory but I did nothing more than introduce it through my company. All of the achievements are with the Greed family in Bakuddo, something like me..”

Saying that I lower my head. I guess Molin took notice of those feelings of mine.

“Oh~ I forgot that you were a company. We must pay the compensation. And we would like to continue making orders from here on out as well.”

She said that. Jumping at her words here is what I’m all about.

“No, my Greed Company is nothing but a Type-2 Three Variety company that can only sell equipment to the first knight group. Since it’s not a First Variety I can’t accept the payment for the goods just now. I can’t do business..”

I said it with a tragic expression.

“Come to think of it, you came to repair the water bed the other day as well. Did you receive payment for the repairs?”

Yulu said. Certainly she first called me a rubber artisan. It’s not mistaken though.

“No. Your highness, like I just said since I only have the Type-2 Three Variety license, I can’t do business beyond military goods.”

More, even more pity!

“Of all things..then isn’t that working for free..I’m very sorry about that. Since I’m sure the material used for the repairs is rubber it should be considerably expensive right?”

Becky said that. It seems that she’s an assistant of the King helping with office work so, accounting, or rather I’m sure she’s stuck her head in the financial affairs of the country.

“Please don’t mind it, your highness. It’s fine if I make up that portion by putting my life on the line in the dungeon of Baldukk.”

One more push!

“Such a thing..I’ve heard that the loss ratio is close to 10% for adventurers who enter the dungeon in Baldukk..Isn’t it dangerous?”

Marin said that. Come to think of it, it seems this person used to be in a knight group. If I remember correctly she was called Fire Ball {Cannon Ball} and originated from Count Farelgaz family...

“I’m the second son with no inheritance so it’s fine if I act as an adventurer..it was even difficult to wear two pairs of sandals*..”

That’s right, pity me even more.

“Your highness Molail, this persons older sister is in the first knight group and has quite a few expectations placed on her. I think with just that he can be trusted..”

After Yulu said that she looked at Molin.

“That’s right. I know his older sister as well but she diligently puts effort into her training and is standing heads above the rest. If it’s her younger brother then wouldn’t it be fine to give him a reward here?”

Marin said that. So this person knew older sister as well? However, for sister to be diligent...

“..I see, then, I’m sure that the license will be necessary from now on so I’ll act as the mediator for it. We’ll properly pay the compensation including last time as well.”

Molin said that. Alright. I saved 5,000,000 Z. Honestly speaking the payment doesn’t matter at all. But...

“However, if it’s just that then it only covers the repair costs and the payment for the rubber. Ah, I’m sure there’s the license as well but shouldn’t we offer something like a reward for it be more convenient for us as well from here on out..”

Becky said that. Yo~ As expected of a bureaucrat of the financial affairs! It’s different though. Someone who can properly deal with bills is different! I’m sure that anyone would be able to calculate that much though. But since you can tell she’s calmly doing calculations my assessment is high! If it comes to the

royalty then even on Orth which is behind the Earth in culture they're still reliable.

"That's certainly true. How about it Greed. Do you have anything you want?"

Molin said while looking at me. I'll say it before they change their minds.

"Oh~ how kind of you. I'm very grateful. If I become a Type-2 First Variety then it's true that I'll be able to do business with you from here on out. I guess so..then, I'll say it without reservation. It's about that product but I would like to use the emblem of the royal family on the wrapping and list it as "product used by the royal family"..Since it will make it look even better when I sell it to other nobles..We boast the fact that this product is a ground-breaking replacement of pig's bowels. However, if it's just as it is right now then I'm worried that it would be difficult for people to trust it."

I went all out and said it. Normally someone would probably request for money, a letter commendation, or some new territory (I guess this is unreasonable) but I don't know what the nobles or rich merchants of the capital do. Then the four of them laughed all at once while saying.

"After all. I thought that would be the case. As a matter of fact the four of us discussed what to do about the reward since the other day. If you were to request money or a reward in goods here then your talent would be just that. Placing importance on it, you wouldn't be worthy of dealing directly with our royal family. We intended to call off the license as well. However, if it connects to something from now on then..it's proof of the words that you said last time. I was pleased that you didn't say a single word about your older sister in the knight group as well. If I'm correct, you'll obtain even more near the end of the year was it? We shall make orders of Greed Company as the royal family. In regards to using the emblem and being product used directly by the royal family I'll permit, use it as you please."

Wow, so I was being tested? I guess as expected while it was a useful product, if it comes to dealing directly with the royal family they have to assess the other party. If I hadn't caught their interest then it probably would have ended with them indirectly doing business through Webdos Company. Although, I didn't intend to be greed in regards to this case though I'm saved.

“It seems that Greed’s younger brother is considerably sharp unsuitable for his age. Or do you really think like that and just have no desires..it’s fine either way but if you can read ahead then you’re worthy of directly doing business with.”

“That’s right. If it’s someone who gives in to a temporary greed then we can’t do direct business with them.”

“Indeed. However, between that older sister, and this younger brother, what is going on with the Greed family..”

Ho~ thank god. The only thing I can do to show my gratitude is keep my head lowered, but it connected. However, while it was only for a short period that they had me dancing on their palms.

“Ha, I am very grateful for such good fortune. Now then do you still have any “Saya” remaining? Judging off his majesty’s situation then pretty soon..”

I need to show that I’m watching out for them a bit as well. Though even if I say that I’m just lucky that brother sent me some more and my achievement is close to zero. Maybe about bringing them along without forgetting them?

“I thought we wouldn’t be able to acquire them until the end of the year but do you have any!?”

“How many!?”

“Se..sell them all to us!”

“After all it was the correct decision to call him right? I thought he a man who paid attention!”

As expected.

“Until the end of the year roughly 90 days, I have 20 bags, 200 of them. I thought for sure you were bothered about them so I sent a fast horse.”

It’s a complete lie though. However, as expected from women past their 30s, they..have considerably strong desires it seems. Whether it be fruit, meat, or women it’s best when it’s matured and just before it goes rotten.

.....

I sold the condoms for 13,000 per bag. I decided on that much taking into consideration the transportation costs and my margin. I haven't a particular intention on profiting from this from the start. It's more expensive than Keel but it's no good if I don't make it a price that can be bought with a decent income. After I return I need to write another letter. I need to get them to bring some when they deliver the armor at the end of the year.

Ah, I forgot to say it but the emblem of the royal family is a crow with three legs inside of a circle. It's a popular design that even high ranking nobles use but the only ones that can use it simply with no decorations is just the Duke Rombert family. It's almost like a family of mercenaries from somewhere. The Greed family emblem is three horizontal lines like the kana for three inside of a circle. If I were to say it Japanese-style then it's like the Marunouchi Mitsuhikiryō. Eh? That doesn't matter at all? Don't say such harsh things.

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Just a note on some more Japanese. It's 100% unnecessary to read the below block of eye-bleeding text.

In regards to dungeon, I think when it comes to this series maze or labyrinth would have been a better fit but when I think of a place where monsters spawn with teleports I can't help but imagine dungeon, so I ended up going with that on my personal preference. It's easier to type as well. The reason is basically the same but in regards to AI's Identify AKA Kantei, many people are probably familiar with Kumoko's Appraisal-sama, they are one and the same!?! Since I was a Diablo player when I think of examine based skills, I can't help but think back to Cain and scrolls of identify so I prefer that. There's also some others like using teleport over phase shift or other stuff that makes no sense to me. And there's also tenpin no sai, AKA Gift of Natural Talent, it sounds repetitive like that but it really is, sai AKA the word everyone already knows for gift/talent, and tenpin is basically the same characters with natural/inherent/inborn added into the mix. Anyways, just a pointless note on the wording I use out of my own preference, feel free to convert it in your how however you see fit. Oh, and the normal characters for that dark elves unique ability is written really weird as well, it sounds like Partition but it's written more like Party-ization, I ended up just using the translated version for that one Unit Organization instead of the

kana/ruby.

Chapter 92: Black Topaz 1

Year 7442, Month 10, Day 4

Today, Ralpa and Angela's level increased and they each became levels 8 and 7.

Thanks to the level up this time and the level up of void magic Ralpa's MP has increased to 5. Just a bit more to 7.

Since Angela has increases due to age along with the increases from level up her HP and MP increased a bit as well. Though there's not much meaning to it since she can't use magic. Well, the valid range of "Super Sense of Smell" increases with level up so I'm honestly happy about that. Since it's got a range of about 20 m per level it would be fine to say she's the longest range radar in the party. But, inside of the dungeon even if you can smell something in the end since there's only one direction you only really know that there's something giving off a smell ahead of you. There's no way to differentiate between the rotting corpse of a monster and a Scavenger Crawler.

Other than Dexterity it was the same as Ralpa so it's easy to make comparisons with the Dexterity ability points. It's just my thinking on it but maybe dexterity is quite literally referring to how skillfully you can use a weapon. Though I don't know how to verify being skillful with your hands so it doesn't matter. Picking up beans with chopsticks and putting them on a plate or something, feels meaningless.

Ralpa's weapon is a hand-axe. In comparison Angela uses a broad sword. It might just be my imagination but I feel like Ralpa's chance of hitting opponents that are moving is higher. If you were to just use it as a daily necessity then using the hand-axe is simpler but when it comes to using it in combat then it suddenly changes. More than something like a broad sword if you can't skillfully use a hand-axe then you wouldn't be able to land any hits and no matter how I think of it defending use a hand-axe seems more difficult.

I'm sure she's had it pounded into her head by Zenom since she was young so it's in part being familiar with it but it's true I feel like Ralpa is more dexterous in making use of her weapon.

Furthermore, right before they were about to level I said to them "make sure you always keep your senses sharpened". However, I guess because they were too common of words, it doesn't seem like they were able to feel the instant their levels increased, they didn't seem to react the moment before or after it happened. After all I guess it's normal not to realize~ Even I don't realize unless I think, I'll level up after killing this enemy, while focusing on it. Well, I guess this can't be helped, it's not like the result changes even if they notice it.

In any case, Ralpa's MP finally increased on level up. It's a great single step forward. I'm sure the effects of her training will increase a bit as well. After this we earned a bit more for today and then left.

.....

Year 7442, Month 10, Day 5

Today Bel's level increase and she became level 7.

The effects of training her magic are appearing favorably. Still it's amazing when their MP is high from the start~ But, it seems that she didn't have aptitude for using wind magic. The same type as sister huh? Since the range on her "Super Sense of Hearing" increases with level up as well she's a radar of the party along with Angela. This one is 10 m per 1 level. Though you know the details better than Angela's "Super Sense of Smell". Whether they're walking on two legs, dragging themselves along, or have multiple likes like an insect, as long as she focuses for a period of time she can figure out the identity of most monsters from their footsteps. It's obviously useless if they aren't moving though. But, in my case I have to have things enter my sight so I'm useless when it comes to monsters that are around a corner or somewhere I can't see, so it's big that we can notice monsters that are outside of normal field of sight.

.....

Year 7442, Month 10, Day 7

Today Zulu turned level 8.

I have him lined up with Zenom as the front-line attacker and charging in like a certain assault commander. Through leveling up he's become even more able-bodied and powerful. It seems that he can see much better than my Identify with "Night Vision" as long as it's in his valid range. Everything in his field of sight feels brighter and even when there's just a bit of light it seems that amplified and reflected in his eyes. It's short at 5 m per 1 level but effective. It differs from Zenom's Infrared Vision in that he can't see at all if there's no visible light. Infrared vision can only see 3 m per 1 level after all.

He hasn't used "Instant Speed" up until now so I don't really know how it works. I'm sure it's something you use in a pinch. Since after he uses once he can't use it again for several hours it's unnatural to have him use it just for inspection in a dungeon where you never know what will happen. I guess I'll have him try using it when we're doing formation training next time. If it's now then his strength and speed should increase for 8 seconds.

.....

Year 7442, Month 10, Day 25

Since we started vigorously earning experience points from the start of this month excluding Zenom everyone's levels have increased by 1 more each. On the other hand, I haven't earned much experience at all. Since I decided to train my attack spells on my days off, it's something that I was prepared for so it's fine though. Our levels are, I'm at 13, Zenom is 16, Ralpa a 9 that's close to 10, Bel is 8, Zulu is 9, Angela is 8. It seems that there was a bit of an obvious tendency to put priority on Ralpa but it can't be helped.

Since it would be bad if my skills got dull we ignored the efficiency of earning experience points and wandered around fighting things on the 1st floor without using magic while ignoring the boss rooms. Since I leveled up several times in a short period, I think I'm at least self-conscious of it but even if no one says anything about it I was just disappointed. However, it seems that even without saying it everyone had some thoughts on it. Angela and Zulu occasionally look at me staring at the hand I'm holding my weapon with with a strange face after killing a monster as well.

Now then, we're going to start aiming for the 3rd floor today. We all confirm

our equipment the same usual in the entrance plaza. Weapons, good. Equipment, good. Map, good. Preserved food, good. Everything is good. I simply announce our plans for today. In order to avoid wasting as much time as possible I'll use spells on the 1st and 2nd floors. If it's possible I'll consider freezing them in order to earn some experience. And then, somehow we'll aim for the 3rd floor. Even the most precise map of the 2nd floor probably only has about 70% of the whole illustrated. We've come along trying to fill in as much of the empty spaces as we can but even then we've only been able to fill in a small portion.

If we're going to have to make round trips to the 4th floor, 5th floor, 6th floor, and on after this when it's best to fill in as much of the blank space as possible. The people from the top teams are probably doing that as well. After we all grabbed on to the teleport crystal rod and before I chanted the incantation for teleporting this time we all checked our equipment once more. There's no problem, then, let's go "Daguto!"

We cut through the 1st floor using my magic. There were four rooms but I don't know if it was because someone else passed through before us but there was no boss in it. Next time, maybe I'll try holding out until the boss of the room revives. I'm interested in what kind of interval there is between when they revive or how they revive. Is there a difference in the intervals between monsters or such, I'm sure there's a lot to investigate on that end.

We arrived in the area of the teleport room to the 2nd floor. It seems that there's another party ahead of us. Bel says she can hear voices talking. Going off of Bel's level the valid distance she can hear with her special skill "Super Sense of Hearing" is 80 m. This is just my guess but if there's even a small sound of 1 phon in this range then her ears can pick up on it when she's using the skill. In comparison, even my ears would be able to pick up a sound of 1 phon if it's near my ears. But, since sounds are conveyed through vibrations in the air, if there's distance between the source of the sound then it gradually gets dampened. If I'm even a bit far away then if it's a sound of 1 phon it probably won't reach my ears. Though I don't know for sure if it really isn't reaching. Well, the number is just an example so just ignore it.

Supposing that a sound of 100 phon is dampened by 1 phon each per meter it passes. Though there's no way it would reduce like a straight line graph through air resistance but for now let's think like that. In that case I would be able to hear a 100 phon sound from 100 meters ahead. In comparison in Bel's case, she can hear a 1 phon sound 80 meters ahead so for those 80 meters her audible range is wider than me. I'm sure it's more complicated but it's easier to think of it like that.

In the case this time, Bel said she can hear voices talking. It's hard to imagine that they're talking with the same volume inside of the dungeon as they would outside. She can probably hear the voices of talking inside the party during their break because they're about 5 m away. If they were more than 10 m away then she probably wouldn't be able to hear them. They should be talking at a volume around there. In other words, what I want to say is just that the source of most sounds picked up by Bel's special skill often come from outside of the valid range of "Super Sense of Sound".

Well I'll put aside observations on Bel's passive sonar which are normally drooping down and stand on edge when using her skill for now. It seems that she can't pick up on the details of the conversation without getting closer so we need to start approaching them. It's most likely some other adventurers so I don't think it will turn into a conflict so easily but there's no harm in being cautious. I want to at least get a grasp on the number...8 people huh? Bel said that she can hear them laughing.

Well, I'm sure it's fine. After we approached to the side of the small room as expected even my ears could hear them. It seems that several people are talking. They should already be able to hear the sounds we're making. I wonder if they're not on guard? Or are they fools letting their guard down? I don't remember when it was but when the {Verdure Brotherhood} was in the opposite position as we are now and approached us we were considerably high strung while on guard.

After entering the room and it was where 8 men and women were surrounding a lightning magic tool making camp. Camp? Inside of the dungeon? It's true there are people who explore for several days to a week or so. It seems it's normal for the top teams to spend more than a week getting to the 5th floor

and a back. That part I saw once upon a time with slaves with the elf named Rozwela or whatever had been exploring three days as well so I guess camping out is normal. Even I thought we would have to do so eventually. But, it's still the morning on the 1st floor?

“Hey~ My name is Alan Greed. I'm the leader of this party. I'm sorry to ask even though we entered after you but is it alright if we teleport to the 2nd floor first?”

I tried imitating Roberto Vilhaima the leader of the {Verdure Brotherhood} while saying it.

One of the members of their party stood up while replying.

“Yeah, feel free. My name is Leddo Anderson. I'm the leader of the party Black Topaz. Rather than that, you said you were Alan Greed right? That I would meet the {Slaughterers} here...Hey, if you have time can we talk for a bit? We'll at least offer some tea.”

Yes? {Slaughterers}? We are? Are we called that violent sounding name? Why? And if you mention {Black Topaz} then aren't they one of the top teams?

Since I was called something outrageous I was confused for a moment but since it's a chance to talk with one of the top teams and I was a bit interested in why we were being called that so,

“Ha...It's fine. Let's take a small break.”

I said that and approached her.

Just as I was offered I took a seat surrounding the lightning magic tool and took the tea I was handed. Leddo Anderson. 29 years old. Viscount Anderson Family Third Daughter. Level 17. It seems she can use void magic to level 4 and other than that water and fire magic to levels 3 and 4. She has glossily polished brown leather armor and a breastplate stuck on, with a short cloth cape around her, and her deep pink color hair is gathered up into a ponytail.

“Thank you for the meal.”

I said that and put the tea to my mouth. It seems that it isn't water made with magic but properly boiled, a rich smell spreads out in my mouth. They must

have boiled it using a portable stove magic tool. I wonder if they're carrying water as well. They sure have some spare room.

"He's young."

"Yeah."

"Barely an adult?"

"With this, that many.."

I can hear the whispers of Anderson's other party members talking about me.

"Those are leaves produced in Reida. It's a good taste right?"

After Anderson said that she sipped the same tea as me. I wonder if it's expensive? It doesn't matter to me as I'm in the bean tea faction though.

"Ha~ it's delicious."

I wonder what I should start asking about.

"By the way, Greed-kun. Is this all of the {Slaughterers}? There was only six of you?"

Anderson peaks into my eyes while asking about it.

"Eh? Yes. This is my entire party, but that, what in the world is that {Slaughterers} name..."

"You guys have gotten famous recently. Supposedly you're always bringing back a lot of magic stones from the dungeon. It seems that you might even be rivaling the top teams in terms of the number? At first people would say it was just luck or that you were earning magic stones by following after someone else but since you're always bringing back a large number of magic stones every time, that line seems unlikely after all. Isn't it a number that doesn't seem possible unless you're killing every monster you encounter?"

Mu. So we were given the name for that reason? I didn't particularly intend on hiding it so it's fine though. If we become famous then it will become that much easier to gather subordinates after all.

"Ah, no..that's actually the case though..was something bad about that?"

After I said that and the members of Black Topaz got noisy.

“That was serious?”

“Are you saying they’re really killing that number?”

“That’s crazy..”

“No~ no matter how you look at it that’s a joke right?”

“That’s right, don’t they say they’re always returning by 2:00 or 3:00?”

“I heard that as well. No matter how you put it in that short amount of time..”

..I can’t do anything other than make a questionable face. Well I understand their feeling. It seems that Ralpa and the others are sitting in a circle a bit away from the members of Black Topaz listening. I need to do something before some idiot picks a fight~

“No, there’s nothing bad about it. Just, I’ll teach you something good. First, do you know about us?”

“Yes. If you mention Black Topaz then you’re famous as a one of the top five strongest teams.”

I said it like that flattering them but it seems that it’s only obvious to them so it was ignored.

“Well, I guess so..We entered the dungeon yesterday afternoon. Rather it was almost evening. We spent until past midnight getting to here. And, since the time was late we just setup camp like that and we arrive at the current time. How many magic stones do you think we obtained during that time?”

“No clue, around 30 I guess?”

I know it’s wrong but I tried saying it. By the way, the number of magic stones we obtained on the way here was 3 from room bosses, 6 from hobgoblins, 5 from orks, and 22 from gnolls along the way. Since the value of goblins magic stones are cheap and it’s a waste of time gathering them we just skipped over them but there were around 30 of those.

“It’s four. Two from room bosses. After that was two from opponents we had no choice other than to fight.”

I had somewhat imagined it but what in the world is that? Isn’t that way too few? Even the cheap magic stones from the room bosses sell for more than 50,000 Z (5 silver coins), so if you have two of those then you’re not in the red

but...I guess she noticed that I was making a vague expression after hearing that she asked me even further.

“How many did you guys earn coming up to here?”

Hey now, you’re going to ask that? Isn’t that something a robber would say? After I was remaining silent and,

“It’s not like we’re going to steal them. Well, if you don’t want to sa“It’s 36 of them.””

It can’t be helped so I obediently said it and after taking the leather bag filled with magic stones off my waist I piled them up in front of me. I wanted to try hearing the impression, or rather the sense of values of a top team after all.

“Eh..”

“3...”

“3...6?”

It seems that the members of Black Topaz were surprised as the number I stated. After Anderson heard that and,

“With just 6 of you and...just as the rumors say that’s amazing. But you know, I’ll teach you about it. The monsters on the 1st floor aren’t all that strong. If it’s the 1st floor monsters then even we could earn that many I’m sure. However, if you’re aiming for the 2nd floor, 3rd floor, and beyond you should avoid combat as much as possible. 36 of them is probably about the number we’ll have by the time we pass through the 4th floor. Only by saving our stamina to the very end like that can we finally reach the 5th floor. If it’s like that then I’m sure you guys will find it difficult on the 2nd and 3rd floors. Just from a glance it seems about half of your members are quite young as well so your mana probably doesn’t hold out that long right?”

It seems that she intends to offer some advice since I’m calling myself the leader of a recently famous party after finding out that I’m just brat smelling of piss.

“It’s true that only three people in my party can use magic. Though only one of them can properly use magic in combat. Just as you say it’s important to save

your mana.”

After I said that with a meek expression and Anderson said,

“That’s right. And you were just about to go to the 2nd floor now right? It’s normally to take a break in the small room with the teleport crystal and recover your stamina. In order to avoid exhausting your combat potential as much as possible you need to maintain your highest potential as you go to the lower floors. That’s why it’s ideal to avoid all the combat you can. About the only thing that you can’t avoid is the rooms. Fighting that is. I just asked but if you already know about us then the conversation is fast. Listen well? Even for us it took over 8 hours to clear through the 1st floor. And in order to make sure we’re in top condition we’re resting before we go to the 2nd floor.”

And said that while I was returning the magic stones to my bag one at a time.

Just as I thought. I had guessed it based on what Angela said before and it was the actual case from the information I’ve gathered these past few months. In other words, they try to go around groups of monsters as much as possible or hold their breath waiting for the monsters to go somewhere while avoiding combat. If it’s a room that they have no choice other than to pass through then they wait until the boss is at a distance where it can’t catch up and then run through all at once. And they aim for the treasures that you almost can’t find at all on the 1st and 2nd floors. In most cases, it seems that it’s gems or ores. The articles of decreased adventurers are nothing more than a byproduct and a bonus. It’s unknown how they get their hands on them but if they can just find a monster with a magic item equipped on it then it’s the same as getting their hands on several hundred million to billions of Z, so until they fight ignoring the danger until then. There’s roughly one party per year that gets that lucky and furthermore is able to return alive.

I return the magic stones to my bag while thinking a bit.

Putting it simply, adventurers who challenge the dungeon are the same as pillagers. Even if you ignore it monsters won’t come out of the dungeon. I’ve heard that there was never even a single case of it happening. Well, you can’t declare that it would definitely never happen from here on out but I’m sure there’s no need for me to think of it as a possibility. In that case I’m sure the

knight group would be their opponent after all. In any case, the reason why we go to the effort of entering such a dangerous place to enter the harmless dungeon is no other reason than to get our hands on some treasure. Wouldn't they normally call that a pillager? I doubt there's any kind of religious monsters that are holding on to gems or ores but just for the sake of gaining treasures we're killing monsters that aren't particularly doing any harm.

I'm sure there's no differences between Goblins, Orks, and Humans. If you were to say it then they're no different from non-humans. You can the conveying of wills to some extent among Goblins, they're just non-humans that have considerably lower thought process and levels of intelligence than the average human or non-human. It's no different than if we're forcefully pushing our way into the homes of the mentally weak who aren't normally of any harm to the outside and when they attack to repel the intruders we're killing them and stealing anything of value. And, in that case I guess since they're avoiding combat as much as possible they're still better compared to me? No, the only difference is the number we're killing and the things we're doing or the reason we're doing it should be the same.

"I see, that's true."

Anything more than this is pointless. The mana efficiency between them and me is different. I'll gratefully take their advice, but other than the advice it would be better to collect as much information as I can then aim for the next floor. I continue my words and,

"However, putting aside stamina when camping in the dungeon, aren't you unable to relax your nerves while remaining on guard?"

said that.

"Oh? Monsters won't approach within 100 m of the room the teleport crystal is located. Did you not know? That's why it's no problem as long as you have one person keeping watch."

What. So that was the case? I've started to feel embarrassed over how excessively we were on guard when the {Verdure Brotherhood} came. But, this is good information. If I can relax in peace inside of the dungeon then as long as I have plenty of food I can keep going as long as it lasts.

“Yes, I didn’t know. Thank you very much for the valuable information.”

I lowered my head to Anderson while saying that.

“It’s fine. I’m sure unless it was a person that’s made it to the 3rd or 4th floor they wouldn’t know about it after all. Since there’s always someone in the room with the teleport crystal to the 3rd and 4th floors, either way you’ll quickly find out about it if you proceed from here on out. Don’t worry about it.”

Anderson waves her hand while saying not to mind it. Since it seems that Angela never made it to the 3rd floor she must not have known. Ah, that’s right,

“By the way, previously when we went to the 2nd floor, but we’ve seen a strange pitfall is it alright if I ask you about it?”

I’ll try asking about this. I had completely forgotten about it recently.

“A strange pitfall?”

It seems that Anderson was interested in my words as well.

“Yeah. It was stretched from one end of the cave to the other, with a length of about 5 m a large pitfall that couldn’t be crossed over. The hole was covered by something like a transparent board and it was camouflages by dirt the same way as other pitfalls.”

“I’ve never heard about a pitfall like that..The only ones we know about the 5 m in diameter ones that are just about anywhere in the dungeon and ones that start to appear with sharp stakes buried in them around the 4th floor, after that there’s ones where the wall becomes a pitfall. If you lean on it then you fall inside.”

Hmn, I had thought there was a possibility that the types she’s mentioning existed but it seems that even the leader of one of the top teams doesn’t know about that pitfall.

“I see, we’ve only seen it that one time though as well.”

It’s unfortunate but it can’t be helped. I want to try asking about more small tips like before but if we keep moving forward I’m sure we’re find out naturally. I guess it would be best to leave it at this and proceed ahead.

“But, a pitfall that you can’t cross over huh..since not even this 1st floor has been completely explored..Even more so if it’s the 2nd floor then it might be an unconfirmed trap in an area that hasn’t been cleared yet.”

Well, I’m sure it’s something like that.

“I guess so, then, it’s about time for us to head to the 2nd floor. Thank you very much for teaching me about various things.”

After saying that I was about to stand up but Anderson grabbed on to my arm and made me sit down.

“Wait, what were you listening to until now? Take a proper rest before you go. You guys entered this morning right? It’s just past 9 right now. If you cleared through the 1st floor in around three hours then you must be exhausted right? Since you’ve gathered that many magic stones, you must have entered combat a number of times right?”

How troublesome. There’s almost no exhaustion at all but..Since I used level 5 or 6 ice to freeze the monsters as we advanced, I’ve only used about 100 MP getting up to here. Obviously no one is injured and there’s no problems with stamina as well.

“I’m really grateful for the advice. However, we have a bit of our own circumstances so we must hurry ahead. Also, we’ve used up almost stamina up to here so it’s no problem at all. The tea was delicious. Thank you very much. I’m praying for the luck of everyone in Black Topaz.”

After saying that I stood up and,

“Let’s go.”

headed towards the teleport crystal rod. Zenom and the others stood up as well.

“I see, then I won’t say anything more. But one final thing. Be careful of an ice monster. Recently, it’s extremely rare but there’s ice discovered on the 1st and 2nd floors. There’s something like the half-eaten remains of monsters corpses there as well. I haven’t heard a story of adventurers encountering it yet but it’s believed to be an ice monster that normally only appears on the 5th floor. If you

come across a 3 m white lizard then immediately run away. It will use an ice breath. In order to oppose it you need at least level 4 high-ranking fire magic. Don't overdo things."

He~ something like that exists? I turn around and politely thank her then grab the crystal rod.

"Rogutare!"

And teleported to the 2nd floor. No matter what we must reach the 3rd floor and fulfill my promise to Angela this week.

Author's Note: (I didn't feel like translating these so just writing the names and you can gaze at the current stats of Al's party members for the current chapter, the numbers don't need translation after all.)

【Ralpha/25/12/7429】

【女性/14/2/7428・普人族・ファイアフリード家長女】

【状態：良好】

【年齢：14歳】 Age

【レベル：9】 Level

【HP：102(102) MP：6(6)】

【筋力：14】 Str

【俊敏：19】 Spd

【器用：17】 Dex

【耐久：16】 End

【固有技能：空間把握Lv.1】

【特殊技能：無魔法Lv.1】

【経験：106225(110000)】 Exp

※ラルファは7レベルまでレベルアップ時のボーナスはMPに入らなかった代わりに能力値やHPがちょっと高いです。

【Bernadette/4/4/7429】

【女性/14/2/7428・兎人族・コーロイル準男爵家次女】

【状態：良好】

【年齢：14歳】

【レベル：8】

【HP：90(90) MP：73(73)】

【筋力:13】
【俊敏:19】
【器用:13】
【耐久:12】
【固有技能:射撃感覚(Max)】
【特殊技能:超聴覚】
【特殊技能:無魔法Lv2】
【特殊技能:地魔法Lv2】
【特殊技能:水魔法Lv1】
【特殊技能:火魔法Lv2】
【経験:66892(80000)】

※ベルは最初のレベルアップ時にアル同様にMPがそこそこ増えた設定です。種族の性質と相まって能力値はちょっと低いです。

【Zulu/3/6/7442 ダディノ・ズルー/20/7/7422】
【男性/24/5/7421・獅人族・グリード士爵家所有奴隷】
【状態:良好】
【年齢:21歳】
【レベル:9】
【HP:110(110) MP:5(5) 】
【筋力:18】
【俊敏:18】
【器用:11】
【耐久:17】
【特殊技能:小魔法】
【特殊技能:瞬発】
【特殊技能:夜目ナイトビジョン】
【経験:83024(110000)】

※白兵戦闘向きの種族なので素晴らしい能力値を誇っています。

【Angela/15/8/7442 マルソー・エンゲラ/12/8/7422】
【女性/14/9/7422・犬人族・グリード士爵家所有奴隷】
【状態:良好】
【年齢:21歳】
【レベル:8】
【HP:97(97) MP:5(5) 】

【筋力:13】

【俊敏:18】

【器用:10】

【耐久:16】

【特殊技能:小魔法】

【特殊技能:超嗅覚】

【経験:65011(80000)】

※普人族より総合的に少しいくらいです。

Chapter 93: Reaching 3rd Floor

Year 7442, Month 10, Day 25

Now, it's the 2nd floor. Since we were able to take a 30 minute or so break in the teleport room in the end it was just right.

"Al. That ice monster is referring to you right?"

"Al-san, isn't that ice monster you?"

"Master, isn't master that ice monster?"

"Al(abbreviated)"

Ah, after all? As a matter of fact I was thinking that might be the case as well.

"But, there's one on the 5th floor right? An ice lizard. It's big that we were able to get some information we don't know."

"Don't try to cover it up."

"He tried to cover it up."

"Yes, he did try to cover it up."

"He tried to(abbreviated)"

"What is it, it's not like I've particularly caused any trouble to anyone so isn't it fine. Also Ralpa, stop abbreviating it as you please."

Really, this girl...

"Now, rather than that it's the 2nd floor. Let's remain cautious as we go."

And, before that maybe I'll try asking Angela.

I wonder if she knew that the surroundings of the teleport crystal room were a safe area?

No, if I remember correctly she shouldn't have only made it to the 2nd floor.

There's probably a low possibility that she knew~

..I guess it's fine, I wouldn't like it if it seemed like I was criticizing her after all.

And Anderson said it as well but Black Topaz was just camping in the teleport

room of the 1st floor because they got there in the middle of the night. Even though we've gone to the 2nd floor countless times to far we've never met anyone camping in the teleport room of the 1st floor before. Most likely it's probably common sense for adventurers who've achieved above a certain level. We just haven't reached that level yet I'm sure.

"For the time being, let's confirm our current location."

We investigate what's beyond the symbol on the teleport crystal pedestal..62 huh? It's here.

We all put heads together and searched for number 62 on the map and found our current location.

It's necessary to pass through four rooms to get to the 3rd floor in the shortest distance.

Well, that should be fine.

After I nodded and Zenom started advancing while hitting the floor with the pole. Immediately Zulu lined up by his side, Angela is behind Zenom, and Ralpa is behind Zulu. Bel and I are remaining cautious of the rear at the end.

1 Green Gargantuan Leech, 24 Red Slimes, 2 Owlbears, we crushed the room bosses one after another while collecting the magic stones. There's still one roughly one person talking about the ice monster but it's not like it's particularly troubling anyone so it doesn't matter at all...We should be pretty close to the final room soon. While relying on Bel's hearing we slowly move forward. According to Bel it seems that there's several creatures-like things that have multiple legs. Angela says she smells the scent of a beast different from Orks and Goblins as well.

If we turn right at that corner and the large room should be right away. First we need to confirm the appearance of the enemy.

After I told everyone not to move, I quietly put my head out from the wall peaking into the room.

It's there.

It's something with long hair and two curved horns sticking from the sides of it's

head almost like a MuskoX.

When I tried Identifying it and it seems it's called Roze.

There's..6 in all huh?

Their level isn't particularly amazing and they don't seem to have any sort of special skill either.

After opening the sub-window and it seems that they're a monster that doesn't like light and prefers to live in caves.

They'll probably charge in and attack with those horns.

Now then, I wonder what we should do.

If there was even less of them then it would have been fine to let my subordinates fight.

But there's 6 of them after all~

And if they're just as they look like MuskoX then you should be able to gather perfume from the males but the fur itself should be worth even more than that.

If just as the name says they're cows then the meat should be edible as well.

Or rather if you could make them into livestock wouldn't you make some insane profits?

One cow is even worth 6,000,000 — 8,000,000 Z (6–8 gold coins).

I somehow want to try and capture them.

..Impossible huh?

There's no way a cow could hold on to the teleport crystal rod.

However, even just the leather you can obtain from a MuskoX should be worth a fortune.

Or to be more exact the fur.

Different from Bakuddo, since it seems that the winters in Baldukk get considerably cold so I think it can sell for a good price.

In my past life I once gave Miki a stupidly luxurious muffler made of 56% qiviut material made from the fur of a MuskoX for her birthday present but it cost close to 300,000 yen.

Even in the worst case it can't be sold for a high price on Orth then it's soft and warm so I'm sure we could make some town-use gloves and mufflers for Bel and Ralpa as well.

If it comes to that then you guys pay for the cost of spinning and sewing it.

Ah, since these two are young they might not know about qiviut.

What a waste~

Well, it's not guaranteed that Roze are Muskoxen though.

Since that's been decided I need to kill them without damaging their bodies as much as possible.

I guess I'll go with freezing their lower bodies, or rather legs?

I made it so the Roze couldn't move after freezing 50 cm of the ground in the room and said to kill them by just hitting them in the head while showing an example.

After this I'll remove the ice with magic again and then we'll peel off the leather. I'm sure it'll take a tremendous amount of time but it can't be helped. It took us about 1 hour per with three people doing the job to peel off the leathers. We're covered in blood and stink but it can't be helped.

After we finished removing the leather and took the magic stones I tried cutting a fillet like portion of the inner pelvis meat and identified it, it came up as "Tenderloin of Roze".

Since it seems to be harmless I tried cooking it with fire magic.

Since I don't have any salt or pepper I did feel it was a bit strange but after cooking it and it let off a good smell.

This is bad, I shouldn't have cooked it so casually.

It would suck if other monsters were drawn by this smell.

Ralpa is looking over here like she wants it.

I guess it's better than the monsters learned by the smell?

After asking if she wants a bite, and she delightfully started biting into it.

Hey, I said a bite!?

Stop eating all of it!

However, even without any salt or seasonings, and even more so not letting it mature and it still is pretty good.

Then I guess we should bring it all with us. We can get a 2kg or so fillet from each one of them. The stomach meat that's like ribs is...well I guess it's fine.

Zulu was just staring at the bowel like innards. Does he want to eat the internal

organs as expected from the cat family? But there should be shit inside of that. You should stop.

When I thought that I far I realized..huh?

Come to think of it, what do the monsters inside of the dungeon eat?

The corpses of other monsters?

However, the Roze should be herbivorous, or rather it seems that they're eating moss so it should be fine, but what in the world are Orks and Hobgoblins eating?

Cannibalism?

Do they last with just that?

What about reproduction?

I've never seen something like a baby ork or goblin in the dungeon...

There's countless areas in the 1st and 2nd floors which aren't connected to anywhere as well..

What in the world?

I might need to seriously spend some time in a room on the 1st floor to investigate this. It's fine for now though.

After tying up the leathers we peeled off and having Zulu and Angela hold them and,

"There shouldn't be any rooms up until the teleport room to the 3rd floor beyond here. Let's go that far and then take a rest. There shouldn't even be another 1km."

After saying that I took the pole from Zenom and after standing at the lead I proceeded while hitting the floor.

.....

Along the way a group of 12 gnolls only appeared once but without even using magic we swepted them away and after gathering the magic stones continued ahead.

We should arrive at the teleport room to the 3rd floor soon.

Bel is saying she hears the talking voices of a number of people.

Before long we heard them as well.

In the small room (just compared to the rooms which boss monsters are using as a nest) of about 30 m in every direction where the teleport crystal is there were a total of about 40 adventurers resting.

The time should be about 7 in the afternoon.

Since we came afterwards we put on a sociable smile while taking a seat along an open wall to rest for a moment. Angela and Zulu stood out because of the leathers they were carrying but it can't be helped.

I wonder if there's a different top team other than Black Topaz in here? Since I was interested I tried using Identify on a few people of each group that appeared to be the leaders but most of their levels were at best the same as mine. There probably aren't any.

I put hot water into my flask and after putting some dried meat with a lot of pepper on it in, it turned into instant soup.

We all drank the soup while taking a break for about an hour.

After that we confirmed our equipment to make sure there was nothing unusual. We weren't able to find any problems.

Then, for the time being, let's take a look at the 3rd floor for today and then head back?

After I said that everyone stood up and approached the teleport crystal rod. While being watched by the resting adventurers we teleported to the 3rd floor.

.....

Just as I had heard the 3rd floor was completely different from the 1st and 2nd floors we've explored until now.

I can't see any large difference in the teleport crystal rod or the pedestal it's on but the floor, walls, and ceiling have all changed to what's clearly artificially made stone.

Just, I don't know if it's just here but it all seems to be lightly giving off light.

If you pay attention as you look then you'll notice it but the light is strongest extending out around where each person is standing. From there the brightness of light gradually fades until it gets to 30–40 m ahead where it has dropped to the point of being unable to see. I'm sure if you enter the room then the floor and ceiling where you're standing start to give off the brightest light. If you start

to approach the wall then the light gives off more light as well.

It seems we teleported into the center of a wall passage with a width of around 10 m.

I had already heard about it and knew of it as information, but everyone is strangely touching the white walls.

The surface of the stone has been smoothed out almost like the surface of stone walls on a Japanese castle.

Since the floor is the same if you were to fall over or be sent flying by a monster you might seriously hurt yourself.

All of the members other than me who aren't using lower body armor might have to prepare themselves for a lot of scrapes and bruises. Since they're wearing pants it's not guaranteed but even then I'm sure it'll hurt quite a bit. We need to be careful about it.

After looking around the passage and since it didn't seem like we would suddenly be attacked I opened my mouth.

"Now then, Angela, we've come to the 3rd floor within two months of buying the 2nd floor map. Without losing a single member. I said it before but let me hear your thoughts."

I make sure to be careful not to use a tone of voice like I'm criticizing her as I, huh? Putting aside my tone of voice aren't I still criticizing her? Well, I guess it's fine even if I am criticizing her though.

Although it's a bit pitiful to criticize her.

I guess it already doesn't matter.

"Even though I say that, I'm not particularly criticize you or trying to force you to say something. Since you're my slave, match your way of thinking and values with mine. That's your duty right? It's fine as long as you understand that."

I said it as kindly as possible.

After Angela heard the first thing I said her expression stiffened up a bit ut she relaxed after hearing my next line.

"Strangers are strangers, we are us. Just like you said time is more valuable than money. But, probably but, I think among the adventurers in Baldukk we

arrived at the 3rd floor considerably fast. In other words, we're already shortening our time compared to other parties. It seems they normally say that you finally make it the 3rd floor around 2–3 years after you've started exploring right?

It's true I'm not in possession of that much money right now but you understand that it's the same as if we bought the several years other parties end up spending right?

..Alright. I'll try asking your way of thinking from here on out as well. On those instances just honestly respond to me what you were thinking or feeling. Whenever my way of thinking and values are different I'll tell you. It's fine if you just match up with me on those occasions. I'm not saying you need to change all of your values and way of thinking from the start to match up with mine. It's fine with just the portion that I point out. You're my slave and not a puppet. Is that clear?"

After quietly listening to my long speech Angela remained quiet as she lowered her head to me.

It's not like I particularly paid money because I was in a hurry though.

It's pretty unrelated to why I have not much money.

Ah, I guess if you think of it as being because I bought the maps with teleport locations and just that cost a fortune on its own, though the efficiency in clearing the 2nd floor is completely different thanks to that so I guess it's not incorrect to say I bought time with money huh?

"Then, since it's about a good time, let's head back and get something to eat? Today let's eat some of the beef from just now."

I said that cheerfully to try and shake off the weird atmosphere it had become while grabbing the crystal rod.

"The meat just now, was it good?"

Zenom asked Ralpa while grabbing the crystal rod. After all an old-man's wisdom is better than a tortoise shell*.

Thanks for that.

"Yeah, it was pretty good."

Ralpa grabbed the crystal rod while responding to that. I'm still reducing your portion for how much you ate.

"I haven't eaten beef before. I'm looking forward to it."

Zulu joined the conversation while grabbing the crystal rod. Eat a lot.

"Since you can't normally eat beef. I haven't eaten any either."

Bel says that as well while grabbing the crystal rod. I've never eaten it on Orth either. The cattle we bought at my house still haven't died after all. One of the horses my father owned was about to die right when it was time for me to leave the house, so as a matter of fact it was a regret of mine that I couldn't eat that.

"..Umm, I'm sorry about that..Because of m.."It's fine, you already understand right. Don't worry about it, now, let's go "Henruichi.""

We returned to the teleport room of the 2nd floor where we were just in. Even though we just went to the 3rd floor and came back right away but we weren't particularly given any strange looks. If you end up teleporting to an unexplored region that's not on the map, if there's far too many boss rooms to the teleport room, or in the first place if it's not even connected to the teleport room, then it's pretty common to go back to the last floor like this. Well, we're returning though.

After everyone grabbed the teleport crystal rod on the 2nd floor again and I used the exclusive chant in the center of it.

"Return us."

We were teleported again to the teleport crystal on the 1st floor. What was just a lively spectacle with several dozen people changed to something empty. When you return across floors your posture is the same as when you were holding the crystal rod and you're teleported to somewhere in the central room of the next floor up. Obviously, it's to a reasonably open area where there's no one else around. Since the direction of our bodies changed we confirm our surroundings and need to grab on the toe crystal rod in the center of the room once again.

It's said to be that way out of consideration so people don't get teleported overlapping with another group that is preparing to teleport to the next floor. I don't know if that's true or not though.

..I guess Black Topaz is already gone.

And once more.

"Return us."

Even though we were just on the 3rd floor a moment ago, we're in one of the small rooms on the side of the teleport room at the entrance in no time at all. After leaving the building it was a night which let's you feel the end of October and as expected it's gotten a bit chilly out.

I wonder if it would be better not to sell the qivuit~

Since the leather from the Roze is a hindrance and it stinks we need to do something about the leather, rather fur before dinner.

However, the time is already late. Even we go to a shop that does spinning they're probably already closed.

Since it can't be helped I had just Zulu and Angela return ahead to their inn to leave the luggage.

They're still staying at Shuni.

It's reasonably cheap and a low level inn so they probably won't even complain if they bring in some unprocessed fur.

It's not like there's no worries about it being stolen but I feel like with fleas and all that no one would want to steal some dirty fur.

Well even if it gets stolen it would be disappointing if you call it that but it's not particularly fatal so it can't be helped worrying too much about it.

I brought the remaining members and went to the restaurant we always eat dinner. We cut up the meat and split it between us so there's no problem.

After entering the restaurant and it cost 1,000 Z to bring in your own meat (1 large copper coin) but since they'll cook the Roze fillet with salt and seasonings, I waited while drooling for my first fillet steak in a while.

Since it's my long awaited fillet it would be best rare but since I don't know for sure if that'll be good for the time being I ordered it around medium.

It seems that my detailed instructions on the cooking methods weren't conveyed and in the end it felt one step before well-done.

It would have cost a bit but maybe it would have been better to go to Doruleon?

Well, we still have a decent amount remaining so it's not like we're going to eat it all today.

I guess it's fine if we go to Doruleon after tomorrow.

I still had some complains about the way it was cooked but the Roze fillet was delicious.

Hmn, even for monsters the delicious ones are delicious.

I remember the Horned Bear.

If I think carefully about it then I feel like the Horned Bear should have been stronger but it's not like I'm completely dissatisfied with the Roze fillet.

"This is good."

"After all it's more delicious with salt and seasonings."

"It's soft and delicious."

"This is..It's good isn't it.."

"It's my first time eating meat this delicious."

Ohh~ eat more, even more. Since we have a lot of it.

It's even understandable how Ralpa was just eating meat without saying to eat some cabbage.

If it was going to be like this then maybe we should have brought as much of the meat as we could hold.

Between the six of us we finished off three fillets, we consumed close to 3 kg of it.

The one who ate the most was Zulu though.

Since our stomachs are all full we split up.

Normally I would return to the inn together with Zenom and the others but today I carried the fillet meat heading towards Doruleon.

It's because I thought it would be best to let it mature at a high-end restaurant.

After paying at Doruleon (it cost 20,000 Z even), and leaving the meat with them I returned to the inn, as expected I was tired so after taking a quick

shower I quickly laid down.

After all, I've got to get up early tomorrow.

Ah..since we were in the dungeon from morning until night, I didn't do my running...

It can't be helped, it's annoying but I guess I'll go for a run.

After changing and when I was about to leave the inn I was called out to from above.

It's from the window of Bel's room, she and Ralpa were looking outside at me.

What is it, since we're going to be up early tomorrow, go to sleep already.

The two of them beckoned me.

It~can't~be helped, really.

After I went to Bel's room and Ralpa was sitting on one of the two chairs while Bel was sitting on the bed. After I pulled out the remaining chair and sat down Bel opened her mouth.

"Al-san. I want to talk for a bit but.."

Hn? Japanese?

Judging off her expression it doesn't seem to be something serious, but what is it?

Even though I look like this I'm pretty busy.

No, I'm not particularly busy though.

"What is it?"

"Umm you know, recently I've talked about it with Bel but there's something that I don't know so I want you to teach me about it."

Ralpa said that. It sounds a bit serious. Is it about magic?

"What?"

"It's about Al-san's objective. Today, when were in the teleport room of the 1st floor you told that person in Black topaz right? Since we have some circumstances we're in a bit of a hurry. I thought, what are those circumstances, but since you talked to Maruso when descended to the 3rd floor, I remembered, ah, the circumstances were your promise to her...but was it just

that?”

Bel said that.

It's true that the circumstances I mentioned to Anderson were about Angela. However..I guess that means they realized I have reasons other than that to be in hurry?

While I'm remaining silent and this time Ralpa started talking.

“Honestly speaking, even without us I think that Al can make it pretty far into the dungeon...That's true right? That's why, I've been thinking about it for a long time now. Then, why are you paying us money to come along with you? And why did you pay so much money to buy Zulu and Maruso as well?”

“..”

“And, you told us quite a bit of information as well right? Recently you've even been training us. You've taught us magic as well. I'm truly grateful because I decided to wait for him in this town. If I'm together with Al-san then there's almost no danger of dying and I can earn a lot of money. But, what does Al-san gain from this?”

I guess so~ It's been about five months since I started teaming up with them, I guess it's already close to half a year huh?

It's a bit longer for Ralpa though, well it's not a big difference. If you think about it normally, then I guess you would wonder what kind of charity this is.

“Hmn, it's true I have a goal. In the short term I want to hit it big in the dungeon of Baldukk. Well, I still expect it to take a number of years even then though. That's why I think there's a high probability that I'll remain here for several years.”

I'm sure they won't be smoothed over with just saying this.

“..”

“..”

“What I said just now was true. And I've said it before but Ralpa and Bel are reincarnated people. Since it's easier for reincarnated people to get physically strong“Can we not be trusted that much?”

“..I don’t have any particular intention of hiding it. Probably if I say it and after you two hear that even if you were to tell someone about it they shouldn’t be of any harm to me..Probably at least...I did intend to talk about it eventually.”

Chapter 94: Party

Year 7442, Month 10, Day 25

Hmn, there's no particular problem with telling them about it. There's no problem but there is a problem. I wonder if I'll be told it's unrealistic and laughed at? Will I be told I'm like a child and looked down on? If as a result of that they were to leave at the same time the contract ends then...Ah, I guess they can't cut the contract from their end huh? Though you know~ Even though I finally made acquaintances of them, and they're reincarnated people I've made into my subordinates. But, there's no way to completely see through the other sides personality and what they're actually thinking in this short period of time. I'm sure that's the same for them as well. I wonder what they could know about me in just a matter of a few months?

I'm not such a fool to believe in illusions like if you hold deep interaction with someone then the amount of time it takes is unrelated. Even my parents who cared so much for me, they listened to and accepted my dream but didn't sympathize with it. I already understand that my dream is that close to being something absurd. However, if I were to talk to them here while they don't worry about me as much as my parents did then let alone sympathize I can only imagine that they might not even try to accept it so it's difficult to tell them about it.

However, someday I'll definitely have to tell them and it's my true feelings that if possible I want them to sympathize and cooperate with me on it. From here on out I need to gather even more people but the majority of them should be following me because I've offering them something to their advantage. Though it would be more unusual to hope for loyalty greater than the compensation given from the start.

Although, I'm not God or anything like that, so I'm not so arrogant that I think I could manage over everything all on my own. If I can't do it myself then trusted retainers are necessary. The problem is whether or not they could pledge loyalty to me in some meanings greater than compensation to me. I

don't think I have anything that could captivate their hearts. Of course, my encounter with both of them took the form of coming to their rescue so I'm sure they at least feel a favor towards me. There is right? If there isn't then I would cry from the start.

I'm paying them plenty of compensation and not putting them through a lifestyle where they're especially troubled by anything. I'm sure the way I treat them isn't all that bad as well. I don't think I've dealt with them unreasonably like a slave even once. Therefore, I want to think that they at least feel a debt of gratitude towards me. But, something like loyalty is completely different from that. Since I've gained some amount of information from them you could say we've both benefited each other but even in that case I should have paid even more.

I thought about it for a bit.

"I guess so..Honestly speaking, I don't mind telling you. But, if I tell you then you might scorn me, or at least it's my true feelings that I'm afraid of that happening."

After I said that and Bel opened her mouth.

"Al-san. I just said it but can you really not trust us as that much?"

"It's a bit different from whether or not I can trust you. It was only a few months but we've eaten meals out of the same pot. I trust you two. However, it's different from that. That's right, it might digress a bit but listen to this. Bel, how do you feel about your parents and siblings?"

She was a bit confused when I suddenly brought her parents and family into it so Bel was a bit lost at words but responded.

"Eh? My parents? I think the Koloil family was probably an average sub-Baron family on Orth. It wasn't all that wealthy but there was nothing I troubled about in my life. And I knew that I was loved as I was raised. But..I wonder ..I feel like they aren't my real parents somehow as well. I obviously feel the gratitude towards them for raising me and I can boast that I love my parents and siblings as well but..In the end, in order to search for him I left the house.

Obviously, when I first brought it up they were against it. I think my parents probably wanted me to remain in the village and marry one of the squires or

else marry me to the child of a different villages lord. I understand that. Since I understand that they were trying to send their daughter off into a stable lifestyle. However..no matter what I want to find him. I must find him.”

Well going off what I’ve seen of her so far it’s pretty much exactly the answer I had guessed.

“I see, Ralpa, what about you? What do you think about Zenom? Ah, if you don’t want to say it then you don’t need to force yourself.”

“I’ve always wondered about it but, why do you only refer to me as “omae”? It doesn’t really matter though. Zenom is...after all my father. I was a high school student before I reincarnated but my parents weren’t in the house very often, and honestly speaking I have a weak impression of them. Was it imprinting? That thing with chicks do where they mistake the first moving thing they see as their parents. I wonder if it’s like that? Ever since I realized I was reborn I was always by Zenom’s side and he protected me. There were countless dangerous times. Even then Zenom raised me without abandoning me. It’s true we might not be true parent and child but we’ve already been together for countless years, and we’re completely family.”

Well, I figured it was like that.

“I see. However, in regards to your treatment, put your hand on your chest and think carefully~ You’re too cheeky. And Bel is much cuter as well. It’s only obvious to treat you two differently~ Also, if it doesn’t particularly matter then don’t say it in the first place. Be quiet, that part of you is why you’re such a child.”

Since this girl says everything she thinks bluntly. In particular to just me. In some meanings you could say she’s similar to Mill.

“Ha...What the, Al, you think Bel is cute? You like her? How unfortunate~ Bel has a boyfriend~ Bel’s chest belongs to her boyfriend~”

Th..This brat...I can’t help but feeling like I want to punch that smile which pisses me off. Calm down, my right arm.

“Yeah, Bel is cute right? Unlike you she doesn’t say smart-ass things after all. Also, even if someone of your level doesn’t say it over and over I already know

she has a boyfriend. Ah, Bel don't be bothered over it. Since this girl is an idiot "Fufu...I understand. Doesn't Al-san probably not think of me as anything more than like an ally or subordinate? I can tell that much. I'm sure Ral isn't saying it seriously as well."

Right. It's true that Bel's chest is worth paying attention to but she's about average for the Rabbit-people race and not all that unusual for her race. Though it's plenty strange for the sensations of a Japanese. But, I haven't been caught up in being conscious of Bel's chest. It's not that I'm not interested. Rather I am. However, I also know that no Japanese women would feel good about attention paid to their chest.

"Well, ignoring something like Ralpa. And, in regards to the matter I just heard about but I like my parents and siblings. I lived together with them until the spring of this year but it's true I have indebted to them but the feelings of love are stronger than something like that. One of the few things that I felt was good about reincarnating was that my family had increased.

However, my current parents on Orth and my parents on Earth I don't feel like there's any difference between them at all inside of myself, might be putting it too extreme. It might not feel the same for you two but when I reincarnated I was 45. In comparison to that my parents at that time were both in their 20s. At first I saw them both as brats. They were both considerably younger than me after all. But, after living together with them and having them care for me I naturally started to be able to respect them. It might have been because I saw the hardships up close to a degree which would have been impossible on Earth."

I use my tough will that's like steel to hold back my right arm that feels like it would go on a rampage at any moment while looking at the two of them and continuing my words.

"Bel, it's strange to say this but listen without getting angry. You left your house because your boyfriend was more important than your parents. Is that wrong? It's not wrong right. No, it's fine. It's only obvious in some ways. Even my parents on Earth were important to me but my wife was more important than that. It's an extreme example but if I were told to choose between them I'm sure I would at least worry over it but in the end I would pick my wife. It's

the same as that.

However, I want you to calmly think about this without feelings. Which of them truly understands things about you more? If you were to commit a terrible mistake, who will cover for you? It's just for example but even if I were to soak my hands in a far too trivial crime there's a possibility my wife would lose patience with me and it's even possible I would be given a letter of divorce, but even if I was mistaken I'm sure my parents would scold and slap me but in the end I think they'd cover for me."

The two of them are thinking at my words. I don't want to hear their response so I continue.

"Returning the conversation. When I left my house I told my family about my goal. They listened without making fun of me. Probably, I don't think they sympathized with me but they accepted me, and gave me permission saying to steadily keep with it. I think that was because they had the deep love that they were trying to understand, recognize, and let me be free. It's a weird way of putting it but even saying, something like that is impossible, I won't say anything bad so just do this instead, is love as well. It's not a matter of which is better. Either way is fine. Just, if they aren't making fun of it from the bottom of their hearts, then that's love. I think that way."

The two of them are looking at my eyes.

"..Ralpha, Bel. The two of you are my important subordinates. But...But you know, I don't think you can listen to my objective, my dream in the same way as my parents without laughing at me. Rather, I think you might end up being fed up with me, or abandon me, I'm afraid of that. I'm sorry to say but as expected I don't feel the same kind of love from you two as my parents. The two of you don't feel that way right?

Even the two of you, for example, Bel, even you should have some things you can't say to your boyfriend, but you could say to your family. Ralpha you're the same right? I don't know if you had a boyfriend though it's fine even if it's a friend or best friend. There should be something that you can't tell to him or her but you could tell to your parents or Zenom."

After saying that I looked at Ralpha and then looked at Bel. I don't know if they understood what I was saying or not but it seems that they've digested a

bit of it and are nodding.

“And the complete opposite of that is also true. I had things I could tell to my wife but couldn’t tell my parents. But, in that case the weight is difference. In this case, if you were to ask, the stronger reason would be in order to not make my parents worried or feel uneasy. In the end my parents would understand, that’s why I don’t want to let them worry over something like this, or I might end up making them be too careful of certain things is what might be more correct.

Just the same, for example there’s things you can only say between guys and between girls. Even among friends there’s things I could tell this guy but that guy. However, when you’re talking seriously the content you can say and that permissible range is probably the largest to your family who understands you the most.”

It seems I gained their agreement. Well, this is different from everyone so I can’t say it’s the same though. The two of them were young before they reincarnated, since it seems they were students, I’m sure they were much more dependent on their parents than me. It seems that Ralpa was estranged from her parents but since she’s not an idiot, I’m sure she has some fixed feelings for her parents.

“The details I just stated is the reason why I still haven’t talked about the dream that I think is ultimate to anyone other than my family...I’m still hesitating at this point...I have the feelings of just going all out and saying it and while on the surface you’ll just agree with or understand it but when I’m not around you’ll make fun of it, those sorts of cowardly feelings are mixing up. Do you understand that this is definitely not a matter of whether or not I trust the two of you? I just said it but even if I tell you there’s no direct harm in it. I understand that you to wouldn’t go recklessly spreading it around as well. I trust in, no believe in you at least that much, but you know..”

When I’m stuck on my words and Ralpa says.

“Hn~ I get what Al wants to say, I think. But, are you thinking about such a weird thing?”

Bel continues saying after Ralpa.

“It’s true, I’m sure there must be things that are difficult to say. But, we’ve discussed it with each for several days already. We’ve occasionally talked about it with Zenom-sam, Zulu, and Maruso as well. Everyone, thought it was strange at first. But, at one point Zenom-said to us. It’s a bit long but please listen. “Since Zulu and Maruso are Al’s slaves we’ll put them aside on this occasion. But, the three of us are nothing more than being hired by Al with money. The same as servants. Servants shouldn’t recklessly step into the heart of their master. However, the two of you aren’t just normal servants. If Al would open up his heart then it might be to a reincarnated person the same as you two. There’s the meeting with Bel as well. I’m sure he’s not the type to definitely become an ally just because they’re a reincarnated person. But, even then doesn’t Al want some allies? I think he wants something close to a family that he can honestly speak to his hearts content. I’m sure Al probably has his own way of thinking and his own disposition and pride as well. If you don’t take that into considerations then not just Al but I’m sure that no one would open their heart up to you.” and said that. It’s exactly the same word for word but the meaning is the same.”

I see, so Zenom said that.

“We’ve already talked every night for more than three months. It’s usually just Bel and I the two of us, but Zenom, Zulu, and Maruso occasionally join us as well. We’ve thought about various things. We think it’s true that Al wants to earn money. We think this is already clear. But, for what reason? If it was just for living expenses then you’re still a noble for the most part, if you work seriously then you wouldn’t easily be troubled by anything right? Even the earnings we’re making in the dungeon, aren’t they quite amazing. If it was just the 1st and 2nd floors wouldn’t Al alone be able to earn a tremendous amount of money? I think you could live a life of even more luxury.

Honestly speaking, if we just wanted to go on living I think any of us could go into business or start a restaurant and be able to do a decent job of it. That wasn’t the case in the past but thanks to you we’ve made plenty of source founds after all. If it was just Zenom and I, the two of us then I think we would be plenty to do a small business or store. But you know, I’m sure that what Al is seeking isn’t that sort of, several tens of millions or several hundreds of millions

amount right?”

That’s right. It’s in the several tens of billions.

“We tried thinking about various things ourselves. What is it that requires that much money? What is it which is necessary to buy slaves? like that.”

“Well, we were able to arrive at several conclusions after thinking like that. 1. Buy a lot of slaves and cultivate some land somewhere then receive official peerage and become a lord. 2. Start an extremely large business. A business that deals between countries. Funds for that business. 3. Save up money and use it for bribes. Use it as money that’s needed to find employment as a government official? in the Kingdom of Rombert. Maybe aiming for the royal court sorcerer? 4. It’s close to 3 but use the power of bribes to enter the knight group and aim to be a knight. If you’re lucky then get picked up by some lord as the leader of a knight group. 5. I’ll become the Pirate King! We think it’s one of those.”

1 and 2 are extremely proper but what about 3 and 4? Even if I didn’t do something like that, if it’s me then... Well, it’s fine. And what in the world is 5? It sounds like a phrase I’ve heard somewhere before but. Rather~ wouldn’t the pirate king be a completely flawed famous criminal? No matter where I go in the world I wouldn’t be taken seriously. Though it’s the closest among those right now. Well, it’s closest to 1 and 5 with a bit more added.

“From the story we just from Al-san then putting aside 3 and 4, it doesn’t seem like 1 or 2. Could it be you’ve eaten the rubber fruit? In Bakuddo.”

So even Bel can say jokes...

“It can’t be that you’re really aiming to be the pirate king but even if that’s the case I won’t laugh. I already know how strong Al is after all. It’s amazing you can use that much magic. Even after I was able to use magic it’s nothing at all~”

Ralpa, you might be surprisingly..a good person.

“That’s right. Even if we hear Al-san’s objective we definitely won’t laugh or make fun of it. I guarantee that.”

Bel as well, thanks. But you know..

“Thanks you two. It’s just like this.”

Saying that I lower my head. And,

“But you know, I’m still afraid. A middle-age man at a good age, no I’m already and old man. And you never know what I’m going to say and..”

I’m really grateful for the feelings of the two of them, and happy. They’re the same as me and look like brats but the mental age of both of them should be over 30 already. Yeah? Over 30?

“..Just a moment...Wait just a moment..”

I grab the temple of my head with my right hand and face my left hand towards the two of them while organizing my thoughts.

I’m sure it’s true that my mentality is being pulled somewhat by my physical age. There’s times when I act in ways that are unthinkable for how I originally was as well. During those times I’m acting without feeling it’s unusual but afterwards when I try to organize my actions and the results of that time I notice here and there.

In some ways I even think that my dream of “creating my own country” is something like that. The same age as a middle-school student and an immense amount of mana that I could wield violence with, most likely I’ve already exceeded the special skill levels of that something or other Marquis that is the royal court sorcerer of Rombert Kingdom. Thanks to my unique ability I’ve realized the rules of leveling up and furthermore I’ve made use of that to efficiently earn experience points probably three times that of any other person. Even my growth during level up is greater than the average person, this is three times as well.

Thanks to my magic skills and the immense amount of mana that supports those as long as I can detect the enemy first then it’s not even a struggle inside of the dungeon. If I were to think about doing it seriously then on Orth where there’s no guns or cannons, weapons which can accurately aim from a distance (most likely even if they do exist they can only aim accurately within several dozen meters) then I alone could quite literally wipe out several hundred or depending on the situation an army of around a thousand people. If I just have the time and money then I could hire the skilled blacksmiths and even create

something that could be considered large scale weapons of destruction as well.

In this situation I often or always, I don't know which but (probably, I think, always, is more correct. If that wasn't the case then it would be hard to explain.) if I have the mentality of a middle school student then it's understandable that "I want to make my own country". Honestly speaking, when I was in elementary school I looked up to the representative of rising up in the ranks during the Warring States era in Japan, Saito Dosan. Whether it be Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, Tokugawa Ieyasu, Takeda Shingen, or Uesugi Kenshin, in Japan there's a lot of people who look up to them. Rather, there are good members of society, the managers of organizations, and executives of companies who seriously read the business books of "Techniques to Seize the Human Heart Learned From Toyotomi Hideyoshi" or "Strategic Sight That Can Look Ahead: Oda Nobunaga".

Everyone likes stories of success in life. Even I've read several volumes of books like that. I read quite a few history novels as well. I think a number of people around me at my age we're reading them. At the very least if you're a manager then if you don't continue with your studying it's difficult to seek anymore promotion than that. Even the stiff business books are using the name of popular commanders during the warring states period to make it easier for their readers to pick up.

Putting that aside, if I'm in a situation where my mentality is being pulled by my body then I wonder if that doesn't apply to them as well? If you were to mention 14 years old then it could be considered the age where you're at the entrance of adulthood but in the end it's {low-teen}. There's a limit to it. Even I'm in agony remembering some of my actions afterwards after all. I'm sure they might laugh at me a bit but if I think about their appearance right now, I doubt it will end at just laughing at me. I'm sure they'll at least comfort me.

"Well, I guess it's fine.. My objective is to make my own country. One day I'll found my own country and I want to become the King of that country. I think of it as the period to earn funds for that right now. Since I need as much money as possible after all...Hha ha..It's fine for you to laugh. That's right, it's find to get angry as well."

After hearing my words the two of them exchanged glances and then broke

out into laughter...as expected. That's right isn't it. I had a feeling this would happen. That's why I didn't want to say it...With this things will become annoying starting tomorrow. Putting aside Bel, I'm sure Ralpa will make fun of me. In the first place, even Bel said she definitely wouldn't laugh or make fun of me after hearing my objective, and right after saying that it's this...It can't be helped if you say it can't be helped though.

"Did you hear that just now Bel? I'm going to make my own county, (grin)...he said. It's the same right."

..What should I do to this girl?

"Ppu, I certainly heard. But, it's my win right."

Eh?

My win? Win..we're they betting on it or something? Bel and Ralpa were? A quiz on my objective? Huh? What? I was looked down on to this extent? I felt my feelings of anger boil to the surface. These brats, were they playing with me? If they were to laugh at me for it being absurd or childish then it can't be helped. I was prepared to be made fun of for those sort of reasons.

However, they were using the feelings I had hidden away as the target of a bet? There's a limit to how much you can make fun of someone. I don't want to say something annoying but I'm older than the two of them and their employer. If they were to have endured it here and laughed about it hidden from me later then I could have dealt with it. But, saying to my face "we were betting on it" you say? And laughing at me. It seems I have no eye for people. No, even if I say they're reincarnated people it was my own will to keep them by my side. I guess I was just unlucky that these two appeared. They died before they had any experience in society and without learning the method to properly work they started over again from childhood.

Ah, I miss my subordinates from my past life. They were honest people. In a place where we were having a serious conversation they wouldn't blatantly make fun of their superiors. They were splendid members of society that are aware of the {TPO}. There's no way I can know what they were really thinking but they always casually paid their respects to me. I did the same for my superiors as well. I was the vice-director of the sales department in addition to

the first section manager so I always treated and dealt with my superiors that were the company director, sales chief, and managers above that with respect. It's not the art of conducting oneself. That's only obvious.

I'm sure right now I have an expression where I'm making a sour face with a vein in my forehead sticking out. I'm so pissed off that if it were when I was 14 years old in my previous life it wouldn't have been strange for me to pick a fight with them. Even though my feelings are being pulled by my physical age, I have experience as well, since my personality is somewhat founded in that experience, I'm sure I'm not just a 14 year old but things that piss me off still piss me off.

"You two..even though just said those things..Shit.."

Line up over there! I'll hit you with a head duster! There's no way I could do it though. But, if I let this go it's no good for their sake either. A preaching is necessary. It's just the right excuse to yell at them. I guess it would be best to let them understand the risks of making fun of your superiors right in front of their face. It's not like I'll say something like respect me from the bottom of your hearts, I don't think something like that at all. It's fine if you want to make fun of me in your heart. There's tons of superiors not worth respect after all. However don't let that out to the surface. Just in the fact that superiors are your superior, just because of that they're an existence worth honoring and respecting. It's a fact that superiors like that far exceed the number of superiors not worth respect. It's precisely because they're people like that they were able to get promoted that far. Otherwise you could say that an organization that promotes and makes use of people like that is one that it's easy to get larger and tougher.

"Al-san, I'll apologize for laughing. I'm sorry. But, it's absolutely not that we were laughing to make fun of it after hearing Al-san's dream. I couldn't but laugh because it was just as I predicted. Please listen. Like we just said we had talked a lot about what Al-san's objective might be.

One of those was, founding a country. The one who said that was me. I think it's a good dream. Rather than settling on something small, isn't it a very large and manly dream? I don't think there's anything to be embarrassed about it. It's true that if someone were to say something like that in Japan I might have

laughed and made fun of them. But, this isn't Japan. It's Orth. I think there's plenty of chances to found your own country."

"That's right. It was bad of me to laugh. I'll apologize. I'm sorry. Since it was the same thing Bel had said. I thought that Al would use the money he earns for bribes and after using it to enter the royal court, you would take over the country from the shadows or something like that. Though I think that in itself would be interesting. But, isn't that quite wholesome? I thought that Al was more..the scheming type~ Like killing people who are a hindrance from a distance where it won't be discovered, if it's Al then can't you do it without anyone finding out?

And then you make evidence to put the blame on some completely different person. With magic. Create some sort of evidence that they can't explain away and after putting the blame on them kill them or something like that. Then you would gradually get promoted and make it to a cabinet minister? Was it? Ah, or regent. Thanks. Just with that sort of feel where you become the highest authority and the King or other royalty are completely afraid of you and live while being careful of your expression. And since we know that sort of Al we'd receive money and live a happy life."

..I thought about yelling at them but they weren't betting on it?
No, rather than that after all Ralpa, you...What in the world kind of image do you have of me inside you?

"First off, it's fine that you were able to predict the details of my dream. That's not particularly a problem. But, if you were betting on that then I'll get angry. Bel as well..I'll believe that you weren't laughing to make fun of me. But, Ralpa, you're really an idiot.

Did you think I would be happy if you said that?

What was that about receiving money and becoming happy? Don't screw with me. Even if it ended up becoming like that a fool like you would be the first on the list to send flying to erase future grief. In the first place, you, did you think of me in that way? What's with that treacherous bastard feel? Who? Eh? Me? Is it me? I haven't acted treacherous towards you until now right? You, do you really want to make me into a treacherous bastard that much? Do you have some kind of a grudge against me?"

After saying it all at once I felt exhausted.

“You’re an idiot~ It’s not particularly like I want Al to become treacherous. Though you have enough connections and intelligence to get along like that right? If you at least have money then Al could manage something like that right? Since you’re pretty smart and you have power as well. If you think about the success rate then isn’t my idea safer and more realistic? The one who wants you to be grateful is me. It’s fine if you give me a bonus for the idea?”

That’s already enough, out of her. But, if I think carefully it’s not like she was laughing at the content of my dream as well. I understand that most likely when she and Bel were talking about they probably said something just like what I did. I somehow feel like my anger has calmed..Now then.

“Shut up~ idiot. What’s that about a idea bonus? Your idea is rejected. It’s not even worth adopting...Rather than that, speaking seriously, how is it? Don’t you think it’s strange?”

I said that and looked at the two of them.

“Al-san, I don’t know if Al-san has realized it but I had some thoughts on it. It was rejected by Ral but..Will you listen?”

Hn?

“Recently, my head is strange. Ah, no, I don’t mean I’m messed up in the head, or going crazy, a disease, or something like that.”

After Bel started talking Ralpa opened her mouth.

“Bel thinks too much. I don’t feel anything and don’t think there’s anything strange.”

“That’s why I said Ral was originally young..I was young as well but not as much as Ral after all. Al-san, first, in regards to Al-san’s question but I don’t think it’s strange. Let alone that, I even feel that it’s enviable or exciting. As a matter of fact..it’s related to something I thought several years ago. Will you listen to what I say?”

Bel asked me a question again. However, she feels envious or excited over my dream?

“The conversation is about my mentality. I was 21 years old before reincarnating. I think I was someone with reasonably good grades in school as well. However, I sometimes think. This, might not be my way of thinking, I shouldn’t have gotten so happy or sad over something like this... But if I remember back then I can also understand it since I’m in the middle of my teens as well. The time I found it the strangest was a short while after I was born. When I was soothed by my older siblings, even though it wasn’t anything particularly special I felt it was extremely strange or sad. Those sort of feelings gradually decreased as I got older. But, no matter how I think about it, it was strange for an adult at a good age past 20 to go from joy to sorrow after being soothed by quite literally a childish trick. I didn’t think it was particularly a problem at that time but when I thought about it later it was clearly strange. That sort of stuff wasn’t just when I was a baby. It’s the same right now, this moment. Please listen without getting angry. I had somewhat guessed Al-san’s dream. Of course, it wouldn’t have been strange at all for it to be anything other than making a country as well though. I thought it might be founding a country as well.”

...

“We’re Japanese people who lived in the 21st century. It’s a rude way of putting it but I feel something is out of place with a Japanese like that saying they want to make a country. It feels more natural if it was trying to get a promotion in the countries that already exist or show your power and become famous. Even then that’s plenty unusual. Normally the only ones who say they want to become the prime minister or politician are those in elementary school right.

It’s because out of the population which has more than 100,000,000 people climbing up to prime minister is believed to be quite difficult. It’s probably not something that can be done with just the power of an individual and I think most people would understand in their early teens that it would be difficult even making use of money and connections inherited from parents that are politicians. I think it would still be more realistic to aim for a professional sports athlete. Even then if you don’t set your sights on it from a young age, do the appropriate amount of training along with being born with talent I’m sure it’s

difficult. It's the same for talents and performers as well."

Bel...

"Right now Orth is just the same as Al-san said before, the level of the civilization and culture are at best around the warring states era. I think there's a portion which are developed to around the Edo era but there are many places where I think it even might be at the level of the Heian era. Politics are a feudalistic autocracy, social standings are split up by lineage, slaves are only obvious, furthermore there's magic and monsters. There's also the places like a game with Status Open and skills, a strange world. Al-san and we were reborn in this world. Putting it frankly, I'm sure with the knowledge of a Japanese we could do various things in this world.

I think that making a country is just one of those. If you have the ability and a firm will that supports that then it should be fine whatever you want to do. Even making a military organization and invading some territory, is only obvious right. Like Genghis who founded the Mongol Empire, or Minamoto Yoritomo who opened up the Kamakura shogunate should have killed and had others kill a lot of people. I'm sure even those with no sin at all or babies were included in there. Of course, murder isn't a good thing.

However, something like that is only obvious. I'm sure even Genghis and Minamoto Yoritomo didn't kill people for no reason at all. They should have at least had the reason of them ultimately being a hindrance to their rule. Even though that's the case the Japanese of the 21st century won't criticize them for being cruel. Because, they only did what was normal during that time. During that sort of time, I'm sure there were more people aiming to become the King or royalty than elementary schooler who aimed to become a politician or prime minister. Of course, I'm sure they can tell it's an extremely difficult path, which is why countless will give up or fail. There's no doubt there were people who laughed saying it was unrealistic.

I'm sure that's the same as someone at that time aiming for something like the prime minister or the top of the athletic sports world. But, but you know, we're different from normal people. We were definitely blessed with talent. The level of our physical bodies increases at three times the normal rate right? On top of that we have Unique Abilities as well. Isn't that fine, foundation of a new

nation. In the first place, please try thinking about it. Even in the dungeon of Baldukk, didn't we arrive at a floor which normally takes several years to reach in just a matter of months? Of course, I'm sure that would have been impossible without Al-san. But, how about it? Even though he has that big of a body and he's even gone to war before, Ral is stronger than Zulu?"

Bel..you. Bel patted down her drooping ears along with her hair adjusting the position while continuing.

"Since stuff like that has already been established as fact, isn't it fine to aim to be a King? Isn't it cool to make a country? I won't laugh. I even think that if it's Al-san then you will be able to do it. Even if it's difficult then you'll somehow overcome that and achieve it...I know that I'm strange for accepting these sorts of things. I understand that they aren't the feelings someone who went past adulthood and spent another ten some years after that. But, I can't help but think that way. I feel like this is because my feelings aren't appropriate for my original age but they've become closer to my current age. We are in possession of our memories and experiences but we're growing again from babies. I'm sure our sensitivity has gotten younger.

However, I think that since we have our memories these sorts of things are embarrassing. Since we have the memories were worry about the risks and worry about the failures as well. Of course, if I calmly think about it then I think that founding a country would be difficult and complicated and even if you're blessed with abilities and level ups I think it might be possible to fail and die. But, don't we have our memories and experiences in order for that not to happen? We learned before coming. The examples of success in founding a country in this sort of era. The examples of failure. I think just the fact that we know of that is more amazing than the special level ups or abilities.

Among the various things that I thought about and when I thought of founding a country I comprehended and felt admiration for it. I thought that after all the person who saved me was amazing. After I found out that my boyfriend reincarnated, in order to meet him once again I lost myself in that and stopped thinking calmly about anything else. I bent everything in my life towards meeting him and it's my honest feelings that I didn't have anything like leeway but that's just an excuse.

Obviously, I like him. I love him. I want to meet him once again. But, if it's just

that then it's no different than an objective that's continued since my life in Japan right. That's just how it is but if it was just that then I think it's embarrassing. I'm going to live with him once more in Orth. Not Japan. There's no other choice than to set roots on Orth, give birth to his children, and raise them. I don't him to think when I meet him that I just childishly lived solely for the sake of meeting him without thinking about anything.

I want to make a future together with him. I think I want to live a life I can proud of to my children with him. It's to the point where if I meet him I want to help out."

Bel..you..that was long. But, I see, so Bel noticed that her mentality was being pulled by her body as well? I wonder if Ralpa didn't realize it because she was originally so young? Putting Kuro aside, I wonder how Mary felt about that.

"Bel you know, you think too difficult about things. I don't feel like anything is strange at all. But, putting that aside, I was happy that Al told us his dream. I feel like he's finally recognized me. I won't particularly laugh about Al's dream. If Al is fine with that then isn't it okay? But, if it comes to then raise my wages. Won't it be even more difficult than right now?"

Ralpa, what is going on, with you...Aren't you an idiot? It's making a country. It won't go that simply. Shit. I'll work you harder the wages I give you. Prepare yourself.

"..I see. Thanks the both of you. And Bel, what do you intend to do if your boyfriend, Yousuke-san is against it?"

Bel made a surprised face while saying.

"Eh? I don't think that You-chan will be against it. Rather he might be glad to help out. I think if I talk to him he'll definitely understand."

Hnn, I wonder if that's the case. There's no way for me to comment on it since I don't know You-chan at all though, I wonder if he would help out so easily because he was told by his woman? More so if it might put that woman in dangerous. Well, nothing will start if we start worrying about it now. We'll get to it when we get there.

"I understand. Things in regards to Yousuke-san are fine for now. Let's think about it again when it comes to that time. Ralpa, what about Zenom? Did he

say anything?”

Ralpa was sitting with her right knee standing on the chair but after leaning her body to the left and she farted. Are you really a woman?

“Ah, sorry sorry. The fart came out. But don’t they say tumors are hated depending on the place. Eee~”

“There’s no Eee~ about it! Stop farting you retard! Bel say something as well!”

Bel lifted her eyebrows into a frown. It might just be my imagination but it seems there’s some strength to the droop in her ears. Though it’s not like they’re particularly strong in the first place.

“Ral, I’ve said that’s bad manners right. And we’re in the middle of a serious conversation right now.”

“That’s why I said sorry~ And, what was it again? Zenom? Zenom said if that lets me become friends with Al then I can do whatever I want.”

Friends? Who is? Me? With this Ralpa thing? Why? No, it’s true that I heard from Zenom before that because he brought Ralpa around she wasn’t able to make any friends but...

“That’s right. Friends indeed. Isn’t it fine for friends to cooperate with each others dreams?”

Bel nods while saying. Eh? You as well? Even if I don’t have any friends in particular...I had a number of friends in Japan but I don’t have any on Orth. I thought that was fine and I even thought that I didn’t need any because I could end up getting strangely emotional. However, friends huh..

“You being my friend is ridiculous. Say it after you’ve at least stood on the same stage as me. Idiot.”

“Hmhm, while saying that Al, you’re grinning.”

“He’s grinning alright.”

“I’m not grinning. It’s just itchy~ Fool.”

“Well, that’s fine. But, I’m your friend and not your girlfriend or anything like that. Don’t misunderstand. Ah, and this isn’t tsundere. Ah, I guess Al doesn’t

know about tsundere. In the first place Al's face isn't my type after all."

Ha~ I don't care anymore. No matter what you say to this girl it's no good. You're not my type either.

But, today, I think that the three of us became a party.

I was able to make allies.

"Ah, that's right, can you tell me one more thing? On our days off or the days where we end things early what is Al doing in the restaurant of the prosperous area of town?"

"Huh?"

"I mean, Bel said it. It seemed like you were writing something on memo seriously while staring at the road from a restaurant in the prosperous area."

"Yes?"

I reflexively looked at Bel's face. It can't be, I was seen checking for STDs!?

"Eh? I just happened to catch sight of you occasionally..when I saw you I was going to call out but it seemed like you entered the restaurant with a serious face and was writing some sort of memo so I told Ral that I thought you wanted to calmly think about our plans from here on out but.."

"Eh? Ah, so I was seen. Various...plans and stuff..That is, like the formation in the dungeon..I was thinking of them."

"Hmn, so you're properly thinking about various things. Give it your best. If you just say something then Bel and I will will help out as well. Right.."

It seems that I was able to cover it up, but somehow, I feel like it ruined the mood quite a bit. Though it's something I brought upon myself.

Chapter 95: Scent

Year 7442, Month 10, Day 26

Since that sort of thing happened the other day for a moment I worried about what kind of face I should make in front of Ralpa and Bel but I thought once again that I don't particularly need to change the way I act so I can just act the same as usual.

Since they didn't seem any different than usual as well I was relieved.

After confirming our equipment the same as usual we entered the dungeon.

We proceeded through the 1st and 2nd floors in ultra express mode and when we arrived at the teleport room on the 2nd floor it was just about noon.

We ate the soup made with hot water from magic along with some sandwiches we brought along and took a break for about an hour.

During our break I was telling some jokes to Ralpa and Bel, and Zenom, Zulu, Angela joined in on that.

It's the same as usual.

No, it might just be my imagination but it seems like Ralpa's expression is stiff.

"What is it? Are you tired?"

We probably walked close to 15 km to clear through the 1st and 2nd floors. We've already walked through both of them countless times and we have a map where the traps are listed including several we added ourselves so the tension should have been considerably reduced.

Though I say that, since it's descending through the dungeon at a speed of close to 2.5 km/hour so there's no way it wouldn't be painful or exhausting.

"Hn, I'm alright. But, I guess I was a bit on guard? Didn't we talk about those sorts of things yesterday? That's why I thought I need to give it my best and not fail. Fu~ but, after all I think I might be a bit tired...Sorry, let me rest for a bit longer."

Come to think of it, among us only Bel's Endurance is 12 and considerably

low. The next lowest ones after Bel are Ralpa and Angela but even then they have 16, so it's 33% higher than Bel.

I'm sure her Endurance will increase from here on out with level up and age but why did Ralpa get tired before Bel this time?

I wonder if it's related to the fact that Bel is a Rabbit-people race?

Or maybe Ralpa is just weak to tension and easier to exhaust herself?

I tried gently taking a look at Bel's state but she doesn't seem to have changed at all and is happily talking about something with Angela.

It's not like we're in such a hurry that we have to fight over one or two months.

Thinking about things from here on out so I think it would be best to clarify as many things as possible that I've put off around here.

"I see, don't push yourself. If it's painful then you can say so anytime."

Alright, it's a shame even though we've made it this far for today but let's just take a look in the 3rd floor and then return.

After tomorrow we'll take it a bit easy in the dungeon for a short while and I'll try doing something about the things I've been putting off for a while.

"Eh...Yeah..I'm sorry. Somehow, Al, have you become kinder? But, I don't want you to misunderstand."

Ralpa grabs both of her shoulders like she's protecting her body and moves away from me.

"You know, are you seriously trying to anger me? What about it?"

I've decided, Ralpa, I'm going to use you as an excuse.

I'll provide you with the perfect role for a terrible farting bug.

Rather~ after all let's go as far as we can on the 3rd floor.

.....

The 3rd floor of the dungeon of Baldukk.

It's made of stone and dim, the width of the passages are narrower than the 1st and 2nd floors, there's not even 10 m.

It's probably gotten about 50 cm more narrow than those floors.

Of course, there's various places where it gets more than 10 m or becomes about 2 m as well. The air is stale, and you can't feel that it's flowing but it doesn't seem that it's not blowing at all since you occasionally feel it brush your cheek.

Angela is whispering something to Ralpa.
You two, focus on your jobs when we're working.
I'll let it off because it's not a loud voice but whispering though.

We steadily walk down that passage but hitting the floor with a 3 m pole doesn't help much at all anymore.
This isn't because there's no pitfalls but rather because the structure of the pitfalls has changed.

On the 1st and 2nd floors the pitfalls have a board covering them and that surface is camouflaged, so if you hit that surface the sound changes and you can easily see through them.

But, on this 3rd floor the pitfalls have undergone a complete change.

From a glance they appear to be camouflaged with the same sort of stone as the passage.

It seems like there's several poles inside of the pitfall and above that there's something like a thin stone wall or stone board placed on that to look like the normal passage.

Even though it's been made thin, that thickness is about 15 cm and even if you hit it a bit with a pole you can't hear the difference in the sounds.

Since Bel's skill is something that makes it easier for her to pick up on sounds, it's not like she can tell the vague differences in the sound itself. The best she can do is tell the number of legs something has from footsteps or how many sources are making sounds, and tell if they're moving.

The only way to see through the pitfalls is to move forward slowly and try stepping on them or try hitting the floor with the end of Zenom or Ralpa's hand-axe.

Even though it's a axe-hand, the pointed end of the blade is a mass of heavy cast iron so as expected if you hit it with that the sound changes and you can tell that the lid of the pitfall moves slightly.

Since it's troublesome I thought about using earth magic to make a large roller like thing and roll that along as we go but even if my mana is absurdly high it's only obvious that it would run out after a few Km keeping it running like that. It's to the point of not even needing to experiment with it. In the first place moving that much distance, putting aside mana, I wouldn't be able to maintain my concentration.

Though I've become able to use magic while moving or fighting, it pushes my nerves to the limit, and if that sort of condition continues for even 10 minutes I'm sure I would be mentally worn-out. If a monster were to come out at a time like that it wouldn't be a joke.

If it came to that then it would even be difficult for me to be considered useful in combat.

Taking into consideration the speed we're moving forward it feels too inefficient to move while hitting with the axe every time so it's about time we have no choice other than to proceed carefully. The person at the front will have to take one step forward and without putting their weight on that step as much as possible they poke the stone floor with their foot. If there's a pitfall there you can tell because it moves slightly. Then if you move to the side and do the same thing and it seems fine you can move forward from there.

It's different from the 1st and 2nd floors, the floors aren't made of dirt so it's difficult to stab something that would act as a landmark into it. It can't be helped so I'm just making dirt with earth magic and pouring it around that area.

It seems that various methods were used in the past and we've discovered something like paint or painting material scattered around in some places as well. Just in case we tried poking it with the end of our feet and after all it was a pitfall, since you can vaguely feel it move.

If you pay close attention it's not to the point where you can't see the gaps between the stone lid and the real thing but since it's dimly lit, so if we're being careful of them we end up with a speed of advance that is slower than a tired so I gave up on it right away.

However, there's no mistaking that a considerable number of people have moved along these passages since the past, we realized there's something like marks all over the place pointing to the pitfalls so it's a bit of a salvation that we

can maintain our speed somewhat.

In other words, if it's a place where there's a mark then it's a place where someone has explored in the past.

Of course, we can't deny the possibility of them overlooking something but it's a big help to have various marks.

However, we've ended up finding a large number of passages along split pathways that clearly no one has passed through as well.

In those cases, we just proceed forward a bit carefully and if we can't find any landmarks along that path we turn back and go down a different path.

If we can discover a mark then there's no problem with just continuing down that way.

I don't know if this is the correct way of doing it but if I don't believe it is then the efficiency drops to a point where it's absurd to even compare them so it can't be helped.

I found out the reason why the entrance to the 3rd floor that is the teleport room of the 2nd floor always has someone camping in it.

If you don't rest once before going into the 3rd floor it's very difficult to deal with it I'm sure.

When you go to step foot into the 3rd floor if there's no clear proof that someone has passed through there (First off is the number carved out near the teleport crystal. If that's there then someone has definitely passed through. Next is the marks near pitfalls and such. Since there's no other choice to remain careful until you find something like that it wears away at the nerves quite a bit at the start though) then you once again return to the 2nd floor, and teleport to the 3rd floor again.

The speed of advancing forward dulls even more than up until now and the mental exhaustion accumulates.

However, even then there's a lot of gain at on the 3rd floor. It's a passage made of stone but it seems that there's two types of rooms ones made of stone and ones with exposed dirt. The stone rooms have the same powerful monsters making nests in them as up until now but very rarely they say there's something like a torture chamber with strange apparatus placed

around that no one knows how to use.

Although, it seems that it's already after anything of notice has been taken out so the number is limited and it seems there's more adventurers who have never seen them before.

The problem is the ones where the dirt floor is exposed.

It seems that these are the same as the other rooms where a powerful monster is making them into a nest but if you dig up the walls then rarely you can discover raw ores or gems.

In short it's just that you're inside of a mine of gems but putting aside the reason, just that there's a possibility that you can gather the raw ores of gems is the reason adventurers come to this floor, no, it's one of the appeals to entering the dungeon of Baldukk itself.

Hearing this, I first thought, I see now, and at the same time several doubts came up in my mind.

It's fine if various gems and minerals can be gathered. This is Orth and not Earth, I won't be surprised by something like that at this point.

However, if the raw ores of gems that are discovered aren't normally cut then there's not much meaning. The cutting of gems is an artisans technique and there's various methods of cutting to make the gem look beautiful, I'm sure it's the same as Earth that there's various methods to change the value based on that.

However, in the first place do the tools for cutting and polishing them even exist?

It's not like you can't do the polishing with magic. IF you just keep repeating the {Cantrip} {Polish} it will take time but you can somehow polish it I'm sure.

If you can use void magic then I'm sure the efficiency will increase a bit so using that is fine as well.

But, what about the cut?

Do they do it with some tools like a set of chisels?

However, if they even make a single mistake then the long-awaited precious and expensive gem would come to nothing.

I'm sure it wouldn't become completely worthless but the value would drop significantly.

It's not like there's something like a machine so I wonder if that's where the technique of the artisan comes in?

In that case I'm sure they can't do anything other than simple cuts.

Most likely the limit is facet, step, or mix cut and something like a brilliant would be impossible, it's possible to think they're might try to smooth it over with cabochon as well.

In that case, I wonder if a diamond with a brilliant cut would have an insanely high price?

I don't know the value of diamonds in Orth terms though. Well I doubt they're cheap, probably?

Even the raw ores of gems, if it's my identify then I'm sure I can tell what type of gem they are.

Umu.

I can smell the scent of money from the 3rd floor.

Thinking that way I can put a bit of enthusiasm into the annoying exploring that wears away at your nerves.

Luckily it seems that we have yet to run into any monsters on the 3rd floor this time as well but it's about a good time.

Ralpa expression looks quite exhausted. I wonder if no one has realized because it's dark?

..Ah, I see!

I screwed up here. Seriously sorry I called you a farting bug.

"Ralpa, are you alright? It seems that you're considerably tired but aren't you pushing yourself?"

"Eh? Yeah, I'm alright. There's no problem."

How steady of her.

I'm happy that she has some guts but as expected I didn't intend to pull her to her limits from the start.

I guess it's about time to head back.

"Let's take a small break. We'll stop here for today. Zenom, keep an out ahead together with Zulu and after 10 minutes Angela and I will shift with you."

Zulu stands with a daunting pose being cautious of ahead of the party and Zenom stands in a place about 3 m to the side of that. The rest of us sit in a circle and drink some tea. Just like usual I make some hot water with magic and put in some tea then give it out to everyone before opening my mouth.

“We’ve done quite a bit in going back and forth between the 2nd and 3rd floors since noon today..five times huh? We discovered 6 pitfalls. Among those only one of them was probably in an area that wasn’t on the map or an unexplored region. If we can confirm the number on the teleport crystal rod then while we can’t let our guards down it might be okay to see it as no problem. Since we still haven’t seen a pitfall with the lid off on our way back lets drop some dirt on the one we saw before and try collapsing the lid. I want to see what they’re like.”

After saying that and drinking some tea from my flask I looked at the three of them. It seems there’s no objections. Ralpa is listening with an unusually serious expression.

“Now then, Ralpa. I already know you’re pushing yourself. From now on say things properly without being embarrassed about them.”

“Eh?”

Ralpa responded with a surprised voice.

“Don’t make say everything, it’s embarrassing. If you’re not feeling good just tell me. Bel, Angela the same goes for you two as well. From here on out when you feel tired properly tell me. It was my bad for not being careful of things like that until now. Sorry.”

“Al-san..”

It seems that Bel finally noticed the abnormality in Ralpa and figured it out. I think that Angela probably realized when we first came down to the 3rd floor for today.

As expected of the Dog-people race, I’m sure she noticed from the scent of blood but..If possible I wish she would have mentioned it then.

After that, I exchanged places with Zenom and the others and quickly

retreated.

I decided to approve of a salaried day off once a month, or rather, taking a day off from exploring the dungeon when you're feeling unwell.

Of course it's different if that day is a Wednesday or Saturday.

But if we're not careful it could end up being something that puts all of our lives at risk so I ordered them to tell me without reservations when they're not feeling well.

I'm sure it'll be fine if we just earn some experience points in an adequate place around the 1st floor with the rest of us.

Ah~, that's why it's better to have less women.

Putting aside reincarnated people, I wonder if it would have been better not to buy Angela, is what I thought a bit.

It's a bit late to sell her at this point and it's pitiful so it can't be helped though. I've decided.

We'll restrict the number of them in our party when we enter the dungeon and I definitely won't buy anymore female combat slaves.

If they increase anymore than this, then depending on the situation I feel like we might seriously end up with weeks where we can't progress with exploring the dungeon.

Tody we just luckily didn't encounter any monsters but it wouldn't be a joke if monsters started to appear on the second or third days being lured by the scent of blood.

.....

Year 7442, Month 11, Day 29

After a month or so passed by and we've finally started to get a knack for exploring the 3rd floor.

Even if I say knack it's nothing too special.

The stone steps that make up the floor, or rather tiles but it's a knack for you're poking them with your feet. We've gradually gotten a grasp on how to maintain your posture comfortably or how much weight to put on it is good.

Ralpa's level increased and she's finally reached 7 MP.

I'm sure she'll be able to make quite a bit of experience in her magic and unique

ability from here on out. This is something to be honestly happy about. I think it would be best to increase her MP as much as possible from here on out so after aiming to somewhat level up her magic special skills, when her MP gets to about double digits it would be best to have her start leveling up her unique ability “Spatial Understanding”.

I’ve become acquainted with several other parties that we often come across inside of the dungeon.

I haven’t seen the top teams like {Verdure Brotherhood} or {Black Topaz} since then but I’ve gotten reasonably familiar with the people who can make it to the teleport room of the 2nd floor.

However, I still don’t have the guts to do something like camp in the teleport room of the 2nd floor.

After all more than half our party is made up of 14 year old brats. Even though Zenom and Zulu are here as well, if we were to be attacked while we’re sleeping I’m sure it would become a terrible situation. It seems that it’s reasonably known to everyone that we’re always holding a considerable number of magic stones when we go to the teleport room of the 2nd floor and the people who start talking intimately ask how we’re killing all of the monsters and I can’t help but get the impression they’re trying to sound out our secrets.

And I’ve figured out that it’s not that simple to gather gems on the 3rd floor. It’s a dungeon that’s been accepting adventurers for several hundred years already.

Even though it’s the 3rd floor it’s been reasonably explored. About once a month it seems that supposedly a raw ore of a gem with a decent value (20,000,000 — 30,000,000 Z) is discovered. Even though I went to the trouble of buying a pickax and was carrying the heavy thing along it’s to the point where it seems stupid.

Since I think we’ve already started to get somewhat used to the 3rd floor, it might be about time to aim for the 4th floor and just make it into a floor we pass through.

In the first place, it seems that the value of the gems you can gather are even

more valuable and easier to find on the lower floors.

In the end we weren't able to find the raw ores of gems or the stone room with strange tools in them on the 3rd floor but I guess it's fine.

After organizing things a bit and since normally the possibility of gathering the raw ores of gems can only be done after the 3rd floor it's appropriate to try and earn after that floor. It seems that rare metals start to appear on the 4th floor as well.

I don't know much about the 5th floor since only the top teams can get that far but even then the information that I did obtain was that you can gain even more rare metals and valuable gems.

I'm sure it's just being able to find one about once in a month or so but it's only obvious that the possibility of finding them would be higher in a place where there's almost no people. After all, we should quickly pass through the 3rd floor and seek out the possibilities of the lower floors. If we don't get too particular about gathering the magic stones then we can get through the 1st floor in roughly three hours and the 2nd floor in about the same amount of time.

The problem is the 3rd floor. There's also the matter of traps so it will take a considerable amount of time. Even if it was about the same amount of time (though that's definitely not the case) the amount of time it would be possible for us to explore the 4th floor would be about two or three hours. No matter how I think about it, entering in the morning the best we could do in one day is make it to the teleport room of the 3rd floor or not.

Near the end of this day, after we started on our way back from exploring, I declared that we were suspending spending anymore time than this on the 3rd floor and since tomorrow is a day off, starting next month we would aim for the 4th floor.

Simultaneously I started saying that it'll definitely be necessary to take some rest in the teleport room on the 3rd floor before the 4th floor and in order to do that we'll need to prepare the tools needed for camping and since the map for floors beyond the 4th isn't sold so we have to start producing our own map,

therefore, it'll be even more difficult than the quick clearing we've done until now while looking at everyone.

Since no one commented I said that while tomorrow afternoon is a day off we need to split up and buy the necessary things as we left the dungeon.

After returning to my inn and a letter from Bakuddo had arrived. It seems that they're going to leave the house at a time where they'll arrive in Baldukk around December the 28th.

Different from normally it seems that they'll be leaving Bakuddo for quite a while so they're just coming with older brother and some squires.

I thought it might be good to take a week-long break or so like the Japanese for the New Years holiday.

.....

Year 7442, Month 11, Day 30

During the morning, we performed our using coordination training and after taking some lunch we went shopping.

Since Ralpa volunteered for the preserved food and portable stove magic tool I left it to her and Zenom.

Putting aside food we can make water with my magic.

It's bad tasting water but there's no problem with drinking it.

As far as I can tell from looking at other parties they're splitting up heavy looking buckets or water bags between them.

After listening to their conversations and it seems that's it common sense for a sorcerer who can create water not to use their mana in combat.

With just water magic level 2 you can make a bowl full of it and if it's level 3 then you can make about a bucket full so it seems that they try to save as much mana as possible and make their baggage lighter.

Even then they at least want to drink some delicious tea to rest themselves when they're exhausted so they each take a few liters as well.

Hmm, I understand those feelings.

It's true that the tea I was treated to that time was delicious.

I guess we should take along some proper water and use that for tea when camping rather than using the water made with water magic. I'm sure it'll be a

bit heavy but it might be good to just say to put water in the flasks that we normally keep empty.

The remaining members went to obtain some bedding and blankets. Baldukk is a town where adventurers are gathering for the dungeon so I thought there would be some convenient goods like sleeping bags but I couldn't find something like that no matter where I searched. Since Bel and I knew that the sleeping bag was an extremely useful tool when camping in our previous lives so we were pretty fixed on that.

It's true that none of the people who were camping in the teleport room of the 2nd floor and that time when I saw the members of Black Topaz on the 1st floor they weren't using something like a sleeping bag.

There was no tent as well.

They were just laying a blanket on the floor and rolling up in that to sleep.

However, Bel and I both can't help but feel doubtful about that style. Since I fundamentally stayed at inns on my way to Baldukk, I've only camped out a handful of times but in my case I slept in a hammock. As expected there's no convenient trees to hang a hammock from inside of the dungeon.

It can't be helped there's no other choice than endure with a blanket here.

I ordered blankets for everyone made of the threads from the Roze we gathered previously.

I'm glad I didn't try to make gloves for Ralpa and Bel.

It seems it'll take about a month for them to finish being made.

Something like a qiviut blanket what kind of rich person is that, I couldn't help but think that but I'm sure a warm blanket is necessary.

I haven't caught sight of them at all since then but if we encounter Roze on the 2nd floor again we need to secure them no matter what.

Since we can't afford to rest until the qiviut blankets are completed, it couldn't be helped so I purchased some appropriately thin blankets. I purchased a bag to put those blankets in separately as well.

It should be fine to tie this up to the top part of our bags.

Since we're throwing our bags down every time there's combat I thought they

would be damaged quicker but it seems that leather-made bags are more durable than I thought and they weren't all that damaged so it shouldn't be necessary to replace them.

In regards to a tent putting aside Zenom and I, I thought that the women would want one but after all they did.

I'm sure they wanted something to block sight while changing and other stuff. I can understand those feelings but it's large and since it'll add to the baggage I wanted them to restrain themselves on that.

After all, it's not easy for one person to carry a tent large enough to stand or change inside.

Whether it be adventurer's tents, two-person tents, or even the simple shelter three-person tents it's impossible to stand up inside.

I couldn't say anything other than that I would block them off with a blanket so to make do with that.

Side Story 18: In the case of Nishioka Wakana (Age 17 at time of accident)

“Really~ Thank goodness I was able to buy it~ Thanks for tagging along with me~”

After I said that I got on the bus. Other than me, two others forgot to buy obligation chocolate for Valentine’s Day, so those two who forgot to buy it and one who just came along with us, we sneaked out of school and came to buy some. Though it’s obligation, there’s also the matter of appearances, and we can hope for return chocolate on White Day so we just make due with cheap chocolate from the convenience store. If we aren’t careful to at least buy 1,000 yen per person then the recovery becomes doubtful.

The bus was empty. The four of us moved to the left center side of the bus and sat down on the priority seats near the entrance. If we all line up then this is all of the seats there are so it’s fine if we just give up the priority seat to someone who needs it when they get on. It shouldn’t be a problem with enjoying our conversation until then.

Misa and Yukino are sitting closer to the front and Yoko and I are sitting near the back end near the entrance. In front of us going in order there’s a woman wearing OL-like suit pants on one of the elevated chairs looking at an electronic pad, a young worn-out looking salary-man guy, and yet another salary-man looking guy who looks past his 30s sitting down. Behind them there’s what seems to be a high school boy sitting down looking at his smartphone or pad or something. On the single elevated seat in front of us there’s an old lady that seems to be on her way home from shopping. Near the rear exit there’s what seems to be two high school boys lined up on the two-person seat on the left side.

Another customer entered the bus at the next bus station. It’s a high school boy. He grabbed on to the leather handle in front of us and looked out the window. His uniform is that of a high-level school. It seems he’s occasionally glancing at us but his glances are disgusting which doesn’t match up with his

decent looking face.

About shopping, about the boys in the class, we never run out of topics to talk about.

In the next moment I noticed that the high school boy and salary-men sitting in front of us we're looking surprised behind us.

Looking at their foolish faces with their mouths wide open was the last scene I saw.

.....

Time just passed by as I hazily spaced out. For about a year I just lived without doing anything in particular. Because, my body became to where I can't do anything after all. I had become a baby.

Recently, I've finally become able to stand up while grabbing on to things. Right now, I wonder if I'm watching a long dream? I even feel like that might be the case.

And I arrived at the naming ceremony. It seems that my real name is Gulinel.Akdam. Gwine, Gwine since I was always called like that I could have sworn that my name was Gwine. It seems that it was a nickname. Simultaneously I found out about Status Open but I didn't really understand it. Things like my name or my birth date or other things like the Unique Ability which is the only words in a different color. In the first place, something like geographical memory {Mapping}, I don't get the meaning of it. What is the point in remembering the geography? And, is what I was thinking but I felt like something transparent came up in my head. What is, this sensation, is what I was thinking when I suddenly started to feel tired after a short while.

After learning the language I started to play with the kids in the neighborhood. I already understand how to use my Unique Ability. A short while after using it I feel like my head becomes clear. It might be a faulty expression to say clear but I feel that {clear} is a weird way of putting it as well so it can't be helped. I can almost perfectly remember the buildings I entered, observed, and the roads I took during that time. It's simple to remember them. I can even simply look at them almost like looking at a bird's eye picture from the sky when I remember them. I learned the method to use this ability from God

when I talked to it previously. If I remember correctly, it was a short while after I learned Status Open.

I talked about various things with God. It seems that I died in an accident when I was riding on the bus. I was even shown something like a recording of the news report after the accident. There were 39 victims. The reason why there's so many is because there quite a few people on the train that crashed into the bus as well. I was shown a screen with a list of the victims names as well. Just from a glance it seems that everyone is Japanese. Since my name had a red square around it, I missed looking at other people's names but I somehow remember seeing Yukino's name on it as well. It can't be helped in less than a second.

When I tried asking during the time I was permitted to ask questions and not just Yukino but even Misa and Yoko died together with me at that time and were reborn in this world at the same time it seems. I tried asking where they were reborn to but it wouldn't tell me. I thought it was such a mean God but it can't be helped. After that I asked about my boyfriend(It seems he's doing well with his new girlfriend now. It can't be helped since more than a year has passed but I thought, cheater), parents, and family, about my Unique Ability and the concept of time, about the money. Since I still had some time left over I tried asking how I can return to my old lifestyle but I was told that it's impossible just like turning back time that has already passed. Then I thought, don't say you're a God in that case, but I was told that it's not that omnipotent. I guess it's that sort of thing.

In any case, just like that my time passed by and when I came to my senses there was a window like the one status is written on with words that were written almost like they're making fun of someone in front of me. I despaired and cried out while shaking off the window and then cried myself to sleep.

.....

Several years passed and it started to become common for me to travel together with my parents. Even if I say travel it's not something like a vacation. It's peddling. The occupation of my family is that of merchants. We have a house in a town but we don't have a store. It's limited to just opening something like a stall with the goods that are leftover from peddling and

fundamentally we're merchants who wander around nearby towns and villages. Assorted grains and seeds like crow wheat and millet, the leathers of beasts and some luxury goods, soap, cloth, clothing, a variety of daily necessities, we load up our carriage with a mountain of stuff like that and deliver it to the people who need it. Before I turned 10 years old I was still allowed to sit on the laps of my father and mother when they drove the carriage but eventually I started to walk on the side of the carriage or ride one of the horses pulling it.

It was common for us to hire adventurers as escorts. We made sure not to go to any place that seemed dangerous but as I grew up and stopped being less of a burden the range of our peddling increased. Accompanied by that we can't let our guards down to criminals like thieves, but monsters as well. If it's a distant village then even if it's something like a daily necessity if it's something that village can produce then they'll buy it for a good price and we can stock up on the specialty produces of that village as well.

Even if I say specialty products it's usually something like tea leaves or tobacco, and agricultural produce is the majority but very rarely when it's something like cotton or wool we return to our base town of Rombertia and take it to a company larger than our house and sell them to merchants who deal in cloth though we don't really deal in unexpected goods (in other words a product that is an unexpected gamble in profits), so we just do wholesome business.

I'm sure that my parents are having me accompany them so I can introduce myself to future customers as I'm the successor to the business and they quickly wanted me to be able to get used to doing trades as well. It might be different but I think that way so the truth doesn't matter at all. Since I'm sure that my parents wish for me to one day find a husband and make Akdam Company bigger. This is only obvious and I can naturally accept it. Rather, if what God said was true then I have no other choice than to go on living on this Orth, I should be grateful that I have an occupation I can settle into. If I think about it that way then my Unique Ability {Mapping} is convenient. Since I can remember all of the places I've seen with a bird's eye view, I doubt there's a Unique Ability that matches up to such an occupation so well.

Since I first started accompanying the peddling in order to expand the map

register inside of my head I would frequently use my Unique Ability. After all I can just sleep on my father or mothers lap if I get tired. Well, I'm sure I'll get used to my Unique Ability eventually, the number of times I get tired has decreased. Although, this is because we're taking the same roads a number of times so there's no need to go out of my way to use the Unique Ability as well.

My mother and father were steadily creating savings and it was just before I was about to turn 15 years old that they were going to sell our house and had saved up enough money to hold a proper store. The incident happened at that sort of time.

.....

It was when we had hired two adventurers as escorts and were continuing down the usual twisted paths of a forest on a mountain side. A javelin stabbed into the adventurer on the right side of the carriage. It's an attack by monsters! These sorts of things happen once or twice in a year. I've seen adventurers die in front of my eyes from surprise attacks several times. I got off the horse and moved to the left side of the carriage in order to use it as a shield. Father and mother took their spears out of the back of the carriage as well. The adventurer who was standing guard on the left side of the carriage stood on guard with his shield as he ran around to the right side of the carriage.

There's nothing to worry about. I'm sure a monster on the level of Orks or Hobgoblins have attacked. If we hang on and manage to defeat one or two of them then they should retreat while covering their injured allies.

I calm myself down while checking the state of the injured adventurer. It seems that the javelin stabbed in around the shoulder of his right arm there's blood coming out of the large wound. It seems he can use magic and he's desperately trying to use magic with his left hand to heal it but I'm sure he can't concentrate enough because of the pain. There's just more and more blood coming out between the fingers of his hand and it's not closing up at all. I thought about calling for my mother but she should be doing her best to protect the carriage from the monsters with the adventurer and in the first place mother can't use magic all that well either.

It can't be helped. It doesn't seem like he'll die right away so there's no choice

other than to slowly recover from it later. Rather than that it's more important to chase off the monsters as fast as possible. I went to grab my spear from the carriage and help out as well.

It seems that the combat is taking place on the other side of the carriage with my parents supporting centering around the adventurer. However, I doubted my eyes after just a glance of that combat. As far as I can tell the opponent are Orks. There's not many many in number as well. The five orks are each holding spears and attacking my parents and the adventurer. If it was normally then while my parents were holding out the adventurer would seriously injure one or two of them orks and then they'd start to retreat.

However, this time they might be the same orks but they're completely different from the usual orks. One of the smaller orks among them is riding on the back of something like a large dog-like monster. No, it's not a dog. It's a frightening wolf of about 2.5m with grey fur. It seems that the adventurer can barely take on that wolf as the opponent and my parents are each being attacked by two orks. I need to save them!

I quickly grabbed my spear from the carriage and let out a scream as I swung the spear trying to help them. I've learned how to use the spear a bit from my father but at best I'm still an amateur. There's no way my attacks would hit. But, this is fine. If I can even get the attention of one of them and keep them away then that's fine. It's not like I need to defeat it. That's why we're paying such an expensive price to hire an adventurer after all.

I swing the spear around and succeeded in catching the attention of one of the orks trying to attack my mother. If I look closely then if they do 1 on 1 combat putting aside injuring them they should be able to rival them. And I heard a scream from like "uo" from my father. I wonder if he was injured? I'm worried but there's nothing I can do right now. As far as I can tell from a glance it doesn't seem he was particularly injured so in any case I can't do anything but pray for the adventurer to do something about the ork riding on the wolf.

However, it was something I found out quickly but it seems that father wasn't raising a loud voice because he took an attack but because he was putting spirit into the attack he made on his opponent. One of the two opponents that father was fighting was injured. Alright! I'm sure the orks will withdraw with this.

But, of all things. At the same time as I saw one of the orks get injured and fall over our only hope the adventurer had the arm he was holding his spear with bitten by the wolf and when he lost his balance the ork stabbed him in the chest with a spear. Useless salary thief! is what I was thinking but there's no helping it. Father, do something! I'll give it my best but father! Please!

Come to think of it I wonder what the adventurer who took the javelin at the start is doing? I wonder if they've already recovered from the wound? Since it seemed like they weren't going to be able to use magic from the pain I completely forgot, I was completely angry over how the other adventurer didn't come to help. Right now father is struggling against the ork on a wolf and the remaining ork while mother and I earn time against one ork each.

It's not like the ork that father defeated is dead either. It's crawling away from the battle and healing its wounds. Well, it took a spear to its leg so I doubt it'll join in the battle again so easily. But, on our side the adventurer took a spear to the chest. Even if they're not dead it's already a serious injury so it's hopeless that they'll recover more than the injured ork.

However, I guess after all they realized they needed to do enough work to justify their wages the adventurer who was in the shadow of the carriage jumped out with a spear in their left hand and raised a battle cry while charging at the ork my mother was fighting.

The spear of the adventurer didn't miss its mark and stabbed into the ork's chest killing it instantly. Alright! With this it should already be fine. It was only a brief moment that I thought that, the adventurer who stabbed the ork with his spear had his injured right arm almost torn off by the wolf. After the adventurer fell the wolf then body slammed into my mother who went to help and the ork riding it stabbed my mother with its spear.

"Jury!"

"Mother!"

My father and my screams echo out.

However, my mother had already turned into a lifeless corpse.

One of the orks made use of the time my father let his guard down to scream and stabbed him in the abdomen with a spear.

It's already no good.

In a half-frenzy I couldn't do anything but swing the spear around like crazy. I felt a warm liquid go down my legs.

It was in that moment.

A man who ran in almost like the wind cut down the ork that stabbed my father with it's spear and then after turning his body halfway around he stabbed into the side of the wolf his sword. After immediately pulling the sword out he grabbed on to the spear of the ork riding the wolf and pulled it forward causing it's posture collapse before stabbing it into the stomach as well. It all happened in no time at all.

And along with the recoil of kicking off the wolf he pulled his sword from the ork riding it and stood on guard with his sword. After the ork in front of me saw that it ran away as fast it could. And the ork that was riding the wolf held down on it's wound while retreating on the wolf as well.

I was narrowly able to avoid the dilemma.

I couldn't do anything but dreamily stare the man finishing off the remaining orks but after I heard my father's groans I threw away my spear and ran to hsi side.

"Father! Are you alright!?"

"Ah, Gwine. Are you hurt anywhere? What about July?"

I guess you would call it deathly pale. All of the blood in his face has drained as he's turned pale as paper and sweat is coming out of his face.

What should I do? What can I do?

"Wait just a minute."

After saying that I turned around to mother. If she's still alive then I need to heal her! Thinking that I turned around but the man who just appeared crouched down by mother's side and after putting his hand to her neck he looked at me and shook his head. Ah...

"Fa...Father! Mother is! Mother is ..!!"

Unable to withstand the overflowing tears, father seems to have understood

look at my crying.

He caressed my head with his trembling hand and wiped away the blood at the edge of his mouth while saying.

“Gwine. I’m probably a goner. Listen well. The money is in the usual place. If possible try to get rid of all the belongings at Hengel Village. The company license is a white license in my name so I can’t turn it over to you. In any case.. once you change all of our luggage into money, after that..you somehow manage something. Yo..you can remember the roads well so you should be able to become a good..merchant...Goho..”

“It’s already fine! It’s fine so don’t talk! Hey, you, can you use healing magic? Medicine would be fine as well, or anything, please save father!”

I screamed that at the man but he just made a sad face and shook his head. He crouched down on the other side of my father and,

“The two men and your wife? have already passed away. I’m sorry I wasn’t able to make it in time.”

After saying that he lowered his head to my father.

“Y...You,‘re an elf huh? You have a lot of skill...I have a ...favor. Ah..ahead of here..Hengel village.. my daughter...and luggage..escort..? I’ll pay...300,000 Z.”

“I’ll accept it. I’ll definitely see your belongings and your daughter to Hengel village.”

“Th...Than...nk..you...Please...take..care..of my.. daughter..Gwine..”

After saying that and my father’s head dropped as if he had completely run out of power.

Today, I lost, my family.

.....

The man who saved me is a young elf named Tolkelis.Kalosutaran. However, what I was really surprised at was his face. His facial features were deep for an elf and his eyes and hair were the same color as mine black. His eyebrows were thick and dense, giving off an air of manliness. His jaw wasn’t as sharp as a normal elf and it has a powerful border to it. Just, he has an overall uncouth

atmosphere to him as well, I'm sure his facial features are well within the range of beautiful but it's not at the level of beauty of an elf. His nose is low and has a slightly smashed feeling. If it weren't for his ears and his almond-shaped eyes then it wouldn't be strange to see him not as an elf but a beautiful human.

It seems that after he saw my face he noticed and was surprised as well. My height is only 130 cm or so. Other than that I haven't inherited the usual characteristics of a dwarf and I'm thin for a dwarf. I haven't properly grown a beard yet but while it's a shock I'm sure I'll grow a beard in another few years as well. Normally it's nothing to be particularly embarrassed about but after seeing the face of the elf in front of me I couldn't help but common sense from my previous life and I couldn't hold back from my face turning red. How embarrassing, I thought that.

After that, we each introduced ourselves and when we were properly able to observe each other's faces we realized it. After that we talked in Japanese along the way.

It seems that the elf's real name is Sema Yousuke, and after all he was one of the victims who passed away in that accident. Supposedly during that time he was riding the train with his lover and in order to meet that lover again he's traveling around as an adventurer. The lover's name is Soma Asuka. It seems that both of them were college students and the same age.

I felt jealous of that lover. There was already a different woman living in the heart of the prince who saved me from a crisis. However, in the end we're just elf and dwarf. Even if we were to marry we couldn't have children. And it's not guaranteed that his lover is an elf. If that's not the case then even I might still have a chance. If I dedicate myself to serving him then it wouldn't be strange for him to notice my feelings one day.

I'll go along with him.

And I didn't worry almost at all before deciding that. It's true that you could say it's regrettable about the connections and stock routes my father left behind with his business but we have a carriage with two horses and a small house in the capital. Since I'm a Free Person as long as I don't leave the King's direct territory then I'm free to go anywhere. I'm sure I don't match up to a

noble like him but I feel like I can depend on his kindness that as a Japanese he wouldn't worry about the difference in social standing.

After getting rid of all my luggage in Hengel Village, I gave him the payment for escorting me and the money from selling all of the luggage this time, a total of 3,800,000 Z to him. Since we still have savings hidden in the mouse hole in our house even if I lose all my money here it's not a big problem. It's not like I'm giving him the money I already had in the first place so I still have about 1,500,000 Z on me.

"Please take me along with you as well. Since I already no longer have any parents there's no problem. I have a carriage as well and a house in the capital. I don't think it's a bad idea to have a base in a large town if you're going to search for your girlfriend right?"

He returned 3,500,000 Z while saying,

"Thanks. I'm extremely happy. I'll take the payment for escorting but I can't take anymore money than that. And I can't depend on a stranger like you that much. But, the capital huh..it's true that if it's a large town she might be there. I've avoided the large towns until now. Only for the times when I was doing jobs as an adventurer. I've traveled around quite a few small villages but it's true that I don't know if I'll be able to find her anymore than this...I need to properly earn some money pretty soon as well.."

"Please don't hold back. I'll give you the money. I want to meet my friend as well. Will you search together with me? Ah, that's right next to the capital there's a town called Baldukk and there's a dungeon there. There's a lot of adventurers who gather there and sell magic stones and gems. If you're girlfriend wants to meet up with you as well then wouldn't she be leaving her house around now? She might be an adventurer? And if it's Baldukk then you can earn some money so I think it might be good to start searching from there."

I said it while trying to grasp for straws.

"..Certainly, that's true. It's difficult to move around blindly huh...If it's the dungeon in Baldukk then I've heard the name of it before as well so I can imagine it. Even with this I've been an adventurer for close to two years. It's just as Gwine said, if Asuka is looking for me then it wouldn't be strange for her to

try and earn money there, but..”

“But?”

“I can’t imagine her fighting with her personality..I can’t even imagine her as an adventurer.”

He said that while making a bitter smile.

His white teeth sparkled.

Side Story 19: In the Case of Numaoka Shogo (Age 40 at time of accident)

“Nemoto you, why didn’t you say anything just now?”

“Eh? I mean, Numaoka-san didn’t you say you were going to do the explanation?”

I can’t bring myself to like this guy. I can’t feel any enthusiasm in his work. He doesn’t do anything except what he’s told and even then he forgets it right away. He immediately retorts back. He doesn’t apologize. His capacity towards his work is bad. He hates working overtime. He always uses all of his paid time off. And also..he doesn’t join us for drinks and doesn’t smoke. It seems he’s uninterested in women as well. His hobbies are games and animation.

“No, what I’m referring to is that the one who originally told the incorrect delivery date to the other side was you right? Why didn’t you apologize to them?”

“I mean, in the first place the one who made the mistake was manager of manufacturing Nishida-san and I just conveyed to them the mistaken date I was told? Isn’t the one who should apologize Nishida-san? I just told them the date Nishida-san told me? Why should I have to lower my head? My head isn’t that cheap~”

Are you a small child? In the first place is that such an important matter to taper your lips over!?

“Eh? That’s unrelated to the other party right, since our company made the mistake, isn’t it only reasonable that you as a representative should be the first to apologize?”

“What sort of reason is that? If you’re going to say that, then in the first place Numaoka-san aren’t you by superior, shouldn’t you Numaoka-san be the first one apologizing?”

It’s already fine. It’s the same as usual. There’s no point in saying anything to

this guy.

Come to think of it, the lecturer in a seminar aimed at managers of corporations mentioned it. The type of talents that are needed in an organization or corporation.

1. A leader who can promote cooperation.

The managers must be able to gain the trust of their employees. It's only obvious they have to have leadership. There's no particular need for them be fascinating as a person. What's required is {Fairness} and the ability to guide towards a goal. And the attitude of advancing straight towards that.

2. A staff officer with the ability to think out of the box.

In a top down company if the managers aren't capable the company won't function. They need to be able to submit ideas to the leader in order to achieve the objective and look to them for the decision. There's no need for this role to be a fascinating human either. The ability that's important is to be able to create a plan making use of the limited pawns they're given to achieve the long-term or mid-term goals indicated by the leader.

3. A manager with the ability to train and educate.

In order to maintain a company you need to properly train the next generation of talents. What's necessary is someone who can create short-term goals and effectively teach their subordinates in order to achieve those goals as they themselves take the first step in guiding them. Starting here it's necessary for them to be a person fascinating (the ability to make other's want to follow them, feel relieved, or think they want to help them) to others.

4. Employees with motivation.

It seems that among those the one with the most responsibility and hardships is 3. the mid-end managers. The largest challenge is how well they can make use of their employees on the spot. If they can't educate and can't manage, if someone like that is a manager then the company will gradually decline. The eager incompetent teach the jobs and the uneager capable bestow the chances and goals. The uneager and incompetent either go to the top right away and get cut down or are abandoned at the entrance. This is the job of mid-level management. If you don't have the resolve to do this then remain a single

employee for the rest of your life, because otherwise you're honestly just a bother. Is what they said.

Huh..is what I thought. it seemed a bit different from what the something or other general of Germany said after all. If I remember correctly it was something like, there's no other choice than to shoot diligent stupidity to death. Doesn't an eager incompetent person correspond to diligent and stupid? Thinking that I tried asking. And then, this response came back.

"That's a story from an army in the past. I guess it meant, those who are superior but lazy should be sent as commanders to the front, diligent and superior people should be made into officers, lazy and foolish people made into soldiers, and there's no choice but to execute those who are diligent and stupid? However, it doesn't really apply in reality. The level of education was incomparably low at that time compared to now so that was fine back then. Furthermore the actual amount of time spent in education through the army was extremely short and peoples lives were cheap. Currently there's few people who are at the same level of stupidity as back then. Everyone can use the Japanese language and can do calculations. In other words, unless they have some kind of special circumstances, it's fine to think they have some level of intelligence.

It might be best to rephrase stupidity to idiocy. Since they're idiots they don't know or understand their own abilities. The incompetent that I'm referring to are different from idiots. Rather what I'm talking about are people who are lacking in ability. It means that even among those who are intelligent there are incompetent people. Since they're intelligent they understand that they're lacking in ability. When it comes to fools and idiots in the first place there's no difference between diligence and laziness. They should be cut down right away. Also, please don't mix together diligence and eagerness.

Diligence is one of the virtues. Indigence is an important factor. In the first place there's no such thing as a diligent idiot. Since if they're diligent then normally they would escape stupidity. Just because they have eagerness towards something doesn't mean they're diligent. There's eager yet lazy people as well. Eagerness is basically, the ability to become diligent only when it's necessary."

Hearing this, I thought to myself, I see now. It's certainly true that normal

employees make up the largest number and often are the youngest and lacking in experience. It would probably be correct to generally refer to them as incompetent. Of course there's superior people among them as well but that's an exception to the standard. It's fine as long as you divide the jobs meeting up with their capability. That's why the ability to educate is one of the most important things required of a mid-level manager. I guess that makes me incompetent as a mid-level manager for not cutting this uneager incompetent fellow sitting next to me as well. Putting aside whether I have charm as a human being, among the things I can definitely do right away is cutting down those who are uneager and incompetent.

I'm already sick of being an incompetent manager. When I get back I'll consult with the head of department.

I crossed my arms while thinking that.

The idiot is playing with his smartphone next to me.

I have no HR rights but it's fine to say that the one who has most direct rights to dealing with HR is those managers on the scene. Though the one who will make the final decision in regards to firing him is the head of department but since this guy is far too uneager, the first one to propose cutting him down is me. He diverges far too much from the attitude, consultation, and standards that are requested from a company, if he's still fine even then, then that means he's already resolved for what comes next.

Enjoy your short remaining life at our company as best as you can.

In the next moment, the train seemed to have used to emergency brakes. Since it was sudden an urgent braking you could hear the loud squeal sound from them echoes through the train. Simultaneously the idiot and I were sent flying towards the front.

Along with the sound of a thud I lost consciousness.

.....

What in the world happened? An accident? I wonder if I got into an accident because I was riding together with an idiot like Nemoto?

I guess that's saying too much? It's difficult to move my body. I feel like my

emotions are getting uncontrollable. I can't hold back.

Even though I'm an adult male in his 40s I ended up crying. I wonder if I was injured somewhere, I feel like my voice is strangely high but it doesn't feel all that unnatural either.

.....

Was it six months, more than that, or maybe even one year that passed? Along with the passing of time I've vaguely started to get a grasp on the circumstances. I can't even guess what actually occurred but it seems I was reborn in some foreign country. No matter how I look at it my body has shrunk to the size of a baby and along with that my strength and stamina, and even emotions have fallen to that level. Adding to that as well, I thought I only had one parent but I only found out I have two parents recently. Who could have imagined that my mother had a beard growing as well?

I still have all of the memories and knowledge I've accumulated up until now. However, at one point there was something I was shocked over. Since I had far too much spare time it was when I was thinking back to my final moment's in my past life. Right, it was on the train returning after apologizing to the client for that idiot Nemoto's mistake.

Was the content of what Nemoto was saying that strange? It's strange. No, I can't declare it as strange. If I think about it calmly, while concentrating on it my knowledge and common sense is strange, but even further inside, I realized I was somehow agreeing with Nemoto on an emotional level. Even if I remember back other than that time, to the countless statements he said that I found unpleasant...

"They call those sorts of things corporate slaves?"

"What are you doing throwing away your pride like that?"

"Laborer's have rights too!"

"Since it's not particularly like I'm working for the sake of the company, it's my life."

They're all statements that show off his idiocy but my feelings are in agreement with him. Even though I can clearly decide it's mistaken based on all of my knowledge and experienced in my life up until now but if I don't think

seriously about it and I can't help but think "That's right, that's right". as well. What in the world is this? Did I become an idiot on the same level as Nemoto? Well I guess there's no other choice than to get into the habit of thinking carefully.

Since I got sick of thinking about that idiot Nemoto, I thought about my wife, son, and family. I haven't met them in a long time now. I wonder if they're doing well? Are they staying healthy? What's going on with their lifestyle? Ah, since it was an accident in the middle of work, so I'm sure the company will pay a decent amount of sympathy money, there's insurance as well. My two sons will become adults in another few years so there should be enough for them to have no problems until then I guess. N? Sympathy money from the company? For Nemoto as well even! I feel it's waste for the company to give even 1 yen for that guys sake.

Since I had too much spare time I couldn't but think about things like this. If I start thinking about my family I quickly get emotional and start crying so I've gotten used to it. It was such a time as that, whenever a new face I haven't seen sees me I noticed they were doing something. They usually say "Status Open" while touching me. I thought it was some kind of spell of this region or country.

However, when I was doing the naming ceremony, the priest, or minister, or monk or whatever I don't know, the guy with the sacred profession touched me while doing some sort of spell as well. And then, it was only when they're using that sort of spell that their words got a bit long. In the end I finally heard {Named}. I noticed there was bits of English and words I was familiar with here and there. That's why I didn't think I was in the sphere of influence of English, some different country.

I've already learned the language of a simple level. After I heard {Named} from the priest, my father said {Status Open} while touching me and said something like "His name has certainly changed." to the priest afterwards. Incidentally my new name is Zuhentis.Heriosaid. I'm the eldest son and heir of Viscount Heriosaid.

And then I noticed it, the real meaning of {Status Open}. I was so shocked at it that I ended up crying out. Unique Ability: Predictable Evasion? I don't get the meaning. In the first place what's an ability? Other than that there was also

something like Special Skill: Infrared Vision. I was able to figure out the special skill right away. If I think about Infrared Vision in my head then I noticed my vision changed. How do I put it, something multicolored like my vision has turned {psychedelic}. However, I don't really get my Unique Ability. I tried using a number of times but I wasn't able to understand what changed at all. Since I get tired after using it and couldn't understand it at all I forgot about it.

I was only truly able to understand about my Unique Ability when I turned around three years old. When I got into a fight with my two-year older sister I remembered and tried using it. It might have just been my imagination but I felt like I knew what direction my older sister's open hand was flying. I just felt like that but I wasn't able to evade it though. I tried using it countless times while fighting but since I suddenly fell asleep my older sister went into a panic thinking she had killed me.

It was then that I was somehow able to understand it. The fact that "Predictable Evasion" is when something is moving aimed at me, I can "Predict" the target point and somehow understand the direction I would need to move my body in order to "Evade" it. Once I understood the method to use it my Unique Ability leveled up right away and I met God.

I used up about half of the time I was permitted to confirm what happened to my remaining family and the remaining half I used to ask about things I had questions on. About my race and the form of government, the concepts of time and currency, the stuff around there had been taboo. I regretted not asking about magic since I didn't know about it back then. Well, it's no problem now though. Also, I forgot to ask why I get tired when I use my Unique Ability. Well, now it's not much of a problem since I don't get tired from using it just 10 or 20 times.

It was only vague but I was able to understand various things about the world. Since three years have already passed I don't have much regrets towards my past life at this point. I had them but since it seems like my family is doing reasonably well it should be fine. I should worry about myself from here on out. For starters it's necessary to search for that idiot Nemoto. Even if it's a guy like that he was still a subordinate of mine and I still hadn't gotten him fired. I'm sure there's not much meaning in carrying our relationships from our past lives

over into this world but even then a relation is a relation, no matter how much of an idiot he is, since he was educated in Japan I'd like to think he's still more intelligent than the average person on Orth.

Since we both died in the accident at almost the same time and we were sitting next to each other, I feel like he might be surprisingly nearby. Maybe he's in the same village. Since it seems that people who died in the accident were "reborn simultaneously" he should be the same age as me. It seems like it would be simple to find him...Though it wasn't simple at all. There were no children with a birth date close to mine in the village. Even the closest one was six months apart. Just in case, I tried to let me meet them even then but no matter how I looked at them it was just an infant. I can't imagine it was just an act.

Just like that I turned 7 years old and started training with the sword. Though if you were to ask rather than the sword the training put more emphasis on the spear and axe. Since even adult dwarves have a short height training with the sword isn't a bad thing but they prefer weapons with long reach or even if it's a short reach one you can easily put power into like the hand-axe. Until 10 years old it was almost completely just swinging and forms but it seems at 10 years old I can start practice matches. I'm sure that will be the time for my Unique Ability to show it's true worth. Up until then there's not much meaning to it. And, it seems that my growth rate on level up is high as well. It can't be helped using my Unique Ability to hurry with level ups starting now. The thing that should say the most in the end is steadily continuing training over time. Without thinking about level ups for a while I just vigorously kept training, I'm sure it's best to start with making my body.

Since it seems there's monsters on Orth as well, it's lucky that I'm able to learn how to fight from the time I'm a child. I did a bit of karate when I was a student but I really can't imagine half-assed karate would work against monsters so I'm sure a weapon is necessary. If there was a gun then that would work the best but unfortunately it doesn't seem like civilization has advanced that far. Putting aside the fact that there's no gunpowder, it seems like the metal is only bronze or cast iron and they aren't even doing any proper forging. Even when I'm lacking in that sort of knowledge I feel like we should make good

use of it. Among the close to 40 Japanese people who were reborn I'm sure there should be some superior guys among them as well so won't someone make them?

And then I turned 10 years and finally started to mix in practice matches with my training. I made good use of this chance to start using my Unique Ability and it didn't take much time at all to be known for never losing in the village. Around the time I turned 12 years old it was vague whether I could land a hit but I would wait until the opponent goes in for a powerful blow and land a powerful counterattack at those times, so my father, grandfather, and the squires all praised me quite a bit for that style. Since they have high expectations for my talent start next year I'm getting a recommendation to enter Count Dovin's knight group.

A knight group huh, how cool~ Riding on a horse wearing silver plate-mail, and swinging around a halberd to fight monsters, it's like a knight from a story book. In terms of games it would be the hero. I wonder if there's some sort of magic like Gigadein? I would definitely love to learn it. I was able to put even more effort into my training. There's not even enough time to waste playing with the children of the village. In the past I felt like I would lose to the temptation and was quite troubled trying to endure it. As expected now I don't have any feelings of wanting to play. If I don't hurry Nemoto might die because he's an idiot. Once I become a knight I'll become that adventurer or whatever and try searching around here and there. Ah, I was the eldest son. Well if I can get promoted in the knight group then it should be fine if sister takes on an adequate husband for the Viscount family.

Just like this when I turned 13 years old, I was able to pass the exam for Count Dovin's knight group without a complaint. Around that time no one in the knight group could land an attack on me when I was in good condition. One year later, my efforts were recognized, and since it seems I had talent as well I was given a recommendation for the strongest white phoenix knight group in the country.

.....

There was series of surprises waiting for me when I entered the white phoenix knight group. The prince of the Belgrid family, the son of Duke Stahlz,

even more so while he's a commoner, but there's the son and heir to the Sagal family of spies for Devas Kingdom were all in the knight group since a year before I arrived and my seniors. Obviously, they quickly called out to me as well.

They had other influential allies as well. One of them was a woman named Geguran who was a skilled magician the daughter of a Baron family of court sorcerers. All of them were being instructed by her in magic and it seems some of them can already use magic. It's quite enviable. Also, there was one more, male ally as well. A man named Barnes, since he was a Free Person he wasn't able to enter the knight group. It seems that normally he's wandering here and there with his allies as an adventurer and confirming the terrain. As expected even for the prince and Duke's son, they aren't able to grasp the power at 14 years old, so the limit of what they could do was pushing a commoner of the Sagal family into the knight group.

Among them it seems that Geguran was an old lady in Japan. However, she has a pretty good abundance of youthful sensitivity that doesn't let you feel that. It seems she looked up to magicians and after finding out there was magic on Orth, she started getting trained in magic by her parents from a young age so she's quite skilled. It seems that one every couple of months she goes traveling with Barnes as an adventurer using her magic.

And, it seems she's going to teach me magic as well. She,

"It's a world that God went through the effort of letting us be reborn on. Everyone should definitely be able to use magic. After all, if that wasn't the case there'd be no meaning to the existence of magic. Of course I'm sure there's differences in talent but I believe that. Isn't it lovely that we can use something so mysterious as magic?"

said that and smiled. Even a dwarf like me can use it?

She taught me several important things that I didn't know. First, it was about Nemoto that I was on the verge of forgetting but it seems quite hopeless to search for him. It seems that the people who were reborn in this world have over a fixed amount of distance between each of them. Most likely he should have the same black hair and black eyes like the prince and others but his name will be different and including racial characteristics his appearance will match

his new age. Furthermore, it seems that my case was the first time they found out reincarnated people could be non-humans, so they were extremely surprised.

According to Barnes who I call Ben, he guessed that the genes we've inherited from our parents on Earth were mixed together with the genes from our parents on this world. Since there's no way to confirm if it's true or not everyone has accepted that as an explanation. It's not like anything in particular would change even if we knew the truth after all.

By the way, the one who was most pleased by me entering the white phoenix knight group was Sagal. It seems that until I entered he was going to have to remain the knight group and take on the role of grasping control of the army. And before I entered the group they all were equally weak in combat, and the only one who was even at a decent standard to somehow make it into the white phoenix knight group was Sagal. Next up was the Duke's son Stahlz, and finally Prince Begridd.

Though Prince Belgridd was the weakest in terms of skill among the men, he at least had as much skill as a knight in Count Dovin's knight group so it wasn't something to get down about. However, if they were all like that then it would have been difficult to grasp the army. Barnes had about the same level of skill as Stahlz. It's quite something even though he's never received proper training in a knight group but it seems that in his previous life he was a physical education teacher for a higher school and also the advisor for a kendo club. Furthermore, since Geguran is a noble as well she had some training with the sword but it doesn't exceed self-defense.

It's true that if you mention those on a commander class, individual strength, or rather skill with the sword or spear don't really matter but on Orth where the levels of civilization and culture are low having a decent amount of combat ability is an important factor. It's true that if you don't have the ability to negotiate, regulate, or control things politically on top of that then it's easy to be looked down upon. At the very least if you're looking to gain power in the army then individual strength is in some meanings essential.

For reasons like that they requested that I aim to be the commander of the white phoenix knight group. I'm sure it won't be that simple but if from here on

out the prince becomes an adult and formally inherits the throne then it's predicted that I'll be able to do it without problem. However, if possible they want to speed up his enthronement even just a bit.

As expected 20 years old is unreasonable but they want to have a complete grasp over Devas Kingdom before turning 30 years old and with Belgridd as the King, Sagal as the minister of domestic affairs(just as he was about to also hold the position of commander as well I appeared), Geguran will hold both the roles of top imperial court sorcerer and principal of the royal magic school(it seems that became the case from her strong wishes), Barnes is the minister of foreign affairs and will also hold the post of minister of education, and Stahlz will take the remaining positions of prime minister and other important cabinets.

I thought that was quite the optimistic outlook, that was quite difficult to comment on. However, it's certainly better than not having any plans. It should be fine if I just fill in the holes that they're lacking. According to the stories I've heard they've gone through a reasonable amount of troubles as well. In order to increase the national power even just a bit, to help develop Devas Kingdom in the future, they've been trying to change the disposition of it. They told me about the various things they've tried to do within their abilities so far.

If they can gather a number of Japanese in the backbone of Devas then I'm sure it would become quite the rumor and once they grasp power then they could probably do anything. It might be a bit rash but even searching the entire country with black hair and eyes as the standard should be possible. If we announce it on a large-scale then after hearing the rumors Japanese people might gather. Among them Nemoto might be included. He's a stupid idiot as a Japanese person but I still feel it would be bad to just cut him down.

Chapter 96: Punishment

Year 7442, Month 12, Day 24

Today is Christmas Eve but..when it comes to an event of a religion that they didn't particularly believe in from their past life as expected Ralpa and Bel can casually ignore it. After doing our coordination training in the morning the two of them we're talking about what menu to eat for lunch. I was relieved that I didn't strangely be too careful on that end as well. If I had been carelessly excited while preparing a cake (or something like that) as a present then there's no doubt Ralpa would have looked at me like an unfortunate child.

There's plans for my older brother to arrive in Baldukk on Thursday of next week so I'll at least reserve a room for him in the inn. Although, I'm sure it'll be off by one or two days or maybe even more. Since there's quite a distance between Keel and here. Recently someone from the third company of the first knight group has come to my inn everyday, waiting anxiously for my older brother's arrival.

Even if older brother comes I'll be taking the measurements in the capital so they don't need to be in such a hurry and I already decided to take orders from the third company this time so it's like I'll run away. Relax for a bit. Every time I return to my inn from the dungeon and see people from the knight group waiting outside I think that but I can't treat them carelessly. It's started to get annoying offering them tea before saying "not yet" and then having them leave.

We haven't advanced much at all in regards to the dungeon, it's taking quite a bit to clear the 3rd floor. Ah, no, we've gone to take a glance at the 4th floor, and for the most part we can get to the teleport room to the 4th floor. However, it takes too much time. Teleporting from the 2nd floor to the 3rd floor then trying to figure out where we are on the 3rd floor, it takes a reasonable amount of time just confirming our current position. If we don't know then we can just keep teleporting until we get to a place we do but that's far too

troublesome and we'll never fill in the map for the 3rd floor.

I paid a large sum (listen and be surprised, of all things it was 12,000,000 Z) and purchased what's said to be most accurate map of the 3rd floor you can get your hands on right now but even then you can only trust about half of it. We've repeated teleporting and investigating countless times, if each individual party doesn't increase the accuracy of their own map then it's difficult to go to the 4th floor. If you end up teleporting to a place which isn't on your map if you push yourself a bit then you can get to the teleport room on the 3rd floor but if you do it carelessly then you could end up spending an entire day just to clear through the 3rd floor. We've tried challenging it countless times but without a proper map of the 3rd floor it takes us a lot of time like 24 hours or 30 hours after entering the dungeon to get to the 4th floor.

Even if we take plenty of rest before going to the 4th floor the ground in the teleport room of the 3rd floor is basically some rugged stone leveled out so it's difficult to even normally get some rest. Putting it simply it's difficult to sleep on. We did lookouts in shifts and tried getting some rest but I didn't feel like I could get rid of the fatigue. We spend 6 hours getting through the 1st and 2nd floors then take a 1 hour or so break in the teleport room of the 2nd floor after that if possible we try to arrive at the teleport room of the 3rd floor within 6 hours. After getting one nights rest there we spend about half a day clearing the 4th floor and then I want to take a nice rest in the teleport room of the 4th floor. This is the ideal.

Although, in our case we have leeway with the amount of mana we have so we actually have a bit of advantage when it comes to getting rest in the teleport room on the 3rd floor. It's simple. I use earth magic to create an appropriate amount of dirt and just put the blanket on top of that. I'm always intentionally making sure to use {Anti-Magic Field} at the end to erase the dirt so no one else can use it again. If I want to try and put a reason on it then I could say I don't want to make the dungeon dirty. Well, whenever everyone is going to the bathroom I'm always creating dirt and handing it to them so no matter how you think about it I just don't want to supply or assist other parties though.

6 hours in order to clear the 3rd floor. It's hard to say we've cleared the 3rd floor if we can't definitely manage it with that sort of schedule. If we can keep filling in the map of the 3rd floor at our current pace then most likely we should be able to reach that point in another three months or so. Although, this is supposing everything proceeds smoothly so I think it's highly possible that it could take an extra one to two months on top of that for delays. Well, even then there's no mistake it should be considered a considerably high pace.

Since we still have plenty of leeway in our ability to fight monsters on the 3rd floor, it's large that we have more mental leeway than other parties. I'm sure it'll eventually get harsher someday but by all means I don't want to lose this leeway. Recently since Bel has started to use magic for both attacking and support her experience has gone up quite a bit and in addition to how much MP she originally had it's added quite a bit to our combat potential. Ralpa's void magic turned level 2 as well and she's gotten earth and fire magic both to level 1. Her MP has reached double digits and it's probably about a good time to try and increase her Unique Ability.

Zulu and Angela have increased their skill quite a bit and are functioning as splendid front-line attackers. There's no need to get impatient. It's fine if we just keep slowly moving forward. Since what we end up having to pay if we fail is our lives after all.

On Saturday afternoon, after we finished eating lunch and I was in a corner of the 1st floor practicing my attack spells I was thinking that. I can already use all of the attack spells I know in at longest 2 seconds, for the shorter ones I've even become able to use them in less than 1 second. Since I'm fighting against monsters on the 1st floor at the same time my experience points are going through the roof as well. My level has increased even further and now I'm level 15. All of my magic special skills increased to level 8 and after another 100,000 experience points or so my void magic should reach level 9.

In regards to my Gift of Natural Talent it's finally reached within another 100 monster kills from hitting MAX. Things are going well. Anything and everything is going well. I'll finish up here for today and after doing some running I guess I'll go and eat with everyone. Since it's Christmas

Eve if I were to say I'll treat everyone I wonder if Ralpa and Bel will be surprised? I'm sure they will be surprised. But attentiveness is important after all.

I was thinking that while gathering the magic stone from the gnoll I just killed and then grabbed on to the teleport crystal rod.

.....

Evening, we all gather at the usual restaurant. Putting aside Zenom, since I'm always in charge of Zulu and Angela's dinner, I wonder what I should do. Thinking about a present for my own slave, it seems stupid after all. Well I guess it can't be helped worrying about it. I'm sure that Zulu and Angela don't know about Christmas so there's no meaning to it.

However, let's at least go to "Doruleon" for today. I've stopped by a number of times to the Roze fillets since last month. We ate the slightly extravagant food and had some beer while enjoying ourselves. After all it seems that Ralpa and Bel weren't particularly thinking of anything. When I said that the bill is on me because it's Christmas Eve they just exchanged glances then laughed and ate without holding back. After the four of us returned to Boil Manor we split up to our rooms.

If Ralpa is just going to hang out in Bel's room anyway then I thought those two should just stay together and let Zenom have his own room but if I involve myself that far and they don't like it, it would just be unpleasant so I'm ignoring it. I paid 100 Z and used my home-made shower in the shower room and after returning to my room Ralpa and Bel were standing in front of my door. What is it?

"Hn, What is it? Do you have some business with me?"

"Umm you see. Isn't today Christmas Eve? That's why Bel and I, the two of us prepared something."

Eh?

"Since we're always in your care, it's a present from us Al-san."

Oh?

“Eh? Ah? Sorry. Thanks.”

Oh~ I was moved by their feelings.

“Then, good night.”

“Have a good nice.”

The present I received from the two of them was an inverness coat. Since it's cold out right now and I didn't have a coat. I'm sure it's just right to wear around the town. I'll gratefully accept it. If I look carefully it has my name sewn on the inside of it. The characters are done badly but it reads “Kawasaki Takeo”. The part that's badly done about it is there's too few of a number of strokes in the two characters Kawa and Take. This was probably done by Ralpha.

Come to think of it, I've received a coat as a present from my wife as well. In Miki's case I feel like it was always something like clothes or shoes though. My birthday was...when was it again? Ah, July 25th. Recently February 14th has remained too strongly in my consciousness so it took me some time to remember. My birthday was summer goods and Christmas was winter goods I think it was...speaking of presents, the ones Shiina gave me were always pretty nice as well. A short while after she entered the company, when she was still my errand-runner, or rather something like an assistant as I worked her hard. She said with a meek face “since I'm always under your care..” and gave me a pretty nice ball-pen for Christmas. I remember thinking, this fellow sure pays attention well, and starting from the next year I would give her something as well though.

I think she should be about the same age as I was when I died right around now, was it? I wonder if she's doing well? Miki should already be past 60 as well. It would be good if she was able to remarry. Since she was two years older than me as expected there might not be anyone who would marry her already... I'm sure if she didn't remarry she's eating some pretty good stuff and doing well. I think at that time she had just become the head of the accounting department of small foreign trade company. If she didn't quit then her income should be pretty decent so I'm sure there's no need to worry about her lifestyle. I'm sure my life insurance money was quite a bit as well.

I guess it's because I received a Christmas present I suddenly remembered my

past life. A smile naturally appears on my face. That's right, my wife is already an old woman. I wonder what she would say if she were to see me right now? Wearing rubber protectors, wielding a bayonet, and wearing my handmade boots as I slowly and nervously walk around in the dungeon, she'd probably laugh. And if she found out that the reason for doing that was to earn money so I could found my own country there's no doubt she'd roll around hitting the floor while laughing.

I put my rubber protectors on the armor stand and then carefully put the invernness on top of that and climbed into bed naked as usual. I'm starting to want some pajamas. But it's normal to sleep naked on Orth. I guess only those of true nobility and royalty would wear something like pajamas. I've completely gotten used to it already but when it comes to a cold season I miss my pajamas. When I was small I was in a bed for infants and after I graduated from that I was in between my parents. After I got a bit bigger the three of us siblings slept in a large bed together in the kid's room. After a short while I received a single bed but until then I had always slept with someone close by. I don't even remember the number of times I identified the boards on the roof.

There's various things in life.

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Year 7442, Month 12, Day 27

Today is Wednesday and a day off. Or rather, I went all out and made until the Wednesday on January 4th a holiday.

It seems that Bel and Ralpa are going together with their guardian Zenom to sight-see in the capital starting tomorrow. Since it seemed like Zulu and Angela didn't have anything in particular to do so I think it would be fine if we go together with Bel and the others though my brother should arrive around tomorrow. I'm sure we'll return to Baldukk later that night though.

After eating breakfast and finishing my running, now then, when I started thinking about whether I should enter the dungeon and continue with my magic training or maybe hang around in a boss room on the 1st floor beat down the boss while investigating how it revives as I returned to the Boil Manor, there were some people I recognized and some kind of an uproar going on.

It seems that my older brother and the others arrived one day sooner than planned. The knights from the third company of the first knight group that were on duty (smile) for today must have guessed who older brother and the others were based on their luggage and started talking to them, it seems that the cause is after realizing they were correct they were going to escort them all on their own convenience. Hey now, I'm sure older brother and the others are tired, since they arrived a day early at least let them rest for a day. How much do you want some armor?

"Ya~ brother. Thanks for going out of your way to come all the way here."

"Oh~ Al!?!..Did you dye your hair? Even you wake up to sex appeal when going to city I see~"

..It's not like I've suddenly become aware of sex appeal though. Rather than, this person.

"Rossh-san. It's too soon for the scheduled time. And the delivery to Lord knight leader and the second company are after tomorrow, so taking measurements will be after that."

"Oh~ Greed-kun! Even though you say that I want to order even just a day faster. And this was your older brother huh? I'm sorry about that, it was rude of me when I didn't know your face. I'm the commander of the third company of the first knight group of the Kingdom of Rombert, knight Beinrolf.Rossh. It's an honor to meet the highly rumored "Black Eagle of Webdos". We the first knight group welcome everyone of Greed Company. I'll escort you to the knight group headquarters in the castle."

Rossh-san said that while greeting older brother. Rather what's that Black Eagle of Webdos?

"Yeah, I just heard your greetings from a moment ago...However, can you please pardon me on the Black Eagle of Webdos stuff? I'm not longer active duty after all.."

Older brother said that with a fed up expression. This is...older brother must have been hiding the fact hat he was called that from us.

"No, not at all we've heard stories of your activities from Lord Greed your

little sister, and the sub-commander. Supposedly your skill with the sword and horsemanship even surprised the sub-commander Lord Bittwaz.”

Hohou, after all older brother sure is amazing~ As expected for him to be scouted by the first knight group. Let me hear some more.

“And, I’m very sorry but we’re a bit exhausted from the long journey. We need to let our horses rest as well so we’ll definitely visit the castle tomorrow but would you please today..”

Che...I wanted to hear a few more stories. But, I’m sure it was a long journey and they’re tired after all. It should be fine if they take a comfortable rest for today and then go to the castle in Rombertia tomorrow as planned. Even I want to slowly talk to older brother and I want to talk to the squires as well.

“That’s certainly true. Please excuse my actions. However, once again tomorrow someone from our third company will come to accompany you. Please appear at the castle together with that person. I’m sure that case would cause less problems when arriving at the castle.”

After Rossh-san said that and politely bowed his head to older brother, he turned around and left.

“Al, did you already make room reservations? I want to rest already. As a matter of fact, we shifted our plans one night and we’ve all been walking through the night since yesterday morning. We’re tired.”

“Yeah, of course I’ve made reservations. It’s fine. The carriage can go over there and there’s some stables for the horses on the other side.”

After saying that I was about to go into the inn and call the apprentice of Boil Manor when older brother grabbed my arm and opened his mouth.

“Al, I arrived a day early but do you have any plans for today?”

“No, it’s fine. Well, even if I had some then something like that doesn’t matter at all.”

“I see, then that’s good.”

.....

After finishing the procedures with the inn, we all split up to get some rest in

our rooms. I went up the stairs together with older brother and when I was about to show him to his room it was just as Bel and Ralpa came out of Bel's room.

"Huh? Al..Who's that?"

"Ah, this is my older brother. He's Farnestan.Greed. Older brother, these two are Ralpa and Bernadette. The human is Ralpa Firefreed and the Rabbit-people one is Bernadette.Koloil. They're my...my allies."

"It's nice to meet you Greed-san. My name is Bernadette.Koloil. I'm always in the care of Al-san."

Bel smiled sweetly and properly introduced herself.

"Yeah, my name is Farnestan.Greed. It's fine to call me Farne. It seems that Al is always in your care. Thank you."

Older brother smiles while replying.

"U...Umm..My name is Ralpa Firefreed. It..It's nice to meet you. U..Umm, I'm always taking care of Al."

What is she saying? This girl.

"Fufu..It's nice to meet you Ralpa-san. Thanks. It seems that Al is saved by it as well. Please take care of him from now on as well."

As expected even older brother couldn't hold back his laughing.

"Fu~ Yes! Leave him to me!"

Really you, what are you saying? Pretending to be my guardian?

"It should be fine already, my room is over here. Older brother's room is there."

"Ah, then, first let's go to your room."

After saying that older brother briskly walked off. I followed after that. After I used the key to open the door and

"What the, aren't you keeping it quite tidy?"

said that while entering inside.

“Of course I am.”

“Now then, Al. Stand over there and clench your teeth.”

“Eh? Wh..bugou”

Ol.older brother..that was my stomach..isn't..that unrelated to my teeth...

“Don't use magic, stand up.”

“Why..suddenly..buge~”

Again..that's..my stomach...

“Do you know why you're being hit?”

I was hit by two body blows of older brother and I'm writhing on the floor without know what in the world is going on. I was throwing up the contents of my stomach while unable to stand up this time. Why?

“Ku..Wh..why..gu”

While I was writhing around the floor this time he grabbed me by my hair and dragged me up then punched me in the cheek this time.

Sh..Shit..you can aim for world. Or not, it seems like my teeth aren't broken but the inside of my mouth is cut up. I spontaneously raised my hand to my left cheek which was punched. Older brother grabs that hand,

“Don't use magic. So you still don't understand. It can't be helped...Well, I'll leave it at this I guess. You, taught some strangers the method to train magic right? Mother's method...Do you know the reason why you were hit?”

Ah...I did teach someone. I taught the method of shaking a flame to acquire void magic. Kuro and Mary, Ralpa and Bel. I've taught four people. Even putting aside the method of increasing mana which I noticed when I was an infant, not the method using {Cantrips} but the efficient method to acquire void magic. I should have been told by my parents that it was a family secret. However, why does older brother know about that?

“This summer, when I went to Keel for deliveries, I was greeted and thanked by two squires in the knight group. Squires named Baladik and Binsil. You remember them right? According to what I heard from them they were saved by you. That's fine. It's only obvious for nobles to save troubled citizens. I'm

sure you just pitied their circumstances and taught them magic but why did you do it on all your own without getting permission from father! Since just by chance they hadn't told anyone about it yet I made sure to forbid them from speaking about it to anyone. Since it seems they felt quite the debit of gratitude to you they swore that they would never tell anyone about it."

Gu, Ma, Mary became able to use magic as well huh...But, I screwed up. Rather, why did I forget about something as important as that?

'Older brother...Sorry. To be honest, I taught those two from just now as well. I'll immediately go and forbid them from speaking about it."

After I said that I heard the sound of someone knocking on the door. Older brother turned around and opened the door. The ones who were standing on the other side of the door was Bel and Ralpa. Good timing. I need to tell them not to reveal it to anyone.

"Ah..Bel, Ralpa"Al! What's wrong!"Al-san!"

The two of them ran over to me as I'm crouched over a puddle of puke. Older brother was a bit surprised it seems.

"Older brother! What in the world is the meaning of this?"

I'm sure she noticed that I wasn't heavily injured or anything right away, Ralpa drew closer to older brother. Rather, what's up with older brother?

"That's right! Did Al-san do something? Al-san, healing.."

Bel was going to lift me up.

"The healing is fine. This is punishment. I did something that it's only obvious to be hit for after all...Ralpa, Bel...It's suddenly but the first method of acquiring magic I taught you, that's right, the one where you move the flame. That, is a secret of my family. Please promise not to tell anyone about it. I'm begging you, just like this."

I lowered my head to the two of them while being held up by Bel. The both of them have already finished the training of moving the flame so I don't know if they still remember it but if they were going to teach someone magic from here on out then I'm sure they would definitely remember what they forgot.

The two of them accepted it and swore that they definitely reveal it to anyone. In addition, they said they understood the reason why I was hit. Older brother opened his mouth after quietly listening.

“Now then, young ladies. If you know a good restaurant somewhere, it’s a bit early but would you accompany us for lunch? Please excuse me but we want to get something to eat and go to sleep a bit early. Also, if it’s fine with you I’d like to have dinner together as well. Since this fellow is going without meals until tomorrow morning. Right, Al. Don’t take even a step out of this inn until tomorrow morning. Spend the night reflecting here.”

“I understand...I’ll reflect on things until tomorrow morning here..Sorry..”

“I’ll be quiet about this to mother and father so relax.”

“Yeah..Thanks.”

“Then, the two of you, shall we go? Ah, that’s right, you, have slaves right? What are they doing about meals?”

“I’m feeding them breakfast and dinner.”

“I see, then for today I’ll feed them in your place. Nn, Ralpa-san, do you know where Al’s slaves are?”

“Yes, I know. Al you reflect over there.”

Shit.

.....

It’s become noon. My stomach is growling. The cut insides of my mouth hurt. It seems like my cheek is swelling up as well.

.....

It’s become night. I’m hungry. There was nothing so convenient as someone secretly bringing me food. Putting aside the squires from Bakuddo, Zenom, or Ralpa, I at least had some hopes for Bel though. I don’t care anymore I’m going to sleep.

.....

Year 7442, Month 12, Day 28

It's about time for daybreak. I spent a full day hungry, reflecting, and thinking about it. Why did I forget about something that important and teach them? It's definitely not like I was getting full of myself and teaching people right and left. Since they're reincarnated people, and it's true I felt it was just right to sell them a favor and make them into my subordinate. However, no matter how I think about it, it's unnatural. Even if it's me, I don't understand the reason why I would selfishly break the things father told me and teach them. In the first place, it's fine to just teach them the method to learn it using the {Cantrips} mana detection on the fire-starter magic tool. The efficiency drops but even then while it might take a bit of time they'll learn magic without problem.

I know something like this~ I'm amazing right~ I didn't have any sort of feelings of bragging like that at all. I just completely forgot about what father had told me. Was I, this forgetful?
The fact that I forgot it means that there's doubting that's the case but, nevertheless you know...

Even though portions of memories from my past life are obviously fading but I think I still remember quite a few of them.

I wonder if this has some sort of relation to the rejuvenation(?) of my mentality?

I doubt that's the case.

There better not be anything else that I'm forgetting about?

I've started to get a bit afraid now.

I'm like a youth with amnesia that's realized they've lost their memories.

If it's something I don't know then I need to gather as much material on it as I can and reorganize things or for the time being shelve it until I get more material to make a decision on, is what you could say is a valid method of going about it but when it comes to this time. It might even be possible that I'll forget I'm thinking something like this..That's worrying too much, for me. Then I'll write it down. It's still before the sun rises but I went to sleep right away last night and I'm not tired anymore. It's cold but if I put my clothes on I'm sure I can write some memos.

Chapter 97: Reflection

Year 7442, Month 12, Day 28

Since today after this I'm going to make deliveries to the knight group headquarters at the castle, it would probably be a good idea to start making preparations. I'm sure that we'll depart after eating so during this season it's around 7 am I guess.

Honestly, since I haven't eaten anything in almost a full day I'm starving.

I put on my underpants, socks, and under-armor.
Stick my feet into my boots, equip my rubber protectors, and hang the things I need from the D rings.
Just in case I put my full set of rubber repair tools into my bag and just like that threw it into my saddle bag.

After that I just need to confirm my bayonet and prepare the proof of sales (receipt).

And wait for older brother to come and call for me. When I confirmed the clock magic tool the time was just past 5 am.

Since I finished all of my preparations I sit down on the bed and take another look at the memo I was writing.

Hmn..I wonder what in the world is going on.

My memories are being forgotten, or rather the fact that I remember something itself is vague, or rather I don't know how to express it right but for the time being there's some impairment in my memory. I don't think I'm having the impairment in my memory all that often but...

If this is something related to reincarnation then would that mean it's happening to all of the reincarnated people?

I heard about the mental rejuvenation from Bel's story so it's not unthinkable that it would be happening for everyone.

However, just from what I've heard from Bel and Ralpa I can't imagine that

they have any impairments in their memory.

That goes the same for Kuro and Mary. If I think about it now then I feel like Mary was mentally younger as well. But, I don't think they had any impairment with their memory. If they did have something then it would be a disaster. They might end up forgetting that they were told not to reveal the acquisition method for magic and it could become troublesome. Well, if I think about it calmly I can't deny that both the method of learning magic and the method of increasing mana will eventually spread around. Both of them have some major problems that make it difficult for the information to spread.

It's a weird way of putting it but there was even the possibility of the secret leaking from sister-in-law Shani to the Marquis Webdos family. Well, since sister-in-law formally married into the family and even gave birth to children I haven't been too worried about that. On Orth when you marry into a family your connections with your previous family are cut and the awareness is stronger that you've become a person of the new family.

This isn't particularly just the way of thinking Bakuddo but I've already understood that it's a normal set of values for people on the Jindal peninsula region where Marquis Webdos territory is located. So I think it's fine to ignore things on sister-in-law Shani's end. If we were to worry about things leaking from sister-in-law Shani then we would need to start worry about things leaking from mother to her family Duke Sandak as well after all.

Two children were born at older brother's place. There's no guarantee that they won't have any new children after this as well. I'm sure they'll start pounding magic in those kids starting from five years old like older sister. And those kids will eventually get bigger and have kids of their own. I'm sure that sister won't stay single forever as well and I don't know when I'll have kids either. It's true that for the people of Orth if they have more mana then they have that much more of an advantage in their life.

Although, if it's something like 10 MP or a lot somewhere around there then it's..after all amazingly advantageous. If it comes down to quite literally a different set of digits then it would be serious. Putting aside sister and I, one day people with as much mana as older brother..No, I guess I can't say people with as much as sister won't appear as well. In any case, I'm sure that people

with an immense amount of mana will gradually start to appear from the Greed lineage.

On Orth it's normal to have your first child around 20 years old and in most cases they have multiple children. Around three generations from now, in 50–60 years though it depends on the number of children we have but it wouldn't be strange for there to be 10–20 people with as much mana as older sister. If it comes to that then you never know what kind of people might be mixed in there.

It's very possible that a careless person like me might just casually say it as well. It's just a difference of whether it's sooner or later. The only way to prevent that is to make it a secret passed from parent to child and kill off anyone else than the one who receives it or something like that is necessary. I'm sure father probably hasn't thought that far. If that was the case then now that older brother has had two children it wouldn't be strange for both older sister and I to have been killed long ago. It's hard to imagine that father and mother haven't realized that it'll multiply like rats as well.

Most likely, father isn't thinking about protecting the secret forever from the start, and doesn't think it can be protected either.

However, if a number of people with immense mana are born from a remote Viscount family like Bakuddo then several decades later it's possible he could be thinking that it would grow quite big. If until then someone in the family can gain the patronage of someone in an important office in the country then there's plenty to hope for I'm sure.

It makes sense that he forcefully pushed older sister into the first knight group as well. Well just taking the exam for the first knight group is amazing unrelated to mana so this is probably a coincidence but he might have thought about it after discussing it with mother during the time until older brother returned from the battlefield.

Even when I said I would aim to be the King of a new country and left the house I wasn't stopped after all. If I think about it now then it's true that it took the shape of him letting me do whatever I please.

However, my mana amount is abnormal and if they weren't a reincarnated

person, and, able to observe the shape of MP or mana in some form then they'd never be able to reach this point.

Not to mention just guessing it is for the most part an unreasonable request.

My older brother and sister have an abnormal amount of mana but my parent's already know that my mana amount is several times more than that. Depending on how things go for this fellow (me), founding a country might be impossible but he might be able to gain a high position in a foreign country, or at least there's a high probability they might have thought something like that.

Even if it's impossible it would be simple to return to the Rombert Kingdom and stand out as a royal court sorcerer. It wouldn't be strange or anything at all for them to have calculated that far. If by any chance things go well and I'm able to make even a small country then the family could rely on me to create close ties with Bakuddo. Thinking like that and after us siblings starting with older brother grow up...I guess until we're around 30–35 years old it would be undesirable for the methods of training with magic or increasing mana to be known until then.

I'll try thinking of several examples. For example older sister. She was skillfully able to enter the first knight group. Going off her appearance she should be able to get some decent promotions in the knight group as well. I don't know if she would be able to make it to the knight leader but even if she were to just make it to around commander of a company, at the very least she would be able to gain enough fortune, peerage, and the backing of the army to live well in the Kingdom of Rombert.

It would make sense that there are children with abnormal amounts of mana being born in "that" Greed family.

I'm sure it would become like that. Then it would become only obvious for people of "that" Greed family to have more power than the average sorcerer so it seems there's some kind of secret but they've eroded into the center of the army, so it would be trouble to get eyed by them, or at least it's very possible to lead things in that direction. I'm sure it's possible to have a foreign country pay attention to us as well but at that time depending on the conditions it's also a possibility for the entire family to switch sides to that country.

Even if I were to succeed then I'll become royalty. It's only obvious that royalty holds secrets. No, I don't know that for sure though. If I the King says something like, "that's a secret of our royal family" while putting on airs then that's plenty. If I can just earn several decades in time like that there's no problem. After that we just need to make sure that our family and descendants have built up enough authority and assets to live an advantageous life if the secret were to be exposed.

Father was probably thinking something like that. Obviously the details would be different I'm sure. I think that he might have been thinking something similar.

Putting that aside and Ralpa from yesterday. That girl, at first she rushed to cover me but she quickly switched sides to older brother. Well, it's true that I broke the rules of my family so it can't be helped that I was hit and punished. Rather I think it's great that I got away with just that. However, you were getting off easy thanks to the blessing from that. Shit, what's with her? Come to think of it her appearance was strange...Ah. Maybe she, fell for older brother. Don't joke with me, I don't want to call someone like you sister-in-law. Maybe I'll thoroughly obstruct it.

While I was thinking these sorts of selfish delusions the door was knocked. After opening it and older brother was standing there. Older brother put his hand on my swollen cheek and used healing magic to fix it.

"Did you properly think about what father and mother thought and said? I'll keep an eye on the two in the Webdos knight group when I have the occasion. It seems that in 3-4 years you intend to go and pick them up right. I'm sure if they train that long they'll be competent enough. Until then, you need to make sure you properly grow up to not be an embarrassment to them as well...Got it? Now, let's go and get some breakfast. This morning is your treat. Let me eat something delicious."

.....

I lead older brother and the squires to the restaurant we always eat breakfast at and gathered together with Zenom and the other party members. It seems that it's become that older brother gave me something to do yesterday is why I

wasn't around since lunch. Therefore the squires and my slaves didn't say anything. We had a breakfast of bread, soup, and a pork saute, then everyone is going to the capital.

Excluding older brother and I the only ones here that have gone to the capital is the squire Sean who went when Mill took her exams, Zenom who went once when he was young, and Zulu who was sold in the slave market there. So everyone was looking forward to it. It seems that Zulu who couldn't decently look around the capital and Angela who has never gone there think they're lucky to be able to take a look around the largest city on the western edge of the Oladd continent Rombertia.

"Let's confirm our plans for today a bit. Al and us are going to the knight group headquarters at the castle and after making deliveries we're immediately taking measurements. It should probably end in about 2 hours. That's why after eating lunch in Rombertia there's free time until evening. I'm sure there's various things so to observe various things everyone should look around. We'll decide where to meet up later. Zenom-san and the others are going to stay in the capital for a week starting today right?"

Older brother said.

"Yeah, we've already reserved an inn as well. It's an inn called "Grinf Manor". Will Lord Greed's party not be staying the night in the capital?"

Zenom replied but,

"Eh..Older brother and the others are leaving today? Even though I wanted you to accompany us to various places.."

Ralpa jumped into the conversation. You, my older brother isn't a guide. Don't joke with me. And then even Zenom is speaking politely to my older brother who is the heir to nobility! What's with that intimate way of talking to him, could it be you're looking down on the Greed family of Bakuddo?

"N? Didn't you hear from Al? We're staying in the capital tonight but we're returning to Bakuddo tomorrow morning. Sorry about that. The inn we're staying at is called "Ronheluk Manor". It's in a slightly different to find area so we should probably gather in a different place first then head to the inn."

Come to think of it older brother, yesterday he quickly got familiar with Ralpa and the others. The way he was talking just now was closer to naturally talking to juniors at work rather than the friends of his little brother. Rather~ I don't know anything about older brother outside of the house but after all he's well-mannered and cool.

"Lord Greed, I have a request of you. When you visit the castle for deliveries would it be alright for my daughter Ralpa and Bernadette to accompany you? I definitely want to show them the castle at least once."

Zenom lowered his head and asked older brother.

"Hn? Ah, I wonder about that."

Older brother is looking at me. What is it?

"Since the head of Greed Company is Al, I don't have any right to make the decisions. Al, how about it?"

Eh? Ah? Ah, so that sort of thing.

"I don't particularly mind. I'm bringing along Zulu and Angela after all.."

After I said that and Zenom gave a broad smile, Zulu and Angela raised their voices in surprise.

Thanks, Zenom.

.....

After returning to the inn and the person from the third company came to meet us.

I'm sure this person will escort(it's unnecessary though) to the royal castle and do the procedures for us to enter.

The person from the third company started politely greeting older brother and the squires and I don't know if there was some kind of misunderstanding but they greeted Zenom, Zulu, and Angela.

And when I was thinking they they must surely offer the head of Greed Company me a polite greeting as I was waiting when,

"You, did you properly wash your face before coming? Do you have a handkerchief? Make sure you take proper care of your appearance."

and said. Shitty sister.

After the three of us siblings got on our war horses, the four squires got on the two carriages both pulled by two horses each, Zenom and the other 5 were walking, 14 of us in total started heading towards Rombertia.

It's just about 7 am in the morning right now. Since it's not even 10 Km away and the road is in good condition I'm sure we'll arrive at the castle by around 10 am. The three of lined up at the head of the group with me in the center and enjoyed a sibling conversation for the first time in a while.

Along the way, after taking a break for just about 10 minutes once we arrived at the royal castle with no problem.

After going through the process to enter the castle and arriving at the plaza in the third outer citadel and the people from the first knight group were gathered together.

I guess they caught sight of us they suddenly started cheering.

I can see Baron Logan the knight leader as well.

After having my back pushed by older brother I stood in front of the baron and politely lowered my head.

"Lord knight leader, I have arrived to deliver the goods that you ordered...it's over there. We've completed it just as the measurements we took but if possible, please try it on right away and confirm the size. In the worst case if there's a problem with the size I'll immediately correct it."

"Yeah. We can try it on immediately, everyone who ordered the armor is already in just their under-armor. They've been anxiously waiting for it. Now, everyone, it's time to confirm. Try putting it on right away!"

Around the same time as he said that the Baron ran over to the carriage after he finished saying it.

After that the people of the second company followed behind.

The squires of Bakuddo are confirming each persons name before handing them a wooden box.

The emblem of the first knight group and the name of the person ordered it was carved into the lid of the wooden box and the Greed family crest and the sentence Produced in Bakuddo Village are carved into the sides in the same way. Didn't just the box take quite a bit of money..Well if they were to ask an

artisan around Doritt I'm sure it would be about 20,000 Z (2 silver coins) per box. I'm sure it's not too expensive around that area.

There's quite a few people in the plaza who didn't make orders this time who came to watch. There's also a number of people who aren't in the first knight group.

I exchanged glances with older brother before saying.

"Now then, people of the third company, we'll start taking measurements for the next lot to be produced, so please come over here."

There's six squires and among them four are involved in the process of producing rubber.

It should be fine to leave taking the measurements up to them.

If each person takes about 15 minutes then I'm sure it won't even take an hour.

On the side of taking measurements the baron and members of the second company are using us siblings and squires from Bakuddo as examples as they equip their armor.

I wonder if the squires of the first knight group don't help true knights equip their armor?

I tried asking sister about it and "Since Amzel, Gurhoretz, and I are always equipping ours on our own and the time it takes to equip is short. It seems they were jealous of that. Don't they want to be able to equip it on their own in a short period of time? I taught everyone how to put it on yesterday after all." is how she responded.

It's true that I made the rubber protectors so they can be put on and taken off alone.

I only had father's old splint-mail armor as an example when I was making it so that's all I know.

That's why without much of a reference I made it from the start keeping in mind the aspect of equipping it all on your own and didn't pay much attention to it.

About the only thing I used as a reference was the form and location of the plates or so.

The generations have already advanced quite a bit so there's almost no traces

remaining of it though.

Come to think of it before I said anything to mother and father they would equip their armor on their own as well. About the only time I helped out father was when we were testing the first prototype was it?

I see, so the fact that you can equip it alone is another sales point.

Just like that taking the measurements progresses and several people finished trying on the armor.

It seems that they're jumping or doing a light run to test out the size and sensation.

I can hear voices of joy saying "light, light".

I rub my hands together while approaching the baron and say.

"Lord knight leader, how is it? The armor of our Bakuddo?"

"Yeah. This is light and good. The size fits perfectly as well and there's no sense of discomfort...if it's this."

".If it's this?"

"Ah, no, it's something on my end. By the way we must finish paying the remaining money. Hey, Nors! Hand Greed-kun the remainder of the money. Greed-kun. We've left all of the remaining money in his care. Receive it from him. However, this sure is light. Oh..umu..my shoulders move quite a bit.."

It seems that he's busy.

The person called Nors trotted up to me holding a bag.

After receiving the heavy bag I counted it together with older brother.

162 gold coins, 162,000,000 Z, I've certainly received it.

I have him sign the proof of sales with the amount written on it (Something like a receipt. Including the advance payment you use it to pay for the luxury tax.) and shut it away in my pocket.

And then this time older brother took one in a division of the bag out and handed it to me.

"Then Head of Greed Company, sign this."

After saying that and he wanted me to sign the Webdos form proof of sales this time.

The amount is..216,000,000 Z.

“Yeah..Yes. Is the luxury tax in Webdos 10% as well? I’ll pay the 21,600,000 Z.”

“That’s no good. There’s no problem with us paying the taxes. I can’t say it in a loud voice but father was extremely pleased by the matter this time. And..you need money right? Father even said it would be fine about 50/50. I think so as well but it seems that you’re giving it your best in the dungeon as well from what was written on the letter. We decided to depend on your words.”

Older brother said that and lowered his head to me. Stop that.

“Ah..Yeah. Got it. Thanks.”

I was handed a bag filled to the brim with heavy gold coins.
108 gold coins, 108,000,000 Z. If I pay the luxury tax of 32,400,000 Z from here the remainder is mine.

Ah, I need to receive the advance payment from the third company people as well.

Soon after taking the measurements ended I went to Viscount Kendus and called out to him.

“Company commander Kendusu. I’m sorry for the very long wait. I believe that the delivery for the armor we took measurements for this time should be around April.”

“Oh~ Greed-kun. Thank you for taking the orders from us the third company this time. And you know. It’s a matter of discussion, but I’d like for you to take orders from us the third company again next”Kendus! You bastard! You deceived us!?”

Everyone was surprised at thick and deep voice that echoed through the plaza and looked at it’s owner.

There was a middle-age man close to 2m with a build like a bear bringing along several dozen men in armor running over here with a frightening expression. Is there around 30–40 or so of them?

Bel and Ralpha are clearly afraid.

Everyone else including me has no idea what is going on and are just dumbfounded.

“Ah, this is bad..”

Viscount Kendus huddled his body over and tried to move behind the carriage as if to hide from him.

“Hey! You’re loud! Jeff! We’re in front of guests. Don’t make such a racket!”

Baron Logan roared at the huge middle-age man.

“U..Yes, knight leader..That armor..Shit. So you were accomplices with that Kendus bastard as well! Don’t joke with me! Aren’t the one who made the recommendation for Greed! Hey now, Greed! You owe me a favor right? Right? That’s why put in a good word for me with Greed Company. Take orders for my armor as well. Hey, I’m begging you.”

After seeing that middle-age man older brother quickly ran up and said.

“It’s been a long time Lord Bittwaz, I am very indebted to your for that time.”

Lord Bittwaz?

Then this middle-age man that’s like a bear and is saying selfish things is Sub-Baron Jeffrey.Bittwaz?

The sub-commander of the first knight group?

I run over to him in a hurry as well.

“It’s nice to meet you lord Bittwaz. My brother and sister have been in your care for quite a bit. I’m Alan.Greed of the Greed Company.”

“Oh~ if it isn’t the Black Eagle of Webdos~ Have you been well? And, hn? Greed Company? Oh~ so it was you! Hey, I’m begging you, just one more suit of armor, take my order. In the first place, taking the orders of the commander and those fellows from the second company at the start, then just taking them from the third company next, that’s no“Wai, sub-commander! Just yourself? We’re here as well. That’s cruel.”

I don’t know what’s going on anymore but there’s no controlling it.

“Would you all be quiet! Idiots!”

The commander roared out again. It immediately got silent. It would be good if Ralpa didn’t piss herself though.

“You all, even with that do you still call yourselves the prosperous first knight

group!“You’re the loudest of them all! Logan!”

Eh? It’s the King!

Also, the queens are following behind him.

Ah, this is bad!

I hurried over to the squires from Bakuddo and Zenom and the others and said “It’s his majesty the King. Imitate me.” then took the pose of a retainer. The color of everyone’s face changed and they imitated me.

“I was taking a walk before lunch and~ it’s really loud~ What in the world is going on?”

After coming nearby the King called out to Baron Logan.

“Huh, that is..about the equipment of the knight group..there was a bit of an argument over a difference of opinion, that is..we just got a bit too heated over it.”

Baron Logan said that in desperation.

“Hn? Commander Logan, that armor..Your majesty, Greed has come.”

It seems that Yulu noticed me.

“Hn? Oh~ Greed. So you were here? Raise your head!”

It..It’s me right!?

..There’s no way it would be older brother or sister after all.

“Ha..Right here.”

It can’t be helped. I raised my face while steel kneeling.

“Oh~, oh~, you’re far, “Oh, Greed, come over here.”

After Molin found my face she interrupted the King and called out to me. It can’t be helped, I guess I’ll go.

Let alone the squires from Bakuddo and Zenom the others, even older brother and sister are surprised.

That’s only obvious.

I went to the side of the King and the others, kneeled again, and took the pose of a retainer.

“Greed, weren’t you supposed to visit after the start of the new year?”

Molin said to me.

“Ha..your highness, Queen Molail. I came today to make deliveries of equipment for the first knight group.”

“I see. It’s a bit soon but that is~ Do you have that thing today?”

It turned into a whisper.

“Yes, I have it. It’s on the carriage. Would it be best to delivery it right away?”

I respond in a whisper as well.

“No, it’s fine for now. It’s fine as long as you have it. Right~ everyone else thinks so as well?”

Molin said that and looked at the other Queens.

“Yeah, that’s right. However, just one more bag, there’s only six remaining. Even if we say the start of the new year, when will you come next time?”

Becky said that.

“Yeah, I was thinking of appearing in the castle on January 3rd or 4th.”

After I said that and this time Marin opened her mouth.

“Eh? Since today is the 28th..Isn’t that the last moment? Molin-sama, what should we do?”

“There’s a few too many people looking on here. Greed, you, after you finish your job call out to someone. It’s fine if it’s anyone of us, but ask to call one of us that is available. We’re in the second citadel for the time being.”

Molin said that to me. It’s still in a whisper the same as usual.

“Ha..I understand and accept. When my job has completed please allow me to call out for someone.”

“Greed, about that, I like it quite a bit. Your place, made quite a good thing.”

After saying that I continued kneeling until the King had left.

.....

After that Baron Logan organized things.

Since it can't be helped this time we'll take the orders of the third company this time but starting next time it seems that the commander will regulate the orders.

Older brother, the squires of the village, and Zenom and the others were all surprised by how popular the rubber protectors were.

We received the advance payment from the people we took measurements for in the third company this time and I handed that to the squire Sean while saying,

"Isn't the rubber armor popular?"

and laughed and then,

"Yeah, it's quite amazing. I doubt the master had predicted it would go this far as well. He must be proud that he has a good son."

and praised me.

"By the way, Greed-kun, also, Lord Greed, do you have any plans after this today? If you don't have any then even if it's after lunch would you lend us a hand in training for the third company? I want to see the true ability of the rumored Black Eagle of Webdos and that well-made younger brother as well. How about it?"

The commander of the third company Viscount Kendus asked that. Certainly, I previously turned him down. I don't see a problem with it after I finish things up regarding the condoms.

However, I'm sure that older brother and the squires want to take a look around their long-awaited capital.

"Oh~ that's right. Let's show them that for the first time in a while."

The sub-commander Sub-Baron Bittwaz called out as well. What's that?

"Yeah, according to what Greed says she's the weakest one among their siblings. I want to see what level the older brother and younger brother are at."

Even the commander Baron Logan joined in.

Eh~ if it's without magic then I feel like I'm probably the weakest one.

And even if it's older brother with how much training sister has received from the first knight group won't he end up giving a match or so?

"Umm? your excellency commander, everyone, I'm very sorry but my older brother is returning tomorrow. I'll visit this afternoon so can you please let him off with just that.."

I said that and lowered my head but,

"No, it's the request of our customer. If you're fine with novices such as then please let us join you in training. Al, it's fine if you don't worry about we can extend our stay by a day."

Older brother said that while putting his hand on my shoulder and smiled.

It became that we would go to the riverbed where the third company was training previously after lunch.

It seems that sister is going to have lunch together with older brother.

Of course Zenom and the others as well.

I...had no other choice than to tell one of the guards to give a message to the queens that Greed has completed his business.

Depending on how things go I might be the only one who goes without lunch.

Since it's a rare chance it seems that Zenom and the others are going to watch the training of the first knight group as well.

I'm sure they have the time after all so it might be a good reference.

However, Ralpa. For the time being you've been quiet, but you, if you make a pass at older brother in front of sister you'll die. I wonder if it would be best to warn her ahead of time?

No wait, I was supposed to interfere with her romance. I should just ignore it here.

Chapter 98: High Evaluation

Year 7442, Month 12, Day 28

After splitting up with older brother and the others there, I asked a soldier on guard duty to give a message to Molin. Obviously older brother, Zenom, and the others asked, “Why did his majesty the King and her highness-es the Queens call out for you? but I just washed it away by saying, “I’ll talk about it tonight.” Well I told my family about it in a letter so there’s no problem. However, as expected you wouldn’t think that it was about the delivery of condoms in that place.

After a short while I was called into a room in the second citadel. After going to the room that was designated to me there was a guard soldier there but it seems that it had already been passed on to them so they just let me through without saying anything. Marin and Yulu were inside of the room but the King, Molin, and Becky weren’t around.

If you were to ask me these two who rose up as soldiers are easier for me to talk to.

“It’s Greed. It’s been a while since we last talked.”

After entering the room I said that while kneeling and taking the pose of a retainer.

“Oh~ Greed, and what those goods?”

Without any greetings Yulu said that. Ah, this bad. The stuff to be delivered to the royal family is still loaded on the carriage.

Ah there’s one bag in my wallet. I guess this is fine for now.

“Ha, right here. The goods for the formal delivery are still in the carriage so I’ll deliver them when I appear in the castle at a later date but in that place, that is..there were a lot of people from the knight group therefore, I couldn’t lower them from the carriage. That’s why there’s only one bag for now. I’ll bring the larger quantity according to your request to delivery at a later date so please

pardon me with jsut this for today..”

After saying that I presented my last bag.

“I don’t mind if you raise your head. I’m grateful. The number we have remaining is already starting to feel unreliable. This is helpful to us.”

After Marin said that she took the last bag from me and held it in her chest. Hmm, I’m happy that she’s treating the product we make in our village so importantly.

“By the way, Greed. You, said you came to make deliveries of equipment to the knight group right. Was it the delivery of some armor?”

Yulu asked me that question. She seems to find it strange.

“Yes. The first knight group ordered almost the same thing that I’m wearing right now and we had the pleasure of delivering 10 suits of it today.”

After I replied like that and,

“Eh? It was really 10 suits of armor?”

I was told. Why would I lie about something like that?

“Huh? Yes. It’s true we delivered 10 suits of armor but..his excellency commander Logan, and fellows in the second company totaling 10 suits of armor.”

“Marin, what’s going on with the register of the first knight group?”

“Yes, I thought you would say something like that, so I’ve already prepared it over here. Yulusufol-sama.”

Eh? What is it? Is this an on the spot inspection? But aren’t they buying armor on an individual basis? Isn’t fine for them to buy anything? I heard from older brother that they provide the weapons for the Webdos knight group but you have to prepare your own armor. Sister didn’t say anything either...

“Ah, Greed, you don’t need to worry about anything...This is strange. There was an application at the end of August for assistance on 6 suits of plate-mail armor..Eh? Just a mere 97,000,000 Z (97 gold coins)? This should only be enough to buy about 3 suits of armor..”

After Yulu said that I was relieved for the moment but I heard some unnerving statements after that.

“97,000,000 Z is it? Greed, did you really deliver 10 suits of armor? Would you tell us the circumstances in detail?”

Marin had some doubts about it as well and questioned me. What is it?

“Yes. We certainly delivered 10 suits of armor. We took the measurements from the gentlemen who ordered in August and finished delivering all of those orders today.”

There’s no other way of saying it. It’s somehow started to feel like trouble. Like corruption or that sort of thing.

“Listen well. Greed, Yulusufol-sama said it would be fine for you to relax but this isn’t such a simple problem. For starters, respond to my questions. First, how did you deliver 10 suits of plate-mail armor in just a mere four months? Please excuse me on it but your hometown of Bakuddo isn’t famous as a producer of armor. I’m sure there aren’t that many artisans as well. Second, you said that you delivered 10 suits of armor but there were only applications for assistance on 6 suits of plate-mail armor, and the price is abnormally cheap. Show me the proof of sales. Third, it’s related to just now but tell me the sale price of the armor you supplied this time.”

In contrast to Yulu’s listless face Marin started to demand an explanation with a strict expression.
What in the world is it?

“Ha, first off, in the case that we produce armor in Bakuddo Village, and completely manufacture the armor including detailed adjustments..we can produce roughly 3–4 suits of armor in around 4–5 days. However, this is only in the case that we have plenty in our stores of raw materials. After that, this is the proof of sales for the armor delivered this time. The sale price is 30,000,000 Z (30 gold coins) per suit of armor. Other than that there’s also kite shields at 6,000,000 Z and buckler shields at 3,000,000 Z. Please excuse me. Since Bakuddo is in the back of the Jindal peninsula far into Marquis Webdos territory... that is, the transportation cost is quite high so..it’s become quite expensive.”

I replied honestly. There's no other roads than that and it seems like I'm getting involved in something troublesome but I'm just a simple supply merchant. I want to remain the third-party with good intentions. Well, if we were to seriously put all of our effort into producing armor then we should be able to do it even faster with a bit more numbers.

""Eh?""

Yulu and Marin both seemed to have raised their voices in doubt of that but what are they doubting about it? No matter how you think about it, it's not my responsibility that rubber armor is listed as metal plate-mail armor for accounting purposes. While I'm obeying respectfully with a composed face because I have no reason to be criticized and,

"Marin, call commander Logan and sub-commander Bittwaz here."

"Yes, immediately."

After saying that Marin went to say something to the soldiers guarding outside and then returned.

"Greed, you haven't said any lies right. There's several major problems in your statement just now. Depending on the statements of Logan and Bittwaz they might become even more important."

Yulu said with a slightly strict voice.

"Ha..I swear that I have not said any lies. It's all the truth."

After saying that I lowered my head.

After a short while the commander and sub-commander entered the room. Marin quickly noticed them and put the rubber bag she was playing with into her pocket.

"Did you call for us, your highness Queen Yulusufol, your highness Queen Marinen."

After saying that they took the same pose of a retainer as me. Yulu opened her mouth.

"There's something I want to ask you two. First, the six suits of plate-mail armor that applications for the expense of that were made in August, is this the

armor that you ordered from Greed's company?"

Baron Logan replies.

"Ha..Since it's new armor, I made such applications because the classification is close."

"I see. I'm sure the classification is fine. However, according to what I just heard from Greed, you were supplied with 10 suits of armor this time isn't that right. Why is the number different?"

Yulu questioned him again.

"Ha..Since the application for assistance funds on individual armor and equipment is only accepted once in every seven years...I applied for it when I order brand new plate-mail armor five years ago and three others also had already made such applications, so we subtracted those numbers from it and only made applications for six suits of armor worth this time."

Baron Logan replied. He~ so they offer assistance with the cost of ordering new armor? As expected from the first knight group. Including their high salary they're quite rich.

"I see, then, that's fine as well. Next is the price. I just heard the sale price from Greed. It's clearly, abnormally cheap compared to the metal plate-mail that I know. And I feel that the delivery date and quantity are unusual as well but, you, it can't be that you used threats when negotiating the price and made and forced them to make an unreasonable delivery date right?"

Yulu's tone of voice gradually gets stricter as she said that. I guess she's saying not to bully the supply merchant?

"Wa? Ha..Of course we haven't done anything of that sort.."

I guess Baron Logan understood the reason why he was called so he responds with a feel that vaguely seems to be criticizing me.

I haven't said anything like that.

"Just now, you said you purchased new metal plate-mail five years ago. What was the sale price at that time? And, the period between making the order and the delivery?"

This time Marin asked.

“Ha....If I remember correctly it was 74,000,000 Z...Also, the delivery was made about one year and two months after the order.”

Baron Logan replied. So high-end metal plate-mail is expensive. It's true that the plate-mail armor of the Baron I saw before seemed expensive looking. And it takes quite a bit of time as well.

“Logan, aren't your words from just now and the order made of Greed inconsistent? 30,000,000 Z per one suit of armor and ten of those suits in roughly four months. Do you really think that metal plate-mail can be prepared so easily! Furthermore the armor you're wearing right now has even been dyed black just the same as Greeds! If the price and delivery time we're really that different then all of the armor merchants up until now will go bankrupt! I'm sure it was quite a burden on Greed's place as well! What in the world are your intentions!”

Along the way Yulu started to get enraged. This is bad. I just said what the production rate of my place is though. The one who brought up the sale price was me as well. I guess I need to interrupt even if I buy a bit of her displeasure.

“With all due respect, your highness, Queen Yulusufol. May I please receive your permission to speak?”

I can't say anything but that.

“I allow it. What is it?”

Yulu said that while looking at my face. Her expression said that she was saying it for my sake, that sort of feeling.

“I must humbly say, your highness Queen Yulusufol. It seems that there was a misunderstanding. First, me armor might seem like metal plate-mail at first glance but this isn't metal plate-mail. It's armor made of rubber. And the production rate in Bakuddo village that I just said isn't a lie but we don't have an infinite supply of the material that is rubber. Right now producing 10 suits of armor in four months is our limit in terms of raw materials.”

I said that bowed respectfully. Baron Logan was blatantly relieved as he took a breath.

““Eh?””

Yulu and Marin's voices matched up as if they had both heard something unbelievable.

“It's not metal plate-mail armor? Rubber made? Isn't rubber soft. Can that become armor? And from what I can see..Greed, your armor, is it alright to touch it?”

Marin said that and crouched down to me as I was respectfully obeying.

“Ha, please feel free...And, if you're fine with the gauntlet, I'll take it off though”

While saying that I undid the rubber belt fixing the gauntlet of my left hand to my arm.

“Eh? Just like that..It comes off unexpectedly easily.”

Incidentally, starting from the second generation of the rubber protectors I designed the parts to be simple to put on and take off. If I were to simply explain how they're equipped and it's as follows.

First off there's the parts of the substructure that cover the abdomen and back and go down the waist and legs which are fixed with rubber belts on the flanks. It's fine not to tie this part too tight. Next you put on the upper arm parts. The parts for the upper arm plates and the part that's close to a hemisphere for the elbow guards are one piece that are fixed to the belt.

After that the upper parts of the chest and back parts are connected to the shoulder (just think of it like wearing something like a sleeveless shirt that goes up to your chest with just the armpits cut), then it's fixed to a belt that surrounds your body fixed around the right armpit. The reason why it's only open on the right is because the sword is most often worn on the left side and no other reason than that. The armor parts of both shoulders is connected to the entire body through some rubber belts and is worn above the chest part. The part from the shoulder to the arm is once again fixed through a thin rubber belt to the upper arm.

Simultaneously the long rubber belt that comes down the back and abdomen parts connects to a hook on the inside of the chest portion. It's easier to have

someone help with the back portion here but if you get used to it then you can deal with it by hooking it in advance. Originally I had made it so the abdomen parts were connected to the shoulders with a rubber belt but that's already been improved in the current generation.

Next is the waist. I mentioned it before but there's a part that's not connected under the armpits which is like wearing an hourglass of belts and you can connect to the hooks on the abdomen and back. Since just that makes you feel uneasy about your waist and flanks so along the sides of the abdomen parts I have several waist parts that are hooked on like tassets but since all of the waist parts are gathered together into one belt you tighten this up as well. There's quite a few parts overlapping on the body so there's no gaps.

The leg portions are boots and greaves that are fixed to the upper legs with a rubber belt. In regards to the top of the feet but this is a problem of taste but in my case since I have my homemade boots which are ebonite down to the tips of the toes so I haven't attached anything there. In regards to the trunk of the body there's also other parts fixed in place by the rubber belts but these weight quite a bit. Simultaneously it's hooked onto the abdomen with rubber belts as well. There's a gap of about 5 cm where the belt stops behind both the upper and low leg parts. I'm calling it shin guards but it's not a large curved plate like the shin guards in Japan. It fits a bit closer to match the legs. I just don't know any other way to call it so don't mind it.

There's leather gloves that cover up to the elbows. Then you put your hands into the gauntlet parts and put your fist around the brass knuckles inside of that while fixing it to the arm with a belt and tying it on the inside. The gauntlet portion is made to cover close to the elbow and all of the fist. There's a separated portion in the center of it so there's some gaps in it but by tightening the belt you can pretty much completely adjust the gaps to disappear.

Furthermore, it's ideal to connect the under-armor to the various holes made in the armor but even without the holes for belts on the under-armor there's no major problem as long as you aren't equipping it for long periods.

And then just like a rugby athlete you wear an inner helmet and after fixing it by the jaw parts, just like the German or self-defense force used in the past you cover it with an outer helmet and fix it to the jaw just the same way as the inner

helmet (though I don't have the inner or outer helmet on right now). The outer helmet has something similar to the old Japanese headpieces where there's ebonite boards going out of the top of the head on both sides. The plume is also a matter of taste so I don't have it attached.

Since it's like this you start from removing things like the greaves and gauntlets and if you get used to you removing them is easy. I quickly handed the left gauntlet I took off to Marin. Since Yulu was looking at that of great interest as well I quickly took the right gauntlet off and handed it to her as well.

They tried knocking on it and twisting it to various angles. My gauntlet is exclusive to me, normally there's some iron rods put it to work as a simple shield but instead of that in mine there's a compartment for throwing needles 10 of them in each one that Myun taught me in the past. They're iron needles with a width of about 3 mm and length of about 20 cm. They can be used as a shield as well but in order to make it easy to take them out I have a notch where the needles are stored and you don't pull them out but if you lift up the edge you can take it off easily. Marin noticed that.

"What's this?"

"They're iron wires that are normally fixed on the outer part of the arm to be used as a simple shield. If you want to put more emphasis on defense then you can use four thicker metal rods on the outer part of the lower arm. If you're seriously going to use that as a shield then it becomes heavy so I haven't put them inside."

I don't know if she understood from my explanation but she's nodding so she probably understood it. However, I was letting off a cold sweat. I completely brought in a weapon. I was relieved since it was exposed that they were throwing needles. I'll be careful starting next time. There's also the brass knuckles so if I tell the guard at the entrance that the gauntlet is a weapon as well it shouldn't be a problem.

"Is this all made of rubber?"

Yulu asked me.

"A portion of it is made with leather strings and there's metal portions as well but fundamentally it's made of rubber."

After I replied and,

“Eh? Is that so. I did think it was considerably light iron but in the first place it wasn’t iron I see..”

Said that and started knocking on it again.

“Let me humbly say, both of your highness-es. It’s true that armor is made of rubber, and the defensive capability itself doesn’t match up to metal plate-mail. However, just as you can tell, the weight is extremely light, and it’s easy to move your body as well. Just as you already know Lord Greed of the third company and the squires Amzel and Gurhoretz are using it as well so it’s ability has already been proven. And above all else it’s cheap. The repair cost is unexpectedly cheap as well. The problem is that in the first knight group right now there was the commander and 9 others who got a head-start ordering in August and this time 10 from the third company who “That’s unrelated right.”

Sub-Baron Bittwaz explained about the armor but before he could accuse the Baron the Baron stopped him. The sub-baron is glaring resentfully at the baron but the baron is just acting like it’s nothing at all.

After hearing that Yulu and Marin laughed as if they found it funny and said.

“It seems that it was our misunderstanding. You’re allowed to forgive us. And, highly efficient and cheap equipment is always welcome after all...However, for it to have been made of rubber..”

Yulu said that while playing with my gauntlet still.

“I thought it looked like metal plate-mail that had been dyed black but..Certainly if you look closely it’s different.”

Marin said that as well while putting her hand inside of my gauntlet.

“However, Bittwaz, it seems you have a problem with the commander getting a head start on ordering the armor but is there really a need to be so specific about something like armor? If you’re the sub-commander then have a bigger heart.”

After Yulu said that and,

“Ha..However..However..even if this armor doesn’t have the defensive

capability of metal plate-mail it gets close to that and furthermore it weighs several times less than that. Since we can't always be fighting while on horseback, if it comes to the lives of knights and squires.. the commander starter ordering something like that with himself and members of the second company and after pointing that out the third company was the only ones to make orders the next time. I only found out about this right before the delivery this time. It was last week, when I found out. And I only found out because those guys from the second company accidentally leaked it. Not to mention after that Lord Kendus of the third company tried to hide the delivery location from me this time. I can't simply excuse this."

Sub-Baron Bittwaz said that while looking resentfully at Baron Logan. The first knight group, sure is stingy, is what I think but it's true that if it's something that your life is dependent on it, it's not like I don't understand the feelings of wanting to blame them or get as stingy as possible.

"Fufu..So you're saying that, Bittwaz. Isn't it fine for you all to make orders next time?"

Marin said that find it amusing.

"Ha..However, it seems that the commander is overseeing the orders starting next time and...And..if you'll forgive my words both of your highness-es have already left the actual scene. For the sake of the knights working on the front line"Bittwaz! That's rude. I was the commander of the first company of the first knight group until 10 years ago. I understand your feelings...However, is it really something that good?"

Yulu interrupted Sub-Baron Bittwaz's words and said that.

"Ha..Please excuse my rudeness..Mu, there's just the right matter related to this. This afternoon, we have some entertainment taking place along the knight group's riverside training area. That Greed, his brother and sister, and then the commander, myself, and Lord Kendus will perform some practice matches. The only ones among us that won't be wearing the armor this time are Lord Kendus and myself. Will you try watching it?"

Sub-Baron Bittwaz said that Yulu with a challenging expression.

"Hey, we haven't done enough preparations on the training area to welcome

her highness-es.”

Baron Logan tried to warn him in a hurry but,

“Ho~ that sounds quite amusing. The same armor as Greed huh..Hmm, let’s go and watch it. And the cold is fine, since we were originally from the knight group after all. It’s just the right occasion since we’ve only seen practice matches between units and not one-on-one matches lately. And, Lord Greed’s older brother is..if I remember correctly originally Lord Greed was the substitute for the recommendation he had received to enter the first knight group. That should be fine.”

Yulu said that and decided it. I need to give it my best to make sister look good. Ah, that’s right, I should tell older brother, the squires, Zenom and the others about her highness-es royal visit as well.

“Greed, you’re taking part in it as well? Be careful not to injure yourself. Your primary occupation is an adventurer and you’re normally taking on monsters in the dungeon of Baldukk right? The body is an adventurer’s capital. And, you also have the company as well.”

Marin said that while worrying about me. However, I can’t hear anything more than her worrying about the goods to be delivered next week.

Chapter 99: Practice Match

Year 7442, Month 12, Day 28

It's somehow become a strange situation, but, this is a good chance for to appeal herself. She can't afford to show too embarrassing of a scene. Well, in worst case I'm sure it would be fine if she just froze them right away. It seems that in the past sister did it to Baron Logan before after all. No matter how I think about it, if it's just a normal one-on-one practice match then there's no chance of me losing. I need to show off my good side to Zulu and Angela as well.

After getting on my horse I started off alone towards the government office to pay taxes for the luxury tax while grinning to myself.

I need to quickly pay the taxes at the government office then I need to get something adequate in my stomach before heading to the riverside.

Since I found a decent restaurant on my way to pay the taxes I decided to eat there. I left my horse with the stable in the back and then took up a seat along the road. Bacon, bean soup, pork piccata, and white bread. Just as you could expect from the capital with it's huge population, I felt like it was a bit expensive but it's a very satisfying meal. The payment is at the end of the meal as well. In any case, it's my first time eating piccata on Orth. I wonder if they're making pork cutlets somewhere? I'm sure there's no Japanese sauces but I at least have some mayonnaise and if I search a bit I know there's mustard. Ah, if I just had rice with this I'd have nothing more to say but I can't do anything about asking for something that I can't find.

After asking for my usual bean tea, I staring at the road while satisfied with my stomach full and sipping it. There's a peddler's carriage advancing along the block a bit ahead. There's what appears to be a dwarf man and woman in the carriage box, two human men as escorts, and one more that seems to be quite short is it still a child? There's one more woman. It's a scene you can see anywhere. Hn? That child or woman that seems to be either an escort or peddler..It seems she's got her hair tied up into one large braid but her hair is

black.

【Gulinel.Akdam/2/7/7429 】
【Female/14/2/7428 ▪ Dwarf ▪ Rombert Kingdom Rombert Duke Territory
Registered Free Person】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 14 Years Old】
【Level: 3】
【HP: 65(65) MP: 11(11)】
【Strength: 11】
【Speed: 6】
【Dexterity: 15】
【Endurance: 11】
【Unique Ability: Mapping (Lv. 8)】
【Special Ability: Small Magic】
【Special Ability: Infrared Vision】
【Experience: 7821(10000)】

Oh~ since she had black hair I unintentionally used identify without meaning to..What? I just said red characters didn't I?
She disappeared from my field of vision before I could see clearly so I don't know but I think there was some red characters.
It's a Unique Ability! I can't afford to be sitting here! I need to at least call out to her!

I went to stand up and pulled my bayonet from the chair next to me.
I guess I was in too much of a hurry and my expression had changed, the waiter woman who was just about to bring my bean tea screamed, "hii" and dropped the bean tea. I grabbed my bayonet and

"Bring my horse around."

and yelled that while jumping out of the restaurant. However, from the restaurant they said

"It's an eat and run, eat and run?!!"

I heard that sort of scream. Damn it.

"I'll pay properly afterwards."

Putting aside the bean tea I haven't paid for the meal yet. However, I'll pay ten times more later. And just as I was about to run off to the stable my arm was grabbed. Shit.

"Isn't it Greed-kun? Hey now, you can't eat and run."

Knikniknikni it's the knight commander! Seriously...

"Ah, I'll properly pay later" I don't know how much of a hurry you're in but properly pay right now. If not then I won't be able to overlook this."

..Aaaaa, damn it.

"Yes...Here, the payment. I don't need change. Rather than bring my horse around, I'm in a hurry."

I said that while taking one silver coin from my wallet and handing it to the waiter. Not just the shitty expensive 800 z for the lunch set but I paid over ten times the cost including the bean tea.

"Greed-kun. What's wrong? It's not like you. If you're a noble you should maintain your composure better. Even if you're in that much of a hurry the training place won't run away. There's still some time left as well."

After coming to my senses and looking around and other than Baron Logan, there was Sub-Baron Bittwaz, and several members of the knight group who's names I don't know looking at me with surprised expressions...I guess it's no good...Even if I have them bring my horse around it will take some time. On the roads where there's a lot of pedestrian traffic in the capital if the carriage even takes one turn somewhere I'll lose sight of them in no time at all. Ah, if it was going to come to this I should have just left my horse here until I could come back and pay or paid right away and then run off while leaving my horse behind.

That I would get too excited and lose myself after finding someone who seemed to be a reincarnated person..I honestly don't think it's unreasonable though.

I scratch my head and in order to hide my embarrassment,

"I'm sorry for the disturbance. If I think carefully about it there's no need to hurry so much. I suddenly remembered that I had forgotten to go and pay the

taxes so I couldn't help but panic a bit. I'm sorry for showing you something so unsightly. I'm really very sorry for causing you any trouble."

I said that while lowering my head.

"It's fine. It's fine as long as you pay the luxury tax within a month of the date on the proof of sale. There's nothing to worry about. However, even you get flustered over carrying such a large sum of money I see."

He said that while laughing. It's true I'm currently holding a large amount of money over 100,000,000 Z. It's embarrassing but it seems it would be best to let it slide as that. I lowered my head again and after getting on my horse that was finally brought out, just in case I went to where I saw the carriage just now. However, I guess it's only obvious but I wasn't able to find the carriage.

I don't know if they're a peddler or an adventurer but in any case it seems to be clear that there's a reincarnated person in Rombertia or patrolling around the area. In the worst case, if we setup a net around this area for a month we might be able to catch them. I'm sure Bel and Ralpa will cooperate with the search at that time.

I tottered along to the government office, paid the taxes, and then went towards the practice place near the riverside.

.....

Starting with brother and sister, Zenom and the others were all already at the practice place. After I arrived late and they all started questioning me right away. I said I'd explain it at night but well I guess it can't be helped. Even older brother was surprised even though I already told him I was making deliveries of "Saya" to the royal family. Even if I say I'm making deliveries to the royal family you wouldn't normally that I was direct acquaintances with the royalty of high social standing.

It's not unreasonable. I managed to cover it up by saying that there was an opportunity I had to directly deliver rubber products to them. Since sister knew I had directly met them face to face when I repaired the water bed she didn't find it all that strange but it seems even then it was unexpected that all of the Queens knew about me. In addition I said that Yulu and Marin would be coming to observe as well.

Brother, sister, and I separate from everyone and start talking.

“Mill, the commander, sub-commander, and company commander was it.. What level of skill do they have? Also is it fine to use magic?”

Brother asked sister.

“They’re all extremely strong. In regards to magic..I wonder. If we were to use magic we’ll easily win and I’ve been forbidden from using magic in practice matches recently..”

Sister replies. Well I guess that’s true. If it was a simple magic battle then I doubt there’s very many people who could beat us. If she was to always use magic every time then it wouldn’t be practice as well.

“Al, for the time being I’ll confirm what we can do in regards to magic before we start but according to Mill’s story it would probably be best to think we can’t use magic. I don’t know who each of us will face off against. However, don’t get done in easily. Definitely stick to it. It depends on the details of the practice match but if we can take the match to a good point then in the end we lose by a thin margin before Mill in the practice match. Alright?”

Yeah. That’s fine. If possible I want to do something that backs up sister.

“Yeah, I understand. Honestly, I don’t know how far I can go against the faces of the first knight group but I’ll hold on as long as I can. Sister, it’s fine to use the spear right?”

After agreeing with brother’s idea I grabbed the bayonet on my shoulder once again.

“It’s fine but yours doesn’t have a dull blade so it’s no good. There’s no way that spear would fit with a wooden sword right? Since it’s not a match between us siblings there’s no way we’d do it with real weapons you know? And since there’s people who just got new armor today I don’t think we’ll use fake metal swords either.”

There’s wooden spears right, I’ll do it with that.”

I’m sure I can’t use all of my techniques but there’s no other choice than to make do with it.

“There’s no wooden spear as short as the one you’re using.”

Oe~ I feel like I have no chance of winning... Even I feel like I can decently use the sword. I can even decently take on father and older brother. However, with the faces of the first knight group..as expected that’s impossible... I can’t use magic, my bayonet is no good, ah, trying to hold out like this, it’s hell. Well at least my physical abilities have gone up thanks to leveling up so there’s no other choice than to make do with that I guess...Ah, that’s right.

“Wh..What if I leave the scabbard on my spear? Since it’s an ebonite scabbard, if it’s this“The inside is iron right...In the first place, her highness Queen Yulusufol and her highness Queen Marinen are going to be watching right? It’s only obvious that something where there’s a possibility of causing severe injury is impossible.”

I was completely cut down. It can’t be helped.

“Al, well give it your best. I wonder if you can survive as an adventurer in the dungeon while saying things are difficult without your spear? Don’t say anything extravagant and just make do with what you have on hand. Even I don’t think I’ll be able to win so easily against opponents from the first knight group. But, there’s other choice than to do it. Just think of it as a good opportunity and leave the advantage to them. On top of that just try to give it your best for Mill to appeal.”

Brother closed things off by saying that. I returned to where Zenom and the others were with an exhausted and pale face and Ralpha called out to me.

“Al, give it your best. I’ll be rooting for you.”

Ah, just watch me get beaten half to death. But, I want to at least get one hit in.

“Al-san, give it your best. I’m cheering for you as well.”

Bel, I’m grateful for your support but I’m about to have you get some practice with healing magic. Either way I doubt you’ll end up using it but save your mana.

“Master, if it’s master then I’m sure you can win even if the opponent is a true knight.”

Zulu, you, are you treating a knight from the first knight group the same as the average knight because you're from Devas? If it was just that then I would have been able to relax.

"Master, it's alright, just use magic to weaken them like you always do."

Angela, it seems like I'm not allowed to use magic. I might not be able to show you my cool appearance.

"Al, if it's you then I think you can do pretty well even against the first knight group. Just swing your specialty spear around like you always do."

Zenom, I was told I'm not allowed to use my bayonet either. There's no other choice than to do it with the sword. Well I'm sure it's fine to use kicks and it's probably fine to kick up dirt to blind them as well. I'm not exactly a knight, and not even a normal soldier after all. I guess I can't do anything but show them the uncouth fighting style of an adventurer from an average family. My throwing needles are sealed though.

Ah, come to think of it I had something good. It's that which hasn't made an appearance in a while. If I don't use this and somehow manage to land a good hit, I won't look good. Around that time probably in part because of the afternoon training but people from the knight group gradually started to gather. From something like a shed built on the edge of the riverside wooden swords and spears were carried out and prepared.

I glance at that while inspecting my equipment. I adjust my protectors on various parts of my body, checking the elasticity and jumping to make sure nothing feels off. I took off everything in the D rings hanging off my waist that could get in the way like my flask and bags and become as light as possible.

I take my helmet out of my saddle bag and put it on then tighten the side of the chin guard. After seeing each of us siblings wearing the same design of helmet we grinned and laughed. Brother cracked his neck while jolting his arms and then grabbed the wooden sword for practice use. Sister swung both of her arms around in a circle once as well before taking out a wooden sword.

I keep opening and closing my hand to test my grip and then just the same grab a decent looking wooden sword and swing it once checking the balance. A short distance away from us sub-commander Bittwaz is being assisted by two

squires in putting his full-plate armor on. Company commander Kendus is getting help with his splint-mail as well. Only commander Logan is wearing the same rubber protectors as us.

The commander walked over to us and said.

“Sorry but there’s no using magic for today. Relax easy that there’s lots of people who can heal you if you get injured. Ah, it’s fine if Greed heals you as well. The first one to land two good hits wins. Also, since it seems that Greed-kun has no experience as a knight we won’t do this on horseback. Is this fine?”

It’s just as we predicted. Though I feel it’s a bit late.

““I understand.””

“Ha..Roger.”

Only sister responded like a soldier. It’s only obvious though since she’s active duty.

Now then, who is my opponent?

It’s already like both my arms and legs are sealed off, I doubt I can win regardless of who the opponent is. If I can at the very least take on the strongest person then it will be of assistance to brother and sister. But, I’m sure all three of them are insanely strong, so there’s much point to it.

I’ll Identify them for now.

【Roddoteri.Logan/28/6/7426】

【Male/20/5/7402 ▪ Human ▪ Baron Logan Family Head ▪ Duke Rombert Knight】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 40 Years Old】

【Level: 17】

【HP: 135(135) MP: 25(25)】

【Strength: 23】

【Speed: 23】

【Dexterity: 18】

【Endurance: 21】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic Lv. 2】

【Special Ability: Water Magic Lv. 3】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic Lv. 3】

【Special Ability: Wind Magic Lv. 3】

【Special Ability: Void Magic Lv. 4】

【Experience: 726253(810000)】

【Jeffrey.Bittwaz/21/7/7438】

【Male/2/6/7405 ▪ Human ▪ Sub-Baron Bittwaz Family Head ▪ Duke Rombert Knight】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 37 Years Old】

【Level: 17】

【HP: 140(140) MP: 15(15)】

【Strength: 23】

【Speed: 20】

【Dexterity: 20】

【Endurance: 24】

【Special Ability: Wind Magic Lv. 4】

【Special Ability: Void Magic Lv. 4】

【Experience: 687921(810000)】

【Segan.Kendus/28/9/7440】

【Male/17/6/7414 ▪ Human ▪ Viscount Kendus Family Head ▪ Duke Rombert Knight】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 28 Years Old】

【Level: 14】

【HP: 138(138) MP: 16(16)】

【Strength: 23】

【Speed: 19】

【Dexterity: 18】

【Endurance: 23】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic Lv. 2】

【Special Ability: Water Magic Lv. 3】

【Special Ability: Wind Magic Lv. 2】

【Special Ability: Void Magic Lv. 3】

【Experience : 439160(450000)】

It's safe to say that all three of them are men of valor. If they didn't have magic then the true ability of all of them might not have been able that different..No, if you take into consideration training in the knight group and how well they can lead in live combat on the battlefield then the commander and sub-commander should be extraordinarily strong. Viscount Kendus level is lower than mine right now but his true ability is definitely above mine I'm sure.

Really it can't be helped. There's no other choice than to give it my best as far as I can go. I'm not losing in terms of the ability points of each ability. I need to try and make use of that as best as I can while holding out. Alright, everyone just watch. Since it's going to be like this I'll use every dirty trick and struggle like crazy. I'm sure the other side doesn't believe sisters words that I'm stronger than her as well. And it's true that I can compete with her in terms of technique but even I've killed countless monsters with the sword and spear. With even getting a scratch on me. I'm sure it's not as hopeless as that time I fought the Horned Bear one on one when I was small.

Like I'll let Bakuddo get looked down on, I'll show you good.

"Then, we'll fight. Let's do this with everyone fighting one at a time."

The commander said that. {Oh}....That was unexpected. I guess we should have expected it since we can get proper healing.

"We'll start as soon as her highness the Queens arrive, start warming your bodies up."

The sub-commander said that. Though it's a practice match let alone let alone metal plate-mail, it's my first time taking on an opponent wearing full plate-mail. Where in the world am I supposed to hit on that for the attack to be considered valid?

"Don't get too stiff. I'm looking forward to the true ability of the Black Eagle of Webdos."

The company commander said that and laughed. I'm sure something like me is just a bonus. But, I'll show you. You're probably the easiest one to take on.

Just like that as they tried talking to us to soften our feelings and then her

highness the Queens arrived at the training field. Everyone kneeled down and took the post of a retainer.

“It’s fine, raise your heads. Since the ones who said something unreasonable and came out was us, don’t worry about it.”

Yulu said that and smiled. Wait, both of them are wearing armor. It’s only made up of plate-mail around the waist and then the rest looks like splint-mail. What’s it called again. Well whatever. In any case that’s some splendid armor. There’s ornaments in each place and it looks expensive.

“Alright, everyone stand up. Let’s get started, come with me.”

The commander said that and started towards a round area on the training field. I guess we’re doing it over there?

.....

It seems that the first opponent from their side is company commander Kendus. Then I guess I’m the first one. I said to brother “I’m going first” and walked towards the training field. If I go first then I can pull out as many skills of the opponent as possible and then it’ll be easier for brother...I’ll do this!

【Alan.Greed/5/3/7429】

【Male/14/2/7428 ▪ Human ▪ Viscount Greed Family Second Son】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 14 Years Old】

【Level: 15】

【HP: 134(134) MP: 7425(7431)】

【Strength: 21】

【Speed: 27】

【Dexterity: 20】

【Endurance: 22】

【Unique Ability: Identify (MAX)】

【Unique Ability: Gift of Natural Talent (Lv.8)】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic (Lv. 8)】

【Special Ability: Water Magic (Lv. 8)】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic (Lv. 8)】

【Special Ability: Wind Magic (Lv. 8)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic (Lv. 8)】

【Experience: 461085(560000)】

See? If you just look at the values of each ability I don't fall too far behind right? Recently I've been testing how different my Speed is after consciously dragging it out. I slowly walk in front of company commander Kendus and after facing him on guard with my wooden sword I bowed and said "I'm in your care!" and lowered my head. Then I was hit with a good one on the back of my head and when I was rolling around I was kicked and hit on the back with the wooden sword and lost. What in the world is that. Even though it's a wooden, if I hadn't had the helmet I would have died.

"Greed-kun, the moment you enter the training field the combat has started. There's no need to lower your head to the enemy. It's your loss."

The second company commander Balkisas who was acting as referee said that. As expected I was about to complain but brother and sister were making some bitter faces so I gave up. Shit. Are you serious? I'm too afraid to look at Zenom and the others. I'm sure Ralpa is making fun of me. It seems that it's the rules of this practice match for the one who lost the one on one to remain. I didn't take any sort of injury that needed healing so we just continued like this. Even when it comes healing with magic unless we take on an injury where the pain won't disappear that easily, beat the enemy, or win it seems we can't leave the training field.

It seems that next up is the sub-commander. This time I'll take him on no matter what I have to do. I prepare myself once again and went on guard. Wearing some heavy full plate-mail armor and holding a kite shield that's one size larger than normal, while standing on guard with a wooden sword in the form of a long sword the sub-commander has no openings. This time I need to make use of my Speed and make sport of him wearing the heavy plate-mail, I'll aim to land attacks from his blind-spots.

The sub-commander is gradually shuffling closer.

The cold wind of December blows across the surface of the dirt on the training ground.

I hold my wooden sword with both hands at the eye and shuffle the same way

towards the left side. I don't want to let him use the shield and if he's going to swing the sword with just his right arm then it should be more difficult to swing if I'm position to the right from the opponents side. The distance between us gradually get closer.

5m...

4m...

3m.

Just a bit more.

And in the next moment the sub-commander stepped in at a speed that exceed my expectations. It's the average speed of a squire wearing rubber armor in Bakuddo. He's fast!

Along with a yell he swings his sword diagonally across where my right shoulder is as he steps in and I wonder if he really feels any weight from his full plate-mail?

It was only a brief moment that I thought that, I threw my body to the right side diving under the swing of his sword and somehow managed to succeed in evading the first attack, I went to stab into the sub-commander's chest from the right but I was blocked by the shield and the tip of my sword was futilely parried to the left.

However, just like in the direction looking from my left I continued making use of the momentum moving to the left and as if revolving my left arm around to back as I dropped my waist I did a round kick into the sub-commanders left knee. It's a combination of "bare handed fighting", "bayonet fighting" and "dagger fighting", the "joint kick".

The heel of my boots hardened with ebonite fall into the bottom edge of his open left knee as I rotate around.

I was able to scratch the edge of the armor covering the sub-commanders left knee with my left heel.

If I can just keep swinging my leg like this it's my aim to cause his posture to collapse.

However, of all things, even though it's true I was able to hit the edge of his armor on his left knee with my heel while making use of the centrifugal force but he isn't budging at all. I guess that means unless I can definitely land the hit in the gap between his left thighs and the muscle between the back of his knees since everything else is covered in full plate-mail I can't bend his knees in a strange direction.

I immediately curling my arm and rolled to the right ahead of me. Just before that his shield was swung down where my left leg had been stretched out and stabbed into the ground. Th..That was dangerous...

After making use of the force I rolled off with to stand up I hold the wooden sword in my right hand while swinging it to right to revolve around and face the sub-commander. During that time the sub-commander pulled his shield out of the ground and finished changing directions.

We've basically returned to our original condition with just positions changed. As expected of the sub-commander of the first knight group, he carries his body splendidly. If we were to do things properly there's no way I have any chance of winning.

This time I want to take the initiative. No matter how good he carries his body or how fast he is, he's still wearing heavy armor. He can't move as fast as me. I need to calmly mix in some feints while evading him and make use of my speed to find a chance of winning.

I grasp the wooden sword in my right hand and in order to maintain my balance I stretched out my left arm to the left while putting my weight on to my right leg and pushed off.

This time I charge into the right direction where the shield is on guard. The sub-commander puts out his shield in order to react to me. Now! I lowered my waist in order to hide behind the shield and charged in just like that but my left arm shouldn't be visible from behind the shield. I put my left hand around the right surface side of the shield and pulled it to the left with all of my strength. If it goes well then it should shift the sub-commanders shield from the left side to the front of his body. Simultaneously I'm sure he wouldn't be able to swing the wooden sword he's holding in his right hand well.

I thought that but. The moment I grabbed his shield with my left hand he must have noticed that. Without resisting the movements of my left hand the sub-commander turned around in the right direction making use of the centrifugal force to swing the sword in his right hand and send me flying.

If it goes like this with less resistance than I thought along with the momentum of the light sensation the left shoulder of my body will open up. But, this is fine. It's a bit different than planned but it's a movement I've done a lot in the past. I stand the sword I'm holding in my right hand up and after pulling it towards my body I stuck out my elbow and hit the sub-commander in the back with it.

Though he's even covered in full plate-mail armor on his back, there's no way he could endure being elbowed in the back without his posture collapsing.

My elbow cleanly hit his back and having his turning stopped the sub-commander tripped. This time I made use of that gap to land the ideal joint kick into the back right knee of the sub-commander and this time he easily collapsed. From behind I grabbed the ornaments on his helmet with my left hand and dragged him downwards while slamming my right knee into the back of his head.

In reality that should cause a concussion. However, as expected the helmet of full plate-mail armor is sturdy. Or maybe he has cushions inside of the gaps of the back of his head? Of course there's some damage but even after falling to the ground from his back the sub-commander was moving while groaning. However, he can't do anything more. I hold my sword to the sub-commander's head as he's face up at my feet looking over here.

"It's Greed-kun's victory!"

The referee declared that. Since I knocked the opponent down face up and held his head down. Let alone one hit I could hit as many times as I want. That's why it was my victory. Oooo! I won! I won against the sub-commander! I clench both of my fists while leaving the training field. Brother was standing on the side of the training field. I was proud. Brother said in a low voice "You did well. Next is me. Just watch." and grinned with a smile as he changed places with me and stepped foot into the training field.

【Farnestan.Greed/1/4/7438】
【Male/21/1/7422 ▪ Human ▪ Viscount Greed Family Eldest Son ▪ Marquis Webdos Knight】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 20 Years Old】
【Level: 8】
【HP: 94(94) MP: 339(339)】
【Strength: 15】
【Speed: 16】
【Dexterity: 12】
【Endurance: 14】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic (Lv. 6)】
【Special Ability: Water Magic (Lv. 6)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic (Lv. 6)】
【Experience: 74969(80000)】

It looks like an unfavorable comparison but that's not the case at all. Other than the experience points the details of his stats haven't changed at all since I left the house in the spring. However, in a mere 9 months he's earned 9,000 experience.

He must have practiced quite a bit or patrolled around quite vigorously.

Brother is standing on guard with his wooden sword while waiting for the sub-commander stand up. I thought that he might not be able to stand up on his own in the full plate-mail armor but that wasn't the case. After rolling over with his face to the ground he lifted his upper body like doing push-ups and at the same time stood on his knees, then while holding his shield and wooden sword he lifted his upper body to stand on one leg before standing up.

Well if he couldn't get up himself or if my knee caused a concussion then if he were to fall from his horse and fall unconscious from just that he'd easily die. And I noticed it up close and actually felt it when I tried hitting him but that seems quite heavy but it's distributed to the entire body so you can move quite nimbly.

Just like that brother is going to take him on it seems. I'm sure he was confused over my abnormal fighting style that isn't normal swordsmanship but

brother uses normal swordsmanship. If he thinks it's the same thing as me then even though he's wearing full plate-mail armor he'll get injured.

I stuck my wooden sword into the ground like sister and with my hand on that I watched over brother and the sub-commanders practice match.

The sub-commander is standing on guard with his shield the same way as he did against me. Brother is holding the wooden sword in right hand and has his left hand just lightly matched up with that.

Brother challenged him first. He swings the sword down from above with a yell and the lightning like speed inherited from father. After the sub-commander parries that with his shield and this time he swings his wooden sword in his right hand down from above as well.

It seems he received it with the simple shield on his lower left arm. There's four iron rods with a diameter of 1 cm inside of it. I'm sure it hurts but the bone won't break and it probably won't even go numb. As proof of that at the same time as he received the sub-commanders wooden sword he swung his arm to the outside and shifted the trajectory of the wooden sword with his body.

At the same time as that brother jumped off to the rear and after quickly holding his wooden sword in both hands horizontally he charged in with a thrust. This time his left hand is on the handle and he's got his left waist put behind the wooden sword. The right hand is just being held over it.

The sub-command immediately dealt with that by trying to parry the trajectory of the sword aiming at his abdomen with the wooden sword in his right hand while swinging the shield in his left hand into brother. I guess brother predicted that.

He stretched out the right hand that was just hovering over the wooden sword and easily matched it with the shield the sub-commander was swinging then lifted it up just like that. And then after diving under the shield he cut into the sub-commanders body with the wooden sword in his left hand and pass by from the right side.

Gon, there was a dull sound but it's clearly enough to be judged as valid. The referee company commander Balukisas raises his left hand. However, he's still only earned just one hit. The practice match continues. After that he continued

like a master of both his hands while quickly switching between the left and right sides of the sub-commander almost one-sidedly repeating attacks but none of them were enough to be considered valid.

They've already continued that state for close to a minute. I'm sure even brother is starting to get started. If he doesn't decide it soon it'll be bad. When he he has practice matches with me as well, if I go on the defensive and manage to get brother caught up in that I've won by waiting for him to run out of stamina.

Brother charged into the sub-commander while preparing to swing his sword diagonally from the top of the right. Aa!! That's bad! And I saw him swing the wooden sword down into the shield as he charged in but it seems that brother was aiming for that. He didn't hit the wooden sword against the shield but rather shifted the angle and after lowering it with his left hand he just went around the shield from the bottom like that and with a movement like it was crawling across the ground slowly lifted it upwards thrusting it into the sub-commanders right thigh.

Ever since the first thrust where he aimed for the abdomen every attack since then as been a swing diagonally from above or across the center. I'm sure the sub-commander was bewildered by the first attack he showed from below. In any case older brother's swing from below landed cleanly.

"Lord Greed's victory!"

Brother returned with a grin on his face. "No, as expected of him. It's almost a coincidence that was I was able to win. If we had the same armor I'm sure I would have lost." is what he said while breathing with his shoulders but a win is a win. I lost my first match (not that I think that way though), but each of us siblings have scored one win each off the sub-commander of the first knight group!

Now, this time it's sister's turn.

【Milhaia.Greed/15/12/7439】

【Female/2/2/7424 ▪ Human ▪ Viscount Greed Family Eldest Daughter ▪ Duke Rombert Knight】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 18 Years Old】

【Level: 8】

【HP: 82(82) MP: 866(866)】

【Strength: 14】

【Speed: 15】

【Dexterity: 14】

【Endurance: 11】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic (Lv. 6)】

【Special Ability: Water Magic (Lv. 6)】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic (Lv. 6)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic (Lv. 7)】

【Experience: 66241(80000)】

Now then, it's my first time seeing sister's sword since her holiday at the start of this year when she returned to the house, it's almost been a full year. I wonder what being trained with the sword by the first knight group has done for her?

After entering the training field with her sword at the ready sister stood on guard with her waist lowered and the buckler shield attached to her left arm held out.

She didn't match up to brother but she's clearly gotten better since the start of the year while showing quick movements and swinging the wooden sword with her right hand, she was fighting on even terms with the sub-commander. He moves quite fast for the heavy armor he's wearing but he's completely on the defense against sisters movements which are faster than that. However, it doesn't seem like she's evading him as well brother did. Neither of them have been able to land a valid hit yet but...

The sharpness in the sisters movements has started to decrease. It seems that the sub-commander is reasonably exhausted as well and his speed has dropped but it's not to the degree of sister.

Shit..give it your best!

Aaa...The sub-commanders shield smash cleanly landed. After her stance collapsed and she fell to one knee the sword was swung down from above like

the rain. She manages to parry those with the buckler shield on her left arm and the wooden sword in her right as she somehow managed to recover her stance, but when she tried to stand up a good one finally landed on her right shoulder.

The referred raised his right hand.

However, the practice match is still going on. Hold out. It's time to reverse it from here!

She took on the sub-commanders wooden sword while rolling to the left. If she makes use of that momentum to earn some distance she should be able to stand. However, it seems she used up quite a bit of stamina on the sub-commanders fierce attack, her sharpness has dropped quite a bit.

It seems that the sub-commander is considerably tired as well but not as much as sister. He has such an endless amount of stamina that you wouldn't think this was his third match after me. However, sister isn't losing either. It's true her stamina has fallen and her movements aren't as sharp but thanks to that she's returned to the basics and her technique has become more thorough.

I almost let out my voice but I need to be patient here. I clenched my fist and cheered just inside of my heart.

However, I guess holding out for several minutes gave her the opening she needed, the movements of the sub-commander have clearly lost their sharpness. No matter how you think about it if he's moving that much in such a heavy suit of armor he'll eventually get tired, isn't he surrounded by sweat and hot air in there? I thought he had an endless amount of stamina but after all there's a limit. Now is the chance to trifle with him making use of speed like the start. I'm sure if it's like this something can be done.

After kicking off the ground with her left foot sister aimed an attack down diagonally from the right while moving in an instant. I'm sure if it's this timing he won't be able to block it with his shield. You can take one hit!

However, the sub-commander forcibly twisted the right arm that he had his wooden sword in and thrust it towards sister.

Sisters wooden sword as swinging down towards the left collarbone of the sub-commander but at the same time the sub-commanders thrust is aimed

towards her left thigh!

Sister twisted her body in mid-air with the wooden sword still in her hand and rolled just like that almost as if she predicted that from the sub-commanders stance. After standing up right away she moved around to the sub-commanders right side and landed another hit.

“Lord Greed’s victory!”

Company commander Balukisas declared while raising his left hand.

Alright! We all won against the sub-commander! I reflexively made triumphant pose with just my left hand. Oh~ that’s disgraceful in front of the Queens. However, I’m sure no one is looking at me. A commotion takes over the training field. Eh? It was the first time sister won against the sub-commander? I see, that’s great. I’m sure you’re happy.

The sub-commander lost to sister as well but with this the opponent has been beat so we switch.

..And, I guess it’s me. Alright! I’m going to give it my best and win again!

I held out for close to five minutes but the commander was strong. I tried taking him on with all of my effort but while the commander was using rubber protectors he moved at a speed beyond father as he made light of me. There wasn’t even enough of an opening to land some foot techniques. I was forced completely on the defensive from the wooden sword that seemed to come from every direction and when I thought “ah” I was cut and one hit was taken. After holding out even more there was nothing I could do. If I tried to find an opening and kick up some dirt to blind him but he predicted it and without even a chance to use my last resort I took on consecutive attacks and unable to evade them in the end I lost.

Since I’ve taken on all three of them with this it seems I switch out. I made a pathetic face towards sister but she just nodded to me. When I returned with my shoulders drooped down and brother said “You did well giving it your best. It was splendid that you didn’t give up to the end...Just watch.” to me. Sister just watched brothers back like that with a serious expression.

Ah, I see. For sister this isn’t entertainment but training. I might have something I can gain from the commander and brother’s practice match as well.

I can't overlook it.

Chapter 100: Black Eagle of Webdos

Year 7442, Month 12, Day 28

The practice match between brother and the commander heated up with both sides making intense movements. Wooden sword and wooden sword hit together, we're evaded, and the two of them yelled words like "Eh!!", "Ya!!", "Tseei!", "Muun!", and "Two!!" as the spirit in their attacks surged, before the simple shield on their left arm can be driven into the opponent they step in and repel that, the one who has it repelled immediately jumps back and puts distance, then another intense exchange of techniques starts again. The commander is making use of the rubber protectors that you wouldn't believe it was his first time using them.

Brother showed his last resort the two-consecutive thrust that he almost never shows but after the commander parried it on the first thrust with the wooden sword in his right hand he twisted his face in surprise for just a moment but splendidly brushed off the second thrust with his left hand even though it was his first time seeing it. Even though it took me close to a month to be able to do that while practicing with brother...

Once he holds the wooden sword in both hands you never know which hand he'll switch it to, the commander was splendidly reacting to brother's technique of using both hands. So you can raise the skill with swordsmanship this high..I was so fixed on it I even forgot to breath.

However, brother couldn't win. He held out just like me but in the end the commander forced him into defeat. Not to mention he lost to the same two-consecutive thrust that he uses. There was a small difference in the shoulder when he used it so the commander probably used it as well originally. The speed of the commanders was faster.

After that there was the match between brother and the commander of the third company Viscount Kendus. I'm sure he was tired after the match with the commander but just like he did with the sub-commander he made light of the

company commander wearing his splint-mail and when there was an opening he finished it off with his two-consecutive strike winning in no time at all. Amazing~ as expected.

I guess sister is allays having matches against the company commander, it seemed like they both already knew all of each others movements and neither one moved at the start. Eventually, sister got tired of it and tried make use of her speed while the company commander stood his ground firmly as he met with her attacks. Although it seems that the company commander was above in terms of technique but he couldn't avoid losing to sister in terms of speed so by the time each one of them had landed one hit each 10 minutes had passed and it was decided as a draw.

Next up is sister and the commander, is what I was thinking but the commander said we should take a break for a bit. And unexpectedly it seems I'm having a rematch with the company commander before sister and the commanders match. Of course that first time would be invalid. It's too much to consider that a loss. It's true we're about to fight so it was my fault for showing my gratitude.

But, you can't even call that a practice match. It's true that I was about to have a match for the purpose of learning things and I knew that there was no need to greet each other during practice matches. However, I thought I shouldn't be rude to sister's direct superior and did it without thinking too much, so I had the naive thinking that it would be fine and he would overlook it. I learned that no matter what the occasion during practice matches greetings and gratitude aren't necessary but that's it. If it's something on that level you could just say it. There shouldn't have been anything the company commander could learn from that.

No matter what, no matter what even if I have to use my last resort I'll win! Even if they say it's cowardly I don't care. Sister said it was {OK}. If I can win against the company commander that tied with sister then..Well something like that doesn't matter. I just need to think about fighting and winning right now.

Just like I have until now before I entered the training field I crouched down and rubbed dirt on my palms to prevent sliding. And I face off against the company commander who's on guard with his wooden sword after taking a

short break. After all I guess I should take him on with speed. I close the distance all at once and thrust with the wooden sword using my left hand.

The company commander parries my trust with his wooden sword and tries to make use of that moment to cut down but compared to the match with the commander just now I was able to evade it with ease.

Unlike against the commander I had enough composure to use foot techniques. However, after all the company commander is used to practice matches against people using rubber protectors. It seems he's a bit confused over how to deal with things like foot techniques after being used to the normal swordsmanship of the first knight group but he's almost completely parried or received my attacks with the wooden sword and even managing to counterattack.

I jumped back a bit and opened up a distance of about 4 m and acted like I was fixing my hold on the sword. The company commander is fixing his stance and lowering his waist as well showing his resolve to receive any attack and counter them. I took up a stance with my left side behind like in knife fighting where my right side is facing him and the wooden sword is held in my left hand while I approach from my left lower back. Since my body twisted to the limit on the left side is in the way the company commander can only see it as if I'm hiding the blade of my sword while building up power from the twisted state of my right shoulder.

My last resort is hanging from my waist on the rubber string attached to the D ring.

I held the handle of my wooden sword along with my last resort and moved my body from the right using my left hip following along that. I held my wooden sword while bending the hinge on the D ring and properly held on to my last resort along with the handle of the sword.

My right hand is reaching it's limit soon so I stretch it out to my left hip.

I gently put the dirt I still had in my right hand into the compartment of my buckshot slingshot.

After pouring it into the condom-shaped end of the slingshot I grabbed on to it and pulled it back all at once with my left hand. After letting go of the stretched out end of the buckshot slingshot a bit more than a tablespoon or so

of dirt, just enough for blinding someone was launched at the company commanders face.

I'm sure the company commander had no idea how to comprehend what happened. The sand which was fired off with quite a bit of force dispersed without missing it's mark and in instant passed through the eye portions in the helmet which are almost like a net, and displayed just the effect I was expecting of it. After I fired the slingshot I simultaneously let go of both my slingshot and my wooden sword and went around the company commander closing the distance on his right side.

He's swinging the wooden sword around like crazy but as expected something like that won't hit. I put a kick into the inner part of his right knee and after his posture collapsed I grabbed his right arm in just the right position to do a one arm shoulder throw (there's no problem with grabbing on to the inner part of the splint-mail where it's made of leather) while letting out a yell of "Cheeesst!" as I lifted him on to my shoulder from his right arm as I lowered my waist and rotated him to the left and then while hitting the company commander's thigh with my ass I threw him over my shoulder. And with the brass knuckles on my gauntlets I do a thrust at his helmet, and stop short of hitting him.

Just the same as the time when I was against the sub-commander I can hit him in the head with my brass knuckles as much as I want.

"Greed-kun's victory!"

After it was declared my victory I immediately took off the company commander's helmet and used the spell shower to create water and wash away the sand I blinded him with. Since I was so happy I won the fact that I failed at holding the power of it back and a bit of the water entered my gloves is a charm point.

Alright, I was able to win against the company commander that sister couldn't defeat! I was so happy that I felt like doing a dance but endured it. However, whether it be the company commander or the sub-commander, if I were to take them on with the sword once more I probably wouldn't be able to win for as long as I just use the sword. Thinking like that and sister is amazing that she

managed to get a hit off of him while fighting countless times, or at least I thought that once again, but I'll never speak of it.

After that, sister and the commander had their match. Unexpectedly the commander lifted the ban on sister's magic. We moved as far away as we could to observe the practice match. She didn't go to the point of burying him but she easily concluded things using {Water Bolt Missile} (almost zero attack power). Before the second attack hit the commander was using magic as well to try and desperately intercept it but before he could concentrate and materialize the attack he took a direct hit from sister's spell and lost. No matter how light the armor is if you lift the ban on sister's magic it's impossible.

"Hmm, I thought I could dodge magic with this armor though..but, it's certainly good armor. It's light and easy to move. The defense is high for it's weight as well. I like it."

After hearing what the commander said we were all shocked. If just by becoming light you could dodge guided magic no one would be troubled. There's several methods to cancel out a missile that's being guided but they're all pretty difficult.

1. Escape from the valid range of the user.
2. Faster than the projectile being guided can hit it's target interrupt the concentration of the user.
3. Block the sight of the user.
4. Erase the projectile before it can arrive at the target while in mid-flight.
5. Swallow the projectile itself in an {Anti-Magic Field} before the projectile hits.

Out of these the first one is almost impossible because of the difference in speed. Unless they're already at the very edge of the valid range from the start or if they're at a place about 10 m away and they use a powerful wind magic to send themselves flying out of the guided range then it's impossible. And it's not that easy to tell where the opponents valid guidance range starts and ends as well. If you just pour a bit of extra MP into it, it's not impossible to extend the range a bit as well.

The second one is normally difficult. After the spell has been activated it depends on the distance and the type of spell but it's extremely difficult to

interrupt the users concentration in at greatest a few seconds to less than a second. Unless they're a considerably skilled sorcerer using another projectile spell that can be used and arrives faster to the user of the spell then it's impossible. Furthermore after the guiding has completed there's the final vector with remains so it's necessary to avoid that. Even when it comes to using a bow or crossbow unless they already have their aim set before-hand because of problems relating to the speed it's for the most part impossible.

The third is the most realistic. Hiding behind large objects, if you can use magic then making a dirt wall and hiding behind that is fine as well. If they can't see the target then the user has no choice other than to try and aim using intuition. If the projectile is the exploding type like {Fire Ball} then even if they aim using intuition it's difficult to avoid damage so it's not absolute but it's a valid method. Even if it's a shield if they use an experience technique depending on the force and type of projectile they might be able to defense against it or avert it. Though that's considerably difficult.

The fourth one is the next most practical. I said erase it but it would be more correct to say hit the projectile with something else and in essence invalidate it. I'm sure it would be most often to use it with the second method but depending on the type of projectile that comes flying it might not have much meaning. What's definite is to intercept it with the same type of missile spell but it's not hard to imagine that it's difficult.

The last method is generally impossible. About the only one who can do it is me. Among spells {Anti-Magic Field} is a low-level one but it requires all elemental magics and at the very least you need to pour more MP into it than the projectile that comes flying or it'll pierce through. It's fine if you only intend to use it once and pour your MP into it to the limit as you setup an {Anti-Magic Field} but as long as it's unknown how much MP the opponent pours into their attack it's nothing more than a gamble with bad odds.

In any case us three siblings...or rather, in the case of sister this time..in this case no matter what kind of defense he would have used her attack would have pierced through or just blown away the defense altogether. I'm sure that the commander can use magic decently as well so I would imagine he at least knows this much.

So this is the end of the practice matches. I did two wins and one loss (it seems I was able to get them to overlook the first match against the company commander). Brother did two wins and one loss as well. Sister did two wins one draw. Uo..we won. For my two wins I barely even used the sword so I really have to question them, and I really doubt the same sort of methods would work another time but even if you take me out we still won. Particularly older brother won against the company commander and sub-commander fair and square with just sword techniques.

Huh? But the only one who won against the commander wearing rubber armor was sister who used magic and..The sub-commander and company commander were wearing heavy armor. Even if you say it, it can't be helped but I guess if we were under the same conditions then I wonder if even brother could have won? I couldn't even win against them a second time while they're wearing heavy armor, if they had been using the same rubber armor as I was wouldn't I have been done in the same way as the commander with no time to use my tricks?

Everyone is offering us words of praise but I guess I was the only one with a discontent expression.

"Greed, you won against the sub-commander and company commanders of the first knight group, though it was a practice match it's still a victory. It's fine for you to be more honestly pleased over it."

Yulu said to me.

"That's right, it's quite the achievement. As expected of your older brother as well, he's an excellent knight."

Marin said that as well praising me. However, I..

"Ha..Thank you for the words of praise, I've grateful for them. Nevertheless, I was able to win thanks to this light armor and my skill with the sword didn't work against them at all. I'm sure I wouldn't be able to win a second time, so in essence it's a loss."

I said that and drooped my head. And then,

"Well, it's not something you need to depreciate yourself own. You're quite

strong for your age. Even your skill with the sword isn't all that far behind. If you were to take the entry exam I'm sure you would pass. And I think even among our true knights quite a few of them would lose to you. How about coming to our place even starting right now? How about it?"

The sub-commander said that while laughing.

"That's right, Greed. You, aren't you misunderstanding something? If you can use the sword at that level at 16 or 17 it's splendid. Even more so the three you fought against it wouldn't be overstating it to call them the strongest in our country."

Yulu smiles while saying that.

"Ha, thank you very much. And I'm very pleased over your invitation but I'm an adventurer of Baldukk, and I have my company as well. Also, while I will reach adulthood the month after next but I'm still 14."

I, did my face seem that adult-like? I have the characteristics of an Asian and according to my common sense I thought I would look younger than my age though. Well I'm sure it's flattery as well. Going off of my expression and the things I say I'm sure it's difficult to see me as being 14. And other than Molin they haven't seen my status so it's not unreasonable they wouldn't know my exact age, even if they had seen my status I'm sure they wouldn't bother remembering things like that every time. I don't remember the Identify details of the commander and other members like their ages either.

"Oh? So that was the case. I thought you were much older based on how you talk. Then you should be even more pleased. The fact that you were invited to the first knight group at 14 is exception. You siblings are excellent."

Yulu said that and praise me, praised us siblings.

"Your highness-es, did you understand what I wanted to say? It's not an excuse but even if it's me if I were to fight against Green-kun once more I have no intention of losing. However, this time I lost. There's no second chances on the battlefield. If this was the battlefield I would have been finished off by Greed-kun. Certainly he had a surprising level of skill but I lost to him even though he's still 14 years old and hasn't received formal knight training. That goes the same for Lord Kendus. The only one who won against him this time

was the commander wearing the new model of armor. What this means, I'm sure with how wise your highness-es are you already understand but..how about it, weren't my words this morning completely justified? "Ah, it's fine already, I already get what you want to say."

Yulu interrupted Sub-Baron Bittwaz's words saying that.

"That's right. We've confirmed that the armor is effective. It's not unreasonable that you would compete to be the first to get your hands on it. Commander Logan, in light of raising the war potential of the knight group from here on make the orders fairly."

Marin followed up her words by ordering that of Baron Logan.

"Wa ha..I'll carve your highness words into my memory."

And the Queens left the training place. After seeing them off the Baron said to older brother.

"Lord Greed, is one more match alright? This time it will be a match on horseback. The weapon will be the sword."

"I understand. Is it fine for me to use my own horse?"

Brother calmly responded.

"Yeah, of course I don't mind."

It seems that brother and the knight commander will have one more match. A battle on horseback huh?

Brother gets on his war horse and with the wooden sword in his right hand, holding the reins in his left hand, he shows off his gallant mounted appearance while still maintaining an air of refinement. I've practiced combat on horseback as well but I can't do it very well at all. I guess it would be a good idea to take out some time to practice combat on horseback as well. Ah, no I guess I can use magic so even just that is fine?

The commander and brother are separated by about 70–80 m or so. They'll both face each other and when they both take off at the same time, whenever they get near each other again they'll cut at each other with the wooden sword. If they fall from the horse then it's their loss at that point. If they land two solid

hits then it's a loss as well. Come to think of it brother sometimes did it with sister-in-law Shani at Bakuddo.

It seems like it's about to start. I can tell that the tension is rising.

Both of them kicked off the stomachs of their horses.

The two war horses gradually increased their speed.

Both of them are lifting the sword in their right hand.

When they closed in on each other the speed of the war horses had become quite something.

The two of them swing their swords in collaboration.

It seems that the two wooden swords hit each other.

After going to the edge of the training ground they faced each other again.

This time they immediately accelerated with their horses.

Again, they're striking sword to sword.

Even just watching from the side the tension of the two of them can be felt from here.

I'm not sure if it's because I'm breaking a sweat or because the water from the shower is still remaining in my glove, it's an unpleasant sensation but I naturally clenched my fist strongly.

Both of them have a high level of technique, or rather, I can't see anything more than the two of them swinging their wooden swords at each other with all of their power while making use of the velocity of their war horses.

The third round.

The fourth round.

The fifth round.

It's not reaching a conclusion.

And the sixth round starts.

The war horses start running, the distance between the two of them gradually narrows.

Older brother came from the left and the commander from the right.

It seems they hit at the same time again.

The seventh round started.

Just the same as until now they're both accelerating and shortening the distance.

Soon after they started running I heard a groan from the sub-commander.

After looking closely older brother's left foot wasn't on his stirrup.

Like that he'll only be able to support his body weight with his right foot.

"Everyone, watch closely!"

The sub-commander roars.

When he crossed over the commander, older brother received the commander's sword with his own sword and his posture collapsed.

Of all things, just before taking the sword his body bent backwards and just the moment I thought he was on the verge of falling from the horse.

He let go of the reins just like that and supported his back using the horse's back.

And after raising his left foot he shortened his body down on top of the horse's form.

I figured it out here but it seems that he didn't have his right foot in the stirrup as well.

So he had only been hanging on to the horse with the power of his thighs until now?

And just as I saw the power gather from the muscles in his arms he went into a handstand and jumped into the air twisting his body as he sat right behind the commander.

It was the moment a Black Eagle flew through the sky of Rombertia.

In no time at all the sword was in his left hand and the opened right arm was entangled with the commander's right arm from behind. On the butt of a horse

with no saddle, I'm amazed he can keep from falling off the horse by just entangling his right arm with the commander. Everyone was watching with their breath held. Whether that was because of the frightening level of balance he was showing or the instant he showed an abnormal level of acrobatic capability, or from both.

He was able to attack the commander's left flank as he pleased with the sword in his left hand.

The referee on the other side of the two war horses raised his left hand.

"Lord Greed's victory!"

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"It's a street performance. That type of thing can only be used under very limited circumstances."

Older brother said that. It's the first time sister and I saw something like that. It seems like the people of the knight group were shocked as well and they're all praising older brother.

It seems that the only one who knew about it was the sub-commander. Supposedly he had only done it once during a battle in the past. Sister-in-law Shani didn't teach me about it either. It seems that he bribed her into secrecy. The squires of the village were making an uproar. I wanted to join in that as well.

"Listen well, if it's rubber armor then you can even become able to do something like that."

The commander said something like that but I'm pretty sure only older brother could make such acrobatic movements like that. As proof of that no one is assenting to the commander's words.

"Farne-san, you're cool! As expected~"

Ralpa is looking ecstatically at my older brother.

"He's already married and has kids. Don't think about anything weird."

"I already know. Something like that. I'm even fine as the second wif" "You're okay with bigamy? Are you really a former high school girl? And sister-in-law is

an amazing beauty. I can't imagine older brother would be interested in someone like you."

"Eh~ but I thought that Farne-san was cool as well. When he jumped between horses like that, that was amazing!"

I won't deny that, but Bel was in the brother faction as well, I'll report it to You-chan.

"Master, as expected. Two wins against true knights. And even though you lost once, the opponent was the commander of the knight group, so it's plenty."

Angela, out of the women the only one who praised me was just you. I bought a good slave.

"Yeah, I was surprised. So there's methods of fighting like that as well. When training, I've never seen you use that sort of fighting method so it was unexpected. I was completely amazed."

Zulu is saying something and it seems he's praising me as well.

"Al, that was splendid. Even when the opponent was the first knight group you didn't take a single step back."

Zenom praised me as well.

"Saying something like {Chesto}, I almost broke out into laughter. Isn't that "Judo"?"

Since everyone was praising me I guess she remembered, Ralph faced me and said that. The one arm shoulder throw is a judo technique but I also had some barehanded fighting mixed in there as well. In some ways it's one of the few and valuable techniques you can throw someone without a dogi.

"Well it's something similar. Since I've mostly been against monsters up until now, I've never used it though. I was amazed my body moved even though I haven't properly trained with it in a while. Even I was surprised."

I really was surprised myself. My body moved naturally. However, it seems that movements that are beaten into you when you're young aren't so easy to forget. I ended up naturally moving like in the past before I could think about it.

Repetition practice of forms is a frightening thing. Of course, any training that I can do alone I did here and there. However, when it comes to throwing techniques I couldn't practice them alone. If it's like this then I might remember the strangle techniques as well. Maybe I'll take Zulu on with them later sometime.

After leaving the training field it seems that brother and the squires are going to their inn once. Matching with that Zenom and the others are going to their inn as well. My two slaves and I are returning to Baldukk after we dinner. For the time being I go to brother and the other's inn and pick up the delivery goods, a rubber bag with the emblem of the royal family on it and with it still packaged I put it into my saddle bag, I'll sightsee around the capital until dinner.

Zulu and Angela said they were going to randomly look around and I want to talk with brother but I still haven't properly talked with the squires either. Since I talked a lot with brother and sister this morning on the way to Rombertia from Baldukk, that should be fine for today. Either way I'm sure he'll stop by Baldukk tomorrow morning. Today I'll lend brother to Ralpa and Bel.

I enjoyed having a conversation with the squires of Bakuddo, Seans, and Dianne for the first time in a while. Sean stayed in Rombertia during sisters exam so he's the only one among them that has been here before. The inn that he stayed at together with father and the others and the restaurant they all went to eat at when it was decided that sister had passed. We also went to an area of small stores where he bought the gifts to bring back to Bakuddo.

Just like when I went to Keel for the first time everyone is restlessly looking around the unusual scenes of the capital like people from the countryside.

"Al-sama, the master mentioned it. Next year or the year after he intends to have one family of rubber artisan's stay in the capital in order to sell armor and repair products. It seems that he will have the families of the artisans shift places every couple of years. It seems that he wants for you to choose a building that will act as the headquarters of Greed Company."

Sean said that evoking my attention. I heard about that story from brother this morning as well. In other words it seems he's come up with the idea of a base of operations for repairs of the armor in addition to being a place to sell

them directly from. I originally wrote in my letter previously to think about something like that. I left the selection of personnel up to father so I'm sure he'll send people who are loyal.

"Yeah, I know. I'll finish negotiations by fall of next year and prepare a place by then. I said it to brother as well but I'll make sure I'm in a position to give a progress report during the deliveries in spring and summer. I'll find a good location. Look forward to it."

"Of course, it's Al-sama after all. I'll be looking forward to it. However, for this armor to have been that popular with the members of the first knight group..I was extraordinarily surprised."

Sean said that. The squire Jamie also jumped into Sean and my conversation.

"That's right. I was tremendously happy when I was granted the armor three years ago but for it to have been something that was this popular...Since the members of the first knight group were just quarreling and delighted over being able to purchase it after all. Ah, that's right, Al-sama, starting next year we're going to be expanding the work cabin. Now we've become able to gather rubber from the 6th field and before summer of next year I'm sure the 7th field will be ready as well."

I see, so it's already that sort of season?

"I see, that's great. I think you've understood from today but this armor, it's quite popular right? If we don't limit it to 10 suits of armor every 3-4 months I doubt we'll be able to keep it under control."

When I was responding to Jamie, Dianne came to my side and said.

"Hn~ About that but, Al-sama, why don't we take more orders than that? Right now we can make double that number. Well in that case we'll have to shift a bit out of other products but I think that it can be done though.."

She said that with some reservations but I faced her, smiled, and opened my mouth.

"Yeah, I'm sure that's the case. However, in regards to armor, once you've bought it unless something out of the ordinary happens you won't need anymore for a while. That's why if you sell them all at once you'll be troubled

after that. We also need to think about the amount of armor other than ours that are appearing on the market and sell them a bit at a time.

There's two reasons. The first is if a lot of armor suddenly appeared on the market, the armor of other places would stop selling. If it comes to that then it can't be helped so the places who can't sell their armor will end up having to lower the price. If that ends up repeating then no one will be able to make a profit anymore. If it comes to that then the places that were making armor until now will resent us and in the worst case might even start harassing us.

One other reason is while preventing the value of armor from collapsing by limiting the number of our armor that are on the market it will become easier for it to be recognized as a high-grade product. In other words, even we sell the same number our profits will increase. After that we can increase them a bit at a time, slowly increasing the quantity. Simultaneously we'll also sell a lot of other rubber products than armor. We're making an image for Bakuddo of rubber products and high-class armor."

After saying that far and the other squires came over to our side and were listening as well. I stopped my feet and,

"It's not something to talk about on the side of the street. Let's all go for some drinks of bean tea."

said that and headed towards a restaurant nearby.

After that I talked about my ideas from the letter I wrote to father and brother for about an hour and the things that I predict will happen from now on and we enjoyed sightseeing around the capital again.

Evening, after arriving at the gathering place we had all discussed beforehand and everyone was already there so we went for dinner just like that. After Zulu, Angela, and I said our farewells we split up from everyone and returned to Baldukk on the night road. Since I'm sure there's no monsters wandering around here either way I played around by using the spell {Light} near the end of my bayonet, and Angela and Zulu's head and tails as we returned.

Chapter 101: New Year's Holiday

Year 7442, Month 12, Day 29

Morning, brother and the others stopped by Boil Manor. Since he had a practice match yesterday I thought he would drag out the day they return by one more day but it seems they're departing today just as planned. It seems that he'll be able to come around the middle or near the end of April next. Also it seems that the delivery of goods and taking orders will be the main thing that time but I was asked once again to find a good place to use as a headquarters in the capital. Of course I intended on that so I said leave it to me like you're riding on a large ship, but obviously he didn't get it like with Myun.

Rather than that, in regards to the condoms made intended for the royal family that I had them bring along but there were 50 bags this time. There's no way the royal family could need that many. I guess they intended for me to offer them as samples to the nobles and high-class brothels in Rombertia. After listening to various stories it seems that brother still sees room for improvement and is trying to make adjustments to them. I still don't have any experience on Orth but brother was saying things like "And, how was it? I think the ones I sent you last time should be a bit better than the last time. If there's anything you've noticed let me know."

It can't be helped so I said "How about making them ribbed along the way?" and he showed great admiration. He said, "What! Making them ribbed huh..After all you can notice things well. Once I return I'll try making a prototype right away. I'll need to remake a new model but I think it's a good idea.

Honestly speaking it's not my idea or anything like that.

I was overflowing with feeling like I wanted to lower my head to the makers of hygiene products in my previous life. I'm stealing their achievements and saying it almost like I thought of it myself. I feel sorry but this as well is all for the sake of preventing the spread of disease on Orth. Ah, though I feel like

making them ribbed has no relation to the prevention of diseases though.

After talking until noon about our rough plans from here on out and the reputation of our current products, older brother and the others left.

After that I broke a sweat by running and then after getting some practice in the dungeon, I had dinner with Zulu and Angela and spent the rest of the day resting.

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Year 7442, Month 12, Day 30

Today is New Year's Eve. Although, just because it's New Year's Eve doesn't mean there's any changes to the town of Baldukk like in Japan. When I was having breakfast with the slaves just in case I told them that dinner might be late for today. I went and bought another sandwich bento and while using my empty flask as a lunch box I entered the dungeon.

Today I intended to investigate the mechanism on how the room bosses revive which I had been putting off until now. Up until now I've always avoided entering the rooms to avoid the worst case possibility of danger when I'm in the dungeon alone. Today I intend on spending half a day until night to investigate it.

I quickly wiped out a group of goblins I encountered on the way and after taking down the Black Gargantuan Leech that was the boss of the first room, just in case I dragged the corpse to a corner of the room and then sat down on a stone in the opposite corner of the room. Of course I haven't collected the magic stone from the corpse. The current time is 7 in the morning.

30 minutes have passed. Nothing has changed.

Another hour has passed. Nothing has changed.

One hour has passed. Nothing has changed.

One hour has passed. I can hear the footsteps of what appears to be a group of monsters approaching the room.

I prepared my bayonet and was ready to fire off a spell but in the end the footsteps started go far off.

One hour has passed. It's just become noon. I had my lunch while being careful of the corpse that's covered in the darkness of the corner on the opposite side of the room. My caution ended up meaningless.

One hour has passed. Nothing is happening.

One hour has passed. I can feel the call of nature. While remaining cautious I took care of my business in a different corner of the room then covered it with dirt.

One hour has passed. There's no change at all. I'm starting to get tired of it already. I made some tea.

One hour has passed. There's still no change as usual.

One hour has passed. It's already 5 pm. I'm almost out of time huh?

30 minutes have passed. Just when I was about ready to head back already. Something like a haze started to swirl in the center of the room. But, it's just swirling around and there's nothing in particular that occurred after that. I tried to identify the haze but I couldn't do it. I started to get afraid so I left the room to get as far away from the haze as I could. If it's something like poison gas then it would be bad after all.

While observing it from outside of the room I noticed that the haze gradually started to get thicker. I wonder if this is the revival of the room boss? I'd rather not approach it right now but I think it should be fine if I observe it a bit longer, even if I identify myself I'm still healthy and there's no change to my condition it seems.

The thickness of the haze gradually increases, the center of the whirl is almost like a thick fog with how deep white it's gotten. The white portion of it is gradually getting bigger. I think it's already been around five minutes since I noticed the haze.

And, from the center of the whirl there was a flash of white light. It wasn't all that strong. I guess so, something on the level of a 30–40 W fluorescent light. The light immediately disappeared. The fog cleared up at the same time as the light disappeared. And right now where there was a whirl of fog until now there's a monster in the center of it.

It's a Scavenger Crawler. It's just appeared and it's trembling with a purpuruto~

Is this the revival of a monster!?

Suddenly an adult organism and they appear in the room!?

Then in that case I wonder if Goblins and Orks appear somewhere in the halls?

I was just standing there amazed while looking at the trembling Scavenger Crawler but I quickly came to my senses and took it down with two shots of {Ice Javelin}. After collecting the magic stone from it and the first Black Gargantuan Leech I killed, I cut the raw material for the paralysis and paralysis removal medicine from the base of its eight feelers and put them into a rubber bag before quickly leaving the dungeon.

This time it took close to half a day after I killed it until the room boss revived (?).

I wonder if things like the type of boss and the time it takes for it to revive changed based on the location and floor of the room? Or are they uniform? If they do change then what's the conditions for it? I have countless questions.

Although, even if it didn't revive like this, for example if the new boss we're to come wandering in from somewhere I'd have plenty of questions remaining so I guess I should just be satisfied that at least one question has definitely been resolved.

The traps which are repaired all of a sudden.

The monsters which revive all of a sudden.

It might even be possible that the gems and deposits of metal restore all of a sudden as well?

This large dungeon which has continued to swallow up countless adventurers who dream of getting rich for hundreds of years while they've only made it to the 5th floor in recent years. Even if there's a different cycle in how each of them are restored this dungeon of Baldukk was originally fixed "form" and when that "form" collapses I can't help but think that it's either being returned by the hands of somebody or has a function that was included in it to

automatically be restored.

Of course, this is my delusion. I have no basis for it. All I have is one thing, the proof of sample that “a monster revived as an adult organism”. I was unexpectedly able to see it this time but whether this definitely occurs or if it was an unusual phenomenon that was limited to this time that I just happened to catch sight of I can’t determine yet.

In any case it can’t be helped making an impatient decision. There’s no choice other than to gradually gather samples that will work as proof like this time from here on out and then make a decision based on that.

That night, when we were taking a late dinner, I went all out and tried asking Zulu and Angela about the incident that happened today. And then the two of them got angry at me. The reason was why I was exploring the dangerous dungeon all on my own, I guess it means if something happens to their precious master it’s a huge affair for a slave.

That precious master is me and it seems they can’t agree with my own actions putting my own life in danger. If I were to die wouldn’t you two become free? Why are you that angry? is what I was thinking so I tried asking about it.

And then, in the case that the owner of a slave passes away the slave is an asset so they are inherited by someone. In this case, my parents in Bakuddo or if my brother inherits the ranking of Viscount, I would automatically and legally be considered the second son of brother. Since I’m “Viscount Greed Family Second Son” after all. Father who was the head until now would return to his previous standing that was “Viscount Greed Family Third Son”. Mother wouldn’t change and would still be “First Wife” and sister-in-law would be “First Wife” as well.

In the case of a poor noble family in the countryside like us, the only ones who go through with naming during the succession of the Viscount peerage are father and brother and the rest of us are just left alone as we were. If this was a noble that was in possession of multiple noble rankings the circumstances would be different. Well it’s unrelated to right now so I’ll talk about that at a different occasion.

In any case, if I were to die then my assets that are my two slaves would be

inherited by either father or brother. If you think about it with common sense it's unusual for a countryside noble to possess combat slaves. Normally the retainers of that noble that are the squires act as the combat personnel and soldiers so unless there's some unusual circumstances there's not much meaning in buying combat slaves.

If there's special circumstances like dispatching to a war that's going to occur soon or some monsters in the area have suddenly rapidly increased in numbers and are attacking nearby villages since other than that they're considered close to parasites and aren't welcome. If they're lacking in people they might be used as labor or serfs but that's a waste.

In that case it's normal to sell them to a slave merchant and turn them into money, is how it goes. Since there's no way combat slaves that have been sold again can't choose their next master for themselves, so they have to think about the possibility that their next master will offer unusually good treatment like me. And it seems that my treatment of them is considerably good is a reason for worry to them.

After hearing that I opened my mouth.

"Then what should I do? Are you two going to come with me into the dungeon on your days off as well? Can you endure the mental strain of entering the dungeon consecutively? Are you sure you can be in a good condition the next day when we normally explore the dungeon? I know it's strange saying but let alone in the past, right now I can wipe out monsters on the 1st floor with almost no tension. Even if it comes to fighting the room bosses one-on-one I can win with no problem."

"However, master, there's always the worst case. At the very least take one of us along with you. If you don't we can rest easy as slaves."

Zulu requested that with a strong tone of voice. Mwu, I guess it's the master's responsibility to make the slaves feel peace of mind. Though you know.. I'm, almost completely practicing with attack spells after all. Ah, I've already improved quite a bit on those so I guess it's already fine. For a while after this I intended to focus on investigating the way the dungeon works. Fundamentally it should be just waiting time. I guess if I have someone nearby then I won't be

lacking in a partner for conversation huh?

“Nn..Well I guess it’s fine. I understand. I’ll take one of you along starting next time...Then, Wednesday is Zulu and Saturday is Angela. But if you’re spacing out the next day after I won’t forgive it. Alright?”

““Yes, I understand.””

The two of them responded at the same time while looking relieved.

“Well I intend to rest for the next three days starting tomorrow as well. I won’t be going to the dungeon. That’s why the next time is January 6th a Saturday. The first one is Angela. Alright?”

I concluded the conversation after saying that. Also, today is the payday for slaves. I paid Zulu 50,000 Z (5 silver coins), and Angela 40,000 Z for this months portion of wages and then we split ways. Since tomorrow is New Year’s Day, I thought about giving them otoshidama but there’s no custom like that on Orth so I stopped. I’ll be troubled if it becomes a habit after all.

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Year 7443, Month 1, Day 1

I thought there wasn’t much meaning in it but after eating breakfast and before running I went to the temple in Baldukk for my first shrine visit of the new year and gave an offering of 10,000 Z (1 silver coin). The priests looked at me strangely when I was standing before the Torii clapping my hands together in prayer but who cares. In the first place visiting the temple at the start of the new year or even visiting the temple for worship in the first place isn’t common. Normally people only go to the temple for the naming ceremony and money exchange.

Incidentally, any currency above silver shu around here is only minted in the temple at Rombertia. How they’re minting it is completely covered in a veil of secrecy, and anyone who steps foot into the temple grounds trying to expose that will have divine punishment physically befall them.

It’s the same as those who attack the exclusive pack horse for the purpose of exchanging magic stones and currency between the temples. The divine punishment falls upon them regardless of whether they’re people or monster. If

you try to stick close to the temples pack horse like a parasite thinking it's safe nearby divine punishment hits you in the same way. There's no problem if you're just passing by them periodically.

The divine punishment is lightning falling from the sky. You could say it's the only proof that God exists in this world. If you take silver, gold, platinum, or magic stones into the temple they're the materials needed for currency so they'll buy them but the rate is low. It seems that only a royal family that the temple has recognized is allowed to buy and sell them at a better rate.

If I say this then it might be thought that if the temple doesn't recognize you, then you can't found a country but that's different. For example, using the countries with a temple that mints currency along the western part of the Oladd continent and there's only Rombert Kingdom, Guranan Empire, Suisag Empire, and Korakut Kingdom. Among those it seems that Suisag Empire even has two locations with temples that can mint currency. There's no temple that can mint currency in Bakuluni, Kanbitt, or Devas.

It's true that it seems like countries which currency are minted in and those that aren't have different levels of wealth when compared but in the end that's the only difference. It's only the difference of what rates you can convert rare metals and magic stones to a decent amount of money. Particularly magic stones even if the formal royal family brings them in the rate is considerably bad it seems. It's far more profitable to sell them to a magic tool shop. It seems that the rare metals you sell don't accurately match up to the amount of currency you get in terms of value as well. Well, if you ignore the rate then no matter what temple it is they'll exchange currency for you so it's not as if you definitely need a temple that can mint currency.

It seems they process the magic stones in some when minting them so any currency above silver Shu have a name that appears when you use Status Open on them. Normally minted copper and large copper coins only have the name of the metal. Therefore it's almost impossible to counterfeit high value currency. Since there's almost no profit in counterfeiting copper coins and lower currencies no one does it.

It seems in the past there were people who tried dispatching an army to obtain the minting techniques of the temple but they were all wiped out one

after another through divine punishment so in the past 1,000 years or so idiots who don't believe in the legends try to sneak in to steal and end up being hit by lightning and you sometimes hear of incidents where a charcoal corpse is found. If the priests, ministers, or shrine maidens that work at the temple try to do something wicked then divine punishment merciless falls on them too, that's why there's close to absolute faith placed in the temple.

Though it's not like it's worshiped like an original religion or anything. It's just normally related to daily life. The priests and ministers marry and have children as well. The people who receive wages from their service to the temple and make their living are the same as the people in the towns. However the occupation can't be inherited so it's not guaranteed that your child will succeed you.

It seems that as an occupation it usually pays slightly higher wages than the average for the area. The people who work at the temple can be of any social standing. However it takes into consideration a criminal record and if it's someone who's committed a crime even once regardless of whether that's come out in the open I've heard that they aren't given the job but it seems that this is just a rumor.

In most cases, during childhood they get something like an oracle and then they go to the temple. And then they're given the job. Very rarely it seems there are adults like that as well. Even if you lie and you say there was an oracle it seems that divine punishment befalls you. The employment as a worker for the temple is a narrow gate. It's not as if there aren't temples where there were no members accepted and ended up unmanned either. In those cases, most of the time a higher ranked temple will dispatch people but if it's situation where even the higher ranking temple is lacking people they're just left alone for a while.

Even if someone tries to sneak in to steal from a temple like that divine punishment will hit you and in a few years someone will come along so it's not really a big problem. It seems that the God that passes divine punishment is tolerant to everything other than that and unless they do something like outrageous like trying to directly lay hand on the temple even the judgement of major criminals is left up to the hands of people.

Well just like that the circulation of the amount of currency is controlled by the temple (=God) so there's not much need to worry about inflation or deflation. Even if something similar happens it's temporary and resolves quickly. Almost exactly like when a magic item comes out of the dungeon and that goes for several tens of billions of Z, something on that level only comes out once in every ten years or so. The economy of a single country can't be suddenly shifted by just something on that level. I mean, even the poor Bakuddo village originally had revenue of 180,000,000 Z. Though the income from sale of the amount that could be sold was 1/20 of that.

I was thinking about things like that while doing my early running on New Year's day. Even if they say to be optimistic with the calculations economics is important after all. I don't want to suddenly have to investigate it in a hurry when I eventually make my own country. It's necessary to normally investigate it in daily life or rather gather information.

Every place has the day off for New Year's day. Whether it be the government office or shops, no matter where you go only the bare minimum are open. I guess the reason why so many places use Monday as a day off is because of new years day. Those who come to work today in exchange will have the day off tomorrow. That's why today and tomorrow there aren't many shops that are open for business. The restaurants are still open normally so that's a salvation but compared with the number of customers there's less clerks so it's a chaotic state there as well.

I want to eat some mochi. Zoni is fine as well. But let alone mochi rice I don't even have rice so it can't be helped. In the end I'm eating the same menu as usual for lunch as I think about what to do today. Since it's a good occasion I thought about finally getting some live combat for the "Saya" that I haven't used until now but they're closed for New Year's day. It can't be helped. I don't want to enter the dungeon so quickly into the new year, I guess I'll check up on STDs which I've been slacking off on recently. The number of pedestrians walking around has decreased a bit but it's plenty for investigating.

After getting my writing utensils from Boil Manor I started Identifying the people walking down the road one after another, checking their conditions. I've already checked around 10,000 people in total. Obviously it's very possible that

I'm Identifying the same people but since it's an investigation of people walking down the prosperous areas of town it should be fine. Maybe I'll use all of tomorrow and make some statistics.

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Year 7443, Month 1, Day 2

After finishing my daily running, I did a bit of training with sword forms until lunch. After eating lunch I'm going to total all of the details I've investigated until now before dinner.

There's around 12,000 samples. Around half of those have a good condition but the remaining half have some sort of injury or disease. In terms of disease I'll exclude those with things like the cold or bronchitis or things that aren't much. There was a whole 1,661 people infected with some kind of STD.

I don't know the details but at the very least there's no mistake that it was a disease that spreads through sex. 14% of the people wandering around the prosperous district are infected with some kind of STD? This is frightening. Since I'm sure something like crabs doesn't show up with Identify if you include that there's probably even more.

There's nothing like pyrethroid shampoo or powder either so I'd hate the shave the long-awaited hair I've grown. The condoms will have an immense power against the infection of sexual diseases but they're powerless against crabs. And crabs should infect at close to a 90% rate. If my crotch starts itching in the middle of battle or while I'm hiding in the shadows it could put my life at risk. Hmm, it would be pretty weird to check their pubic hair every time before starting to make sure there's no eggs.

If I remember correctly the raw material for mosquito coils is pyrethroid and that should have been from pyrethrum, but I've never seen a chrysanthemum. I'm sure it would be difficult to make. I guess I'm going to have to shelve it again~ If I go to the capital then wonder if there are high class places that are aimed at nobles? I might be able to relax at a place like that. Ah, shit. I hate my health body during this age.

Come to think of it when I was in middle and high school in the past I was overflowing with sexual desire as well. When the porn books that I had hidden

had vaguely changed positions I couldn't properly look at my mother's face for a while. When I reached high school there were videos as well so I waited until my family wasn't around to watch the ones I borrowed from friends. After I became a student at Self-Defense College..I don't want to speak of it.

I wonder if I'm going to be like this for a while from now on? I'm starting to feel uneasy. It's desire that has its root in instinct, even if I hold it back I'm sure there's a limit. If I'm not careful I really don't want to end up prostrating myself before Ralpa begging her. If I end up reaching that point just betting on the 1/8 chance and giving into the despair and going to a high class place in the capital or just taking care of it myself as usual would be better.

Putting aside crabs, if I'm properly using a condom it should be about 90% safe. In terms of simple calculations the chance of infection is 1.4% huh? Whether that's high or low. Ah, no, if they're already infected then it's fine if I just refuse them so would the probability be even lower, I guess? Can you be infected during the incubation period? Well in either case the possibility is at most several percent I guess.

Even though it doesn't have anything to with my life why in the world am I getting so enthusiastic over this? I'm checking the STDs of people who walk by early on New Year's day and totaling the statistics today. And judging off that it seems that the chance of infection of an STD is at most 2–3%.

There's a high possibility it would be fine. Maybe I'll go tomorrow. Either way I'm going to deliver condoms tomorrow after all, it should be fine if I play a bit as a side to that. No, it's no just playing around. If I don't test the performance of the samples of the rubber made hygiene product with the emblem of the royal family on them then there's no way I can suggest them to nobles and people of high social standing. This is my duty as the head of a company.

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Year 7443, Month 1, Day 3

After eating breakfast and taking care of my appearance I immediately departed to the capital. I don't have my armor on today. Just in case I have my sword on my waist but it's like saying I'm a noble, and doesn't have much meaning. There's no way monsters would come out around this area either.

After appearing at the castle and telling the reception that I was here for a royal visit then I waited at the designated place for one of her highness-es to come receive it. Even though it's still only around 10 in the morning my face starts to grin. This is no good, I need to remain tense but after a short while my heart started swimming the ocean of freedom once again while spreading the wings of imagination.

After my face had changed to about 100 different expressions her highness finally came. I somehow managed to smooth over my expression and offer my greetings for the new year and move on to the delivery. The Queen that appeared this time was Becky.

"Greed, thank you for your trouble in coming all this way. Thanks to this "Saya" his majesty's bad habit has calmed down, I'm really grateful to you. I'm looking forward to doing business with you from here on out as well."

She showed a beautiful smile like a lake while thanking me for my trouble.

"Ha, thank you your highness Rebecca for those grateful words, this Greed, is very delighted. Please continue doing business with our Greed Company from here on out as well."

I said that while lowering my head and left the room.

After entering the capital I started moving towards the prosperous district of Rombertia with a bright face.

When I arrived at the prosperous district I took a break at a random restaurant while sipping some bean tea and while negotiating on them letting me leave my horse there, I also asked about brothels with a good reputation. Of course I gave the employee of the store a silver Shu as a tip. Nothing good will come of being stingy at times like this.

"It's fine even if the cost is expensive. I want to find a place with high ranking women that I can relax and have fun. If it's a place where nobles would go while hiding their identity then I'd have nothing more to say."

"Customer, those sorts of high class brothels will cost you 50,000 — 60,000 Z (5–6 silver coins). Is even that fine?"

A human brat who seems about the same age as me says. I guess I'm a brat as

well. Well it's fine. However, as expected it's expensive. Of course it's not an amount that I'd be reluctant on at this point but that's almost like the average cost of a brothel in Japan. It might even be more than the yearly income of a farming family in Bakuddo.

After listening to a variety of stories from the brat and the cheapest places at 1,000 Z (10 copper coins or 1 large copper coin), the average is 5,000 Z (50 copper coins) it seems. "Ritton" in Keel was about 30,000 Z (3 silver coins) so I once again realized that was a high class place. However, you can't exchange money for peace of mind. There's no meaning in being stingy over a small amount of money here. If I'm going to go I should go to the highest grade of brothel. I'm earning enough for that so it should only be obvious.

I said, "It's fine so tell me the name and location of that place." to the brat and asked the location.

It seems it's located about 10 minutes of walking from here. Well, if it's only that much distance away then there's no need to go there on my horse. After confirming the route once more and I checked the contents of my wallet then quickly walked off.

Umu, it seems I'll be able to manage it before I turn 15. However, rather than that I've been making do with taking care of it myself since we entered the holidays. With great hopes swelling in my chest I walk the roads of the capital.

After walking for a few minutes I saw a group that I've seen before. Uwa, it's the knight group making patrols. So the first knight group is included in the rotation of patrols? I'm glad I wasn't walking while spacing out. Since I entered the alley after seeing them from a distance I'm sure they didn't recognize me but in worst if sister was in that group I feel like it would be bad.

I'll kill some time for a bit.

I'm bored but I continue to lean on the wall while watching people walk by.

Ah, if I just had some tobacco. I've had a habit of smoking since around my 30s of my previous life. I wasn't particularly a heavy smoker but when playing mahjong all night or going out to drink I naturally start to smoke some. I was a child after reincarnating and since I know that smoking itself is bad for your health I haven't thought that I wanted to smoke. My family didn't smoke either.

Although in the case of my family tobacco is a high-class luxury item which can sell for a lot so I think they would just say it's a waste.

Well, I've got to the extend of being reborn with a new and healthy body. I'm sure it's not worth it to start smoking for just a reason like this. In the first place, the tobacco on Orth isn't rolled in paper, other than cigars the pipe and kiseru are the most common methods and since they're not easy to carry around with you it's not easy to just have a smoke anywhere, it's annoying, so it's fine.

It'll be fine to smoke as much as I want when I become an old man in the royal palace of castle surrounded by lots of grandchildren.

I killed a bit of time before returning to the road from just a moment ago. And this time some faces I know came out of the alley. It's Zenom and the others. In a panic I ran into a clothing storing along the road. After secretly taking a look and it seems that they're enjoying their final day sightseeing in the capital. They're happily talking about something while advancing in the direction I'm in.

And then Zenom split up with Ralpa and Bel. Why? is what I was thinking while watching just like that.

Ralpa and Bel entered a different alley. Zenom continues straight ahead. There's a lot of questions appearing my head as I quietly left the store and maintained my distance from Zenom without him noticing.

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Hey, why are you entering that place. When you were just having a harmonious conversation with your daughter and her friend, why are you entering a brothel?

Shit.

This place is no good. It would suck if in the worst case we ran into each other in the waiting room or the hallway. I don't know what kind of system it has and since it's a high class store I'm sure they're careful so you don't run into other customers but somehow I don't like it. In the first place Zenom is an adult as well so I'm sure he goes to these sorts of places.

Got it. I'll recognize this store as Zenom's turf.

Since I came afterwards there's no room for me to appear here.

Damn it, if it was something to be like this then I should have asked the location of the runner-up brother...I guess I'll return once.

After returning to the restaurant just now knowing I would be embarrassing myself the brat was grinning as he said "what a quick return" I asked the location of the runner-up store. And it seems that the highest class store from just now was specially famous but other than that there's something like a brothel district where various places are all in one area. I drink some bean tea while listening.

..Hmmhmm, I see now.

I give the brat another silver shu as a tip for courteously teaching me and finished drinking my remaining bean tea. After I finish this I'll immediately head to the brother district. I blow on my hot bean tea while drinking it. When I just casually looked up I met eyes with a passerby. It's Ralpa. Bel's next to her as well. Ralpa is smiling as she lowers the bag that's probably filled with clothes and enters the restaurant.

"What is it? Why are you in the capital?"

"Al-san, Happy New Year. I'm looking forward to working with you this year as well."

Ralpa and Bel smiled while starting to talk to me.

"Ah, Happy New Year. Looking forward to this year with you guys as well...I came to the castle to deliver some rubber products."

After I said that and,

"Ha..Happy New Year. By all means looking forward to this year of working with you again."

And Ralpa has greeted me for the new year as well. Really you are...

"By the way what about Zenom? Where's he?"

I shamelessly tried asking.

"Ah, it seems he's meeting with a former acquaintance. A person that Zenom

got to know in the capital in the past is a high class, that is..”

Ralpa’s face turned red.

“.High class?”

Hey now, Zenom, you couldn’t have...

“It’s a bit difficult to say right. That is..It seems they’re managing a store where women offer a variety of services and he said he was going to greet them.”

Uhyo~ Zenom, I don’t know if it’s true or a lie but you said it straight to them. However, while Bel’s tone of voice was embarrassed her face was composed. Well she was already an adult in her previous life so I’m sure it’s not something to get embarrassed about at this point, she’s probably being defiant.

“Hn...I see. Then I guess Zenom won’t be around for a short while? It’s a bit early but what are you doing for lunch?”

If Zenom is enjoying himself then it should take a reasonable amount of time I’m sure. According the system I just heard from the brat it seems you can play for 3–4 hours.

“Eh? We’re eating together with Zenom. We’ve already decided on the restaurant. We’re meeting up at a restaurant called “Konsuri” for lunch.”

It should be just 11 right now. Was it really just greetings? Zenom. It seems I was just misunderstanding it all on my own.

“Oh, I see, then let’s go together. I’m sure you’re just going to take your belongings to the inn after that right? I have my horse so I’ll let you put it on it.”

It can’t be helped, it would be strange to split ways with them at this point.

“That’s great. Ral and I bought quite a bit of clothes after all. It’s a big help.”

Bel smiled and said that.

So it was no good again..tohoho.

Chapter 102: Net

Year 7443, Month 2, Day 5

I've started to understand quite a bit about the revival of monsters.

An average of about 10 hours after you kill the boss monster of the room something like a haze outbreaks in the center of the room and the new boss is born. The age of the newly born boss is obviously 0 years old but it's level is somewhat high from the start. And there was something among their details that I had overlooked until now. They have no listing for experience points under the items with Identify.

Whether it be Ralpa, myself, other humans, or non-humans if I use Identify on them the very last items on the Identify list are experience points and the amount of experience points to the next level. However, whether it be the goblins or the something or other spider, the monsters inside of the dungeon have no listing for experience points.

I wonder if the monsters in the forest near Bakuddo or the Horned Bear had them? I usually don't bother remembering something like that.

At the very least the monsters in the vicinity of Bakuddo had children and babies, and raised them.

I've seen a small baby goblin and I killed both mother and child of a Horned Bear as well.

I've seen an individual that appeared to be the child of a Hobgoblin as well. However, at the very least inside of the dungeon they appear to be adults but I've never even once seen an individual in the process of growing or a child.

What I can guess based on the details of the revival I've been investigating is that the monsters inside of the dungeon might look similar to those outside but be something completely different. Or maybe the monsters outside of the dungeon are the same as the ones inside and being born from a haze somewhere? Well, I'm not a scholar so things regarding the reproduction and ecology of monsters don't matter at all. Rather than that it's fine as long as I can

understand the behavior patterns, thought processes, attack methods, and special skills of them. It's something that might eventually be clarified academically but I'm sure that's not my duty.

I've still only seen a handful of revivals so I haven't gained full confidence in it yet but at the current point these are the common factors of it:

1. After killing the room boss a new room boss will be born in an average of about 10 hours.
2. It's no guaranteed that the new room boss will be the same type of monster as the previous room boss.
3. The new room boss appears roughly 5–6 minutes after the haze springs forth.
4. The new room boss that has just appeared can't move well.
5. During the period of time after you kill the previous room boss before the new one revives the monsters that wander around in the halls sometimes enter the room (In other words, even if you've killed the room boss the room doesn't become a safe area).

Is what I found out. Between those points as long as I know this much it's plenty. Just knowing that after you kill the room boss for several hours it will be in a state where there's no boss is a big step forward in terms of information.

.....

Year 7443, Month 2, Day 14

Ralpa, Bel, and I all had our birthday and turned 15 years old. Accompanied by the increase in age all of our HP has increased by 1 each but there was no change to Ralpa and my ability points. Only Bel's Speed increased by 1 point along with a total increase of 2 HP points. I wonder if it's differences in growth between races?

The night of that after we returned from dinner, I called the two of them to my room in the Boil Manor. As presents for their birthday I gave Ralpa some durable leather gloves and Bel a hat for Rabbit-people race which allows just the ears to come out of it. I was the only one who received an inverness during Christmas last year, so I splurged on something that was reasonably high-quality. I sewed both of their names into them. Ono Misa and Soma Asuka. Don't underestimate the sewing skills of someone who went through Self-

Defense college. It was the first time since I was born that I sewed someone's name but let alone attaching buttons, I was even able to patch things up. And my sewing needle is the same as my sword it's a specially made one forged with steel and sharpened.

"Al-san, thank you very much. I'll take good care of it."

Bel smiled as she was delighted to receive it and immediately put it on. Yeah, it looks good on you.

"Eh? It has my name on it..Wait, this, did Al put it on? You're extremely good at sewing. Was sewing your hobby? But isn't that a bit of a depressing hobby for a man?"

Yo..You really. At least say a word of thanks. And what do you mean depressing? That's prejudice right. In the past there were plenty of skilled male tailors.

"But, I'm happy. Thanks. I'll take good care of it as I use it as well."

I don't know if she noticed the vein popping out of my head but Ralpa thanked me as well while putting the gloves on her hands. Since they're gloves yours even have your name on them twice! It was a pain in the ass, really. Act like that from the start, fool.

"Al, I'll give you this. It's a birthday present from me. This is for Bel."

Ralpa gave me a weeks worth of six pairs of thick socks and handed Bel a muffler. I'm honestly happy about socks. It seems Bel is happy as well.

"Al-san, this is a gift from me. This is for Ral."

Bel gave me a durable leather compartment that can be fit on the belt I'm usually using and handed Ralpa a muffler. You two, didn't you just exchange mufflers? It doesn't really matter though.

"Also, since today is Valentine's day in reality I thought to give you some obligation chocolate but there's nothing like chocolate after all. So I went with some normal sweets."

"I didn't have any chocolate either so it's some normal sweets but..Excuse me."

I received the average cake of Orth which is something like a failed sponge cake from Ralph and once again something which is average on Orth, a failed version of cookies from Bel.

“Thanks the two of you. As a matter of fact there’s actually one more thing I have to give you, or rather something to talk about. During the end of last year, do you remember when we went to make deliveries of the armor with older brother and the others in the capital?”

I started talking with a slightly serious face.

“Yeah, I remember.”

“Ah, I remember.”

I guess they noticed my atmosphere changed the two of them responded while changing their state.

“After that, I had practice matches on the riverbed right? I was the only one late because of other affairs though.”

“Ah~ That’s right.”

“Yeah, but is there something in regards to that?”

I looked at the eyes of the two of them while continuing.

“That time, I was late because I was eating something. And at that time, it was just a glance but I saw someone that seemed to be Japanese. It was a woman, probably a Dwarf.”

““Eh?””

“I quickly lost sight of her but she was dressed like an adventurer or peddler. Since it seemed like she was escorting a carriage filled with goods. Since it seemed like there was a considerable amount of goods so I think it was right as they were departing or right after they had replenished their stock. I saw a yellow hemp bag so they’re probably dealing in seeds like crow wheat or something. Since merchants that deal in assorted grains and seeds are busy selling seeds for the spring sowing around this period. That’s why if it was right after they had stocked up then they should have gone out to peddle right after that. I’m sure they’ll wander around various villages for roughly two or three months.”

“I see now.”

“Is that how it was.”

“That was the end of the year..about a month and a half ago, so if they’re fast then they might be returning about now. I feel like as expected it’s a bit soon. However, someone that appears to be a reincarnated person other than us is using the areas around the capital as base, or at the very least they’re definitely including the capital in their patrol route. Since it seemed that there was only one carriage, it’s not a trader that covers several territories I’m sure. And, then”

I’m sure the two of them are get what I’m saying.

“For a short while after this, we’ll setup a net in the capital. I guess so, next week, starting from February the 19th we’ll take a break from exploring the dungeon for a the time being and keep lookout on the primary roads going to the capital. Our profits will decrease but let me off with this. Since it’s not guaranteed that person will pass through Baldukk, it’s a bit troublesome but it would be better to setup the net near the capital. However, I think you already know but starting from today reincarnated people are 15 years old, adults. Since there’s also the matter of Yousuke-san, I won’t force it on Bel though. How about it?”

Ralpa and Bel looked over here before opening their mouths.

“I’ll go. If it’s a reincarnated person then it would be better to make them into our allies. But you know..”

But what?

“Why are they always just women? You, are you maybe avoiding the men?”

“Huh?”

“It’s a joke, a joke. Leave it to me, I’ll go and keep lookout as well.”

What is up with this girl. Isn’t Kuro a man..Come to think of it these two only know about Kuro from what I told them.

“..I’ll go as well. If You-chan were to go to Baldukk then that would be to earn some money. In that case I’m sure he would stay for at least a few years. It’s fine.”

I knew that on days off and the days where we leave the dungeon in the early afternoon Bel was wandering around the town and looking at the big roads. Of course, she's shopping with Ralph as well but I'm sure that's her searching for Yousuke-san. Thanks to that it's become difficult for me to walk into strange places but I can't exactly tell her to stop it.

The types of cheap bars and restaurants that male adventurers go to or the vulgar bars where there's prostitutes, the block which is made up of brothels. While I've been inside of restaurants like that watching the roads I've seen Bel walk by. I've seen her sit on the corner of restaurants drinking tea while looking at the roads just like I do as well.

As expected over the past few months the {Slaughterers} members have become known so it doesn't seem like anyone tries to harass her and she can use magic and the short sword properly so I'm sure they're ignoring her. I'm grateful that she's willing to help setup the net to look for a reincarnated person who seems unlikely to be directly related to Yousuke-san.

"Thanks, the two of you. That helps out."

To me while I was lowering my heading that,

"Please stop, Al-san. It's only obvious."

Bel replied with a feel like there was no problem at all. Bel, thanks. I feel like it's a bit strange for me to say thanks but I honestly felt grateful to her.

"Yeah that's right, it's fine, it's fine. As long as you take care of the lodging costs in the capital that's fine."

I did intend to at least take care of the cost of the inn but it pisses me off to have you say it like that.

We stayed up late talking about how to setup the net next week.

.....

It's been close to a week since we setup the net around the capital. It seems that with Zenom as the leader Zulu and Angela are earning a bit on the 1st floor. Since I'm not there the earnings all belong to Zenom. I told Zulu and Angela to properly listen to what Zenom says and intended it as combat training.

According to what I've heard from him when Zenom comes to check on us during the days off there's no particular problem and it seems they're earning without approaching the rooms with dangerous enemies.

Well there's no helping being worried about them right now. The three of us continue watching the roads or having tea at restaurants while observing several of the roads.

Every night after eating dinner we're training near the riverside and since we came to the capital the three of us are all running every morning to prevent our bodies from getting dull but it's a source of worries for the three of us that the so-called combat sense may dull or be lost.

In any case, it's still only been a week. I'm sure it's necessary to hold out for at least one month. At the very least I intend to hold out until April.

.....

Year 7443, Month 2, Day 30

I returned to Baldukk alone once and paid the wages for my slaves. I haven't given them a detailed explanation of the circumstances but when I told them that I would be staying the capital for a short while to take care of some business, they seemed to have misunderstood that it was related to business with the royal family or knight group so without particularly correcting that I just left it as a misunderstanding.

I gave Zenom his compensation one day early and then returned to the capital.

.....

Year 7443, Month 3, Day 3

In regards to the Doll festival but neither Ralpa nor Bel said anything and since it's already got a feel of at this point, I just pretended not to notice as well. I'm sure that their age in their mental memory has exceeded 30 years old so they probably don't think anything about something like the Doll festival. Even if their mental memories are over 30, their mentality should be 15 so I was worried about it but according to what I've observed and Ralpa is just right for her age, Bel is one year older, and it feels like I'm 2-3 years older.

After talking about it with Bel that was the conclusion the two of us arrived at. Rather than saying this is in relation to our original age, it's more in relation to the number of memories we inherited and feels like the amount of life experience we had is influencing our growth. That's why if there was someone much older than me their mentality might be around 20 years right now (Saying that might be misunderstood. It would be more correctly to their they've grown quickly and whether it be 15 or 20 their mentality had grown to that point).

I wonder what kind of person the reincarnated person I saw is?

I wonder what kind of life they've lived since they were reborn?

There's also the case of Derenola who tried to attack Bel.

It would be good if it's not some strange person.

If possible I wanted to at least get a grasp on their Unique Ability.

Since they disappeared from my sight right away that I couldn't even remember their name is regretful.

.....

Year 7443, Month 3, Day 7

It's almost been about three weeks. They aren't getting caught in the net. It can't be helped if we don't even know their name. Ralpa is saying, "Didn't you make a mistake with what you saw?" Gradually I've started to feel like that was the case as well.

However, I'm certain I saw red characters.

.....

Year 7443, Month 3, Day 10

I'm sipping away at some bean tea while watching the road like usual. Without anything in particular I had an adequate lunch, and when it's just about to become the evening. In a restaurant which is slightly warmer than outside, I was sitting on a chair with my inverness on the back of it while observing the flow of people move by.

Oh~ that Cat-people sister has a pretty nice ass, and I was following her with my eyes. A bit along the road among the carriages that pass by there was one

with an empty load. There's two people a male and a female sitting on the coachman's seat. It seems that the short female is driving the carriage. The male has a thin stature. He's an elf huh? I could only tell that much from a distance.

Both of them have black hair. And their faces somehow feel similar to that of a Japanese. I hold back my feelings of impatience while I use Identify. If I remember correctly when I saw them, there was a couple sitting on the coachman's seat and three people were around that as escorts. What I was interested in was one of the escorts.

Could they be a different group of reincarnated people?

【Gulinel.Akdam/2/7/7429 】

【Female/14/2/7428 · Dwarf · Rombert Kingdom Duke Rombert Territory Registered Free Person】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 15 Years Old】

【Level: 3】

【HP: 68(68) MP: 11(11)】

【Strength: 12】

【Speed: 6】

【Dexterity: 16】

【Endurance: 11】

【Unique Ability: Mapping (Lv. 8)】

【Special Ability: Small Magic】

【Special Ability: Infrared Vision】

【Experience: 7869(10000)】

【Torkelis.Kalstalan/13/5/7429 】

【Male/14/2/7428 · Elf · Viscount Kalstalan Family Third Son】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 15 Years Old】

【Level: 6】

【HP: 82(82) MP: 26(26)】

【Strength: 11】

【Speed: 17】

【Dexterity: 14】

【Endurance: 12】

【Unique Ability: Scale (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Small Magic】

【Special Ability: Infrared Vision】

【Experience: 41862(43000)】

There's red characters. I've discovered some reincarnated people. Not to mention two of them at the same time. I wonder if I should figure out their destination and then call for Bel and Ralph as reinforcements? Or maybe I should try getting into contact with them myself first?

There's not enough time to waste checking their abilities or thinking.

Chapter 103: Tears

In regards to {Scale}, I actually had some difficulty picking the name on that one. I forget why I went with that but an alternative and potentially more accurate translation for it is {Measurement} or {Measuring}. Since it has to do with taking various measurements and dividing based on those, you could consider most devices to that purpose {Scales} though as well...

Year 7443, Month 3, Day 10

Even if I've determined their destination if they end up moving in the time I'm requesting reinforcements then it's the end.

I guess I should make contact with them even if it's alone here. I quickly left the restaurant and started following the carriage.

It seems that the carriage is empty and it's going at a decent speed but there's no way it could go at full-speed in the middle of Rombertia. Since it's at best going the speed a child runs as long as I don't lose sight of it I should be able to quickly catch up. I wave the left hand that was holding my invernass while following after them.

"Can you wait for just a moment?"

There's no response. I'm sure they don't think they're the ones being called out to. The two of them sitting in the coachman's seat are talking about something and not turning around here.

"Hey, wait just a minute."

After talking in Japanese and they reacted for the first time. They turned around startled. I breathe a bit heavily while running to the side of the coachman's seat and continue to talking.

"That's great. You're Japanese right? If it's alright with you I want to talk for a bit though."

I smiled while saying that.

“So you’re Japanese as well! Wakana-chan, it was just as you said coming to Rombertia was the correct answer.”

The elf man said to the dwarf woman sitting next to him with a voice that had a mix of surprise and joy. I guess Wakana is the original name of the woman?

“Ye, Yeah. I’m surprised as well..”

The dwarf woman called Wakana looked at me with her eyes wide open while saying that. Well it’s just the reaction I expected from my end and not particularly anything to be surprised about at this point. I assumed it would end up like this when I started forming the net and killing time. It might be possible we could end up meeting one more reincarnated person as well.

“Since it’s a bit unusual standing around talking in a place like this. For a long-awaited occasion like this I want to talk in some place we can relax but...Do you have item after this? Do you have any business to take care of?”

I returned to the {Common Language} while saying it. It could be possible that they’re from outside of the country or the shitty countryside even further out than Bakuddo so they might not have understood my first words as well.

“Yeah, but I want to return to my house once first. I need to take care of my carriage and horses as after all..”

The dwarf woman responded. It was clearly pronounced in the {Common Language}. I guess they just couldn’t hear me calling out to them from behind because the surroundings were noisy.

“Ah, I guess that’s true. You, is it fine to talk tonight? We’ll come back tonight, let’s talk in some kind of restaurant.”

The elf man has a bit of an accent to it but he started talking in the {Common Language} as well. By the way, it seems that we’re an obstruction to traffic. It seems it would be best to quickly setup an appointment and finish things there.

“I understand. I’ll reserve a restaurant. I’ll make the reservation under the name Greed. The place is..I guess so, is “Rokidd” fine? Do you know of it?”

Rokidd is the high-class restaurant my sister used once when they celebrated her passing. It seems it’s quite famous.

“Eh? “Rokidd”? At an expensive place like that..”

“It seems you know about it. Please relax, the one invited you was me. I’ll take care of the bill.”

I smile while saying in order to try and relax the two of them. If it’s money than I have it, if it’s money. If it’s the first time then I’ll at least treat you.

“Is that so? Then we’ll rely on your words. Is around 7 fine?”

“7 it is. I understand. I’ll be waiting for you. Greed is my name. I’m Alan Greed. In Japan I was called Kawasaki Takeo.”

“I’m Gulinel Akdam. In Japan my name was Nishioka Wakana.”

“I’m Tolkelis Kalstalan. Just the same I was Sema Yousuke.”

My right eyebrow raised up. So this good looking guy is Sema Yousuke? For an elf he looks pretty human but he’s extraordinarily {handsome}. Rather you could even say he’s more charming than a normal thin and beautiful elf. Since he’s with a woman right now it might be a good idea to keep quiet about Bel. If these two are mutually in love then..I’ll be troubled. Since Bel is a splendid adult who can make judgements on her own so in the worst case she might pull back herself. However, I’m sure something like romantic feelings can’t be explained away so easily like that. Even more so since I’ve seen Bel’s course of continuing to feel for Sema Yousuke from nearby her.

It’s been 15 years since then. Even though it was forcibly done through an accident it’s plenty of time for a couple that was split up to find a new partner and have a change of feelings and then some. Rather you could even say Bel is abnormal for being able to continue to feel that way for 15 years already. But, she’s my..important..import ally. In my heart I want cheer for Bel. However...

In a haste I was able to confirm their names. I should leave things at this for now. After stepping back to the side of the road I saw them off. And I identify them from behind.

Wh, {Mapping}!?

【Unique Ability: Geographical Memory {Mapping}; The details of all terrain seen while using this ability can be stored in memory. Also, during use of this

ability you can understand when you've entered a terrain that you've previously stored in memory. The duration of this ability is extended in relation to it's level. The duration of the effect is the level of the ability to the power of 2 multiplied by 1 minute. It's impossible to use the ability again during the duration of the effect. In the case the terrain stored in memory is referenced, you can select from one of following three methods. 1. Referencing a first-person point-of-view as if the user was in that location. 2. A bird's eye view from above. 3. Just the same as two a view from above but all unnecessary factors can be removed leaving a simple map. It's possible to select one of those three methods for browsing. No mana is used while browsing. However, in any of those cases any place that hasn't been seen directly (for example the rooftop of a building or in the shadow of something) will be a blank space. Bear in mind that only visual information is capable of being stored in memory. If through some cause visual information is falsified, the falsified information will be stored in memory.】

The other one is "Scale" huh? I've heard the name of this one from Bel.

【Unique Ability: Scale; After using this ability, for the level of the ability multiplied by one minute(ability level 0 will be treated as level 1) the user can consciously make a comparison of two selected objects. The comparison allows the user to understand how high (many) the weight, volume, hardness, viscosity, and temperature is as a fraction. In relation to the level the number of items that can be selected for comparison increase. Also, by limiting the selected object to a single item the division point of that object can be precisely comprehended, and if it is desires that division point can be split. However, a tool or container with a hardness capable of damaging the object is needed separately. The ability of the separation increases in relation to the ability level. Furthermore, in any of the cases under the consciousness of the user the object can be thought of as "one" but in relation to the level the condition of the object (the state of solid, liquid, gas) is increased as an option. When making a comparison the duration of the effect is an instant and the division can be maintained perpetually so long as concentration is maintained and no other intrusions enter the operation.】

Fuffu. I've found it. I've finally found it. It's a bit different than I expected but

both of them are extremely, extremely~ useful Unique Abilities. And both of their Unique Abilities are at a high level.

Max and level 8. It's nice that both of them have MP that's exceed double digits as well. If they learn magic then we can raise it a bit further as well. Since their body levels aren't that high as well if they remain conscious of their MP then we might be able to stretch it out like that as well.

Even in the worst case I don't want to let them get away. At the very minimum it's necessary to grasp the location of their house I'm sure. Making reservations at "Rokiddo"? Since it's still 4 pm, I can do anything about that. For Bel's sake as well it would be best to get a good grip on their whereabouts.

I put the invernness I was holding in my left hand on and I started tailing them with a distance of about 50 m between us. There's a lot of pedestrian traffic and it seems they couldn't even imagine they were being followed. They're pleasantly talking about something. While looking at Kalstalan's face smiling at Akdam I bite my lip and paint out my feelings with something while focusing on tailing them. There's no way I have any sort of special tailing technique but something like that, it doesn't matter as long as they're not being care of being followed. After about 20 minutes I confirmed their house. It's a normal house with nothing out of the ordinary. It seems it has a warehouse and stable as well so it appears to be a small merchant house with no shop. The roof isn't tile but shingles, and there's some small damage that can be seen here and there.

I watched as they opened the gate and Kalstalan follows Akdam's instructions as she guides it inside from a distance while worrying about how to tell Bel about this.

.....

As expected I'm not such an idiot to suddenly head straight to Bel's position. Or rather, I wanted to discuss it with Ralpa first. On my way to Ralpa's position I made reservations at "Rokidd". Five people at 7 pm. A course meal in a private room. It was an advance payment of 150,000 Z (15 silver coins). Expensive~ It's 30,000 per person. However, there's no choice other than to separate it as a necessary expense.

Something like money is fine. If I can make connections with some

reincarnated people who would definitely be of use then it's a cheap price to pay. The problem is Bel. Always talking politely, without making fun of me like Ralpa, she's always supported me like a shadow in the sun*. I don't want to see her crying face.

Just judging off the appearance of Kalstalan and Akdam they didn't seem like they were in love with each other but there's no way I could figure it out in just that amount of time. If Kalstalan were to return to Bel, I wonder if Akdam would cry? There's no way for me to know how deep of a relationship they have. However, they said they were returning to their "house". I'm sure they're living there together.

In which case, it's very possible that their relationship is reasonably deep. Their races are different but they're the same Japanese. I'm sure their conversations match up and just talking in Japanese is mentally relaxing. For example, if even I were to be living in the same house as Bel or Ralpa with just the two of us I'm sure sooner or later feelings would grow.

I still have some doubts and it's difficult just to organization my feelings but there's no choice than to do something about it.

I found Ralpa. She's standing at the corner of an intersection with the muffler she got from Bel around her neck and wearing the gloves I gave her. She's watching the people pass by while spacing out.

"Ralpa. I found them."

"Al! Don't suddenly surprise me like that, really~"

Since I suddenly started talking to her from the side, she was surprised and started complaining to me but quickly jumped at what I said.

"Eeh!!? you found them? Alright! And how did it go?"

"It's a group of a guy and a girl. I made a promise to talk at a restaurant. Just in case I tailed them and found out their address as well."

"He~ so there was even two of them. Isn't that great!"

Without knowing anything Ralpa joyfully says that. I'm sure I would as well if I was in Ralpa's position.

“What is it..that face, you don’t seem very energetic. You finally found them right? A..Are you depressed because there was a man? You’re such an idiot.”

Even though I went to the trouble of spending time finding the reincarnated person since my face didn’t look very cheerful I guess. I responded with a flat voice to the words Ralpa said next.

“No. It might be an even bigger problem. I couldn’t tell Bel about it right away. I want Ralpa to listen first.”

“Eh? What is it?”

“It’s fine so listen. First, the man. He’s an elf. His name is Kalstalan and his previous name is..Sema Yousuke.”

“Eeh..Seriously!?”

It feels like it’s been a while since I last heard seriously said in Japanese.

“Just a minute, there’s a continuation. It seems he’s living together with another reincarnated woman. They entered the same house. Since I started talking to them in the middle of the road I couldn’t keep talking to them forever, since there was a woman with him I didn’t tell Yousuke-san about Bel.”

“Eh...Well. It’s been 15 years after all..I guess things like that..might happen..But”

“Ah, I’m sure things like that happen. That’s why I tried talking with you first. And, the other woman, she’s a dwarf named Akdam. It seems her previous name was Nishioka Wakana.”

“Eeh..Seriously!?”

Why again. What would I do lying about it? Seriously.

“Wakana, so you were still alive..”

Tears appeared in Ralpa’s eyes.

“Eh? Is she an acquaintance?”

“Yeah, my friend. We were riding on the bus together..”

“I see..”

This is bad, I wasn't expecting this.

"I don't know how close the two of them are. I was only talking to them face to face for about a minute after all. It could be that one of them is just being hired and they're not dating but it's true they entered the same house together. Probably one of them is a merchant. It was a merchant house with a warehouse. When I found them the two of them were getting along well together on the carriage. If Akdam is your friend then..then one of your friends might end up with painful feelings."

"Yeah.."

"And, since I wasn't sure what to tell to Bel I came to you first but if it comes to this then it's that. It might be best to just say everything I saw.."

"Yeah..that's, right."

Ralpha whispered with a discouraged expression.

"Ralpha, I understand your feelings but it can't be helped for you to worry over it. There's no choice than for these sorts of things to end up the way they do.."

"Yeah..I know. But.."

"Yeah, that's right. However, you really shouldn't worry about it. Since you can finally meet your friend again. Even Bel can meet with her boyfriend. If you're going to make that sort of face I'll leave you behind. I make reservations for a course as a shitty expensive restaurant today. Become more cheerful."

"Yeah, I guess that's true. I'll do that. I can't do anything but watch over. Sorry, I, don't think I'm going to be of any use.."

"Ke..I didn't expect anything like that from the start. Eat something delicious and enjoy it the best you can. That's about your only good point, after all."

I could only say that to comfort her.

.....

The two of us went to the position Bel was in charge of at 5:30 pm and we invited her into a random restaurant for some tea while she seemed suspicious. And I start saying the difficult things.

“Bel, I have some good news, and some news I’m not too sure on. First, let’s start from the good news. I found the Japanese. It’s a group of two. One of them is a male elf named Kalstalan.”

I started talking while trying to remain business-like.
Bel’s face sparkles with cheer.

“Isn’t that great! Can we meet them today?”

“Yeah, of course. I’ve made reservations for a high class restaurant. It’s at 7 tonight. After that, calm down and list but it might be a bit complicated.”

“Ha~”

“That man, Kalstalan’s previous name, he said was Sema Yousuke.”

“Where is he!? Let’s go right away. Where is You-chan!?”

Just as expected, she’s drawing near me with quite a bit of force. Well I was prepared for it.

“I said it might be complicated right. It’s fine so listen. Since you’re definitely going to meet him.”

“But, but, what if he goes somewhere again..”

There’s tears appearing in Bel’s eyes. Either tears from hearing Sema Yousuke is safe or tears of resentment towards me for not letting her meet him right away.

“It’s fine, I’ve already determined their house. In the first place don’t you find it strange? In a normal situation don’t you think I’d tell Yousuke-san about Bel?”

Bel came to her senses while looking at me.

“And, I said it was a group of two Japanese....There was one another a dwarf woman. Her name is Akdam and her previous name is Nishoka Wakana, she’s supposedly Ralpa’s friend..”

“Eeh!!? Ral, isn’t that great!”

The tears that had been building up in Bel’s eyes overflowed and this time she smiled at Ralpa as if it was from the bottom of her heart.

“Yeah..but..”

Ralpa made a painful express while looking away from Bel's face.

"Bel, the story hasn't ended yet. Listen, and try to remain calm. The two of them..entered the same house. While intimately talking with each other.."

I couldn't even describe the pain I felt while saying that. But Bel just made the same expression as if saying, "what about that?"

"Ah..So that's what this is about...It seems I've caused you to worry. But, it's fine. I told you about it previously but all of the reincarnated people are born with a reasonable amount of distance between them. I'm sure that there's no mistake You-chan probably just came across that person while searching for me. If you were to say that then I'm eating together with Al-san everyday and even staying at the same inn? But, if You-chan were to know about that he won't say anything and I don't think he would be bothered by it. Of course I'll properly explain the details to him but it's the same for me."

Gu..Mu..if she says it like that then I can't retort right away.

"Mu..That's certainly..true but...Bel sure is strong.."

"Yeah, she's strong.."

Ralpa and I are left speechless by Bel's words and couldn't say anything but common words.

"Strong? I am?"

Bel erases her expression like Noh mask while saying.

"I'm not strong at all. It's strange saying this but it's fine for the sensations of a Japanese to remain while a child but it's about time we must become adults. After being reborn we're in this world after all. Since it seems Al-san and Ral already have experience I'll say it but after leaving my house on my way to Baldukk I've killed several people who tried to get close to me. This isn't because I'm strong. It's because I'm weak. A really strong person wouldn't pick the method of killing someone who's committed or about to commit a since but rather select the route of reforming them. I'm no longer a Japanese person. I'm an Orth person. It doesn't matter if I'm strong or weak. I've decided to continue living using the methods of Orth. That's why even if You-chan became a criminal or sullied his hands it doesn't

matter.

It doesn't matter even if he loves someone else. As long as I can be by his side in the end I'm satisfied.

Above all else I believe in him. It's no problem even if he's been dyed the color of society on Orth. That's a side of him as well. It's only obvious for adventurers of Orth to do some jobs, receive money, and use that money to drink alcohol or buy women.

Even if You-chan were to do something like that I wouldn't be upset with him. I mean, on Orth that's normal after all. It seems that there aren't many of them but there are noble families where a female is the family head and they have multiple husbands as well.

Aha..I wonder what I'm saying.

The thing's I'm saying are a mess right.

...

.....

But, but, I'm grateful that I can meet the living You-chan once again.

I'm grateful to Al-san for giving me that chance.

I respect Al-san, who turned over the person that attacked me to the knight group without killing him, as strong.

Anything is fine! As long as I can meet him, can meet You-chan, anything is fine!!

Let me meet..with him...

Please..once more...

Please...

I'm begging you..”

Even though she started talking quietly, by the end she was excited as she grabbed on to the two of us while crying and it was difficult calming her down.

The time has almost reached 6 pm. I quickly explained the plan to Ralpa. We'll head to the restaurant first and wait for Akdam and Kalstalan to arrive. When the two of them get to the restaurant, I'll invite Kalstalan to take a piss or

something and after becoming alone with him, ask about Bel, or about his relationship with Akdam. After that I'll pretend to be making orders and explain the situation to Bel and Ralpa standing by in a different place from the private room.

In any case, I thought I should prevent the situation from turning into chaos with Bel suddenly jumping at Kalstalan without thinking about anything. Since Ralpa agreed as well I decided to leave Bel to Ralpa while waiting.

As Bel was saying if there's no problem then the two of us will disappear right away somewhere tonight so it took quite a bit of time to convince her. Just in case even if Bel and Kalstalan leave their seats along the way, I said we would continue eating at "Rokidd" until 9 pm and putting aside what happens with Akdam in the end, that Bel should return to the inn sometime tonight together with him.

.....

It's almost 7 pm. In the high class restaurant "Rokidd" I'm waiting for Kalstalan and Akdam to arrive with my arms crossed in the private room. I already told the restaurant not to prepare the tableware until all five of us have entered the private room. I got them to allow Ralpa and Bel to wait in a different room as well. Also, to prevent an occurrence like what happened before, I made sure to tell them to ignore the appearance of the elf and dwarf that were coming later (though still on time), and handed the waiter of the restaurant some bribes. My preparations are perfect.

I wonder in the world the relationship of the two of them is?

A romantic relationship, business relationship, or just friends?

Honestly speaking as long as it's not a romantic relationship there's no problem at all.

In that case then we can just conclude it with laughing at me for being too concerned and jumping to conclusions(though I think you can't say I went this far). It'll be fine as long as I scratch my head and smile bitterly.

Even if it comes to a romantic relationship, if it's a one-sided thing then that's still better.

For example even if Kalstalan was in love with Akdam, as far as I could tell in terms of the sensitivity of a Japanese person Bel is an overwhelming beauty and cute. Even in terms of body Bel is..No, I'll stop there. But, I'm sure it's a problem of tastes as well and he might have fallen for Akdam's personality.

In the case that Akdam has fallen for Kalstalan, then Kalstalan and Bel will be in mutual love, then Akdam would become an existence trying to enter a one-sided illicit love. In that case, I'll leave Akdam to Ralpa since she's her friend.

The most troublesome would be if Akdam and Kalstalan are mutually in love. I don't know about Ralpa but honestly I would put priority on Bel, and it's weird saying this but my influence is big I'm sure. Though I haven't had any interaction with Kalstalan or Akdam until now they're both Japanese as well. I'm sure there's at least some feelings of familiarity. Even more so since Bel and Ralpa had a relationship with each of them in their past lives, so I'm sure it would be difficult to ignore them. In some ways since I hold the power of life-and-death over Ralpa and Bel, they obviously can't ignore me as well.

There's a saying of, people who interfere with stranger's romance should be kicked by a horse, so just as that I have no intention of interfering in their romance but I can't help but feel like it will enter my words a bit. I guess I should restrain myself. No matter how I think about it, it's better for me to remain neutral.

While I was thinking about things like that there was a knock on the door.

Now then, time to switch over my feelings.

Chapter 104: Reunion

Year 7443, Month 3, Day 10

The one knocked on the door was a waiter of the restaurant. Since my two guests have arrived he wanted to confirm if it was alright to let them pass. Since it was a group of two a male elf and a female dwarf I said to let them in.

Akdam and Kalastan entered the room from behind the waiter. While looking around curiously at the extravagant interior they said admirable things like “sorry about this” or “thanks for the meal”. Akdam seems to have changed, her clothes are pretty neat but Kalastan is still working slightly dirty clothes. I’m glad I paid the waiter a bribe.

“Ah, excuse me but is it fine if I go to the toilet really quick? Kalastan how about you join me? It’s quite amazing.”

I went to the toilet ahead of time to check it out. There’s a urinal that was carved out from a stone like marble, and they’ve put a bag of perfume or something into the drainage pipe so it’s an insanely luxurious toilet for Orth.

It was a bit coercive but I invited Kalastan and brought him to the toilet. After we entered the toilet I started talking to him.

“You said your name was Sema Yousuke right? What is your relationship with Akdam-san?”

“What’s with the sudden change in tone? Well it’s fine though.”

What’s he saying. The first time we met and even just now the one who’s been using a crude way of speaking is you right.

“I think I got to know her around one month or so ago? I saved her when she and her parents caravan was being attacked by Orks. It’s just that but what about it?”

Ho~ Thank goodness...I’m relieved.

“I see..That’s great...I can finally relax. At the very least you don’t have any

sort of romantic feelings towards that girl right? I just wanted to confirm that.”

After I said that and while Kalstalan didn’t see to get the meaning it seems he thought of something.

“Ah, that sort of thing. It’s true that for a dwarf that girl is shapely and cute after all. I do feel sorry for her but I don’t have any sort of romantic interest in her so you can rest easy. I won’t interfere between you either.”

It seems he’s misunderstanding something. And it seems that going off the way he’s talking Akdam might be interested in Kalstalan? Or is this guy just too self-conscious?

“Ah, it’s not that sort of thing. What I wanted to confirm was just your feelings. Yousuke-san. In addition please let me confirm one more thing. You, do you have a woman?”

After I said that and this time he started to slowly back away from me while saying.

“I’m not a homo so don’t hold any hopes in that direction. I have a woman I’m in love with. I need to search for her.”

Who’s the homo, this bastard. Well it’s fine. I grin and smile and

“I see. Also I’m not a homo either.”

and I just said that shut away my parts into my pants. I took a glance to the side. Ah, this guy is smaller than me~ Not to mention it’s still covered the same as me. This is a weird place for it but after all I thought he was the same Japanese and got a bit happy about it.

“I’m happy now that I was able to hear that from you. It’s fine if you look forward to it.”

I scooped some water out of the water jug and washed my hands while saying that and,

“Look forward to what? It’s true I’m happy to have met another Japanese and I thought I wanted to ask various things but..Ah, is the food here that amazing?”

He washes his hands the same as me and wipes them with the towel hanging on the wall before I pushed his back while saying,

“Well it’s fine, in any case look forward to it.”

that and we returned to the private room. Akdam was alone and looking kind of uneasy at the table but after Kalstalan and I returned to the room she made a relieved expression.

“Ah, that’s right. Akdam-san, you should look forward to it as well.”

“Eh? What?”

After I said that and she made a strange face while looking at me and then looked at Kalstalan.

Kalstalan said,

“I don’t really know either. It seems the food here is amazing.”

and said that.

“I’ll go order the course really quick. Wait just a moment.”

After saying that without taking my seat I went out the door and closed it.

I quickly went to the room where Bel and Ralpa were waiting and opened the door without knocking. The two of them were just standing opposite of the door each looking at me with different expectations in their eyes. It’s not my taste to put on airs here.

“Bel, sorry for the wait. Isn’t that great. You should go to him right away.”

After hearing partway Bel pushed me aside and ran off. Her expression I saw when she passed by was overflowing with delight.

“Now, Ralpa, let’s go as well.”

“Yeah.”

Ralpa made a smile of relief as well. I’m sure I’m smiling as well. After I turned around and Ralpa was about to leave the room,

“You-chan!!”

and we heard Bel’s scream. After Ralpa and I exchanged glances we walked towards the room we heard the voice.

.....

We entered the room and Bel and Kalstalan were embracing each other. I had predicted it but since they're not kissing I'll forgive it. Ralpa pushed me away as I was entering the room with a grin and yelled.

"Wakana!"

Come to think of it there was this side as well.

"Eh? Who are you?"

Huh?

"It's me, Misa. It's Ono Misa!"

Ralpa is hugging Akdam. I guess it's only obvious since she suddenly jumped into the room and hugged her there's no way she could see her face. Akdam was making an expression of confusion but her eyes were looking towards Kalstalan. Ah, after all is this a troublesome pattern? But, after Ralpa named herself it seems she was surprised.

"Eeeh!!? Misa? Really!?"

"Yeah! Yeah! It's Misa!"

Wait just a moment. Bel and Kalstalan, Ralpa and Akdam. And me. Why am I the only one alone? It can't be helped though you know. Using the six-person table sitting in the center of the room as border I look at the groups of two trembling and stifled up from the joy of their reunion on my right and left.

Bel and Kalstalan are embracing and half-laughing, half-crying while their faces are so close you might think they're about to kiss any moment. Ralpa and Akdam aren't kissing but they're holding hands a happy with their reunion. Seeing the cheerful faces of my allies Bel and Alpha and I felt a warm feeling surge up while thinking, "That's great."

Well I guess it can't be helped. But, close to five minutes or so has already passed. While they're enjoying their reunions I'm shifting the position of the chairs where there's three on each side of the table. If you look at the room from the entrance I'm trying to get Ralpa and Akdam to sit on the left side and Bel and Kalstalana to sit on the right.

I move one chair to the right most side and sit at the end of the table on the

birthday seat. Obviously this seat of honor is mine. While I'm at it I'll call out to them.

"You all, it's fine that you're delighted and all but it's about time that the waiter of the restaurant will enter the room. How about sitting at your seats already?"

I'm sitting at the birthday seat with my legs crossed as I say that but almost as if my voice has a filter on it or something it doesn't seem like it reached their ears. Akdam is occasionally glancing at Kalstalan but even then it seems she's happy she met with Ralpa. It seems to be certain that she's happy. However you know..It's really started to get a bit painful.

"Hey, how long are you all intending to keep at that? It's about time to come to your senses already."

No matter how you think about it, its about time right. I need to try and hire these two who seem useful. Since Bel previously confidently told me that Kalstalan should be fine, so putting him aside, it's hard to ignore Akdam as well. If she signs the contract right away then I don't care if she stays here squealing with Ralpa forever though.

Well I guess I'll do what I can while I have the chance. Since I originally only thought there would be one reincarnated person I only prepared one set of three contracts. Just in case I did prepare several extra pieces of paper. While these guys are still squealing I should borrow a pen and some ink from the restaurant and prepare another set during that time I guess. Since it's a high class restaurant in the capital, I'm sure they at least have that much prepared.

After getting of from my seat and leaving the room, I called for the waiter and while telling him to wait about 20 minutes to bring the food I also asked him to prepare a pen, ink, and since I'm using a contract-use magic stone to bring a plate as well.

In two or three minutes the items I requested were ready. Even though I didn't say it he even prepared a pin for pricking your finger. Well I'm sure he wouldn't know that I'm holding a knife. While Bel, Ralpa and the others are still continuing their endless conversation I start preparing a new contract. The wording itself is the same as Ralphas. Since there's not much wording I should

be able to finish writing it up right away.

Without mistaking a single word, in a short period I was able to finish produce another set of three contracts. By the way, around the time I was finishing up with the third contract as expected these guys started to calm down.

I take the contract use magic stones of equal value out of my pocket and start rubbing them together on the plate I received, making an appropriate amount of magic stone powder. They went out of their way to prepare a pin but without using it I take out my knife and cut my pointer finger on my right hand to let blood come out. It's easier to get blood out with a knife after all. With the blood still coming out of the pointer finger on my right hand I hold it over the magic stone powder on the plate and mix in about 1/3 and then use the pointer finger on my left hand to rub that on a total of six contracts with my name and thumb print.

Everyone was watching the work I was doing. In the end I used healing magic to fix the cut on my right hand and wiped away the blood on my finger with a handkerchief that store prepared as well(the only reason I didn't use water magic was to prevent the floor from getting wet), and for the most part it's done. I use drying magic on the contract and with the six of them overlapping I put them on the right side of the table in front of me and above that the plate with the magic stone powder, ink, and pen before opening my mouth.

"Is it fine already?"

After I said that and Bel nodded shyly, Ralpa said "Eee~ I couldn't help it. Sorry" while scratching her head and stuck her tongue out. Kalstalan and Akdam seem to be surprised how I used magic so casually.

"Then, I think it's about time for the food to come and we've finally met some other Japanese people. Let's talk for a bit."

Thanks to Ralpa the mood has gotten a bit softer and it's easier to talk.

"I guess let's start from introductions. I think you already know but my name is Alan Greed. I was born Bakuddo Village of Marquis Webdos territory in the Kingdom of Rombert. In Japan my name was Kawasaki Takeo, and I was a 45 year old salary-man when I died. My Unique Ability is "Magic Acquisition". It's fine if you call me Al."

I said that while holding both of my hands out to Kalstalan and Akdam. Kalstalan just looked at my left hand amazed but Akdam nervously touched my right hand and used {Status Open} to check my status. After seeing that Kalstalan touched my left hand in a hurry and checked my status as well.

I guess she thought it was her turn next, Bel opened her mouth.

“My name is Bernadette Koloil. I was born in Ralail Village of Duke Stahlz territory in the Kingdom of Devas. In Japan my name was Soma Asuka. I was a 21 year old college student when I died. My Unique Ability is “Shooting Intuition”. Please call me Bel.”

She said it primarily to Akdam. She sticks her right hand out to Akdam.

“I’m Ralph Firefreed. I was born in Ralph Village of County Hentil’s territory in the Kingdom of Rombert but I was an abandoned child so I don’t know my parents. The one who picked me up and raised was a dwarf named Zenom. I was a 17 year old high school student when I died. My Unique Ability is “Spatial Understanding”. It’s fine to call m Ral.”

Ralph sticks her left hand out across the table to Kalstalan while saying that.

“Hn, then, I guess next is me. Name’s Tolkelis Kalstalan. Born in Yogutte Village of Count Rozenhaim’s territory in the Kingdom of Rombert ow”

It seems that Bel pinched Kalstalan’s hand.

“I’m sure it’s the first time in a while but talk politely. Starting from the beginning.”

Really now. After being scolded by Bel Kalstalan coughed with an “n..n” and,

“My name is Tolkelis Kalstalan. I was born in Yogutte Village of Count Rozenhaim’s territory in the Kingdom of Rombert. My name in Japan was Sema Yousuke. I was 21 years old and a college student the same as Asuka when I died. My Unique Ability is “Scale”. It’s a Unique Ability that isn’t very useful though...It’s fine if you call me Toris.”

After saying that Toris stretched his left hand out to Ralph and his right hand out to me.

“Umm, my name is Gulinel Akdam. I was born in the King’s direct territory

Rombertia of the Kingdom of Rombert....I was born in this town. Misa..I was together with Ral on the same bus when the accident happened. I was 17 years old. My Unique Ability is {Mapping}. Please call me Gwine.”

Gwine stretches her right hand out to Bel and her left hand out to me while introducing herself. When our introductions had ended, three of the restaurants waiters knocked and entered the room. Two of them held something like a lunch mat or napkin and spread it out on the table and then started lining up the tableware. The other one is distributing glasses to everyone. In the end they asked if it was alright to start distributing food so I nodded and they left. I,

“Bel, is it fine? You’re going to at least eat before going right?”

and asked her and with a clear face,

“Yeah, of course.”

replied like that. Then, it seems like it would be good to start talking right away. In the next moment the waiter’s brought out the appetizers. It looks like ratatouille or some kind of cold vegetable salad with ham, and some kind of sweet berries or nuts on it, lamb meat carpaccio, and a plate with seven varieties of appetizers served on it. At the same time white wine was poured for us. After it was distributed to everyone the waiter was still here so,

“Then, since it’s this occasion, let’s do a toast. Congratulations to the miracle that you all were able to safely meet. Cheers.”

and said that before drinking the wine. Yeah, this is pretty delicious wine. I don’t really get it though. But, it’s really easy to drink. Each person is saying “cheers” and putting the wine to their mouths but just Akdam was bewildered.

“Umm..It’s true that we’re adults but..Is it okay? It’s my first time drinking alcohol.”

Ah, so she was raised in a house with that sort of curriculum? Come to think of it I want wonder what she said to her parents to come here? I guess I’ll try talking about things around that area. Since the waiter has already left, and t’s troublesome, it should be fine in Japanese.

“Hn? I won’t say to force yourself on it, if you’d prefer juice or water then

should I order some of that?”

“Eh...it’s fine.”

After Gwine glanced at Bel and Ralpa drinking the wine like it was delicious and she put it to her mouth.

“Huh? It’s delicious..Nn...What, is this...Nn...”

..I wonder if it’s the dwarf blood? After just one sip she noticed how delicious it is and after looking at the glass once she started to drink it down, and emptied the glass.

“Wait just a moment..Wakana, don’t drink too much and get drunk.”

Ralpa got worried and warned her.

.....

After drinking some soup like a consomme, and by the time the main dish beef (!) poivre and tanvirumu (a type of fish that lives in shallow ocean like flounder) meuniere came out everyone had gotten to know each other and there was a harmonious atmosphere around the table. It seems it’s been about a month since Gwine and Toris met.

When she was peddling with her parents and two escorts, a total of five of them they were ambushed by a group of orks on a mountain road, and leaving only Gwine were nearly wiped out, at that moment Toris gallantly appeared and saved her from her peril. I guess it’s only obvious she’d fall for him. The way she looks at him reminds me of a subordinate of mine, in my previous life who died young, he was a Johnnys-type good looking guy named Inoue, and even though he had two children he would seek an illicit love with a female employee from a different department.

Gwine was brought to tears when she started talking about the attack by the orks. It was an incident that occurred only a mere month ago. She lost both of her parents at once (they were killed right in front of her, which is a pretty shocking method to lose them, so it’s not unreasonable) and she wasn’t even able to succeed the white Type-3 Second Variety license for Akdam Company so it can’t be helped that she was driven into a corner. Even if it came to continuing business she would have to pay 1,000,000 Z to buy the license again.

If she were to have applied for a license with no connections or anything it would have taken several months for it to be issued I'm sure.

Well stuff in that regards is convenient for me but it's true that being pleased over other's misfortune somehow feels uncomfortable. At the very least she was able to dispose of all of the goods she had in her carriage at that time and earn some money and it seems she still has some stock of grain and vegetable seeds remaining at the company. Well since the season is good if she were to try and dispose of them right away she could do it. If a white license holder dies in an unforeseen accident to something like monsters then they'll offer some lenience in paying the taxes on the remaining stock.

In Toris case he left his house at 13 years old, it was two years ago from now. In the short one minute period he had to ask questions of God he came to know of Bel's reincarnation and was able to confirm there's some distance between reincarnated people as well it seems. Thanks to that he wasn't able to confirm much of anything else.

Just when I was thinking he was quite intelligent, it seems that when he was shown the news report video during the first explanation he noticed Bel's name right under his. He immediately confirmed Bel's reincarnation but God didn't respond to where Bel was located. I was only able to confirm my own name surrounded by a flashing red square and a couple of other names that had two or three character family names.

But, just like me after hearing the method the place where reincarnated people are born at is decided and after finding out that we're separated by some amount of distance, he asked what amount of distance that was and he was told it was at least 100 Km.

Since that was the case he decided to avoid searching large towns where it would be difficult to search for someone and traveled around focusing on small villages it seems. Just when his traveling expenses were starting to get low he happened across Gwine's carriage being attacked.

We all talked about our encounters as well. It's entirely focused on Ralpa and Bel's stories and I sometimes add on to that. After hearing that it took the shape of me saving both Bel and Ralpa from peril the way Gwine looked at me changed. Up until now it was a "what's this piece of goldfish poop" kind of feel

compared with now I clearly feel like I'm being looked at the same as Toris. I don't think this is probably just me being too self-conscious though...What is with this girl?

After Toris heard how Bel and us met, when the story ended he stood up from his seat and deeply bowed to me offering his gratitude. What the, isn't quite honest?

We continued talking after finishing the main dish and changing the taste by eating the salad with steamed chicken in it. About the usefulness and danger of reincarnated people. It seems that neither Toris nor Gwine took those sorts of things into consideration at all and listened to it seriously. I only intend to talk about the advantages of being a reincarnated person, body level, and such after they sign the contract.

By the time the dessert that was some kind of fruit jelly was brought out we were close to reaching an end to the things to talk about.

"Now then, is everything up until there fine...Yeah. Right now, it's in the form of me employing Bel and Ralpa. Other than them there's also the dwarf that's Ralpa's adoptive father and my combat slaves a Laios man and a Dog-warrior woman, we're challenging the dungeon in Baldukk with a total of six of us. Toris, Gwine, how about it? Will you come along with us? Of course, I'll pay you proper wages just like Bel and Ralpa."

I looked between Gwine and Toris while talking. Ralpa entered the conversation there.

"The wages are 200,000 Z per month. When there's a lot of earnings we also receive bonus pay on those days. Al and I arrived in Baldukk around June of last year but I've earned an average of over 500,000 Z per month since then."

Why are you holding your chest high there? And then Bel continued to add to the conversation as well.

"And, we have days off on Wednesday and Saturday afternoon. Well I think this will change when we start exploring deeper floors though. Also, Gwine, that is..We get one day off extra per month. Though I get two a month, since mine are light.."

Ah, menstruation days off...If Gwine joins us as well then those sorts of days off will increase as well...Well, it can't be helped. It's fine though.

"Of course, please let me accompany you. Asuka..I was told by Bel that she wants me to come along as well and I don't have an occupation so I'm quite grateful for it. Al-san, please allow me."

Toris immediately said that. As expected of Bel saying with confidence that it would come to this. However, you could say he's simply jumped at it because he doesn't have any money as well though.

"Ah, your welcome to join us. Then, please sign the contract. The details are the same as Bel and the others. Here"

After saying that I handed him one set of three contract documents. I wonder what Gwine will choose. If she'll sign together with him then it will be less annoying and a big help though.

"Waka, Gwine, what do you intend to do? You can't start your company up immediately right? Al has a company as well. Also, since Al is extremely strong I don't think there's very much danger even in the dungeon."

It seems that Ralpa is encouraging this side.

"U...But, an adventurer huh..Even if you say strong, about how strong? Also what license does his company have?"

Gwine asked Ralpa those questions.

"Hmn, near the end of last year he won against some person that was the sub-commander of the first knight group in a practice mat"Eeh!!? Isn't that a lie?"

Do I not look that strong? I think I have built up quite a good figure for my age though...

"Yeah, I saw it in front of my eyes. Also, Al's older sister is in the first knight group as well. His older brother is super strong and cool!! Right, Bel, Al's older brother Farne-san is super cool right!!"

Ralpa suddenly threw the conversation at Bel while she was reading the contract together with Toris just in case.

“Eh? Farne-san? Yeah! He was cool.”

After raising her face from the contract Bel replied. Toris is still looking at the contract without even glancing at Bel’s face. I wonder if it didn’t enter his ears, he was originally not all that much of a jealous type, or he might just trust Bel. I can’t really tell. Gwine continues.

“And what about the license of his company? Since it seems he’s from Marquis Webdos territory, if it’s a Type-3 it’s not even worth mentioning.”

I went to open my mouth and reply but Ralpa replied again.

“I don’t know his license but he’s directly doing business with the King. He was directly called out to by his majesty Rombert and her highness the Queens after all.”

This time Gwine started looking at me with a doubtful expression.

“I don’t have it with me right now but my Greed Company has a Type-2 First Variety red license. If it’s inside of Rombert I can do whatever business I please as much I want. Have you heard about the rubber products from Bakuddo?”

After I said that I’m sure that Gwine recalled it.

“Ah..Rubber products..I’ve heard about them..Though I haven’t seen them..But, that’s amazing. Putting aside Type-2, something like a Type-2 Variety One is completely impossible for us..”

She might not know that nobles have a special right in regards to the price of the license. Well, it’s fine though. If it’s a normal person that’s not a noble and they have no connections, in order to make a Type-2 First Variety company it would cost them 150,000,000 Z after all. In the end it only cost me the handling charge of a mere 500,000 Z though. It’s all thanks to the mightiness of rubber protectors and condoms.

“Since you have experience doing business on Orth, I would definitely like for you to join us. This year or next year I intend to create a headquarters for the company in Rombertia. It’s no good if I don’t search for a building that would be a good candidate as soon as possible.”

I smiled while talking to Gwine.

“But..I can’t even use the spear very well..That is..Fi..fighting is..a bit, scary..or rather..”

Well, that’s right. On the other side of the table Toris has started signing the contract.

Finishitfinishit.

“What are you saying~ Even I can do it so it’s fine. Even my father said that the axe or spear are best for dwarves. I’m sure you’ll be able to use it right away. And I’m here, and Al will protect you as well.”

Ralpa smacks Gwine’s back while saying that. Alright, you, even though you’re an idiot you’ve been doing some decent work lately~ I’m sure it’s the results of Bel and my discipline. Like that’s the case.

“Well try reading it. The details are exactly the same as the one I gave Toris, and it’s the same as Ralpa’s as well. Ah, though Ralpa’s contract was combined two into one with Zenom?”

I say that while handing her the contract. She nervously received that and started looking at it but I wonder if she’s the type that’s weak being pressured? since she saw Toris has already started signing in front of her, she raised her face without even properly bothering to read it. It seems she’s waiting for Toris to finish signing.

After she received the pen and ink plate from Toris who finished signing and she started signing the contract. I hand Toris the knife and shifted the plate with magic stone powder on it over in front of him and,

“Mix in some blood for about half of the amount of magic stone powder remaining and then do a thumb print. The wound will heal right away.”

I said that and watched where Toris pushed his thumb print. It seems that Gwine has finished signing as well.

Alright, I’ve gained another two valid pieces, it’s fine to think of it as if they’ve become my subordinates I’m sure. Out of the three contracts they signed I gave one to each of them and healed their cuts with magic.

Out of the remaining two contract documents one of them I’ll keep and the remaining one will..be kept by the government office. It’s one of the reasons

why formal contracts are expensive. If you do a thumb print using magic stone powder and your blood then you can use status open on it.

With this they can't escape from me so easily.

Side Story 20: In the Case of Nemoto Masaaki (Age 25 at time of accident)

Ah~ I'm fucking exhausted~

Even though this is the home of a train station the section manager is angry like an idiot over my behavior.

Somehow, I even start to pity him.

It seems he doesn't like my attitude and the fact that I didn't apologize to a client for a mistake that was normally unrelated to me.

The mistake was a mistake in the dates for delivery of a product we were selling them.

If you were to ask why the mistake happened, the for starters, the client confirmed the delivery date with me.

And, when I confirmed the delivery date with a person of the manufacturing department, I told the details I heard directly from them to the client.

That's why, I think the mistake was with the person managing manufacturing and not me.

This section manager with his stomach sticking out is in angry fit over, "In the first place why didn't you think it was strange when a delivery date like that came out and neglect to double check on it?"

It's not my job to confirm things and I haven't been paid enough for it.

Aaa~ the train left.

The next train is a slow one so now we have to wait until the next train after that~

I'm exhausted of sitting at the home waiting for a train while listening to complaints of this old man.

Well if I remain quiet then eventually he'll be satisfied I'm sure.

Just as I thought, the old man,

"It seems it's pointless to say anything more than this to you." said that and stopped talking.

It's the usual pattern.

Ha..if you think you can get me fired then try it.
There's no way something like a single section manager would have any rights to HR.
In the first place, I entered this company through a connection with my father's cousin Aimura-san(a board member of this company)...
It seems that Aimura-san was in the care of my father's older brother, in other words my uncle quite a bit so Aimura-san can't hold his head up to my father either.

Though the university I entered wasn't quite first-rate I entered it on my first try.
I went there because I didn't want to end up in a place like Tusu University? was it? where ronin like you end up.
I'm on a different scale from a guy who went to a university in the middle of nowhere like you.
I'm sure it's just on the level some DQN high school student from a bizarre place in Kanto would enter.

The university I went to doesn't even compare to such a nameless school.
If it's the private South Asia university than it's name anyone around here has heard of.
It's famous enough around the regions of Akita that you can see "SA uni" written around the bus line all over the place.
It even has exchanges with famous universities in China and South Korea.
It's fine to say that a person like me who entered there without examination on a recommendation is superior.
You should be grateful just in the fact that you're able to work together with me who majored in business there.
If you're mortified then graduate from at least a major university before trying to preach to me.

I'll remember this, you corporate slave.
I've got the expectations of Aimura-san since I entered the company.
"Masaaki-kun, I'll leave you under the care of Numaoka one of our companies best. I'm pretty sure he had a teaching license so he should be just the right one to teach you. Since starting from the bottom is important in anything. If you

properly train under him for a few years. You'll easily be promoted soon after that."

When I tried asking when I can make as a manager he said that. That's why in another 2–3 years I'll become the head or vice-head of department and it'll be my turn to preach to you.

I really can't bring myself to like this corporate slave old man. The only thing he ever talks about during work hours is the jobs and customers and it's creepy how it's all about work. Even the other day when I put off entering in an order for a custom item because I hadn't heard the method for it for 2–3 days he came to preach to me over it, I had only heard once several months prior on how to enter orders like that into the system so even if you point out a mistake with that much details. Are you stalking me? In the first place an executive candidate like me has no interest in the job of the sales scene.

If I try to explain the reason then you say not to talk back, even though I'm not directly at fault you try to force me to apologize to the clients. Why do I need to apologize to the clients over every little thing even though it's not my fault? The things he's saying are like some cheap yakuza.

I'm a candidate for management that's got the expectations of a member of the executives.

Even last week just because I went 15 minutes past work hours he tried to push even more overtime on me. It's true that if I had finished processing it by that day then it would have sped things up the next morning but isn't it just that much difference.

The business world of Japan filled with old men like this sure has gotten weak. I learned about it in college.

Why is it necessary to accompany you to drink just because a client came from Osaka and it's past 6 pm while they're staying today? Isn't it fine if the people who want to drink just go drink all they want together. Why does someone who doesn't even have any friends need to go drink on

their own dollar?

Arrogantly saying it's his treat, do you just want to act like a big-shot?

In the first place, if we were to go to a place filled with cigarette smoke like a bar and I end up getting lung cancer how are you going to take responsibility? I'm sure after that it's just the usual brothel as well.

How many new issues of novels, manga, blue ray discs, and games for the play station do you think I can buy with the money used on that alcohol and brothel?

Finally the train arrived. It's far more wholesome to be looking at other world reincarnation novels on my smartphone. At least let me do as I please while in transit. However, this "If you're a man then you've got to aim for brothel king" is quite idiotic. Making rubber in another world is fine but why go to the trouble of making something with such a high difficulty like condoms? I don't get it. In the first place, the protagonist still hasn't even used a condom himself. Should I be saying Take that~ to a protagonist that pisses me off? How is he supposed to aim to be brothel king while he's still a virgin, it's so retarded I can't even say a thing. Well, even though I say that I'm a virgin as well. I have no interest in the third dimension. If you want to date me then say it after you've entered the monitor.

Ah? I'm floating in the air together with the old man?

.....

What in the world happened? An accident? is what I was thinking before I started crying. What is with this voice. Is it my voice? The last time I cried was after I entered college and was robbed by a classmate of my little brother who's in middle school at the game center.

.....

I've gradually started to get a grasp on my situation. It seems that I'm in a situation similar to the protagonist of a genre of web novel I often read on "bungo ni narou". It's reincarnation. I still can't tell if this is another world or somewhere on Earth but judging from the furniture and make of the house this is probably another world. However, there's some words like English mixed in as well so it might be somewhere on Earth.

Six months passed by and I've gradually started to learn the words just from listening. It seems this is far into the remote regions of something or other high ranking nobles territory. The name of the village is Wenbiru. It's not that wealthy of a place but it doesn't feel tremendously poor either. No, going off my sensation it's poor though, at the very least I can eat a satisfying amount. Even on Earth there were countless places poorer than here..there's a non-human. This isn't Earth.

Reincarnated in a different world huh. Really?

I wonder if there's magic and stuff as well?

Otherwise I should do domestic development with knowledge from modern day Earth?

Recently I've often heard the adults mentioning something or other about Valiola.

At first I thought it was a person's name but it seems it's different.

In the past, it seems they had to burn down a village including the people who lived there when it appeared.

What is it?

Just like that I eventually found out the identity of Valiola.

It's the name of a disease.

It seems that patients with it have started to appear in this village as well.

However, the lord resolutely burnt down the house along with the inhabitants of it right away while they were still alive.

Honestly speaking I was relieved.

On the surface my family said things like it was terrible as well but I could tell everyone in the house was relieved.

Yeah, it can't be helped right.

It seems like Valiola is a contagious disease after all.

Even if you criticize the lord it was the correct way to deal with it.

.....

Everyone in my family is in bad condition.

I wonder if we've all caught a cold or something? There's a fever and even a bad headache.

Two days after I started to feel bad.

My condition has already returned to normal.

My mother let out a scream after seeing me.

What is it?

During the night of that, I understood the reason.

It's because she saw my three-year older brother.

There's something like a large rash all across his face.

What is it? I wonder if I have them as well?

After touching my face it seems that there's several of them on mine as well.

My parents went pale after seeing my older brother's face.

Valiola.

It seems it's a symptom of that contagious disease.

Father said, "It's already no good, let's bet on the one in eight chance, gather our belongings and escape into the mountains at night."

Mother said, "That's right. I'm sure we've already got Valiola as well..If we somehow can escape then there's no choice but to return once we recover." and they started gathering their belongings.

Even if I say belongings, it was just a bit of food. My mother carried me while holding my older brother in a basket on her back. Father held up a basket filled with our belongings and some bags as well.

In the dead of the night we left the village.

Along the way, they walked through the night across the mountain while taking a number of breaks. I slept and woke up.

They somehow found just the right hole in a tree so mother and us children slept there.

Father gathered some dead leaves and laid down beside the tree.

.....

The rash has spread along the face and bodies of my entire family.

It seems there's no doubt it's the disease called Valiola.

There's a fever one more time and if you can make it past that you survive and never catch it again it seems.

Father and mother gathered dead leaves while in a lull state and were enthusiastic about create an environment that was easy to remain in.

The pimple like things on my body started to pop first. I felt the pus and blood stain in and I groaned from the fever.

Next was my older brother, and finally the symptoms developed for my parents.

While suffering from the fever I couldn't tell if it was currently day or night, or whether I was still alive or already dead.

If you were to ask why I guess it's since the pimple things started to pop I haven't been able to see well out of my eyes.

There's pain all through my body and it's difficult to breathe as well.

Since I'm suffering from the fever I don't have a very clear consciousness as well.

Well, even father said it.

There's times with a family of four will all survive it as well.

Even when it comes to those who die it's at most 3/10.

Not to mention it seems that it's easiest for children to survive.

I'm sure I'll be alright.

After all my lucky was high enough that I was able to be reincarnated into a different world.

I'm definitely sure I'll live.

I'll sure live.

I'll live.

For sure.

Ki.....u.....

Side Story 21: In the Case of Nomura Koukichi (Age 90 at time of accident)

As expected when you get to this age you start to feel the weakening in various parts of your body. However, my head is still clear and I don't have any major issues with walking. I volunteered for the army at 17 years old and after spending two years in it soon after that there was another convention, I can still clearly remember the tiger Seninbari my mother stitched for me when I entered the mixed 15th regiment as a first-class soldier.

Unfortunately I ended up being captured as a war prisoner just before I became an adult in the battle of Okinawa, since I was a young soldier and my ranking was low I was released soon after the war ended. Even though I returned with nothing left, I somehow managed to create my own company, and it's already been over 10 years since I left it to my son.

I lost my wife 8 years ago but we had a great-grandchild that year. Time passes by quickly and even more than my cute grandchildren my great-grandchild is already in elementary school. It seems they're going come over and play at the end of this week so I'm greatly looking forward to it. Today I whipped my body into shape since I've been sitting at home lately to go and buy a toy for that great-grandchild at a department store in Shinjuku.

Tokiko-san the maid was worried about me but while my body is reaching old age, I can still move plenty and my head is clear as well. There's no way I wouldn't go and buy a toy for my great-grandchild.

I lowered my hips down on one of the four priority seats in the rear of the front train car.

The ones sitting front of me is a father with a child younger than my great-grandchild and a middle-aged salary-man looking up at one of the hanging advertisements in the train, sitting next to me across an empty seat is a couple that appears to be quite intimate. The boy sitting in front took off his shoes and climbed on to the seat to look at the scenery passing by out the window.

In the past, when my grandchild was still young they did the same thing in the train on our way to an amusement park. Back then my wife and myself were still in our 50s but we were surprised at how exhausting it was bringing along our energetic young boy and girl grandchildren to play. Feeling nostalgic, I can tell my cheeks are loosening watching the back of the boy.

What a cute child. I'm sure just watching his behaviors would be enough to keep me occupied until Shinjuku. While he's ignoring his father who looks to be falling asleep and is focusing out the window, I somehow remember back to the time my son who is already an old man himself was little.

I had a time when I was young like that father as well. There was a time when I was young like the couple next to me as well. I'm sure they'll eventually age, have children, raise them, and become old like me as well. I don't feel unfortunate in my circumstances right now at all but I wonder how they'll feel when they reach the same age as I am now looking back on their lives?

The ones who will make Japan from here on out is youths like them. I at least hope they can live their lives with no regrets. I'm thinking about such endless things like looking at the back of the head of the boy.

The train suddenly used the emergency brakes.

The loud squealing sound continues, all of the passengers lost their balance and were sent flying forward. The middle aged salary-man who was nodding off suddenly came to his senses and grabbed the pole when the young boy and father flew into him. Even then the salary-man tried to hold on to the pole without letting go but soon after in order to grab on to the boy he couldn't help but let go of the hand holding the pole.

The young lady of the couple sitting next to me ran into me. It was a short period that I ended up flying through the air together with her before I hit my chest on a pole somewhere, I've started to lose consciousness.

Once upon a time Tadokoro squad commander who was my superior officer said, "If it ends up situation where young soldiers like you have to come to the front line it's already over." Sergeant Tadokoro charged into the American forces when they were about to use a flamethrower on barricaded shelter where the citizens of Okinawa were holed up and after splendidly shooting

them down with his bayonet, took bullets from a different American soldier dying in front of us youth soldiers. His crudely overproduced bayonet was bent.

Yoshino second lieutenant who was promoted to platoon commander when things advanced for the war after being in the Kyushu Mikado University died taking an imposing stance in front of a shelter where the female students of the medical unit were barricaded in. I heard later that he used his own body to seal the entrance sticking the heirloom saber he had into the ground with both of his arms and legs spread out and his eyes wide open, a standing death like Benkei.

The commander often said, “In any case keep living. Protect the women who are going to give birth to the Japanese of the future, endure your shame, tolerate the intolerable, and even if you have to sip mud stay alive. Even if you have to become a prisoner stay alive and become a man who protects the future of Japan.” No one in our platoon predicted that commander would die in action.

The common thing that all of my superiors officers used to say was “The young are the ones who will make Japanese from here on out. That’s why no matter what you should all stay alive.” The reason why we youth soldiers all endured the shame and surrendered to the American forces was to protect those words. I wonder if I lived a life where I can hold my chest high and say, “I gave it my best.”

.....

What in the world happened? Why am I still alive? Was it an accident? I was considerably confused and it took some time but I somehow managed to get a grasp on my situation. It seems I was reborn as a baby. Some of the English I desperately learned when I was young to negotiate with the accountant and commissioned officers has come a bit in handy.

Since I was reborn as a baby my head is considerably soft and I haven’t had much trouble at all learning new things. I’m quite literally learning new knowledge like pouring water in a desert. I guess being young is just that wonderful of a thing. It didn’t even take two years after undergoing the naming ceremony to be able to speak the language of this world.

I finally started to get it around the time I had grown to three years old and was able to leave my parent's sight. It was almost like the West in the distant past but there's various strange parts to it. First, there's a variety of races living in Goban village where I was born. It doesn't seem there's any mistake that humans like those on Earth make up the largest majority but they're still only close to 40% of humanity. Other than that there's Elves, Dwarves, Gnomes, Halflings, Bunny-man, Dog-people, Wolf-people. After that, the Cat-people, and a sub-type of the Cat-people called Laios, even the same race as my own Tiger-man, there's a lot of different types of non-humans.

A lot of the buildings have thatched straw roofing or shingle roofing with dirt walls like the houses in Japan in the past. Though it was unmanned there was something like a small temple with a splendid Torii as well. The clothing is mostly shirts and pants in the Western style but there's something opened in the front like Kinagashi as well.

The food was all Western style with nothing Japanese. It's plainly harsh that there's no rice.

Just, it was a bit of good luck that I noticed I have an important secret early on. When I received the naming ceremony about a year and a half after being born, thanks to understanding the true meaning of {Status Open} there I noticed my own uniqueness. 【Unique Ability: Valiance】. I don't really get how to use it but since it goes to the trouble of having the name 【Unique Ability】 added to it, it should be an ability that only belongs to me and furthermore should have some method of using it. Since it's called {Valiance} it should have to do with guts or fighting spirit I'm sure.

As far as I know Unique Abilities aren't something anyone has unlike 【Special Skill: Night Vision】 and 【Special Skill: Super Strength】 which aren't all that unusual. We Tiger-man are a race with short round fuzzy ears on our heads and our hair is generally the same color of black while we stripe patterns down our tails(in my case, since my hair is black as well my tail is entirely black) and while our physique isn't all that different from a human, generally we have a lot of power and are a quick race.

When I got into a fight with Tommy the Laios two years older who lives next door I yelled "uwa~" and the moment I thought "If I pulled back here I'll be

looked down on, put some guts into it” I felt like my body got lighter and just as I had hit a number of punches with all of my power into Tommy, I suddenly felt insanely hungry to the point where I couldn’t concentrate and I got beaten. I ended up running back into my house eating the remaining breakfast and bread and then falling asleep like that.

The reason I didn’t use the skill **【Super Strength】** is because while it does make it easier to put in strength, it requires bracing your legs so it becomes difficult to move quickly. Unlike the Laios **【Instant Speed】** it’s a skill that’s difficult to use in fights or combat. When I woke up past noon, I found it strange why I got so angry over an infant like Tommy and picked a fight but in the end Tommy and I started a relationship of picking fights over all sorts of pointless things.

It was only after things like that happened a number of times that I realized. When I put in some fighting spirit into a yell(or you could call it a battle cry) while thinking “put some guts into it” or “I’ll go with my full strength”, and I can use my **【Unique Ability: Valiance】**. However, in a matter of a few seconds my guts end. Nevertheless during that time, my physical abilities increase to a surprising extent. Quite literally to the point where even the special skill of the Laios **【Instant Speed】** is like child’s play my physical abilities improve. It’s not like my sensations or intuition gets sharper but I feel like my strength, speed, and stamina are infinitely flowing through my body.

It might be easier to describe it as the super strength shown during a fire.

I found out that I could use **【Unique Ability: Valiance】** outside of fights as well. If I try to put some fighting spirit into some sort of action, if I just think in my head “Here I go!” or “I’m going to do this!” while preparing myself then it’s fine. However, I don’t know if it uses a tremendous amount of stamina or I’m paying my stamina in advance but if I use it several times then I often start to feel so tired it’s difficult to endure. Otherwise I feel intensely hungry to the point I’d even pick up some grass off the ground and eat it. It’s vital to be careful of when to use it.

Just like that I ended up meeting an existence calling itself God that speaks Japanese. After all, it said I died in that train accident. It seems it was a great disaster with 39 victims including myself. It would be good if the boy who was

embraced by the middle-age salary man was safe in the end but...I think it's only correct for people to die starting from the elderly.

In the unnatural dream-like place I met with the God, I found out that I had already died and understood that I couldn't return to Japan anymore. It could be said that my final remaining regret is that I couldn't meet my great-grandchild but it seems that they're now 11 years old and have a large build for their age and are energetically growing up.

It seems that I'm to live my life once again from the start in this different world. Then in that case I want to live a life I can laugh over this time. Not a life like in the past where I always felt like I was being chased, or chasing something that I couldn't reach, a tense life like that, but I want to live a life I can laugh from the bottom of my heart. For that sake the fact that I was able to be reborn with my memories intact is a considerable advantage.

It seems that this world is like those in fairy tales where monsters live and of all things even magic exists.

I started to feel excited beyond my age. If I listen closely to what it's saying the other 38 people were all reborn just like me with their memories. It might be good to take into consideration meeting up with them first.

I tried asking various things I had doubts about for quite a while. The time and seasons, currency and food, social standing and races, I had a lot of things to ask but I was limited to a short time of just over 10 and a few minutes so unfortunately I ran out of time before asking all of that.

When I opened my eyes, I erased the window like that of {Status Open} that appeared in front of me while making a dry smile and finding it difficult to hold back the exhilaration as I went to eat breakfast. Today for sure I'll settle things with Tommy.

.....

Several years passed after that. I, Fiorentso.Hirosukol grew up into a splendid young boy. My Hirosukol family is that of squires who serve Viscount Igarudo the lord of Goban village in the territory of Count Faruergaz. Since I was born as the third son of the Hirosukol family it seems that I have quite a few options I can pick to live a reasonably enjoyable life. I could marry the daughter of a

different squire family and inherit that family as the husband, make some sort of achievement and start my own independent squire family, do that in a different village, or put even more effort into things and enter the knight group, if I can get recognized there then I could spend it as a soldier or if I can make an achievement in the knight group I could end up as the squire leader of a regional lord somewhere or make connections. Saving up money and starting a business is fine as well.

I'm free to do what I want at my own wit. I'm not a noble with a variety of obligations and I'm not of the Free People or slave rankings which have all sorts of restrictions either. If you have something you like that you want to do then this commoner ranking is considerably convenient. My father already declared that if my older brother grows into a splendid man to succeed the family then the rest of us can do whatever we please.

No matter what I'm going to do the first thing I need is money, you could also say my body is my capital. I can put quite a bit of enthusiasm in the combat training that's an obligation of squire families. In the first place I couldn't really use the sword or spear but I remembered my days as a soldier in the past and I was able to put quite a bit of zeal into the training. Around this time even without relying on my Unique Ability my skill had become pretty decent. After I turned 10 years old and started doing practice matches I only started using it occasionally while taking on adults as my opponents.

The lord Viscount Igarudo praised me saying that I have talent.

At the young age of 13 years old I was given permission to join the patrols in the territory. I killed my first goblin around this time. On the occasion of patrols which occurred 1–2 a month I made a number of achievements and about the time I turned 14 years old I received a recommendation to enter the Count's knight group. Of course I just received the recommendation and it's not such a sweet item that it guarantees I'll be able to enter but receiving investiture as a knight in this world is a large advantage in life. There's no way I would turn down such an offer.

The reason I was able to push through the best of those older than myself who gathered from various places in the territory to take the entrance exam and clear through was of course in part thanks to my unique ability but you

could also say it was the result of the effort I had accumulated in increasing my abilities as well. According to the story I heard the quickest a commoner can receive investiture as a true knight is in three years and on average is about four years. In that case then even if I manage it at the average I should be able to become a full-fledged elite at the young age of 18. After all if you were to compare the knight group to my past life it would be almost the only institution of education that covers everything from middle school to college, a military officer school.

Yeah. If I'm still that young then even after I quit the knight group I can do anything I want. Since your wages suddenly jump up quite a bit after you become a true knight I hear that a lot of people remain even after receiving investiture as a knight. However, I have no intention of wasting my time as a squire, I intend to properly make some savings. Since Count Faruergaz is considerably wealthy his knight group loans out both the sword and the equipment so in the end I'll probably only have to buy my own sword but other than that if I save up all of the money I receive as pay for being squire other than what I use on daily necessities then I should be able to save up a decent amount in four years.

After that I can become one of those wandering adventurers and look around at various places in the world until I find a job that I can accept. I thought like that.

.....

When I entered the knight group, an surprising thing occurred. The fact that I was able to be reborn itself was surprising, unique abilities, non-humans, and magic were surprising as well. However, it was the first time I met a Japanese person other than myself. What else other than a surprise would you call this?

Rodrick.Faruergaz. The eldest son of Count Faruergaz. One of the boys who was to become one of the next high ranking nobles of the era was the same Japanese reborn after that accident as me. The eldest sister Marinen is 16 years older than him and about 10 years prior married the current King Thomas Rombert the Third. At first we both seemed to think that our faces look awfully Japanese-like but when I tried putting some courage into it and speaking Japanese that decided it.

It seems that Rodrick hates this world Orth to the point he can't stand it. He entered the knight group 1 year faster than me at 13 years old through the privilege of the Count family but his grades are some of the lowest competing for the bottom. Rodrick was among the top of his class in regards to the academics though. However, in Faruergaz knight group the academics aren't seen as very important it seems, so most of the opinions of him are that his grades aren't good and his combat abilities are some of the lowest. It seems that his original nature was one that doesn't like conflict. However, before I entered the knight group I had killed a number of goblins and when I told him that if it was just the level of goblins or gnolls then I could easily train him enough defeat quite a few it seems he was interested.

Since we were both Japanese, we quickly got along well and went everywhere together. It seems he decided to put enthusiasm into his training the same as me and enjoy his life the best he can the same as me. We talked about our lives in Japan and origins as well. I was able to confirm that he was sitting across from me on the train. Although, this is nothing more than guess because it seems the boy I was worried about was his son.

Different from an old man like me, he was still at the young age of 30. Since we were both Japanese talked politely to each other but after he heard my age he was surprised and started to use honorifics towards me. Since I told him it was unnatural with how different our social standings are and he finally fixed it. However, whenever we talk in Japanese he still continues to use them. When using Japanese it's because we were Japanese people so he wouldn't give that up. Since I didn't feel bad about it either I decided to just leave it alone.

Just like this when we found out that we could meet other Japanese people, from some point it didn't take much time to start thinking "I want to search for more Japanese people". However, he has his social standing and position. He has the role of taking over the Count's family and watching over the next era. I guess a short while after he receives investiture as a true knight he'll have to retire, and then learn territory management which is on an level incomparably high to that of the knight group.

Around the spring that we both turned 15 his grades started to suddenly rise. Though I say that, those which were at the bottom finally managed to get a

passing grade. And then, his little brother who was two years younger than him entered the knight group. His younger brother Belsaias was a superior child. Without doing anything like looking down on his incompetent older brother (of course, I don't think Rodrick is incompetent at all) he always took one step backwards and made statements to help his older brother stand above, while maintaining good grades in not only academics, but sword, spear, horsemanship as well during his first year.

Me? Thanks to my Unique Ability, let alone people in the first year I've above even the second and third years. In regards to the academics, honestly speaking if you have the foundations learned in Japan they can be done in spare time. It was content that was basically one step above memorization. The math was at the level of the early years in elementary school stopping at the four basic mathematical operations and it's the same for physics and biology. The social studies (completely history) and agriculture science (there's almost no science and it's fundamentally enough agriculture knowledge to manage a territory) was about the only things we struggled a bit on because it was so unfamiliar.

However, only when it came to learning magic did Rodrick and I enthusiastically learn and attack the sorcerer who was our instructor with questions. Starting from small magic and only after becoming adults were we able to seriously start the curriculum of magic training, everyday we had to spend time glaring at a lighting magic tool. Though even if I say glaring, you close your eyes. You get into pairs of two and after getting naked on the upper body you try to hit each others bodies with a lightning magic tool that's like a search light. With a feeling of not letting the light hit the face but only shine on the body. Eventually you'll be able to feel the magic of the light on your skin.

Somehow the part where the light is feeling causes a sensation like getting goose bumps, I guess would be the best way to put it, in any case it seems that the method to acquire the magic special skill is to keep your eyes closed and feel where the magical light is hitting you. It's recommended to do in pairs because it requires a special magic tool that shines through a long pipe so the light doesn't spread and it's necessary to aim that at the partners body.

If you do this then it seems you can learn to use the small magic {Cantrip} of mana detection. Next you make use of this {Cantrip} mana detection to feel out

the light once again and repeat that. Once you get this far then it doesn't matter even if it's the small flame of a lighter magic tool but if you take into consideration the consumption rate of magic stones it seems the lighting magic tool has better cost performance so while it's a bit inconvenient it's still recommended for training in pairs.

We enthusiastically trained our magic and at a frightening speed of five months we were both able to awaken to the void magic special skill. Since small magic {Cantrips} aren't something that can be used a number of times in a single day, you can do it between other things like training and jobs for the knight group or while studying academics, so while the two of us had prepared for it take a year we found it a bit anticlimactic but there's no mistake it was still a good surprise.

.....

And my second year of life in the knight group passed by. I entered the third year and one day when both of us turned 16 years old, the order for us to depart to the battle field was given. It's one of the skirmishes that often happens far in the south on the Dirt Plains against Devas Kingdom. It seems that the Faruergaz knight group is the core of the forces this time. I thought that the commander would be the knight commander of the Faruergaz knight group and Rodrick's uncle Lord Konrel but it seems that it's Lord Balkisas and a few of his subordinates who were dispatched from the center of the Kingdom, and Lord Konrel including the Faruergaz knight group he leads are entering under the command of that Lord Balkisas.

It was far more of a leisurely war than the two of us had imagined. It's true that the engagements that happened a couple of times were just as intense as we imagined but you can't really say that the morale of the low class soldiers and squires either army was very high and there was almost no casualties as well. It had a mood like somehow or other the battle starts and then before you realize it the front of either side ends up withdrawing as the battle ends. Of course there's several scout units sent in small numbers to try and outsmart the opponent, searching out the appearance of the enemies as well but without making any sort of valuable results, the low morale during times other than combat was pretty clear. Particularly since the conflict this time was the

defense of a pioneering village they didn't progressively try to attack so that might be one of the reasons.

In some of the few engagements like that we slowly raise our achievements, I managed to cut down a total of three enemies. Rodrick only managed to do one but it was an enemy soldier. I felt quite moved over the fact that Rodrick who hated combat that much when I first met him had grown so much. Once about two months after we setup a defense line surrounding the village, we were able to confirm the retreat of the enemy forces. After this for about a month, we'll remain stationed just in case and if there's no particular problem then we'll fall back as well.

Among the very few military gains I only cut down three enemy soldiers but the only guaranteed kills confirmed of enemy soldiers was around 70 people, so my individual gains was around 5% of that. It seems it was one of the top gains out of any individual unit. Thanks to that it seems that I'll be able to speed up my investiture so I'm considerably happy over that. Since Rodrick managed to make some gains as well it seems he'll finally be able to see investiture as a knight as well.

"With this Belus can look a bit better as well."

and Rodrick said that. I guess he's relieved he was able to show some face as an older brother. Following that he said to me,

"Nomu-san, once you receive investiture what do you plan to do? Will you remain in the knight group? Or just like you've said before will you become an adventurer?"

and asked me that. Incidentally, Nomu-san is an abbreviated form of my real name Nomura.

"Yeah, Etou-kun. I'm thinking of doing that. Since it's a good chance. I want to look around various places on Orth. I want to enjoy this life."

"I see...I'm envious. If I were to speak my true feelings then I'd like to go together with you. But, my investiture seems like it will take a bit longer...Don't you think I've changed quite a bit since I met you Nomu-san? I guess I was influenced. In the past I really hated even the idea of fighting myself..though during the war this time I was able to calm down considerably and fight. Thanks

to that I was able to look around and I understood. I'm not suited to being a noble."

"..."

"It doesn't seem like I'd be able to take command in a battle either. It was painful to kill monsters and cut people. And I already wonder about the lifestyle of just hiding in a mansion in my territory and never going outside. It's true, I died at that time. Since it seems that Yuta is properly growing up..Honestly speaking, I still have regrets about it."

"I see."

"I want to meet my son. I want to embrace him. I want to see my daughter who was just born and I still hadn't even held twice. I'm already..16 huh..Since she's the same age as me now, I guess a high schooler? It would be good if she resembles my wife...In comparison to them something like inheriting the territory of Faruergaz has no value to me at all."

Rodrick said lonesomely and regrettably.

"..However, that can't be helped right? It doesn't seem like you can go and meet them at this point after all."

"That's right. It's already impossible. I, was always watching a dream. A dream of my son and daughter who had grown up. A dream of my children who thought I was pitiful for holing up in the mansion in my territory afraid. But, since I came to this war it's completely stopped. As a matter of fact I thought I would see dreams of the person I killed but..Though I do see them. But, along with the dreams about the person I killed, I see dreams overlapping that of my children proud of the fact that I fought and protected my country. I can see them but.."

Hn?

"Yuta, says to me. Even though his face and body have completely become an adult, with the same voice at that time, "Live your life so you have no regrets". Hinata does as well, ah we used the kanji for sun in Hi and the character for facing in nata to write Hinata, but it wasn't a name we had formally decided on yet. My daughter. With the appearance of my wife when she was still young

and her voice, but I can tell it's Hinata and..she says things like the window of words from the day I met God."

That is..thinking about it too much I think? Were the words from that window that memorable? I guess that's why his kids in dreams are speaking them. While I'm remaining quiet and,

"That's why you know, I think I'm going to live my life without regrets as well. I think it's also a decent option to try and enjoy living my life like Nomu-san as well. That's why I have a request. Would please wait until I receive investiture to leave the knight group?"

"Hey now, Etou-kun. I really have to wonder about that. You're the eldest son and next Count right?"

"It's not particularly like there's a law that the eldest son has to succeed the family. It's not even necessary for it be a male. I'm sure that Berus will splendidly be able to succeed that peerage of Count. Unlike me he's considerably talented after all and he has a good attitude as well so people would be pleased. Fortunately it seems that everyone has always thought that I'm incompetent. There's even people thinking that I was able to make some gains this time as being nothing more than a coincidence."

"But you know.."

"No, it's fine. I'm not depreciating myself. Certainly it can't be said that I'm a very good choice as the heir to a Count. It's hard to tell if a Unique Ability like **【Resistance (Virus Infection)】** would even come in handy after all. Ah, close to 10 years ago, I had a fever once and when I tried focusing on it, it disappeared as if it was a lie so I guess you could say it's come in handy though. In any case, when we return I'll try discussing it with the current lord, my father. Please wait until then."

"Of course, I don't mind..I'm welcome to an increase in fellow travelers..But.."

"It's fine. Please let me enjoy my life on Orth together with Nomu-san as well. If it's just like this then I feel like I'll die in my territory without knowing barely anything about Orth."

I'm sure I'm blessed. There's a young man who looks up to me and wants to

glorify his life together with me. Well, right now I'm also a young man though.

.....

Rodrick received investiture as a true knight near the end of the year close to six months after that.

Rodrick was permitted to leave his house. It seems that there was no large opposition that I was worrying about and he even received a high-quality sword, spear, a war horse, and considerable amount as farewell gifts.

The two of us alternate turns riding and for starters we're heading towards the capital of the kingdom, Rombertia. Since for once, we wanted to take a look at a major city and we thought it wouldn't be strange for there to be Japanese people in a place where people are gathered. Since the two of us are from the countryside and never left the Count's territory other than for the war, we felt like more than half of the time we spent in the capital of the Count's territory of Robamorus during our investiture as knights, was spent sightseeing.

A cold wind blows over along the road as the two young men travel forward with expectations growing.

Chapter 105: Effective Use of Healing Magic

Year 7443, Month 3, Day 10

“Then, make sure not to lose your contract. If possible it’s best to leave it in a place you can trust. I’m holding on to one myself and the last one I’m leaving with the government office. That’s why if I weren’t to pay your wages then you could claim to the government office that I’m defaulting on the contract and force me to pay it. Though during those times you need to either prove you’re a noble with status open or or proof of paying taxes.”

I looked at their faces while saying that and smiled.

“Well, you don’t need to worry about it. Al properly takes care of things like that.”

“He doesn’t say anything unreasonable as well, and he properly thinks about our combat capability..Al-san will you not talk to them about that stuff?”

I wonder what those sorts of things are? I can roughly imagine though.

“Yeah, I intended to tell them about it after this. Since you two have already met God, I think you should already know about leveling up right...Yeah, just I expected. However, if it’s just that then I can’t give you any more than 30 points.”

Toris and Gwine are looking at me strangely.

“This is something I’ve talked about with a reincarnated person I talked to previously, I’ve actually tried verifying myself, and imagined from various settings, so I can’t say it’s completely accurate but I think it’s an answer that’s as close to 100 points as possible.”

I said that as a preface and took a sip of my tea. It’s not my favorite bean tea but just as one would expect from a high class restaurant, it has a satisfying fragrant smell and taste.

“There’s one more form of level other than the level of abilities. For

convenience purposes, I call it the body level. Since you can't see it like the levels of abilities with status open, there's no way of proving it but I'm sure without a doubt that body level "exists". Have you two tried playing a game in your past life? Yeah, since you two were young I thought that was the case. Then things should be fast."

I gave the simple explanation of likening it to RPGs on a computer. Obviously they weren't able to suddenly accept it but what's important right now is to put this sort of knowledge into their heads as "this information exists". Honestly speaking, since the level of both of them isn't anything special it'll increase right away I'm sure. Particularly Gwine since her level is low she should increase a number of levels all at once. In that case I'm sure they would be able to actually feel the benefits of increases in their status. Even in the case of Zulu and Angela, non-humans who's status is originally pretty high seem to feel the effects of leveling up consecutively.

If Gwine who's originally ability values are low we're to level up in the same way then I'm sure she'll definitely notice it. This should be the same for Toris. That's why for now this is fine.

"Things like that I'm sure that you two will become conscious of yourselves after actually hunting monsters in the dungeon."

I said that and looked at their faces again. They're looking at me with suspicious expressions.

"Yeah, it's not unreasonable to believe it so suddenly. That's right, how about we do a simple experiment? Toris, you said you've been an adventurer for about two years right? Bel has been for about one year and furthermore she's a woman. If the two of you arm-wrestle I think you'll understand well."

"Eh? That sounds interesting. I want to do it as well! I think I've built up quite a bit of power recently!"

Ralpha, I didn't say it to you. Well, it's fine though.

"Well, it's weird to do it here, so, look, what was it. Toris, try doing it with Bel later. I think you probably won't be able to win. If you're always training in a way that we can't even imagine it would be different but even then you should be surprised by how much power Bel has. If you do that then you should be

able to accept the conversation from just now a bit more. For Gwine..that's right, how about this?"

I went to the entrance of the room where there's nothing around and suddenly did a handstand. Just like that I bent my elbow and lowered my body down until it was level with the ground and switched to a horizontal handstand. And then I went back to a normal handstand. Of course I don't have anything other than the palms of my hands on the ground. After repeating it several times and I started doing pushups while doing a horizontal handstand. My breath gets a bit disordered but nothing special.

Yeah. It's my first time trying it but I'm sure it's something I can do supported by high ability values. Toris and Gwine were dumbfounded. It seems Bel and Ralpa were surprised as well but these two made expressions like it somehow made sense.

"I think you already know that something like just now could only be done by a gymnastics athlete who has gone through quite a bit of training in our previous life right? Well gymnastics athlete might be saying a bit too far but it's impossible with just physical strength. You understand that it also requires a sense of balance right? It also needs the stamina to repeat high-burden movement as well. I don't know if Bel and Ralpa can do as far this but it's true the two of them should have an unnatural level of stamina and strength for 15 year old girls. You should really try arm-wrestling them later and confirming it."

I said it Toris and Gwine who still had their mouths opened shocked. Continuing on,

"Also, you two, if you were born in Rombert Kingdom then I think you know of it but..particularly Gwine since she was born in Rombertia she should obviously know it..though this is just bragging, just as Ralpa said, at the next of last year through some connections I ended up having practice matches with the commander, sub-commander, and third company commanders of the first knight group. Unfortunately I lost to the commander but I won against the other two. And this is being a poor loser, since it was a practice match before the Queens I wasn't allowed to use the weapon I'm the best at using. Since it's related to my Unique Ability I wasn't even able to use magic which is even more a specialty of mine. Even then I was able to put up a decent fight with the

commander. Since it's the story of a person involved and you haven't seen it yourselves I'm sure it's hard to believe, but it's true. I think that a big portion of it is thanks to increases in my body level."

As expected I doubt it's just a matter of an increase in my abilities thanks to level ups but even then it's necessary to steadily (in my case I have Gift of Natural Talent so it's not as much of something to brag about though) accumulate hardships by experiencing danger and killing monsters. The sword techniques I've had beaten into me since I was an infant are the same, and if I didn't have the knowledge and fighting techniques I had trained with from my past life I doubt I would have been able to fight that well.

"I can declare it but Toris and Gwin if you dedicate time to training and..I don't know if this is the appropriate way of expressing it, but killing monsters in order to gain experience then one day I think you'll be able to do something like this as well."

.....

That night we all went to the inn together once and after getting our wallets and such, we once again grouped up into the three groups, Toris and Bel, Ralpa and Gwine(it seems the two of them will stay at Gwine's house tonight), and I(I'm technically not a group though) before separating ways. Tomorrow after we each take breakfast we planned to meet up at this inn(the place where Ralpa, Bel, and I, the three of us had been lodging until now). The time is already past 9 pm.

I didn't forget to secretly hand Toris a rubber bag. Even though the possibility is minuscule, in the worst case if Bel manages to land a hit it would be bad after all. In the end in the toilet of the inn when I handed Toris the rubber bag and said, "Since it's the first time. It's my treat." it seems he couldn't immediately understand it but as expected of a Japanese he got it pretty soon. And said "Th..Thank you very much" with his face red. It's good that he's honest. It would be good if the M size fits though. Well, I'm sure it'll be fine.

After the three of us grinned while watching Toris put his arm around Bel's shoulder and disappear into the inn, when I was about to walk off alone Gwine called out to me.

“Al-san..that is..if it’s fine with you, there’s some rooms so tonight would you stay at my house?”

“That’s right, Al you should come along too. I’m sure you’re lonely by yourself right?”

If you were to ask if I would be happy that I wouldn’t have to pointlessly pay for the inn then that’s true but in the end it’s just small change.

“Thanks. But you two have met for the first time in a while, don’t you have some things you want to talk about with just the two of you? Even though you went out of your way to invite me I’ll restrain myself for today. Then, I’ll see you guys here tomorrow. Also, I’ll kill you later.”

I said that and laughed while walking off. Hold your chest high, you’re not something like lonely.

.....

The destination I’m head has already been decided. Right, the highest class of brothel in the capital that I couldn’t go to on New Year’s day because of all of the intrusions, that name is “Emerald Duke Crab Reception Hall”. What a tasteless name but for some reason the name touched my heartstrings. I walk down the road without hesitation.

The level of women in Keel’s “Ritton” was high is what I personally think but the layout of the store itself was it’s exterior and a waiting room so it wasn’t much at all but the level of this place is different. On both sides of the left open entrance-way there’s lighting and heating magic tools, at the counter in the immediate front of the entrance-way there’s a gentleman standing upright and with a more refined smile than that of “Ritton”’s Sebastian.

I immediately enter the brothel, and just as I was amending my dignity to call out to the gentleman my shoulder was hit.

What is it really, I’m about to..Eh?

“Al? You, what are you doing?”

Sister Mill was there looking at me with a suspicious face. Sister is in her armor and even armed in her fully equipped appearance. Behind her is those wearing the same type of rubber protector’s from Bakuddo..that’s right, the

squire Amzel and some other people who appear to be squires. It seems like they're somehow pulling a two-wheeled wagon with a lot of wood sticks or something loaded on it. Of course there seems to be people pushing it as well.

"O? N, A..Ah, that is..That's right, Sale..sale's promotion, just a bit of that."

I was so surprised by sister who appeared all of a sudden that while incoherent I tried to cover it up.

"Sales promotion..Of what?"

Sister is staring at me with a glare.

"N..No, that is..salespromotion~ or rather, handing out samples.."

"Even though you're still a child in a place like this, at this time..to father and brother I"Wai...This, it's this!"

In a panic I took out my wallet from my thigh pocket, took the "Saya" out from inside of it, and showed it to her.

"I..I just turned 15 last month. I'm already an adult. That's why, it's difficult to enlarge my business all on my own. I said it to sister last year as well right? I had just made a company. Not just armor I need to sell various things.."

".."

"Rather than that why is sister in that appearance at this time, and doing what?"

"It's training for marching at night and constructing an encampment, since we're not allowed to use horse we're walking! We're going right now!"

Since I've suddenly started dialogue with some knights in front of the brothel the gentleman came out.

"Are you a customer?"

"Ah..No."

Sister got red and was trying to hide behind me.

"Ah, that is..this new type of rubber product..U~mm, I'm the president of Greed Company, Alan Greed. And, I would definitely like if you would try this out..it's something that is a substitute for the bowels of a pig and today while

greeting I've also brought along this sample so..It's this. The name of the product is "Saya".

"Ha~"

The gentleman is looking at the "Saya" on my hand with a suspicious expression.

"Th..This product is a rare beauty that is even being supplies to the royal family. If you were to try it once then I'm sure you would be able to understand it's greatness. Please take it."

"Ha~"

I took the gentleman's hand and forcibly put the entire bag of "Saya" into it before closing it.

"Greed Company is directly stocking up from Bakuddo on the Jindal peninsula the producing area of rubber, I believe you will be satisfied by both the quality and price. If you would like to make any orders please ask for Greed at the Boil Manor of Baldukk!"

"Ha~"

"Now then, I'll take my leave here for today. Please excuse me!!..I've finished my business, so come on let's go!!"

.....

Year 7443, Month 3, Day 11

I leave the cheap inn I rolled into last night. On this day in March, even though it's slightly cloudy I somehow feel like everything is gloomier than usual. Since we've had the network setup recently and every night I've been talking to Bel and Ralpha at the inn I might be tired.

While thinking that I started towards the inn with my head slightly lacking in sleep.

When I arrived at the inn at almost the same time Ralpha and Gwine got there as well. Bel and Toris aren't coming out.

"Hey Ralpha, you, go and call them."

Somehow I don't want to go and call them so I told Ralph to do it.

"Eh~ That is a bit.."

Right.

We left the inn in order to be careful for Bel.

Even though I tried to make it so there was no need to feel constrained by acquaintances.

Though Bel seems like she would realize something like that, after all she must have been happy.

Since it's good timing I start talking to Gwine.

"Gwine, I have a bit of something to consult with you but is it fine?"

"Yes, what is it?"

She looks up at me with her small body.

"It's something I mentioned a bit of yesterday but I'm thinking of making a headquarters for my company in Rombertia. If you have any acquaintances who are in real estate I'd like you to introduce me to them but how about it?"

When I said that and she replied with a slightly troubled face.

"I'm sorry, I don't know. Things like that were all done by father so.."

"Ah, I see, don't worry about it, it was just a matter of if you knew one. I'll see if I can get the first knight group to introduce me to one."

Since she seemed apologetic I told her not worry about it but even I think it's not a good idea to depend on the first knight group too much. But, it can't be helped. Sister...doesn't seem like she would know anyone after all..Ah, there's also the possibility of having them introduce me to one at the government office.

"Putting that aside, Gwine, I'm glad you're willing to come along together with us, thanks."

Gwine's 【Unique Ability: {Mapping}】 will probably be of the greatest help when advancing through the dungeon. If you combine it with determining the direction through Ralph's Spatial Understand and probably with just us we could produce the most accurate dungeon map possible.

“No, honestly speaking, I was worried about what I was going to do from here on out so...Even when it comes to getting another license for the company I think it will take time... And in reality I thought it would be fine to become adventurer’s with Toris for a short while helping out searching for Bel-san..”

She caresses the small bag hanging from her neck while saying that. Going off the conversation from last night and the magic stones from Gwine’s parents should be inside of that bag. Since they passed away at their destination she brought along just the magic stones with her to the capital.

“I see, there’s mountains and valleys in life. I’m sure there’s various things. However, if you give it your best in order to not have any regrets then I’m sure eventually there will be good things as well. Relax easy. I don’t intend to let you regret entering my party.”

“That’s right, Al is super strong, and he knows various things as well. No matter what you do you need some power for it right? If you die that’s the end but if you’re together with Al you won’t die that easily.”

Ralpa was listening to us and stuck her head into the conversation. Unusually she’s flattering me.

“Ah, in that regard it’s fine for you to relax. I have no intention of forcing you to do anything unreasonable as well.”

While we were talking about things like that Bel and Toris came out. The way Bel is walking is slightly strange.

【Bernadette.Koloil/4/4/7429 】
【Female/14/2/7428 ▪ Rabbit-People ▪ Sub-Baron Koloil Family Second Daughter】
【Status: Laceration】
【Age: 15 Years Old】
【Level: 9】
【HP: 95(97) MP: 75(75)】
【Strength: 14】
【Speed: 21】
【Dexterity: 14】
【Endurance: 13】

【Unique Ability: Shoot Intuition(MAX)】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic(Lv.2)】

【Special Ability: Water Magic(Lv.2)】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic(Lv.2)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.2)】

【Experience: 103243(110000)】

Ah, I'm the worst. However, a laceration huh? Her HP has decreased by 2 as well. I wonder what would happen if I used healing magic on her right now? Even though it doesn't have much effect I've already taught Bel healing magic as well. I wonder why she didn't use it? I'm sure it's because if she were to use it the portion which is injured will be fixed.

"Bel, what's with that way of walking, it's weird~"

I knew it but Ralpa is really an idiot. Look, hanve't Toris and Bel's faces turned bright red. Gwine is hitting Ralpa's ass with a complicated expression as well. I'm sure it's probably because her hand doesn't reach Ralpa's head.

"Shut up, idiot. We've already eaten breakfast but what about you Bel and Toris? If you still haven't then I don't mind if you slowly eat before coming. During that time I'll prepare some horses."

When I said that and Gwine came to her senses and said.

"Ah..I have two horses and a carriage but what should we do?"

Ah, come to think of it that was the case. And she said she still had some inventory remaining as well. Toris and Bel nodded to us and walked off. After all they still hadn't eaten. It seems they enjoyed themselves quite a bit last night...

"I guess that's true. Since we're normally entering the dungeon in Baldukk, if you don't need it right away it would probably be best to dispose of it but..No, if it's alright with you would mind if I buy them from you? It's fine if I add a bit to the market price."

"Hmn..But..No, I guess that would be better. Al-san, please do."

"Got it. I'll investigate the market price later so is it fine after that?"

"Also, in addition I wonder what I should do about my house.."

As expected I don't want to buy her house. No, it's not a problem of money. If it's something on that level then you can buy one for 10 gold coins. It's worn-down, and the location isn't good as well so it'll completely become a dying asset. Even if you put it up for sale I'm sure you wouldn't be able to find a buyer so easily.

"If you're thinking about selling it then I'm about to head to the government after this and see if they have any ideas on a real estate agent, so how about trying to ask about it there?"

When I say that and,

"Ah, I guess that's true."

and Gwine said that in agreement.

"Eh? That house, you're going to sell it? You've always lived in it right?"

Ralpa was a bit worried while she said that.

"Yeah, but, I thought about it yesterday. It would be fine to lend it to someone as well though. Searching for someone to rent it is..Ah, I guess it would be fine to ask at the real estate place huh?"

Gwine said that and came to terms with it on her own.

"Hm, it seems it would be best to stay in the capital for today as well. Ralpa, let's leave this inn."

"I guess so. Let's do that. Wakana, let me stay over tonight as well."

Ralpa said that while begging Gwine.

"That's fine but rather than Wakana call me Gwine. How many times have I said it? Since Wakana died, I have a name that father and mother gave me."

That's true.

"Eee~ Sorry sorry, I couldn't help it."

"Al-san how about you? Thanks to you yesterday I was able to talk to Ral about a lot of things, so you don't need to hold back."

While ignoring Ralpa as she apologized with her tongue stuck out, Gwine faced and said to me.

“That helps. Thanks. But, is it fine?”

“Eh? It’s fine..Well if it’s Al then you won’t do anything strange right. But you’re in a different room.”

Gwine and I know it’s a joke but Ralph is thoroughly an idiot who can’t read the mood, or at least that’s the face I think I was making.

.....

After that, I received an introduction from the government office and tried going to the real estate agency. A person called Baron Robun is managing the real estate agency himself. It seems to be a real estate agency that deals mostly with nobles. In regards to finding a buyer for Gwine’s house it seems they’ll be able to find one in a month or so. This is because there’s a lot of nobles in the capital who don’t have a territory and just make their living working for the government, obviously there’s people who aren’t very wealthy as well. It seems that there’s a demand for renting for nobles like that. Obviously it needs some maintenance though.

However, it seems that there was nothing for sale that met the conditions I was looking for in a headquarters for my company.

It can’t be helped, there’s no other choice than to try searching through a real estate agency aimed towards business. Otherwise, using the maintenance of the armor as an excuse in the worst case you could say it’s possibility to cry to the first knight group.

I spent a full day trying everything that was possible.

Tomorrow we’re all heading towards Baldukk. Since it’s conveniently a Saturday and a day off from exploring the dungeon, we’ll start again with challenging the dungeon starting from the day after tomorrow on Monday. This time, we are in possession of a secret weapon, so I’m sure we’ll quickly be able to advance through.

Just wait, I’ll show you we can quickly get a magic item that will earn us a ton of money!!

Chapter 106: Order

Year 7443, Month 3, Day 12

Today, once again I tried going to the real estate agency aimed towards businesses. If possible a building which has a storefront attached on the main street close to the castle would (Obviously enough space for one family to live is also necessary) be good. Since it will also act a work place it needs good water circulation, in other worlds a location where it's easy to use the drainage is desirable. I conveyed these conditions and said to contact me at the Boil Manor of Baldukk where I'm staying if something is found. I told them that if it was a purchase then 30,000,000 Z (30 gold coins), or lease then I'll pay up to 2,000,000 Z. This amount is slightly higher than the market price.

Since I said everything I wanted I quickly left the real estate agency but since I did a preliminary inspection of places that seemed to be good prospects it ended up eating quite a bit of time. During that time Gwine and the others went to Gwine's house and loaded all of her belongings for the time being into her carriage. I'm sure it's not a lot of stuff but it seems she's also going to discuss with an acquaintances company about taking over the grains and vegetable seeds remaining in inventory as well.

I was sure they would take a reasonable amount of time so I thought my business would finish sooner but they had already arrived at the meeting place. Since we didn't know at all how much time we would take we just vaguely set the meeting time to afternoon so it can't be helped but I felt a bit sorry I made the four of them wait. However, it seems they only arrived about 10 minutes before I did so it was perfect timing.

Looking at the carriage and their belongings are one backpack that seems to belong to Toris and this should be Gwine's stuff, there's two large baskets that seem to be came from rattan, three or four small baskets that I can see. They all seem to be made of knitted rattan and have a lid on them. As expected she has more belongings than Bel and Ralpa.

Furthermore, in regards to Gwine's horse and carriage, we ended up setting negotiations with me buying the two horses for 5,000,000 Z and 6,000,000 Z each, and the carriage for 2,000,000 Z for total of 13,000,000 Z. The reason the prices of the horses is different is because it varies based on their age. The average lifespan of a horse is around 30 years. It seems rarely there's individuals that live over 40 though.

One of the horses was 12 years old, the ideal age for working and breeding so it cost the highest level of money and the other horse is 20 years old so that reduced the price a bit but honestly it's still around 1,000,000 Z more expensive than the market price. The carriage was right on the market price. Gwine was grateful for it, but it's fine. If it's gratitude that can be bought with money then it's a good idea to buy it when the timing is right. Seeing that the three others each made different expressions. Obviously, it's an amount where I asked the market price at a horse merchant and added a bit of a bonus to that so I didn't seem like an idiot who doesn't know the market price, or at least I'll just say that.

After we finished up all of our business in the afternoon, it's finally time to depart to Baldukk.

Since the luggage has been reduced by quite a bit there's no problem with two on the coachman's seat and two in the back of the carriage. Yeah, well if I think about travel from here on out and while the price of the horses was a bit high it wasn't a bad purchase. Once I've made a headquarters for the company the convenience of having a carriage is completely different after all. Until then it'll be fine if I use it like this as a small bus.

We met up with Zenom and the others as they were pulling out of the dungeon before dinner and once again started doing introductions while we all had dinner. It's deviating from our usual plans but tomorrow morning we're to do cooperation training. It's because it's necessary to properly confirm Toris and Gwine's movements before we enter the dungeon.

It's probably dangerous to include Gwine in the combat potential for the time being but it's still necessary to see how she carries her body, her stamina, and speed. We're adventurers who have finally just peeked into the 4th floor but since I'm here we rarely ever run into situations where we're troubled with

combat or need to retreat. However, you never know what will happen in the dungeon.

It's not like every place has been explored after all, like that strange trap we've only run into once on the 2d floor, there's a countless number of unknown points in the dungeon. There's not even a perfect map of every corner of the 1st floor. I'm sure this would be different to produce even with Gwine's Unique Ability. Since she can only store information she's seen with her eyes in memory, it's the same that there's no information on traps after all.

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Year 7443, Month 3, Day 13

One day has passed and it's Monday, after breakfast we're all doing cooperation training. Toris was born in a Viscount family and it seems that sword techniques were pounded into him, but that night, it seems he lost to Bel in arm-wrestling so I remember him talking about it with a complicated face.

"Toris, Gwine, listen well to what I'm going to say. The sword and spear have several roughly decided forms. As a matter of fact there's only a handful number of forms you absolutely have to remember. Putting it simply just remember boxing. Jab and straight. The basic punches are these two. If you go into application then there's the hook, uppercut, but ultimately it's fine with just the jab and straight. It's crucial to first be able to use the jab accurately and look for the best timing to use a straight. If you can do this properly while you might not make it to champion you should be able to do decently. Is up to here fine?"

I show the way to punch with a shadow while saying that. While looking at the two of them nod I,

"In terms of the attacks of a punch those two are fine at the start. But, what you must never forget is the method of defense. Step, guarding with your arms, swaying, ducking, weaving, there's far more methods of defense than there are attack. Of course, there's also countless methods to move from defense to counterattack as well. That's why if you can just properly practice one or two fundamental attack methods, after that I think it's just a matter of polishing your technique to protect yourselves."

The two of them are making slightly discontent expressions.

“Hn, it seems that you don’t agree. Either one of you is fine, tell me the reason.”

I said that and shrugged my shoulders.

“If you were to attack the opponent and defeat them first can’t that be considered a valid method of defense?”

Toris said unsure.

“I’ve seen Toris-san fight against and defeat orks. Putting aside myself, is the style that Toris-san has used until now no good? I feel sorry that he’s practicing together with someone like me..”

Gwine said that right after Toris. In her case, she wants to say the reason why I’m putting emphasis on defense is because of her I’m sure.

“Hn, I see. First Toris, what you’re saying isn’t mistaken. They do say that offense is the greatest defense after all. However, if it’s an opponent strong enough to continue enduring your attacks, or rather, if an opponent good at defending comes out, what do you do? Leave your allies and run away? That’s not a mistake either. Since it’s all over if you die there. However, people who abandon their allies and run away lose their reliability with just that.”

I said that and Toris said in a panic.

“No way, there’s no way I would run away. I’ll give it my best.”

“Eh? Give it your best and do what? If you can’t land any attacks here and you haven’t properly trained in defense then you’ll quickly take an attack and get hurt. If it comes to that then running away immediately would be better. It’s much better than the body of someone who’s been injured being in the way or causing a burden for someone else trying to cover for them. What I’m trying to say isn’t not to give it your best. Use all of your power to give it your best and stretch out the time before you receive any injuries. Start off by putting in the effort for that sake.”

Toris was unable to think of what to say for a moment. During that time I face Gwine and said to her.

“Gwine, that’s not something for you to worry about. Listen well, I will definitely not make fun of the two of you. It’s just as you said Gwine, I’m sure you’re bad with fighting. But, I wouldn’t use that as a reason to make fun of you or look down on you. However, don’t overestimate things too much either. There’s often only one direction you can run in the dungeon. Depending on the case it’s even possible that you’ll have nowhere to run. Protect the direction of retreat and when there’s nowhere to run you endure until you can find a chance for counterattack. This is important. In the first place I don’t know Toris and Gwine’s ability yet either..”

Even then I’m sure Gwine respects Toris combat potential since he saved her right in front of her eyes, and I’m sure Toris has some confidence in the swordsmanship he learned at his house as well. It’s true that swordsmanship has protected him for these two years after all.

Though you know..this is just my prediction but if they were to fight one on one, I don’t think Toris would be an opponent for Zenom and Ralpa, but he would probably win against Bel, Zulu, and Angela. Honestly speaking, I’m doubtful even about that. Well, putting aside winning, I honestly don’t feel there’s much point in that.

There’s almost no cases where you would be fighting one on one in the dungeon and it’s the same for war.

At the very least from the stories I’ve heard from my parents, brother, and sister-in-law there’s almost no situations where it turns into one on one combat. Hmn, it might be difficult to put it into words. But I feel it’s a bit childish if I take him on as the opponent.

“Well, it’s fine. It’s true if you’re abilities, particularly Toris’s true skill is excellent then it’s all the better for us. Do you want to try a practice match?”

I cross my arms while saying. Honestly I can’t help but think of it as playing around but as long as he can understand it’s fine so it doesn’t matter what the chance is. Since we’ve only just started training everyone is still swinging their swords towards their opponent warming up their bodies.

Toris says confident and Gwine says nervously as the two of them nod and I called out to everyone to gather.

“Sorry about this, there was a bit of request from Toris and Gwine. They want to have a practice match. Is there anyone who wants to volunteer?”

Everyone is confused.

“Yeah, I thought to first confirm their abilities and then we can start training and confirm the details of our formations. Toris, is your weapon fine as the sword? Yeah. That’s right, then, Zulu, I’ll leave you to be Toris’s opponent. Angela you be Gwine’s opponent. Gwine it’s fine for you to use the spear...Toris, Zulu is around the middle in terms of ability among us five. Gwine, among us five Angela is the one with the lowest ability. Let’s try doing a one on one with each of us then...Are you ready? Start!”

It seems that Toris is a bit more skilled than Zulu but because of the difference in reach on their swords he’s unable to go on the attack. I’m sure Gwine isn’t used to fighting itself, Angela easily was able to close the distance and she lost. Zulu is still holding on. Avoiding a direct hit, occasionally using his two-handed sword as a shield, and focusing on defense. The only time he took an action like an attack was the first few hits and now he’s only using a couple feints here and there.

Zenom crosses his arms expressionless and after a short while Ralpa lost interest and is yawning, Bel is watching Toris and Zulu’s practice match with a stern expression. Since Gwine and Angela’s match ended right away because of our positions I can’t see what kind of faces they’re making.

Yeah, Toris will probably lose soon. It’s true he’s using a variety of attacks. And from a glance he seems to be trifling with Zulu with his speed. But, after Zulu noticed that Toris was above him in terms of pure skill with the sword he gave up on quick movements right away and focused on defense. Putting it frankly, in terms of quick movements in our party Zulu is one of the highest. Zulu can move beyond what I can tell simply just from the Speed value when identifying him.

He’s dodging Toris’s attacks with the minimum amount of movements and not moving around in a flashy way. It looks like Toris is pushing but it’s almost been over 5 minutes since he started moving. I’m sure his stamina will run out. Zulu is composed and just paying attention to any attacks that might be a fatal

blow. It should be pretty soon. The objective isn't for them to settle the practice match.

"Yes, the end."

While saying that I stabbed my wooden sword in between the two of them.

"Tori"Toris, do you understand?"

When I was going to talk my words overlapped with Bels. Nn~ Bel. I think that will just hurt Toris's pride. Stop there. I put my hand in front of Bel's face and interrupted her from saying anything more while I talked to Toris.

"You were above Zulu in terms of skill. However, the stamina of Laios are above that of an Elf or Human. It was difficult once Zulu switched to defense right?"

Toris bites his lip with a mortifying expression while saying.

"I couldn't cut in..Damn it."

"Yeah, that was unfortunate. Well, I'm sure you're tired, take a short rest."

I said that and turned around and said.

"Then, I guess so. Since Gwine and Angela don't seem all that tired..Gwine, was Angela strong?"

"Yeah, before I knew what was going on she was by my side and I was beaten.."

After hearing Angela was the weakest Gwine must have thought she had a bit of a chance but it seems it was a shock that it ended before she could do anything.

"That's right, Ralpa, team up with Angela and Bel. Bel don't use the bow. Just the sword. Zenom team up with Gwine and do a 3v2 practice match. I'll give Zenom and Gwine just one minute to come up with a plan. Ralpa you guys are goblins."

Goblin is a specialty term we use during training meaning "no cooperating, free combat". Even if your ally standing next to you falls into danger, you just keep trying to attack the enemy in front of you ignoring it as the tactic. After

hearing that it seems everyone understood the meaning. Zenom approached Gwine and seems to be teaching her what to do. Behind me Toris is talking to Zulu.

“Hey~ About how strong is that Zenom-san?”

“Among us he’s the next strongest after master.”

“..I guess that’s true..After that it’s all women..And, eh? ZULu, he said you were in the center of the five. You aren’t the next strongest after Zenom-san?”

“Yes, after Zenom-san is Ral. After that is barely me. Koloil-sama is a bit more than me..that is, I think it would be best to say I’m one step above Koloil-sama in close combat. Angela is a bit behind us.”

“Hn..Is that how it is..”

Well just watch. The true ability of Zenom who spent countless years protecting and raising Ralpa on his own.

It’s been about one minute.

“Then, let’s go. Start!”

When it comes to axes we couldn’t just make a wooden dummy of them. Since there’s a lot of techniques that make use of their weight, or more accurately there’s too many attack methods which depend on precise use of the blade. Of course there’s also the method of making use of the weight and hitting with the peak as well.

Well, putting aside the pain I can heal their wounds right away, and it’s not like they’re going to hit strong enough to cut off any limbs so even during training only Zenom and Ralpa are using their hand-axes the same usual. Since Zenom can use the sword as well I thought he would use the wooden sword but since he’s essentially doing 1v3 against reasonably strong opponents today he gave up on the reach and went with the weapon he’s used to I’m sure.

It was easy to identify what Zenom told to Gwine right away. Gwine stands in a position where she’s using Zenom as a shield and while Zenom takes on the weapon of the opponent with his axe, only when their posture has collapsed he instructed her to attack with the spear. It seems that Zenom himself has already

decided not to attack the opponents himself and is focusing only on defense and interfering with the opponent.

Well if that wasn't the case, then no matter how crude the coordination is in their movements there's not many people who could take on three adventurers alone. Even if they have a weapon defeating several people who have weapons is generally unreasonable unless there's a large difference in skill. It would be different if they're normally training in preparation of taking on multiple opponents but even that's just an extension to the amount of time they can hold out.

For starters, Angela took Gwine's spear twice and retreated the battle. But, after all it seems that the fatigue is building up for Zenom who's evading, receiving, and parrying the attacks of three people. Even though I say that, it was great that they managed to defeat Angela who has the longest and most troublesome reach with her broadsword first. It should have gotten much easier with that.

With this the chances of Bel and Ralpa winning are close to none for as long as Zenom can hold out. Zenom's ability is above them. Since it's two on one they still have the advantage but trying to land a valid hit on Zenom when he's focusing on defense and they're not allowed to cooperate is a bit difficult. Zenom is using the hand-axe in his right hand to parry the thrusts from Bel's short sword and his left hand to keep the axe Ralpa is swinging around in check, and occasionally putting in some blows to the handle of Ralpa's axe or her hand in order to shift its trajectory.

I'm sure Gwine is doing just as she planned with Zenom, whenever the opponent's guard is down after being parried by Zenom she thrusts in with her spear. Ralpa and Bel have already taken Gwine's spear once each. I'm sure it'll end soon.

I looked at Toris who was still sitting on the ground. He's looking at the practice match with a serious face. Judging from that look he probably has started to understand. After returning my gaze to the practice match and it was just as Gwine was hitting Bel with the spear. And then Zenom immediately went on the offensive and since his ability is higher on top of being 2v1. Ralpa was defeated in no time at all.

“Yes~ It’s Zenom and Gwine’s victory.”

I declared that before identifying everyone once again. It doesn’t seem like anyone has suffered any major injuries. As expected of Zenom. I guess it’s because Zulu and Angela have been coached by Zenom for this past month or so, I somehow feel like their skill with the sword is going up.

“Toris, do you understand now? Unless there’s a huge difference in skill between the swordsman in front of you, there’s no need to attack the opponent. In our case, the ones who attack are Bel and I. Of course if the opponent is something weak like goblins or gnolls then as long as they don’t let their guard the front-line can attack if they find the chance, and as a matter of fact they’re finishing them off pretty often like that.

However, when it comes to Orks or Hobgoblins the opponent comes with a reasonable amount of cooperation as well, if you defeat one or two of them then they immediately start to retreat. If it comes to that the earnings from magic stones decreased. It’s reasonably difficult to completely wipe them out without using our heads like matching up the timing to finish them all off at once without even giving them a chance to retreat, or Bel and I use magic together.”

Toris honestly nodded.

“Yeah. And so. While Toris is holding out and remaining his ground Bel is safe during that time. She can safely shoot an arrow. There’s nothing more foolish than you trying to get an attack in on the opponent only to take an attack from someone else. There’s no need to attack the person in front of you unless the timing ensures you’ll be fine. If you were to use an extreme argument you don’t even need a weapon. It’s effective to just be standing there properly holding a shield.

“It’s a weird expression but it’s not a computer game” so even a light injury will cause your movements to dull and make it easier to get tired. Even the pain shaves away at your concentration. That’s why the most important thing is to remain standing without receiving any injuries.”

Toris is nodding seriously. It seems he was properly able to understand it.

“That’s why when it comes to sword techniques other than the basic ones the

ones that are useful for defending are effective. Like Zenom just did..In his case it's an axe though, learning how to block and parry are first. Techniques for attacking are fine to learn after that. However, just don't misunderstand this. I have no intention of making light of a one on one fight, and I know the importance of attacking as well. What I want to say is nothing more than the order of importance."

Well, I guess this is about right. If he properly understands then there should be no problem.

"Sorry about interrupting. Then let's do it like him as well."

I said that and opened my mouth to Toris and Gwine again.

"Let alone the basics of attacking, Toris has even been able to use it in application so his training will focus on defense. That basic thrust of Gwine's is plenty as an attack for now. I'm sure what necessary is the decision-making and how to use your body to prevent the opponent from getting near you."

I said that and took the wooden sword in my hand.

"Then I'm the villain. While Toris is enduring my attacks, Gwine you try to find an opening to stab me with your spear. For Toris is essential for you to try and create openings in my stand while you're focusing on defense. It's fine if Gwine can thrust into that opening after all. Oh~ come to think of it I didn't mention it. The greatest advantage is to take on your opponent with a greater number than them. It's the ideal method of fighting to surround an individual with a group and beat them from every side. It sounds cheap but this is reality."

I said that and started their training in cooperation.

.....

After finishing training and eating some lunch, including Gwine and Toris, the eight of us descended into the dungeon. For the time being there's the matter of the map so I don't intend to aim for a very deep floor. The most important thing is to finish producing the map of the 3rd floor which is only half complete. There's still blank spaces remaining on the 1st and 2nd floors but compared to the 3rd floor it's only a small portion and there's not really any fatal traps so it's fine to just put off.

On our way to the 3rd floor it should be fine if we only add to the map when we luckily(?) teleport into an unexplored area.

For the first time in a while we spent a night in the teleport room of the 2nd floor while teleporting into the 3rd floor over and over.

Right now if Gwine uses {Mapping} just once for roughly one hour she can remember everything she sees. I was once again shown the influence of that. Even Zenom was shocked by how she was casually drawing every twist and turn she saw while we just kept walking around during the short breaks.

I stealthily tried asking and it seems that she's understood her Unique Ability quite a bit and is doing nothing more than transcribing the contents of something like a map in her head. I wonder if she originally had some skill as an artist? It feels strangely good.

With no particular problems in combat we wiped out every enemy we came across. It truly feels like we're meeting up to our name as the {Slaughterers}. Putting aside Toris, I thought Gwine would be disgusted by taking magic stones from the corpses of monsters, but it seems she didn't think much about it at all. Since she's been brought around peddling with her parents since she was an infant, she said she's occasionally seen the escorting adventurers fighting monsters or the take magic stones from them.

If it's like this then in 2–3 months we might really be able to produce a really accurate map of the 3rd floor.

Chapter 107: A New Mystery

Year 7443, Month 4, Day 20

There's no problem with combat and no problem with producing the map as well. The only the thing we need to be cautious of is the positioning of traps. Since Toris and Gwine joined us traps, or rather it's limited to pitfalls but I thought of a strange method around them. I create water with water magic and stretch it out extremely long and thin with a depth of a few centimeters following along the passage. Since combat hasn't been very difficult either I use the magic {Light} without restraint as well. If there's a pitfall then the water will drip down into it so if you go close-by it's easy to tell. After I thought of this method the efficiency in our exploration dramatically went up.

We've filled in to the point where only 20–30% of blank space is remaining on our map of the 3rd floor. That means in barely a month we were able to fill in close to half of it, it's a miraculous pace. We were able to fill in a small portion of the blank spaces on the 1st and 2nd floors as well. Though we're only moving through the 1st and 2nd floors to pass by but thanks to Gwine's Unique Ability the scattered scaling issues of the map that made it difficult to use have been improved a bit.

The newcomers levels have increased as well. Particularly Gwine who's level was low, I've been giving her priority in earning experience points so her level has suddenly risen. At first when I started to let just her kill monsters I used, "since she's lacking in combat experience so in order for her to get used to killing faster" as a retarded sounding reason but it seems that everyone had some ideas on what I was doing so they agreed with it.

Particularly Ralpha said,

"Ah, I get that. I disliked killing goblins when I was little as well. It took quite a bit of time to swing a weapon at a living opponent without hesitation... On my first time I just got lost in it so I was able to do it but a short while after that I

became afraid of swinging my Nata.”

You, so you used a Nata when you were a child. I’m sure it’s lighter than an axe so it’s fine though. Bel as well said,

“That’s right. Though the first thing I killed was a wild rabbit with the bow though. I hated it a bit. Though since it was for the sake of eating I was able to come to terms with it right away.”

It was only the reincarnated people but everyone made a face that said “well that’s cannibalism after all”, Zenom, Zulu, and Angela just nodded. After that Bel said,

“Maruso, how was it for you? I want to hear your opinion as a woman as well.”

and brought Angela into the conversation but,

“Since the first killing I did was in the dungeon..I just obeyed by the orders of my master at that time, so I didn’t feel anything in particular..”

and responded with a composed face. Well unless it’s someone who was raised in the town the people of Orth get used to killing a lot of animals while they’re children. Strangling the chickens you keep at your house and helping out with slaughtering the pigs kept in the neighborhood are common occurrences. In Bakuddo the Dokush family had a monopoly on hunting but if it’s a village with no hunting specialist then it’s not hard to imagine that something like the lord or squires hunting game while patrolling around being a daily occurrence. Even Toris

“Yeah, I hunted a White-Hair Deer as well. That was delicious. However, when the arrows o the squires hit the White-Hair deer to finish them off the first couple of times I threw up.”

said that. Zulu and Angela were a bit surprised hearing Bel and Toris conversation. It was as though they think that hunting game or killing livestock for the sake of eating doesn’t even enter the realm of killing.

“Gwine, I think you already know but if you aren’t used to killing things then the stress accumulates. It’s true you’ve seen adventurers kill monsters from nearby and said you’ve seen them disassemble them as well but there’s a big

difference between seeing and actually doing it with your own hands. However, there's no other way than to take care of this as it comes by and in the end it will connect to your ability to make decisions when your own life is in danger. In regards to this regardless of what you wish for, I can't afford to listen, so in the first place I won't ask your way of thinking on it. I'll use my authority from the contract. Just think of this as an order from your employer. That's why, if you feel any kind of strong stress just think it can't be helped because it's my order."

"Yes, but I think it will be fine."

Gwine properly looked at my eyes while responding. But, when it comes to this there's no other way than to actually try putting it into practice...

"I see, then that's good. Now, since it's Toris and Gwine's first time in the dungeon, you never know what will come out at first.."

I said that and used the spell {Audible Clamor} to call out a group of monsters and they normally stabbed the goblins from the edges, killed them, and gathered the magic stones without a single complaint. As expected it's waste of time to gather magic stones from goblins so I stopped them but it seems my fear was just needless anxiety.

.....

Since brother and the others should be coming to the capital again near the end of this month to deliver armor, after that's over I intend to start seriously challenging the 4th floor. Incidentally, there's still no contact from the real estate agency in the capital. Since it's not common for a good location to empty out, it seems that they're investigating the owner of building in a good location and searching for those who are leasing the building from it's owner. The management situation of their store doesn't look very good so they're looking even deeper into information on their situation of paying rent. It would be the greatest if they go into default.

If we use that as a reason to negotiate with the landlord and either buy the building or pay several years of rent in advance then it seems something can be done about it. However, I wonder if a store in a good location of that huge city would really fall into enough of a management slump to be unable to pay the

rent? I'm a bit doubtful about things around that area.

Well in regards to the real estates acquisition the location meets the conditions, and above else it's a story that already has a candidate. There's nothing that can be done by getting impatient so I'll just hold out on that one. I'm sure there's no need for me to do anything careless. If it seems like they really aren't able to do anything about it this year, then it's just a matter of prostrating myself before the knight group or royalty or something.

Rather than that, what I'm interested in is that one other reincarnated person that I think exists. I thought it was Gwine that I saw at the end of the year but she said, "That might be the case but I don't remember." Of course if it was her then there's no problem. However, it might have been a different adventurer than her.

However, it's my true feelings that I want to secure as many reincarnated people as I can. In the first place what I caught a glimpse of might have been Gwine, and since I have no proof that it was a different person, it's a problem though I feel wasting anymore time on it would be difficult. If I knew for sure it was a different person even if it wastes some time I could have moved to secure them but...

There's the possibility of setting up a net again and trying to search for the adventurer or merchant reincarnated person I saw at the end of the year as well. However, in comparison to previously our numbers have increased by two all at once, and I don't feel we're lacking in any combat potential in the dungeon right now so I can't bring myself to decide on setting up a net again. Although, I think the possibility is low that the same methods as now will keep working enemies on the 4th and 5th floors so sooner or later I feel like I might setup another net again.

The leader of Black Topaz Anderson said once upon a time,

"Be careful of the ice monster. It's an ice monster that's normally on the 5th floor and it breathes an ice breath. In order to oppose it you need at least level 4 high ranking fire magic."

said something along those lines, I still haven't forgotten. If the ice breath is simply something physical, or something magical is unknown but (the fact that

it's a breath of ice makes me feel like it's magic though) if it's freezing with magic or something close to that it would be trouble if you were caught by surprise. If it has a large scale or there's a lot of distance between my allies then I don't know if I'd have enough MP for {Anti-Magic Field}.

If it was 10 or 20 times then honestly it's no problem, but if several of them came at us at the same time then it would be quite troublesome. If while I'm erasing the ice with {Anti-Magic Field} (It's fine to use {Fire Wall} or {Flame Thrower} to melt it as well but I'm sure that would take some time) more and more ice keeps being made then my resistance would end up powerless and it's possible everyone would suffocate frozen in ice.

Anyhow since I don't know how much mana the opponent would put into the ice they're making I would have to use a larger amount of MP with my {Anti-Magic Field}, in the worst case, it's in the worst case but if it's ice which isn't magic then the only method for me to melt it would be to take the time to melt it using {Flame Thrower}. Well, in a time like that I should just quickly throw a {Fire Ball} or {Stone Javelin Missile} in to kill it and then slowly melt it...in the case that they're frozen in real ice, and I can't erase it all at once the possibility of suffocating to death still remains huh...

However even if they're the top team in Baldukk, there's no way they'd have anyone who has more MP than me and furthermore has a higher level magic special skill so I think it's fine not to worry about. Just in case I would make sure we're extra careful..No wait, Black Topaz never said they've defeated the ice monster either. Just the same as other normal adventurers they should particularly be avoiding combat with the monsters on a deep floor like the 5th floor. It's difficult to come up with an idea though.

.....

Year 7443, Month 4, Day 25

Brother and the others came to deliver armor. I thought they didn't need to come on Monday but I guess that can't be helped. There's no doubt that being able to meet brother and the squires of Bakuddo again is something welcome so I'm honestly happy.

For the time being, I told them I was searching for a place to make into the

headquarters for Greed Company and finding a good location in the capital is difficult. Even if it comes to paying a higher price for it, if the other side has no intention of selling then I still wouldn't be able to buy, and it's not something that I absolutely need to hurry with so I intend to look at it over the long-term.

I guess she heard from Ralpa and Bel but Gwine was concerned about older brother. You, sure fall for people easily. Since Gwine dyed her hair yellow-green I can't help but make the comparison between her and sister-in-law Shani. I haven't seen sister-in-law's face recently but I think that no matter who sees them they would think that sister-in-law is more beautiful. It's unfortunate but even if you and Ralpa compete for the position of second wife, for completely different reasons I think that neither of you have any chance.

Bel might be able to put up a resistance but her race is different and in the first place brother doesn't seem like he's willing to take interest in any other women than sister-in-law for now. Near the end of last year Bel was squealing over brother as well but since Toris is here now she seems composed. By the way Toris dyed his hair deep green.

We go to the first knight group's headquarters in the capital and finish up deliveries to the people of the third company.

We took orders for the next time as well but this time it seems like they had already organized it ahead of time so there was no chaos. Other than the sub-commander Sub-Baron Bittwaz, first company commander Viscount Gendail (this person seems to be the son of high ranking noble Marquis Gendail), and second company commander Viscount Balkisas, our primary customers this time were members of the first company. Duke Ronbard (the King's eldest son a 26 year old new knight) was included in that as well.

Afterwards I asked sister about it together with brother and I was able to understand quite a bit about the military system of Rombert Kingdom. Since brother and I were from the countryside we didn't understand it well but the system of the kingdom's army is almost like the modern day army and social standing(noble ranking) is almost unrelated. It seems that the class (ranking) inside of the army is what matters. Even though I say that it seems that in the case of the first prince, Duke Ronbard his highness Richard is too special of a case so they're still paying him a reasonable amount of respect.

Since I wanted to make use of it as a reference from here on out I loudly pestered brother and sister and was able to hear various things. They're roughly using combat units as a standard but in the case it's not a combat unit the class drops a bit, it seems that it's normal for promotion to be more difficult.

- The rankings start with the King at the 1st ranking 1st level and goes down to the 9th ranking 4th level at the lowest. It seems that as all of the numbers get lower they're more important.

- The 9th ranking is fundamentally what I know of as the Private in the SDF, and the combatants are infantry, those other than combatants are close to what you'd call underlings. Furthermore, it's a ranking which only exists in the fourth knight group of the permanent army and there's no knight group like the Webdos knight group. It's different from father a commander of a dispatch unit of yeoman as well. There's also something which Bakuddo didn't have where they draft Free People, basically combat slaves included in this ranking. The 9th ranking goes from the 1st level to the 4th level and the level changes the number of times you participate in a war(conflict) but even if your level is high that doesn't mean you have the authority to order soldiers who are lower than you. It almost never happens but when there's a large war between countries the number of these surges.

- The 8th ranking basically be the dispatch units of yeoman like Bakuddo that are essentially infantryman. In terms of the SDF I guess it would be something like a 3rd Sergeant or a low-class non-commission officer. In the permanent army they would be between the second knight group and fourth knight group during times of peace. It might be easier to think they get promoted from the 9th ranking or are infantryman who are above the commoner standing. The 8th ranking has levels between 1 and 4 as well and they can increase based on the number of times participating in war (conflict). It seems that you can be promoted to it from the 9th ranking with no problem. Normally it's the ranking with the largest number of people.

- The 7th ranking is the non-commissioned officers who are slightly above. In terms of SDF I guess it would be around 1st or 2nd Sergeant. As a matter of fact

the authority to give commands based on ranking starts from here. In terms of the Bakuddo dispatch troops it would be about the Head Squire. In the permanent army they're in all knight groups including the first knight group. Only in the first knight group they're not as combatants but the lowest ranking of supply units or rear members. It seems for other knight groups from the second to the fourth they're the lowest ranking of squires here. The infantry of squires in the Webdos knight group would be included in this ranking as well. It's the same for Free People and commoners so there's no discrimination. If Kuro and Mary were to go to war then in the permanent army they would be treated as the 7th ranking I'm sure. It seems that there's levels 1 to 3 for the 7th ranking. In order to get promoted there's obviously participating in conflicts but it seems that an academic exam comes out as well.

- The 7th ranking would be a ranking that is the equivalent of the sergeant major in the SDF. It might be better to call them the squad commanders. If we were to try and forcibly apply it to the Bakuddo dispatch troops then it would apply to mother. In terms of the second to fourth knight groups and the Webdos knight group this is where the true knights would belong. An academic test is necessary to get promoted. Only the squires of the first knight group get to start here. There's levels from the 5th to the 1st on the 6th ranking. Also, it's important but they're only allowed to ride on horseback from this ranking. That means that brother retired at this lowest ranking. Regardless of whether they're combat slaves there are those in the fourth knight group that have achieved this ranking it seems. Obviously their owner is the King though.

- The 5th ranking in terms of the SDF would be around the 2nd or 3rd warrant officer. In terms of the Bakuddo dispatch troops the commander father would end up here. It seems in terms of the Webdos knight group they would be the company commanders and platoon commanders. It seems that the new knights in the first knight group start in this ranking. This ranking is the most complicated and it even has levels from 1 to 9 but it's not like the number of them is particularly high. In the case of most knight groups it seems that people with noble rankings start around here. It seems that sister has been promoted to the 5th ranking 6 level right now.

- The 4th ranking I guess would be somewhere around the 1st warrant officer in the SDF. In terms of Webdos knight group it would be either the company commander or sub-commander. In the first knight group those at the level of platoon commander are qualified for this. Putting it frankly, in order to be promoted higher than this ranking you normally need to make some pretty big achievements in war. It has levels from 1 to 5. It seems that from the 3rd or fourth knight groups there's Free People who achieved this that were commanders of infantry as well. (Of course, they received investiture as knights so there's no problem for them to ride horses).

- The 3rd ranking in terms of JSD I guess you could say it's something between the colonel and major. Something like a regiment commander or battalion commander. In terms of Webdos knight group it would be the commander. Though it's only at the level of a company commander for the first knight group. They have levels from the 1st to the 4th. It seems that starting from here there's only a dozen of them in the country.

- The 2nd ranking would probably be the lieutenant general. It might be better to consider them the normal division commander or general. They're the commander classes from the second to fourth knight groups. In terms of first knight group there's only the sub-commander and the veteran company commander that is Viscount Gendail. There's enough that you can count them on one hand. It seems there's only levels from 1 to 3.

- The 1st ranking would be the general or above. In the kingdom the commander of the first knight group is the 1st ranking level 2 and the King is the 1st ranking level 1, so in total there's only two of them. Since there's only a land-army this should be fine.

Since the rankings inside of the army are fundamentally regulated like that noble ranking is unrelated. Of course, respect is paid in terms of noble ranking as well but the authority to give orders based on ranking is different. It seems that the founding King Thomas Rombert the First strictly set it in national law those no matter the reason it must not be changed. Somehow I'm really starting to be suspicious if the founding king was really a person of Orth but it seems that the motive for it was being troubled by some stupid nobles so I

think if it's a person that can make it as King they at least need to be wise enough to come up with something like this.

This is completely different from the surrounding countries and it seems it also differs in how much power the nobility has in the army based on their ranking. It seems it's true just as God said, among the countries in this world Rombert Kingdom is one that's quite a head in terms of culture.

She explained to me the promotion system was the core of the system of knight groups in the kingdom but according to brother it seems that noble ranking had a reasonable amount of importance in the Webdos knight group as well. For example, even if brother had continued to remain in the Webdos knight group like that it would have been almost impossible to become the commander. Even if he gives it his best and makes numerous achievements it would be a matter of whether he can make it to sub-commander, basically.

After that I also heard about the organization of each force of knight groups but only the first knight groups singularity stood out. I don't know if the word knight group is a bad choice or I misunderstood a lot of it. A knight group in terms of the SDF would be a type of denomination referring to a regiment under each branch of the army. The ones belonging to it aren't just knights. It might be closer to think of it as a different name for the infantryman. Of course, it's not as if there aren't any exclusive squires like pages obeying knights. In fact, in the surrounding countries it seems it's just as the name sounds.

However, in the Kingdom of Rombert a knight is "someone above an officer in the army that is allowed to ride a horse". Obviously there's an infantry troop made up of squires and combat slaves as well and regardless of whether they're riding horses they're called knights as well. Well in most cases they seem to be on horseback. In this case it might be because they need to be at a high point to give orders out in a loud voice. There's a supply unit as well and while there number is few there's a unit with just archers as well.

It seems that in the normal knight groups the knights make up the smallest number. It seems that there's a lot of people like squires and those who aren't even combatants but only the first knight group has more knights than squires. If you generally look at the first knight group then more than half of their members are knights and squire combatants, the rear units don't even make up

half their numbers. If we were to suppose that the first knight group were to be fully dispatched, the large portion of the squires would be distributed to guarding the rear units, and the only combatants would be the true knights and a handful of squires. The combat force of a knight group is made up only of cavalry, which is an unit organization distorted frighteningly towards only attack.

I guess this is because they work under the assumption that combat won't take place with only the first knight group. It might be closer to think of them as the special attack forces or a dispatch organization for experienced commanders and staff officers during war. In some meanings you could say that the first knight group of Rombert Kingdom is a military school with synthesized courses for commanders, staff officers, and individual combat, in addition to being the most elite live combat unit. In terms of Earth it's an extremely advanced way of thinking around the 20th century.

It seems it's difficult for the countryside on the Jindal peninsula like Marquis Webdos territory to accept that way of thinking so noble ranking still has a lot of influence in things. That's must be why they put importance on individual combat ability in order to not be looked down on by members of the first knight group but you can tell they've thought to an abnormal level for Orth about making practical use of the organization.

I see now, this sort of armed forces, warm climate, and fertile land must have made it into the largest country on the western edge of the Oladd continent.

It's said that Rombert the First found his treasure in the dungeon of Baldukk and started to move towards founding Rombert Kingdom when he was close to 30 years old. It seems it took him 10 years to found it. That Saito Dosan managed to take control over Mino when he was in his mid-40s. Even Hojo Soun took quite a bit of time. It's true I'm in possession of the Gift of Natural Talent but I think comparing myself to Saito Dosan and Hojo Soun is rude to them. Even after receiving two Unique Abilities I'm finally equal or a bit below them.

More so, if I'm going to create a small country on the side of a large country like Rombert Kingdom then I'd like to maintain on good terms with Rombert.

Since my parents, older brother couple, and sister are being used in the Rombert army there's no better choice than avoiding making it into an enemy.

I didn't have that sort of intention from the start either way but I thought that once again while seeing off brother and the others on their way home.

By the way, the level of my **【Gift of Natural Talent】** has reached MAX.

I realized something important here. Since **【Gift of Natural Talent】** reached MAX I feel like the experience points I earn towards magic are included in the increase from **【Gift of Natural Talent】**. I tried opening the Identify sub-window of **【Gift of Natural Talent】** again and checked it.

【Unique Ability: Gift of Natural Talent; Increases the amount of experience points obtained in relation to the level of the ability. The increase is 20% per level. It's cut off at the decimal point. The expanded ability at MAX level is the increase of experience points applies to Special Skills as well.】

What? "expanded ability at MAX level" it says? Since I'm not normally looking at the sub-windows so I didn't notice it...Bel and Toris's Unique Abilities were already at MAX level when I first met them and I properly checked the Identify sub-window at that time. I tried Identifying them again but I couldn't find anything different. What in the world does this mean. It's true that a sentence that wasn't in the details of identifying my **【Gift of Natural Talent】** until now has increased. I wonder why? Since Bel and Toris were already at level MAX when I met them, it seems there's a high possibility that the identify details of their Unique Abilities had increased from the start.

But still, mine had the sentence "expanded ability at MAX level" added. There was nothing like that at all written on Bel's **【Shooting Intuition】** or Toris's **【Scale】**. Is it a special ability that only **【Gift of Natural Talent】** has? Well, I think it might be normal to think of it that way.

I wonder what in the world I should make of this. I feel like it's necessary to verify it. If I have the chance I'll try asking Bel. I need to be careful of the way I ask her. However, there's one other valid verification method as well. After all I have two Unique Abilities. My **【Identify】** is level MAX as well. Before I try confirming with anyone else it's a strong point of mine that I can verify it myself. There was nothing that had particularly changed in the Unique Ability

sub-window for 【Identify】. I wonder if this “expanded ability at MAX level” only exists for 【Gift of Natural Talent】?

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Year 7443, Month 8, Day 20

And the season is soon to reach summer once again. I’m sure it’s thanks to the expansion of 【Gift of Natural Talent】 but my Void Magic has finally reached MAX. We guess that we’ve already filled in close to 70% of the map of the 4th floor as well. It’s thanks to the normal method of using a fire-starter magic tool but Toris and Gwine have started to be able to use Void Magic as well. In terms of level I’m 17 close to 18, Zenom is 17, Ralpha is 12, Bel is 12, Toris 11, Gwine is 10, Zulu is 12, and Angela is 11 close to 12.

I feel like it’s about a good time to start aiming for the 5th floor.

However, the matter of my Unique Ability hitting MAX level still remains a mystery.

【Bernadette.Koloil/4/4/7429 】
【Female/14/2/7428 ▪ Rabbit-People ▪ Sub-Baron Koloil Family Second Daughter】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 15 Years Old】
【Level: 12】
【HP: 115(115) MP: 80(80)】
【Strength: 16】
【Speed: 24】
【Dexterity: 17】
【Endurance: 16】
【Unique Ability: Shooting Intuition(MAX)】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic(Lv.3)】
【Special Ability: Water Magic(Lv.3)】
【Special Ability: Fire Magic(Lv.3)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.4)】
【Experience: 214492(270000)】

*Bel's MP increased a decent amount in the same way as Al during the first level up. Her abilities are slightly lower matching with her racial characteristics.

【Gulinel.Akdam/2/7/7429 】
【Female/14/2/7428 · Dwarf · Rombert Kingdom Duke Rombert Territory
Registered Free Person】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 15 Years Old】
【Level: 10】
【HP: 110(110) MP: 22(22)】
【Strength: 19】
【Speed: 13】
【Dexterity: 23】
【Endurance: 18】
【Unique Ability Mapping (Lv. 8)】
【Special Ability: Wind Magic(Lv.1)】
【Special Ability: Fire Magic(Lv.1)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.2)】
【Special Ability: Infrared Vision】
【Experience: 137869(150000)】

【Torkelis.Kalstalan/13/5/7429 】
【Male/14/2/7428 · Elf · Viscount Kalstalan Family Third Son】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 15 Years Old】
【Level: 11】
【HP: 117(117) MP: 36(36)】
【Strength: 16】
【Speed: 22】
【Dexterity: 19】
【Endurance: 17】
【Unique Ability: Scale (MAX)】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic(Lv.1)】
【Special Ability: Water Magic(Lv.1)】
【Special Ability: Wind Magic(Lv.1)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.2)】

【Special Ability: Infrared Vision】

【Experience: 151862(210000)】

【Ralpha.Firefreed/25/12/7429】

【Female/14/2/7428 ▪ Human ▪ Firefreed Family Eldest Daughter】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 15 Years Old】

【Level: 12】

【HP: 121(121) MP: 15(15)】

【Strength: 17】

【Speed: 22】

【Dexterity: 20】

【Endurance: 19】

【Unique Ability: Spatial Understanding (Lv.6)】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic (Lv. 2)】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic (Lv. 2)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic (Lv. 3)】

【Experience: 255942(270000)】

*Since none of Ralpha's levels until 7 entered MP her HP and other abilities are a bit high.

【Zenom.Firefreed/5/4/7416】

【Male/19/1/7402 ▪ Dwarf ▪ Firefreed Family Head】

【Condition: Good】

【Age: 41 Years Old】

【Level: 17】

【HP: 124(124) MP: 9(9)】

【Strength: 25】

【Agility: 10】

【Dexterity: 27】

【Endurance: 21】

【Special Skill: Infrared Eyesight】

【Special skill: Small Magic】

【Experience: 693841(810000)】

*Some decreases due to aging

【Dadino.Zulu/3/6/7442 Dadino.Zulu/20/7/7422 】
【Male/24/5/7421 ▪ Lion-People Race ▪ Viscount Greed Family Owned Slave】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 22 Years Old】
【Level: 12】
【HP: 126(126) MP: 5(5)】
【Strength: 22】
【Speed: 20】
【Dexterity: 12】
【Endurance: 19】
【Special Ability: Small Magic】
【Special Ability: Instant Speed】
【Special Ability: Night Vision】
【Experience: 233024(270000)】
*Some increases due to age

【Maruso.Angela/15/8/7442 Maruso.Angela/12/8/7422 】
【Female/14/9/7422 ▪ Dog-People Race ▪ Viscount Greed Family Owned Slave】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 21 Years Old】
【Level: 11】
【HP: 104(104) MP: 5(5)】
【Strength: 15】
【Speed: 19】
【Dexterity: 12】
【Endurance: 17】
【Special Ability: Small Magic】
【Special Ability: Super Sense of Smell】
【Experience: 208809(210000)】

【Alan.Greed/5/3/7429】
【Male/14/2/7428 ▪ Human ▪ Viscount Greed Family Second Son】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 15 Years Old】
【Level: 17】
【HP: 148(148) MP: 7434(7434)】

- 【Strength: 24】
- 【Speed: 30】
- 【Dexterity: 22】
- 【Endurance: 24】
- 【Unique Ability: Identify (MAX)】
- 【Unique Ability: Gift of Natural Talent (MAX)】
- 【Special Ability: Earth Magic (Lv. 8)】
- 【Special Ability: Water Magic (Lv. 8)】
- 【Special Ability: Fire Magic (Lv. 8)】
- 【Special Ability: Wind Magic (Lv. 8)】
- 【Special Ability: Void Magic (MAX)】
- 【Experience: 807624(810000)】

Chapter 108: Zenom

Year 7443, Month 8, Day 21

Today is Wednesday so it's the day we have off. Normally I'd take Zulu along as escort while practicing magic on the 1st floor or earning some experience points but it seems my plans for today are going to change a bit. After eating breakfast and just as I was about to head out to my usual stuff fully equipped at Boil Manor. There was a knock on the door and after looking outside the apprentice of Boil Manor informs me of a visitor.

I don't have any ideas as to who it is but it might be another person who wants to join my party that's increased in number recently. Nevertheless, it might be a member of the first knight group who needs some urgent maintenance to their armor as well. I wonder if the latex in sister's repair kit has run out?

Last month brother and the others brought me quite a bit of it when they came for deliveries so I have quite a bit of surplus, it might be good to quickly do some repairs and earn some small change, thinking that I went to the front and there was a middle-aged dwarf I don't remember seeing before accompanied by a young Laios man who is probably a servant waiting for me. Judging from his appearance and physique I doubt he's related to the knight group or an adventurer that wants to join my part. I wonder if he's a person related to the finances of the knight group? Even then he doesn't seem like he's related to the army.

"I'm Greed but.."

I called out to him like to catch his attention.
The man turned around to face me and politely lowered his head to greet me.

"It's nice to meet you, my name is Yohen Logflat. I run a certain store in the capital. I would like to talk with you for a bit but is it convenient for you right now?"

and said that confirming my situation.

Is this man, that I guess? Did he come to directly negotiate with me in regards to the matter of a headquarters for Greed Company? I tried Identifying him and he's the head of Sub-Baron Logflat family. His level is 10 which is decently high but he's already 45 years old. I guess he misunderstood I was looking at the Laios man next to him when I glanced to his side to check the identify window but Sub-Baron Logflat opened his mouth again.

"Ah, this person is my guard and slave. Please don't mind them."

I see, so he's bringing around a combat slave as a guard? I thought the capital and it's surroundings were safe but since I've never seen the head of a noble family walking around in the middle of town so I wonder if this is normal? or at least I decided to think that and not worry about it. But, as expected it's hard to think that the head of a noble family would come all the way here from the capital without an escort, so I guess it's only obvious.

"Yes. There's no problem with time but what is the reason for your business?"

If he has a building in a good location that he'll offer to me I definitely want to jump at that but I don't want him to hike up the price either. Well if it's some plus-alpha that remains within common sense then it's fine so I don't mind if he hikes it up a but this Sub-Baron Logflat has a refined smile on his face and I can't read his intentions. Among the many one-track minded people of Orth you could say he has quite the good business sense.

"Dealing with the Greed Company"

In the next moment, a voice called out from above the stairs.

"Isn't that Sub-Baron Logflat!? Why are you in a place like this?"

It was Zenom. It seems he's an acquaintance of this Sub-Baron Logflat. He quickly descended the stairs and opened his mouth again.

"What the, Al? Were you acquaintances with the Sub-Baron?"

"No, just now, he came asking for me. We've only just greeted each other."

"Firefreed! So you were acquaintances with Greed-san?"

If he's an acquaintance of Zenom then I doubt he'll say anything too

unreasonable. I was almost about to chuckle. Huh? Zenom's acquaintance? Zenom's acquaintance in the vicinity of the capital indeed.

"Let alone acquaintances, right now I'm being hired by Greed. I think I mentioned it at the start of the year but this Greed is hiring me as an adventurer."

Zenom explains his relationship with me to the Sub-Baron and he was surprised as he says to Zenom.

"So that's how it was! Then you, were a member of the {Slaughterers}!"

Ooh~ it seems that our name has spread around quite a bit. Recently young new adventurers come about once a week to ask to let them into my part. Though I won't let them in.

It's digressing a bit but when we came to Baldukk last year it's obvious but there 5 top teams but recently I've heard it's become common for us {Slaughterers} to be included as a top team as well. Though the real top teams usually find at least one low value (even then it's over several hundred million Z) magic item per year so I think they're a special case but while the amount us Slaughterers are making might not reach that we're earning a stable and high amount from the magic stones we sell.

In terms of earnings from magic stones even if you added all of the top teams together it wouldn't reach anywhere close to the slaughterers. Particularly this past half a year, there's even more parties that look up to us, end up overdoing it, and getting wiped out so we're profiting even more on recovering their equipment. Honestly speaking, since we're providing this many magic stones I was worried that the market price would drop but it seems that originally the demand for magic stones was high so there was no change at all in the market price. Well even if we're gathering a lot of magic stones, in the end we're just eight people, I think there's a limit to how much we're really adding to the whole.

For a period, I was interested so I tried talking to the shopkeeper of the magic tool store about it. The change in quantity of magic stones that we've been carrying in compared to those produced (?) in Baldukk until now. It seems that if you were to say the number until we came was 10 then right now it's 13. In

other words we've increased the amount of supply by 30%. If the consumption rate doesn't change then it wouldn't be unusual for the sale price to decline by about 20%. However, it seems the demand for magic stones was originally high, so the sale price remains high and stable.

The magic tool shop that I'm intimate with is right on the side of the dungeon and it's a considerably large company in Baldukk. It seems he has a route for wholesale with magic tool shops in the capital as well so he makes use of the fact that there's no tax in the noble ranking and takes a bit of a margin while lowering it there but since there's no dungeon in the capital and even more so there's no monsters nearby that would provide a source of magic stones. That's why adventurers almost never bring them in.

Almost all of the magic stones that are consumed in the capital are supplied by Baldukk. Since it's a large city with a population of over 200,000 I'm sure the demand was originally high. Until now it's not that even if they wanted to use magic stones they were too expensive and they couldn't buy them, simply that the supply was too low and the places they were being sold to were already decided. In that case it seems they could be sold at an even higher price but let alone if it were a store that is doing business in them, individuals almost never use magic stones.

In other words, in most houses there's no lighting and starting fires is done by bringing a source fire from somewhere. Of course there's nothing like heating and cooling. You only use it when you absolutely need lightning and if it's a clock magic tool if you use three times in a day then a low value goblin's magic stone will last you for about a year.

Things in that regard Gwine was knowledgeable about. It's not because she was born in a family of merchants, just simply because she was raised in a normal family in the capital so she understood the normal sense of values in regards to magic stones and it's also the reasoning she was led to by her knowledge as a former Japanese but putting in terms of the sensitivity of a Japanese person they're bought and used almost like special cooking tools, the specialty delicacies of a region, imported food, and large devices like televisions, washers, air-conditioning, and such it seems.

If you have them it's something to be happy about and it's not that you can't

buy them. However you can make do with the substitutes and cheaper versions. It's not unusual or unnatural for them to be in each household but you can't afford to waste them and you do not. She said it felt kind of like that.

Magic stones are almost like delicacies foodstuff and electricity something is consumed but the devices that use those as fuel (?) are reasonably expensive in the first place. Unless they're a considerably wealthy person, shop, or corporation it seems it's hard to resolve to buying them. There's also something you could consider the simplified or cheaper versions with lower specs but since the fuel (?) isn't that much in circulation as well in the end you restrain from using them unless really needed. Kind of like that. I don't know if that's accurate but going off of Gwine's explanation, I'm a bit discontent but it's acceptable.

Returning the conversation.

Zenom says to the Sub-Baron who was a bit surprised after being called out to by Zenom.

"Yeah, that's right. Although we aren't calling ourselves that so Slaughterers is something like a nickname."

After hearing Zenom's words the Sub-Baron,

"I see. Firefreed. Would you make a request from Greed-san for me? As a matter of fact I came to request some dealings with Greed Company."

said that. After hearing the Sub-Baron's words Zenom said while slightly surprised.

"I don't mind that but AI isn't dealing in slaves."

Yeah, in regards to slaves buying is my specialty. Though I said that I've still only bought two. However, I can already imagine the situation. I'm sure this Sub-Baron Logflat is the owner of "Emerald Duke Crab Reception Hall" and he's finally come to try and negotiate stocking "Saya". No, there's doubt that's the case!

Since he seems to be an acquaintance of Zenom, I'm sure the slaves that Zenom is talking about is sex slaves. Since then I've brought samples of "Saya" to the "Emerald Duke Crab Reception Hall" countless times. Since I've always been blocked by that gentleman I wasn't able to meet the owner. Since the

quantity is minuscule I'm sure it didn't have much of a reputation right away. I guess I'd say it took a few months to finally enter the ears of the owner.

"Sub-Baron Logflat. It's about discussing stocking up on rubber products our company deals in right?"

I said that and,

"Yeah, that's right. I think it was called "Saya"? It's the one that has the emblem of Duke Rombert on it."

I guess he intends to settle the business in the lobby of the Boil Manor. Well it's fine though.

"They're 13,000 Z for one pack of 10. I have about 80 packs in stock right now though. I'm still not selling them to any place in Rombertia or Baldukk other than the royal family."

After I said that and the Sub-Baron made a face like he was relieved and grabbed my hand.

"It's quite a bit cheaper than I had imagined. If possible I would like to buy all of your current stock at the price you wish. Also, I would like to discuss doing business from here on out as well but.."

Since he's shorter than me it takes the shape of me looking down at him (My height is about 170 cm right now).

"How about we change the location..How about having tea somewhere? Zenom, if it's alright with you then how about joining us?"

I said that and looked at Zenom. Of course it seems like he'll come.

At a restaurant in the vicinity, I'm sipping my usual bean tea while discussing business. For the time being just as I just stated I'm selling all 80 packs with a unit price of 13,000 Z to the Sub-Baron's Faianots Company. Ah, I still have 10 packs for my own and sample use as well, also because Toris buys about 2 packs per month as well. I've already prepared the portion separately.

"I can stock up roughly every three months. It takes about six months to increase the amount kept in stock. The next time should be about 30 packs at the end of next month. If I tell them the amount to increase the stock by at that

time then after that they should start increasing the amount of goods delivered by the end of the year or start of the new year.”

I said that and the Sub-Baron smiles while thanking me. It seems that he'll put together the amount he wants to order by the middle of September. Our business discussion reaches it's conclusion just like that with a calm atmosphere. Zenom was saying “Saya?” with a curious face but I said “For our luxury product that we're directly selling to the royal family of Rombert to catch your attention, as expected of an acquaintance of Zenom, you have quite the eye Sub-Baron Logflat. You're quite skilled at business.” and he seemed to understand as he crossed his arms and nodded.

I guess he got worried since I didn't show up on time and came to get me, Zulu walked by so I called out to him. I gave him the key to my inn and told him to bring the wooden box in a certain place, two pieces of paper in the third drawer of my desk, and the pen on my desk as well and then turned around to face the Sub-Baron again.

Selling condoms is important as well but since this is a rare connection I've made. I want to make good use of it.

“By the way Sub-Baron Logflat. Is it alright if I ask you something unrelated?”

I changed my expression and started talking to him.

“Yeah, what is it?”

“I think I want to place the headquarters of my company along either the Bell road or Gurud roads of Rombertia's central district. I've already asked Rombertia's Takishis Company to act as the agent but it seems they can't seem to find a good subject, and I'm a bit troubled over it. If Logflat-san has any ideas on that end I would definitely like to receive your introduction but..”

“Hm~mm.. I'm sure that anyone would want to have a store along that area after all...What kind of building are you looking for?”

“I guess so. First off the most important part is that it needs to be a residence for a family of artisans. In addition to that, a place to process rubber and a place where the water circulates well to a drainage ditch are absolute conditions. If it's possible then a place where we can line up small products like a shop I

would have nothing more to say. After that..That's right, if I were to get greedy then if it was next to a leather merchant or tanner then it would be a big help. Since the manufacturing of rubber gives off quite a bad smell, if there were similar workshops nearby it wouldn't stand out."

After hearing my extravagant request the Sub-Baron made a dry smile while saying.

"Ha ha, that's quite the difficult order. However, I think it would be easier to find if you split them up into a workshop and a storefront plus residence when searching. When it comes to a workshop I'm sure you need a reasonable amount of space so so if you go downstream near the edge of the town then you'll find any number of places. The workshops for leather tanners are usually downstream as well. If you just remove the workshop condition then I think the hurdle of finding a storefront and residence will be lowered quite a bit."

I see. Splitting the headquarters up is possible as well. It seems like it would cost some money though. I'm sure it's too late once the complaints start coming out about the smell of sulfur. There's also the problem of gas during the sulfuration. I guess there's no choice other than to split them up huh?

"I see, it's just as you say. Then it seems like there won't be any problems with searching for a workshop so it's fine. Do you have any ideas on a building that would work as the headquarters for the company?"

"Hmn, I'm very sorry but I can't think of any off the top of my head. Since there's a gathering for the major companies at the end of the month I'll try calling out to them at that time."

I say to the Sub-Baron who seems apologetic,

"No that's not the case at all, please don't mind it. It's an unexpected delight that you would be willing to go that far."

and lowered my head.

Zulu came back with good timing carrying a box. I produced a proof of sales and gave it to Sub-Baron Logflat as statement of delivery and a receipt. Different from armor, the "Saya" is the same as a pig's bowel and is treated as a contraception tool so it's tax rate is cheap. It's only 2% of the sale price. Just the

same I had the Sub-Baron confirm the amount and then sign the receipt. It seems they came this far on a carriage so I had Zulu carry the luggage to their carriage.

After seeing off the Sub-Baron I asked Zenom what his relationship was and it seems originally they were born in the same village and he worked for him. During the time when Zenom was 12 years old and the Sub-Baron was 16 years old, in the village they lived at the time (the father of the Sub-Baron was the lord) in the Dirt Plains called Faianots Village was ambushed by the army of Devas and a lot of the residents were killed. Of course the number of people who were taken prison exceed the number killed but Zenom and Sub-Baron Logflat (at the time he hadn't inherited family head yet so he was the second son of the sub-baron though) managed to barely escape being caught.

After that it seems the two of them were adventurers together. Everyone of the Sub-Baron's family in Faianots Village were killed other than him, and it was only discovered that he was the only one remaining able to inherit the family head two years later when Rombert Kingdom once again took back Faianots village.

Zenom said his family was wiped out as well. After that, it was quickly re-occupied by Devas Kingdom again and we arrive at the present. When Rombert Kingdom took it back it seems their hidden assets were still fine in the place they were hidden so he used that as source funds to start business and since he had some connections there he ended up managing a brothel before splitting up with Zenom after a short while. Then it seems that Zenom returned to being a wandering adventurer.

Since Sub-Baron Logflat didn't have a territory, he was still young at the time, and didn't have the flexibility to keep the third son of a squire like Zenom by his side, they didn't remain together.

“Zenom, why didn't you remain together with Sub-Baron Logflat?”

I tried asking Zenom that and,

“The Sub-Baron started his business dealing in lumber. During that time business was quite good and I helped out. But, he decided to move on to a different business with more profit. That's why he started the brothel but at

first he struggled quite a bit...And trying to get it on track wasn't going very well. It's not unreasonable but as expected with my wages dropped down to the bare minimum~ I had to feed my wife as well."

"Eh? You were married?"

"Yeah, around the time we started business I married a woman I got to know while being an adventurer. When the brothel started I had no money. She easily passed away from a disease that was passing around. Maia was a good dwarf-like woman. Even from an early age she had a long and tough splendid beard... Ah, Maia is my wife. Sub-Baron Logflat cried while apologizing to me. I think that the reason the Sub-baron still hasn't married is he feels indebted to me. Even if I say I'm not bothered by it, he's still single. Since the Sub-baron worried about me too much, I started to feel uncomfortable about it..so I returned to being an adventurer. I guess that was around when I was 17.."

Zenom was unusually looking off into the distance while remembering his past as he talked.

"I see..That is.."

"Ah, don't worry about it. It's already a story from over 20 years ago after all. Recently I rarely remember it as well."

Zenom laughed while saying that.

Today I'm not going to the dungeon.

Let's go drinking with Zenom.

Since coincidentally Zulu is here as well, we're all guys, it's not bad to occasionally go drinking just the three of us.

Zenom likes alcohol but he's weak to it and in the first place Zulu doesn't drink though.

Drink-unication is a rule of being a salary-man.

Chapter 109: Peace of Mind

Year 7443, Month 8, Day 22

Just now we teleported from the 2nd floor of the dungeon in Baldukk to the 3rd floor.

We just finished eating lunch and taking a break for about an hour in the teleport crystal room of the 2nd floor. Since it's summer right now, we've been exploring since a bit before 6 am. The time has just passed noon or so. I'd say 12:15. I guess I'll get to checking the number on the crystal rod right away. 84 huh? Since it's an early number I'm sure we've come before.

I tried confirming with Gwine and "It's true we've come before. I can remember this place." is what she said. Just from a glance it feels like being in the center of a passage made of stone and you can't tell it apart from other places on the 3rd floor. However, I guess her Unique Ability can tell the vague differences in the width of the passage, the unevenness of the walls, floor, and the ceiling. If while using her Unique Ability she says "We've come here before" then that's a place we've visited before. She hasn't been mistaken about it even once up to now.

It's a frightening level of memorization in regards to terrain. And her ability to call up those memories and create an accurate map, has in some ways become a staggering force in battle. She doesn't things like the direction or where each area of the dungeon connects together but at the very least Ralpa can accurately determine the direction. By combining their two abilities together up until now our party has reached the point where when exploring a new area we only have to be careful of the traps.

Today we had already referenced our map and after determining that there was roughly five hours to the teleport crystal room on the 3rd floor, we started walking. It's necessary to pass through five rooms to get to the small room with the teleport crystal. I want to quickly pass through and secure our rest spot on

the 3rd floor before evening.

It's already mostly become an operation, I freeze the lower bodies of monsters we meet on the way and then we kill them. If it's on the level of gnolls then for the sake of practicing our coordination we try fighting normally as well. In regards to the powerful monsters in the rooms we use magic to kill them all at once without pushing ourselves. We gather the magic stones almost like a machine and after double-checking the map we continue further into the dungeon. When killing monsters if we have some leeway then Bel and Ralpa will use attack magic to damage them as well.

We're winning easily and aren't struggling either. It's still the 3rd floor and the monsters have only increased in type by a few from the monsters on the 1st and 2nd floors. It's fine as long as I use magic to create ice, observe the battle(massacre), and remember to be cautious of our surroundings. Honestly speaking, as long as I don't let my guard down we can manage just about anything. Of course, there's not a single fool who would openly let their guard down in the dungeon.

Just as planned we arrived at the small room with the teleport crystal rod by evening. It's open today. Other than us there's two parties, a total of 17 people here before us. I'm already acquaintances with them. I create some dirt in the Northeast corner of the room that's gradually become our fixed place and after evening out the surface we start preparing to camp. In order to quickly get some rest and prepare for the 4th floor tomorrow, everyone moves quickly.

I put some hot water into the portable stove magic tool and while I was at it put some hot water in the 40 cm diameter bucket that Zulu was carrying as well. I took my shoes and socks off before putting my feet in that bucket and start massaging them. Zulu is a master of the foot massage. Angela isn't bad at it but there's no one who exceeds Zulu in putting in just the right amount of power. After washing my feet and having him massage them for about 10 minutes, I exchange the water in the bucket. We all feel like we're going to melt from Zulu's massage but it's heavy labor for Zulu.

During that time Angela puts vegetables or dried meat into a pot with hot water and stirs them up. At the same time she thinly cuts some bread and puts

ham and mayonnaise on them to prepare simple sandwiches. We eat in the order after we've had our feet massages and finally Zulu and Angela eat until they're full. I put some dirt into the empty bucket. If you have to go to the bathroom you take this bucket to an appropriate place outside of the room and after taking care of your business you cover it with dirt. Since monsters won't come within 100 m of the room as long as you don't go too far away you can relax and take care of your business.

Excretions are absorbed by the dungeon in a period of about one month as far as I can tell. Corpses as well other than the bones and magic stone feel like they're decomposed and absorbed in about a month. Even leather armor at most lasts around two to three months. Dirt and water that's been create with magic and lasts permanently (water evaporates), equipment, and things which have a lot of metal will remain there until someone cleans them up. Also, cotton, hemp, and articles of clothing remain over quite a long period of time as well.

It seems that lumber remains for a number of years but it's hard to determine if this is just because the amount of time it takes for it to rot is too long and it's being absorbed or just rotting away. Since there's not much moisture on the 1st and 3rd floors it seems a lot of it maintains it's original form for quite a while.

I've talked with Bel and Ralpha about this a number of times in the past. Since it seems Toris and Gwine are interested as well they asked various questions but Zenom, Zulu, and Angela don't have much interest at all and if I try to point the conversation in their direction it's, "I don't know" if I keep asking then it finally reaches "is there some kind of meaning in knowing that?". I think this is probably the normal way of thinking for the average person on Orth.

If it's not something that has direct relation to yourself then it's quickly removed as a target of interest. Well it's true that in the dungeon there's a lot more things than that you should be paying attention to and those things directly have relation to your safety and life so it's not unreasonable. In our past lives we may have thought about the mysteries of the universe at some point but rather than something like that the weight of interest ends up leaning towards worries about our job tomorrow and reviewing for the next test at school.

Things like whether or not Pluto is a planet of the solar system or about a new type of deep-sea fish that's been discovered were unrelated to our lives. Even when it comes to how many people are dying in a war on the other side of the planet, or how many tens of thousands of children are starving it just ends up as fund-raiser, and just being satisfied or basking in that for a short while is plenty to erase it from your memory a short while afterwards. Even if a new insulation material has been developed and it comes to putting it in the walls of your house, if your wallet doesn't seem like it can manage it then you'll just remain satisfied with your current living environment and almost no one will try to gather more information than that. Things like the new carbon shaft of a new model of driver that sends the ball flying, without having your heart pulled towards that, unless it's a person with a certain amount of interest in golf they would overlook that news. In essence it's the same thing as that.

If it has no direct relation to your body recently then it won't arouse your interest. The moment you think "it has no relation me right now" your interest in it will largely be reduced. I'm sure that since reincarnated people have a high standard of education the degree at which interest is reduced is just smaller. I guess even more than that since they have a large combat potential like myself here it's lowered their sense of crisis enough that they have the composure to hold interest in trivial things? It's hard to decide if this composure is a good thing or a bad thing.

I was thinking about unstoppable things like that with my eyes closed wrapped up in my qiviut blanket as I fell asleep. However, all of the small teleport crystal rooms in the dungeon have a temperature which feels like it's in the early 10 degrees C all year around. It's nice in the summer because it's not hot but it's painful that you can't let go of your blanket.

.....

"I'm very sorry, since the value of yen has suddenly dropped.."

I apologize to the person on the other side of the phone while pushing my seal down on a sales slip that's come from the desk next to mine. It's busy a whirl of busyness since the start of this week until this weekend. The value of yen suddenly dropped in price after the president of something or other FRB in America made a statement at the end of last week. About half of the goods that

our company deals in we rely on imports from overseas. In order to maintain our profits whenever we get the chance to negotiate for a higher price we have to raise the price like this. Particularly foodstuff the majority of it were forwarding through FOB so the fare we pay to second party (transportation company) is influenced by the change in currency values.

Of course the other party is a child of man as well. If we start bringing up a price hike, there's no way they'll casually abide by what we say and say "Yes, I see.". They'll think of this or that method to haggle the supply price down. Occasionally it's necessary to handle those negotiations with pity and occasionally with a strong attitude. Among the imported foodstuff that our company deals in if you were to ask a lot of it is high quality and there's few fresh food items. Though there is a small amount of vegetables other fresh food items we stock up on from inside the country.

We sell the fresh food items we stock up on within the country and in exchange we request to hike the price of the imported foodstuffs, we sometimes even discount the price of the imported foodstuffs from the items we stock up on within the country while adjusting for the price hike. There's countless methods of negotiation depending on the other party.

"Excuse me. It's already at the very limit with this price. In exchange for the next three months on your side, we'll make sure the supply of kyo-yasai produced in Toyama doesn't run out, so this time just once.."

Huh? Isn't it old man Isobe? Why's he here? Even though he should have quite several years back...

"..Yeah, this is the **** foodstuffs new product. With no additives, it's canned so it preserves well. Of course its place of origin is all within the country.."

And over here is Onishi. He should have quit quite a while back as well...

Ah, I'm seeing a dream. These two weren't around during the same period. Just when I was thinking I had seen a dream of my past life for the first time in a while it's of work...If you're going to then...

(....to.....tsu....ta..)

?

.....

I was shaken awake. I guess it's time to switch lookouts. Thanks to my habit of many years it's still not painful to wake up in the middle of the night. Unexpectedly, just that I was surprised by my own bad awakening. I rub my sleepy eyes and stretch out. After confirming that I was awake Toris crawls into his own blanket. Next to me it was just as Gwine was waking up Ralpa. We take sleep shifts in groups of two for two hours each. The ones who are on the first shift is fixed to the two slaves. After that we often change places. The reason the two slaves are fixed is because they build up quite a bit of fatigue from the massages and preparing the meals, it would be best to let them time their sleeping time all at once and the rest of us do it in rotations to avoid trouble.

When we first started with eight members we tried to keep lookout for one hour each with one person but putting aside if we had a fewer number of people, having someone to talk with makes keeping lookout easier so before realizing it had ended up like this.

I put my back to the wall of the dungeon while crossing my legs and just dazed out as I stared around the inside of the room. Before I notice it the population of the teleportation room of the 3rd floor had increased by quite a bit. At first I had difficult sleeping because of the fear and caution of being attacked by other adventurers in my sleep but since I'm already used to it recently even if there's a bit of noise I can just sleep right through it.

While we're doing this other parties that started resting before us are already putting together their belongings and heading to challenge the 4th floor. I'm sure they'll end up repeating to teleport countless times until they can get to a good location on their map as well.

After Ralpa woke up she put some tea leaves into a flask handed it to me. I'm sure she's saying to put in some hot water. I poured hot water into the flask.

"Hn, thanks."

Ralpa said that and sat down next to me, leaning her back on the wall just like I am. Since my throat isn't particularly dry I don't need any tea. The two of just sat there staring at the adventurers teleporting over and over again for a

short while.

“I wonder why both Japanese and English are written there..”

Ralpa whispered.

“No clue~ Maybe it was made in the past by a Japanese person like us or someone who can speak English.”

I whisper a reply.

“For what reason?”

“No idea...If we were to go off our common knowledge then, I can't help but think of it as a facility constructed to protect something from illegal digging like the pyramids though..”

“Right~ Bel said it as well but there's one in Devas Kingdom as well right, a dungeon..”

“Ah, what was it again? Ah, Benkelish. I wonder if that one has the same feel as this place?”

“Who knows..At the very least since it seems like people gather from all over to make it rich, so there's no mistake there's treasures there though..”

“I wonder if they exist in other countries as well? Dungeons like this place.”

“I wonder? Since they say Krakuto Kingdom is a country made by adventurers like us about 100 years ago? That's why aren't they all over the place?”

“Right~ When it comes to underground dungeons you know, in old games something like an evil wizard steals a Magic Seal and makes it in order to hide, or like the island of Crete's legendary Minotaur was made to lock something inside, it's usually stupid but they're made for some type of objective like that right. I wonder what the objective of this dungeon of Baldukk is?”

“That's true right. If they didn't have some kind of objective they wouldn't make it right..but you know, if it was a large building? then you can usually tell the objective of the person who made it right? There's nothing like that in the dungeon. Since it seems to have been around in the past before Rombert Kingdom, I'm sure nothing accurate has been handed down but even then I think it's strange nothing has been told about them at all.”

“That’s certainly true..It would be fine even if it was mistaken information but, in the past..Urashima Taro constructed it, or things like that, it’s strange that there’s not even anything like that.”

“It seems like it was investigate a number of times but they weren’t able to figure anything out right..”

“Right, it might be different if they were to send in an elite unit of the first knight group but if they were to die it would be a huge loss after all..Even then since it might have some value it seems they send a number of investigation units in, in the past. But doesn’t everyone get split up when moving between floors. The deeper the floors they went the number of people gradually decreased, accord to record after the founding King there were several investigation units that made it to the 7th floor as well. During that time they sent in 100 elite members of the knight group and only half of those returned. Since the damage was too much they had to end up giving up it seems. Ah, this, was a secret I heard from sister don’t talk to anyone about it.”

“Yeah, I won’t say it. But, even half of them died..But since half of them were still remaining why didn’t they go a bit further?”

“No idea. What remained in the records is that there was an investigation unit that made it to the 7th floor and what’s been made to the public is up to the 5th floor after all. It seems that the state of the 6th floor is only open to the public in the form of the legends of Rombert the First, so I’m sure the investigation unit just peeked into the 7th floor before coming back. In the first place you know, for them to continue going even after having their numbers reduced to half, unless they had some serious confidence, or were a total idiot there’s no way they’d do that. In military terms if you take damage of over 40% it’s judged as annihilation. Well in this era I doubt it’s annihilation but even then there’s no doubt it’s a huge loss. If the elites were reduced to half all then it means that same at the ones who mange the army in the king were reduced to half as well. After that, didn’t they go through quite a bit of trouble to reorganize their war potential?”

“If something like that happened, unless something huge happened you wouldn’t think of investigating one more time right..”

“That’s only obvious. If I was the King I wouldn’t want to do something as pointless as that and even if my subordinates wanted to do it I’d force them stop.”

“I think I would as well..”

“Yeah, even if you leave it alone idiots like us will explore it all on their own. It’s fine as long as you know the result and if it’s delicious you can activate the power of the state and take all the good parts of it.”

“That’s true~”

“Oh?”

It was when we were whispering about pointless things as usual in Japanese. A new party entered the teleport room we were resting in...That is, the party of that one elf named Rozwela. I’ve seen his face a number of times in the dungeon. It seems he’s still surrounded by combat slaves as usual. As far as I know other than Rozwela himself he has 7 fixed members who are combat slaves with a reasonable level of ability. The remaining ones are pretty fluid and at longest it seems they die in about half a year.

The two of us watched Rozwela’s party quickly make preparations to rest. Since they don’t have an excessive amount of mana like me they’re sleeping directly on the rough and hard stone. Only Rozwela is sleeping on several blankets that are overlapped. There’s water inside of the large bucket that one of his slaves was carrying. After opening the lid of the bucket they scooped out some water and started making soup in a portable stove magic tool.

Even though it’s a huge bucket they have that many people. I wonder if it was close to becoming empty, one of the slaves seems to be using magic to put more water into the bucket. After finishing their meal they all laid down in groups of two or three before starting to get some rest. Rozwela isn’t all that harsh to nor does he say unreasonable things or treat his slaves particularly bad. It’s true that he’s caring for his slaves reasonably in his own way. Most of the rumors I heard at the start were just envy and even when I’ve talked directly with him I didn’t feel anything strange.

Rather, all of the parties which are called the top teams are mostly oddballs. The {Verdure Brotherhood} certainly makes a lot of money but a lot of them get

too arrogant over that and show it in their behavior. Well if you think of it as a behavior backed by true ability then it's not as annoying so this is fine. Rather there are no oddballs among them. They're the ones who find the largest number of expensive magic items and since they've already earned plenty of money it's said they might retire pretty soon.

A human man in his prime of life is the leader of {Bright Blade} but there's a variety of dark rumors about them as well. A rumor that when they encounter other parties in the dungeon they attack them and steal all of their equipment before killing them all to erase the evidence. Honestly speaking, I wondered why such horrible things were said about them. But, every single one of them has an atrocious appearance and their normal behavior is rough as well. Since there's no evidence it's no more than at the level of rumors but just from looking at them I'm sure they're at a loss. It seems that there are people who have a serious grudge against them though. They're the ones who have the next highest rate of obtaining magic items after {Verdure Brotherhood}.

The leader of {Gehenna Flare} is a middle-aged Dwarf. They have 9 party members and they're all dwarves. At that point it already gives off an exclusive impression. I've only met them a handful of times in the dungeon but if Zenom wasn't in my party they probably wouldn't even have talked to us, or at least I'm tired of them declaring that. It seems they're having a drinking party every time they take a rest. Even that last time we met them the conversation started from "Do you have any alcohol? If you do we'll buy it." My impression of them is strongest that they're bringing back gems and things of that type.

We've made {Black Topaz} a number of times. A softhearted human woman is the leader. She's so softhearted you might wonder if she's an idiot. It's a complete rumor that one she might be cursed or take on some huge damage because of that. No clue what the karma relation between being softhearted and taking some huge damage is though. Most parties, "She acts like a senior to people who she has no relation to and gives out advice or rather preaches." say stuff like that out of annoyance but only the person herself doesn't know. By the time, it seems that her party members know about this matter but they've given up on it. Since the leader is a daughter of a high ranking noble the majority of the members are squires that serve that noble so they can't say

anything. They obtain various types of treasures. It sounds good to say they're active on multiple levels but it feels like they're lacking in a deciding factor.

{Sun Ray} is an usual group of people and I don't really get who is the leader of them. It's a common rumor that they're donating almost all of their earnings from the dungeon to the temple. It's also said that they're all people who wanted to work at the temple but were rejected. It seems that there's a total of 15 of them but I guess they're switching out in rotation or something, I get the impression the members they have in the dungeon are changing places all the time. They're often bringing back a steady number of gold and silver nuggets.

There's no way we can rival them in terms of magic items but in terms of magic stones and old equipment we've collected from the dungeon we rival the lower top teams in terms of earnings so we the Slaughterers have gained a decent amount of attention as well. One of the factors of why we gather attention is because excluding Zenom all of the other members including the slaves are reasonably young. It's known that a human brad with plate-mail dyed black and a strange short spear is the leader. If it's outside of the dungeon then in most cases I have my sword in its scabbard at my waist so they really ever realize that I'm the leader of the slaughterers as well.

Rozwela's party fell asleep right away. Right now the lookout is just the human man alone.

"Hey, Al"

Ralpa started whispering to me again.

"Yeah?"

"About magic but I wonder what it is?"

"Eh?"

"I don't really get it. Doesn't it create something from nothing? If you say it's being created from mana then that's true but you know"

I guess she thought about it while watching the magician of Rozwela's party making water? I'm often doing it and Bel does it pretty often as well so I didn't think she would question it at this point.

“Ah, about that..I thought about it in the past as well but even now I still don’t really get it myself...I gave up since it can’t really be helped thinking about it.”

“Al have you ever, since you have a lot of mana thanks to your Unique Ability Magic Acquisition, though I think you’ve thought about it but don’t both magic and Unique Abilities use mana?”

“Yeah.”

“Can you not reproduce a Unique Ability with magic?”

“Hmn, I wonder? For example, you mean me becoming able to use Spatial Understanding?”

“That’s right. Well even if it’s not exactly the same, can’t you do something similar?”

“I wonder about that~ for the time being all of the Unique Abilities we know are, Magic Acquisition, Spatial Understanding, Shooting Intuition, Scale, Mapping, after that is just the names we’ve heard from Bel, Identify and Predictable Evasion. Well I don’t think you would know but as a matter of there’s two more, Resistance (Poison) and Charm as well. Resistance (Poison) is just as the name sounds, it’s an ability which gives resistance to poison. It seems that Charm lets the user make the opposite sex of their same race into their slave. Since I haven’t seen it used I don’t know for sure though.”

“He~ I wonder what else there is?”

I don’t know that far. However, I can somewhat guess. There’s several common points about all of the names that have come out so far. The people of this world, well not the former Earthlings, it’s like an expansion of the abilities of the people of Orth.”

Ralpa looks at me with a confused face. I continue my words.

“For example Magic Acquisition. It’s an ability where mana grows a lot and makes magic easier to learn. However, while this ability is weak there are a lot of people who have it. It’s the same for you as well right? If you use Spatial Understand it makes your senses sharper and you understand the direction. This seems abnormal but while it’s to a lower extent everyone has a sense of direction built into them. Haven’t you heard it in the past, feel the presence?

It's the same for Shooting Intuition as well.

Since I was in the SDF I get it well but there's actually people who have a superior intuition for shooting. No matter what the person they can shoot based off of intuition. Even when it comes to Scale it could be considered an expansion of sharpened senses. Even Identify, it's just my prediction but it's probably an ability like an expansion to Status Open. Even when it comes to Charm, you know about pheromones right? If you think of that as something that's been strengthened to an abnormal level, then it works as an explanation."

Even the Gift of Natural Talent, I'm sure that normally it's an ability to increase the efficiency with which you can learn things by up to three times. It's not hearing one thing and learning ten but it truly could be considered the source of genius.

"I see..if you put it like that then it does sound true. Even when it comes to Mapping we can do it on a simple level. Of course there's a difference that it's stupid to even try comparing them though. Even Predictable Evasion you can somehow imagine it, and Resistance (Poison) we already have some resistance to poison from the start right."

"That's right. If you predict from things up to there, then it could be thought that Unique Abilities are things that creates already possess in order to live on Orth just made tremendously sharp. However, there's no way to know for sure. It's a weird comparison but I wouldn't even be surprised if there was an ability which shoots destructive lasers from the eyes. If it comes to that then it's just a matter of my prediction being wrong."

"Well, that's fine. Since there's no way we can figure it out right? But, is there a relation between that and reproducing it with magic?"

"Not directly. But, there's special skills right? Like Bel's Super Sense of Hearing, or the Infrared Vision, Super Sense of Smell, Night Vision, and Instant Speed most non-humans have. Putting aside Unique Abilities, I think it has some relation to why these sorts of special skills that have been known since the past haven't been reproduced with magic. Well paralysis and skills that certain monsters have can be reproduced somewhat so the foundation is weak though."

“I see..”

“And, since you’ve already become able to use magic as well so I think you somewhat know as well but I think making a spell yourself is considerably difficult. Even I’ve never made a spell that is completely my original.”

“Eh? But doesn’t Al’s {Flamer Thrower} have a bunch of different varieties?”

“That’s just pouring an extra amount of mana into a normal {Flame Thrower} and raising the intensity, or forming it like a snake. It’s not my original. Just the same all of the magic we used when making rubber products have origins elsewhere as well. I’ve just modified those. As proof of that, isn’t the special skill that I would try to reproduce first have been ignored right?

There’s not a single spell which strengthens the abilities of the body. All there is a bit of healing magic. This might look like it’s strengthening the bodies ability to regenerate itself but it’s probably different. It’s not using magic to improve the abilities of the body but rather giving birth to ingredients for the body and forcibly connecting those together.

That’s why pain remains relative to the degree of injury. I actually think there might not actually be a spell to cure diseases. Either there’s no magic which can strengthen the abilities of the body or even if they do exist they’re in an area where they can’t be explained to others.”

Ralpa is listening with a difficult face.

“I think the reason that there’s no magic to increase defense for a short period, move faster for a short period, increase jump height, get stronger, be able to see farther, or hear better is because of that.

Ralpa can use fire and earth magic but do you think you could make a new magic that uses a combination of those? I think it’s impossible. Well even if it’s the exact same combination depending on your image the effect will differ so I won’t say it’s absolutely impossible though. With the same combination you use for {Fire Arrow} you can do simple healing as well right? Of course you can also do simple healing with the same combination as {Stone Arrow} as well. But, I think this is something you can do because you have the image after hearing before hand that it’s possible to do. As a matter of fact in the past I tried it quite a bit. In the end I wasn’t able to reproduce Infrared Vision. The same for others.”

“I see.”

Ralpha said that and smiled. Is this the place to smile? Here?

Chapter 110: 4th Floor

Year 7443, Month 8, Day 23

I finished keeping lookout and after waking Bel and Zenom up in the end I was able to fall asleep again by 3 am. And I was woken up at 5 am. After cleaning up our camping luggage, erasing the dirt on the floor, and confirming our equipment, I guess it's around 5:30 right now that we're holding the teleport crystal rod to the 4th floor. I chant the usual teleport incantation that makes no sense at all and we step foot on the 4th floor.

The 4th floor has the moisture of the 2nd floor and the white walls are similar to the 2nd floor as well made of dirt and stone. Also, it smells. It smells a lot. Since the walls are still giving off a faint light there's no for lighting. Gwine immediately uses her Unique Ability {Mapping} and determines if we've come here in the past or if it's an unknown place.

"It seems that this is our first time here."

I see, then it's a good chance to fill in the blanks in our map. After hearing Gwine's words and everyone started searching the pedestal of the crystal rod for the direction of the symbol. When you get to the 4th floor there's about a 50/50 probability of finding a number.

"O..h~ North is that direction."

Ralpa uses her {Spatial Understanding} Unique Ability to confirm the direction.

I searched as well but couldn't find a number. Then number 137.

"Bel, 137."

After I said that Bel she lowered her bag and took a brush and bottle of ink out. Then after searching for the direction the symbol on the pedestal points she wrote {壺参漆}. In order to prevent other parties from reading it, it's

important to use numbers in kanji. I was amazed when Toris and Bel first proposed this. Up until then without thinking too much about it we were just using Orth numbers. We thought about a mix of normal Arabic Numerals and kanji numbers but since the structure of the characters is too simple someone might be able to figure out the rules to them right away so I thought it couldn't be helped.

By the way, just now we wrote the kanji numbers in alternative kanji but writing {百三十七} is fine as well and so is {壹百三十七}. Since it's fine as long as no other parties can read it. As proof of that occasionally we find some symbols we don't understand either. I think they're probably writing a code instead of numbers.

Bel quickly finished writing and after confirming she put away her tools, I made a wind in the passage and focus on discovering hidden pitfalls like the 1st and 2nd floors. Furthermore, the monsters on the 4th floor have nothing in common with those on the 3rd floor. Orks and Hobgoblins don't come out either. What comes out is just Zombies of those. Goblin-Zombie, Gnoll-Zombie, Ork-Zombie, Hobgoblin-Zombie is what they've become and in exchange for the Speed dropping quite a bit their Endurance has jumped multiple times higher so it takes quite a bit of time to finish them off.

In the end, since they're rotting corpses that are moving around the bad smell when fighting or taking the magic stones is seriously something hard to put into words. Since their HP is high you'd think the experience points they give would increase but their levels have dropped by 1 or 2 so they don't have as much experience points as I thought. Even then since their HP is high they're a bit better than their non-zombie counterparts.

The boss rooms are almost what you could call Ghouls and (as a matter of fact I've never seen anything other than that) in most cases they attack in groups of more than 10 of them. Their attacks are like the Scavenger Crawler where they have the ability to paralyze the targets they bite so it's quite a difficult fight. However, thanks to practicing my Remove Paralysis spell in our case it's not that much of a problem.

Well~ putting it simply since I can use the spell {Flame Thrower} I can just

burn them to death in no time at all. Since there's the problem of experience points I'm still fundamentally freezing their lower bodies and after hitting down their weapons which are just being swung around, we cut off their arms and everyone finishes them off so it's honestly not much different from until now.

Since they look disgusting everyone's already tired of the 4th floor. Among us reincarnated people, including the women we assumed there were Zombies and Ghouls that would come out eventually in this world, and we had already known ahead of time that the 4th floor was a nest of Undead Monsters so we had prepared ourselves for it and didn't panic. However, Angela's feelings of disgust towards the "moving corpses" was severe and she's often throwing up. It's pitiful but it can't be helped.

Whether it be Zombies or Ghouls the smell is terrible but the bad smell floating around in the air of the floor itself is bad and Angela Super Sense of Smell isn't very useful. Since Infrared Vision is an ability which feels differences in temperature it's completely useless as well. Since the body temperature of the Undead Monsters isn't any different from the surrounding temperature after all.

There's a small number which get caught up in Zulu's Night Vision and Bel's Super Sense of Hearing but since Undead Monsters don't normally move around much, so honestly speaking other than my Identify Vision they're almost completely useless. Well when it comes to Zulu's Night Vision he can see a bit further down the passage and since they've lost their ability to charge from before they turned into Zombies so it's a big help we almost never get ambushed.

After sending some air down and blowing away any dirt that's camouflaging the pitfalls it's about time for us to proceed ahead. Starting from this floor in most pitfalls there's something like a wooden reverse stake buried inside of them. Also, the traps where arrows shoot at you have increased from the 3rd floor as well. In a position where you can or can't see a turn, on the wall in front of you of about 30–40 m they're fired from somewhere on the floor around there and there's almost always a switch to launch it hidden on the floor somewhere. Since just like the pitfalls it makes these easier to find they're not

that much of a threat to us either.

Rather than that what we're all sick of is the hidden doors. The zombies that are in the halls are fine. Since their movements are dull and they have a lot of stamina, other than the fact that they're difficult to defeat right away it's just an extension of everything up to now. However the doors which are skillfully hidden in various places of the dungeon are troublesome. Around 30–60 seconds after we've passed the hidden door it opens and Zombies start coming out in swarms. I can find them with Identify but when that's not the case it's extremely difficult to notice them unless you get close so they're troublesome.

When I first saw one I couldn't even imagine there was a door in the dirt and stone wall so I tried Identifying it. Well it came out as {Door} so I understood right away but when I discovered the hidden door I was in the middle of the formation. It couldn't be helped so I had to wait until we were somewhat close before

“Hey~ isn't that area strange?”

and say something like that. After thinking about it more calmly later even if it was pointless it would have been more natural use wind magic and say “I feel like something just moved over there.” Obviously if you don't have Identify there's no way to tell the difference between it and the surrounding walls. However, we've finally been able to discover a difference. About 150 cm from the ground there's a long thin slit open. Though in my case I only noticed it because the overall brightness of the door is different thanks to my Unique Ability Identify.

That time I ignored Bel who was at the front and went to the side of the door first. No matter what happens I was sure I could deal with it and I have a lot of HP. In addition I'm the one wearing the rubber protectors with the highest defense. The highest possibility is that there's monsters hiding behind the door but it's not like there was a knob so after putting some distance from the slit I gently peeked in.

Just as I expected I met eyes with the eyeball of an Ork that had turned into a zombie.

“There's something in there.”

I said that while going on guard with my bayonet and telling everyone to be careful. Even though we were on guard since we remained near the door the Ork Zombie never came out. If you get close and look carefully at it everyone was able to distinguish them but if you aren't told it's there it's cleverly hidden so well with the surrounding walls that you would overlook it.

Since it seemed to be turning into a battle of patience I had everyone slowly advance forward while we remained careful of the rear and passed by, and when we were about 10 m away the door slowly opened. Then Ork Zombies started swarming out of the hidden door so I froze their lower bodies all at once. After we finished cleaning up all of the zombies we tried investigating inside of the hidden door.

There was something like a small room that's 4 m in every direction and other than the chunks of meat or rotting juices, there was nothing else unusual. It seems that the lookout keeps an eye out the slit and when the prey has passed by they try to ambush from behind. It's a frightening trap. If I didn't have Identify we would have definitely took an ambush from behind at least once. If the timing of that had unluckily been in the middle of combat even being wiped out was a possibility.

In any case, discovering this traps is difficult. Even though it was fine just paying attention to the floor until now, we need to start looking for slits in the walls as well. Because of that on the 4th floor other than locations Gwine has made the map for already we can't let our guards down at all and particularly when we enter an area for the first time our nerves are worn down much more than the floors until now. Of course, if I see it with Identify Vision then that's all it takes but it's important to get into the habit of remaining cautious while advancing so even if I notice them I usually just ignore it. However, since everyone has their eyes wide open while moving forward I guess we haven't overlooked discovering a single one of them.

We once tried experimenting with it where I ordered Zulu to nail a stake into the door and make it so it doesn't open. After that we remained cautious while advancing but it seems that door opened towards the inside so there was no meaning to it. I wonder if eventually sliding doors will come out?

Just like this day after day we've been making the map for the 4th floor. Today is an extension of that but since we guess we've already filled in about 70% of the 4th floor we wanted to try aiming for the 5th floor. However, since we ended up teleporting to an unexplored area it's a good chance to fill in the blanks and we're trying to produce the map as much as we can. If we were to try and get to the 5th floor we can get there anytime. There's no need to hurry.

It's already been over three hours since we stepped foot in the 4th floor of the dungeon. We've walked around quite a bit while remaining cautious of traps and hidden doors. Anymore investigation than this requires returning to the split path a bit back and then going to what we believe to be a room ahead of that.

I gave the instruction to everyone and we all prepared our resolve. We've only seen Ghouls but just as you would expect from the room boss of the 4th floor they're a considerably strong monster. Even when their lower body is frozen they keep swinging their arms around trying to paralyze us. It's important to swing your weapon with good timing and cut off their arms. It's not too late to heavily damage them after that.

The first room we entered had 9 Ghouls in it. It's a bit low but thanks to that it's true it was easier, so always welcome. The same as usual we crush the swarm of Ghouls and pick one of the passages we can see before advancing ahead. After proceeding for about another hour we found a different room. I quietly peeked inside and just as expected there were Ghouls in it.

Just like before we finished them off again and proceed even further. We ended up hitting a {T} shaped end where the path splits in two ways. It seems there's a room a bit over 10 m to the North. I can see a group of Ghouls. In the South there's another room a bit over 10 m as well. This one seems from a glance like there's no monsters in it.

Well, since we're in the middle of producing our map, it can't be helped wasting time. If there's no boss then it's just a matter of passing through. I'm sure it's before it's revived. After saying that we moved towards the empty room to the South. There's nothing particularly different from the rooms until now. It's a large room around 50m in every direction.

There's a hall stretching out in front of the Northern wall that we entered from. There's no hall on the Eastern or Western sides. There's the skeletons of the previous victims of this room all over the room. Since there's no boss it must have just been exterminated by some different adventurers before us. Even if we try digging through them there's no way there would be a convenient thing like magic stones or items remaining..There is some!

"Hey, that, is a spear right? And there's a sword and shield remaining over there."

I said that and everyone was surprised and started looking around the room.

"Th..That is a sword as well right."

"Oh~ there's still quite a bit remaining."

"I wonder if that's a spear."

"Isn't it fine, let's go and pick them up."

"That's right, let's split up and pick them up."

"Al, I'm counting on the bonus."

"No problem."

After saying that we each split up to gather the items scattered throughout the room.

I moved to pick up the sword and shield that seemed to have fallen in the Northeastern corner as well.

This is a huge harvest.

I can't hold back my smile.

..However, if there's still this much equipment remaining then either the adventurer's who passed through this room must have been quite the hurry or in order to avoid combat they just passed through dragging the boss along with them. In the cast, it's dangerous. They say the boss won't go further than 100 m from the room. If the adventurers run further than that then it's the same as the boss coming back.

"Everyone be careful, the boss might return"Uo!!!"

My voice was erased by Toris's yell. I reflexively looked in the direction of the voice and was horrified. The boss didn't chase after any adventurers. It was still

just remaining in the room. Ah, it's nothing something like the skeletons in the room stood up and turned into a skeleton warrior. I had been cautious that there would be enemies like that since the moment I heard the 4th floor was a nest of Undead Monsters but recently I've guessed that there are none.

After all skeletons don't have the body to store a magic stone inside. It's a weak basis but it's only obvious that monsters have magic stones. And the magic stone of almost every monster is near their heart. It might be different if their heart was in their skull but if that's not the case it's hard to imagine there's something like a skeleton monster which can't maintain a magic stone. At the very least up until now we haven't run into a monster like that so I think it's correct as a theory.

The boss of the room that just came out was completely different from something like that. It seems it fell into the center of the room from the ceiling. It looks like a naked man.

【Emilio.Jobage/18/7/7209】
【Male/14/6/7208.Human.Jobage Family Second Son】
【Condition: Vampire】
【Age: 34 Years old (232 Years old)】
【Level: 16】
【HP: 236+198(236) MP: 59+46(59)】
【Strength: 46(23)】
【Speed: 44(22)】
【Dexterity: 40(20)】
【Endurance: 50(25)】
【Special Ability: Bloodsucking {Drain}】
【Special Ability: {Paralyze}】
【Special Ability: {Petrification}】
【Special Ability: {Energy Drain}】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic(Lv.4)】
【Special Ability: Fire Magic(Lv.3)】
【Special Ability: Wind Magic(Lv.3)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.5)】

What the! This guy!? He's dangerous!

No, he's not dangerous because he's naked, of course.

"Run away!"

Before I could even yell that I created ice in his surroundings including my allies. It seems that Toris was able to move about 2 m away as well. He's the closest one but even then there's a distance of over 5 m. I don't have enough leisure to think about how many and who of my allies got dragged into the ice.

Without a moment's delay I hit with {Stone Javelin}.

I'll definitely crush his head faster!

The stone spear goes flying a super high speed.

He's pointing his right hand over here.

Was he already doing that the moment I froze him?

But, it's already too late!

There's no way his spell will make it in time!

I take off running at the same time.

Of course I'm still glaring at my target his head.

And, he used a spell from his right hand!

It's fast.

It seems he used the spell {Stone Javelin}.

His and my Javelins pass by and his javelin is hit by mine.

However, it seems like the aim of my javelin missed as well and it only gouged out his left shoulder before stabbing into the wall behind.

Shit!! I should have made it a missile.

I run while using magic again.

This time for sure!

"{Fire Javelin Missile}"

I send five of them flying all at once.

My right foot stands on top of the ice.

I put all of my power into my right foot and lift my entire body up.

The five fire spears remain the pentagon shape as they fly towards his head and chest.

It seems he still can't use his next magic.

Just like this we can win!
I'll burn his head, and open holes in his chest with the remaining four fire spears!

"Muo...!"

I let out a war cry and make sure his attention is focused only on me.

Alright!

Huh?

Just a moment before the spears of fire were about to hit right in the middle of his face and chest that occurred.

He shifted his head to the right and while the spears stuck into his chest, I wasn't able to hit his face.

The spear that was flying at a high speed just kept going and hit the wall before dispersing into flame and disappearing.

Even if it's a missile since my spears move so fast in order to properly control them I need some distance from the target.

The cause of just now was that he shifted his head right before it was about to hit.

There's a hand-axe {Tomahawk} stuck into the left side of his head. Also, there's an arrow stabbed into his left temple.

Zenom huh?

No, it's Ralph and Bel...

Idiots.

What are you going to do if his attention focused on you?

Since things are frozen {Lightning Bolt} is too dangerous.

Tori is too close to damage this guy with {Fire Ball}.

Alright.

I throw down my bayonet and point both of my hands towards him while concentrating in an instant.

“{Disintegrate}”

I guess he detected an immense amount of mana, the moment he shifted his eyes over here, he turned to dust.

If possible I didn't want to use that.

I've trained using it quite a bit but it even disintegrates the magic stone down to the atoms.

It's my specially reserved spell.

I pick up my bayonet and use {Anti-Magic Field} to release my allies who's lower bodies are frozen in ice.

The amount of combat time was only about 5 seconds, so there's no way there would be any frostbite.

Other than Zulu, Angela, and Gwine they were all frozen.

Ralpa is looking at me with an apologetic face but I'm amazed this fellow was able to move so well on the spot. Not to mention when she can't brace her lower body and only her upper body was free to move, I'm amazed she was able to throw the axe that accurately. Bel has her Shooting Intuition so I'm sure she could accurately hit it though.

Since half of Zenom's axe as frozen as well I'm sure he couldn't throw it.

“Is anyone injured?”

Just in case I used Identify on everyone. For some reason Bel's MP has decreased. Ralpa's MP has decreased by 1 as well.

Since it seems there's no abnormalities with anyone I was relieved.

After that I spent the time to erase all of the ice and we gathered the items. There were two, two-handed swords, two bastard swords, nine long swords, seven broad swords, four infantry use short swords, eight various types of shields, and thirteen long weapons like spears and pole-weapons. It's a massive amount of items that we've never found before.

Furthermore, I gained more than 30,000 experience points. It seems that Ralpa and Bel each gained about 1,000 as well.

The spell {Disintegrate} requires being able to use all elemental magic at level

3 or above. However, in order to use the bare minimum {Disintegrate} which only disintegrates a volume of about 1 liter or a volume of a 10 cm cube it uses up 15 MP. It's a spell which you normally use on the weapon the opponent is holding.

In the case that you use it on a living creature if you use it on an opponent that has a greater volume than the effect of the {Disintegrate} then it has no effect. Since just now was scary I used it 200 times, in other words I made it so it can erase up to 200 liters of volume. I don't know what his body weight or volume is after all, in any case it was scary. I even used up 3,000 MP. It's an attack that is difficult for even me to use consecutively. Thank god he wasn't fat.

Even if Ralpha says something like "Even though that {Tomahawk} was something I had Zenom bought for me.." I'm not listening to it.

Chapter 111: Towards the 5th Floor

Year 7443, Month 8, Day 23

Since we somehow defeated a powerful opponent that we don't know much about and we obtained a number of items we took a small break after that while discussing what to do.

..As expected this time was no good. I didn't expect that I would have to cut my trump card. No, to be more precise I didn't think I would have to use it at the level of the 4th floor. I thought at most I might end up needing to use it on a deeper floor like the 5th or 6th floors but honestly speaking I can't say anything other than that I was underestimating it. I had Identified him about one second after he jumped down next to Toris. He was probably disintegrated around 5–6 seconds after that but I feel like I fought him for over a minute.

Since I only glanced at them I don't remember for sure but I saw Vampire and including magic he had a mountain of special skills. He even should have had over 200 HP. If something like that comes out again then this time it'll be bad. I only have 3,700 MP remaining. I used 200 times in that instant but I went overboard.

As expected the only way it would reach 200 times is if he was a bodybuilder or had a splendid physique like that but it should have been plenty around 130–150 times. As proof of that the surrounding ice where his lower body was disappeared from the aftermath of the {Disintegrate}. There's no need to aim for something that's barely enough but too much is also a problem. I'm sure I could have saved 750 MP. If I have over 4,000 remaining then I would have made the decision to continue without hesitation.

“..Wouldn't it be best to return?”

I can hear Toris's voice.

“But, this is an unexplored area. We might be able to find some ores or

something..”

Ralpa huh?

“It’s true, it’s suspicious if there’s anyone who made it this far and returned to the surface. I’m sure all of the bones scattered around were done in by him.”

Zenom says gravely.

“He just looked like a normal person with a slightly bad facial color though..was he a monster?”

This is, Gwine?

“I don’t know. But, I saw him avert masters stone spear spell with his own stone spear spell. It’s true it’s not something that a normal person would have been able to do.”

Zulu’s voice was calm.

“I didn’t feel like that man was alive. His skin was extremely pale as well..and his eyes were shining red..”

Angela says with some restraint.

“..A nest of undead huh..It might have been a vampire..”

Bel whispered as she said. Correct answer.

“Gwine, draw the map up to here. Bel and Ralpa put the weapons together so they’re split up into groups for each of us to carry about the same amount of weight. Zenom..Nn, use this sword. Ralpa use Zenom’s {Tomahawk}. Zulu, remain cautious of the hall on the other side. Angela you watch this side. Don’t go too far away from here, it would be a pain if the Ghouls in the Northern room were called over. Zenom, Toris, come with me for a bit.”

I hand Zenom one of the more decent short swords of the weapons we found this time and after gathering him and Toris on my side we opened the map of the 4th floor. It was unexpected that we would lose a weapon. Since I’m here I thought we wouldn’t easily lose our weapons and in order to reduce our luggage until now we haven’t prepared spares. I couldn’t imagine that I would end up disintegrating it to dust...

“We came to the 4th floor at around 5 am this morning so it’s been over four hours. Calculating the distance we walked then the area we teleported to this time should either be here or here. If we match up the map Gwine is drawing later I’m sure we’ll know for sure. Then in that case there’s a high probability it’s not connected to the room with the teleport crystal to the 5th floor. It’s the usual cave area. And then”

I looked at their two faces while continuing my words. Zenom is making an amused face. Toris is listening seriously but has a slightly strange expression on. Hmph.

“Since I was surprised just now I used quite a bit of mana. However, I can somehow use that spell I used in the end just now once more. I can’t say anything until Gwine finishes drawing the map but if it’s this area then since it’s small I think we’ll keep going. But, if it’s this area over here then it has a shape like it fits in so it’s possible it could be quite wide. In that case I think we’ll return from here. Let me hear your opinion.”

“This time, we’ve managed to get our hands on this much equipment. I’m sure it’s a big profit. I think we should return while we’re still safe and have energy to spare.”

Toris said that. He seems to be quite the cautious type.

“That’s fine as well but if that guy was using this as a nest then from here on out is probably a completely unexplored area. In that case we might be able to obtain something. We never know when we’ll be able to come next time after all..”

Zenom, you’re intentionally saying it. I guess you’ve already seen through my thinking.

“I understand that much but..However, was that guy just now really that strong? I was surprised because he suddenly jumped down but.. in the first place I wonder if it was a monster?”

Toris looks at Zenom while saying that.

“Just from his appearance he looked human. He didn’t have a tail after all. But, that skin color was far too unnatural. Maruso said it as well but his eyes

were bright red. And..this is just my intuition but that guy was dangerous. I felt like he was a considerably dangerous opponent.

In the first place, isn't it strange that he would be this far in the dungeon with no equipment completely naked? He didn't seem to have anything that looked like a weapon either. If Al hadn't called out to everyone and gotten us to make a bit more distance before freezing it then I felt like something terrifying would have happened."

Zenom said responding to that. I think this is probably Zenom's true feelings on it. It's a serious tone of voice that I can't imagine is just acting.

"In that case there's even more reason. There was only one of those this time. If more than two of them were to come at once..Al-san, as expected isn't that bad?"

Toris looked at me along the way and said. Yeah, it's bad. Next time if it's one person then I can erase them right away with {Disintegrate} or if it's safe I can use an extra-large {Fire Ball} to blow it into pieces but there's a good possibility that one more will use magic during that time. In worst case one of us might end up being killed.

If it just hits an unimportant place like the arms or legs then they won't die after averting it with my {Stone Javelin} but if it hits their face or chest even instant death is possible. Before I could reply Zenom said.

"That's true but it's not like that's for sure right. I can't imagine that there's very many things like that around. If there's no one who has stepped foot beyond this then we might be able to obtain some gold, silver, or gems after all."

You're quite the actor~ Zenom.

"But.."

"What Zenom says is quite right. However, we can buy our safe return. I. If we were to know for sure there was a huge treasure waiting beyond here then it would be different though. Let's return."

Toris passes.

.....

The speed we explored the 4th floor the first time we stepped foot there was roughly an average speed of about 1.3 to 1.5 Km/hour. Our speed has gone up quite a bit since we first took a step in the dungeon last year but even then our speed itself has it's limits. It's not like we're competing so how fast other parties move through doesn't matter at all, and I already have almost no interest so it's unrelated. Either way I'm sure we're overwhelmingly faster. Other than the two blank areas remaining on the 4th floor that I just pointed out there's a number of small areas that remain as blanks.

After we matched it up to Gwine's map and just as expected it was connected to a total of five blank areas. Among those two of them have the possibility of being connected to what's said to be the center of the dungeon where the teleport crystal room is. It's rough but until we fought the vampire today we've explored a distance of about 5 Km. On our way back even though everyone was carrying a decent amount of luggage it was only about two hours. It wasn't a straight line but it's a reasonably large size.

In regards to Toris I only pointed out to the two larger blank areas on the map of the 4th floor. I'm sure that after seeing that Toris thought it was unnatural from his expression but he wasn't so foolish as to point that out there. And even if I pointed out the fact that we could earning something even more valuable he didn't show any interest in it. Rather than treasure he took safety. As long as you're still alive the chance will come around again. Depending on the person they might say it's cowardice but that's fine. I don't think I'm a coward. I just think I'm cautious.

All of the items we found like never before ended up exceeding 11,000,000 Z (11 gold coins). I gave out bonuses of 220,000 Z (22 silver coins) to the other 5 than the slaves and we all went to eat, drink, and rest early. Since tomorrow is Saturday we're doing cooperation training in the morning and the afternoon is off.

.....

Year 7443, Month 9, Day 4

My head hurts. I wonder if this is a migraine? If it was too much for me to handle I thought about taking the day off but as long as we don't overdo things

it shouldn't be a problem. In order to eat breakfast when I left the inn the migraine disappeared almost as if it were a lie.
I can handle it, there's no problem.

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Year 7443, Month 9, Day 5

We cleared the 4th floor and peeked into the 5th floor.

Just from a glance it doesn't seem all that different from the 4th floor.

However, according to previous information there's something like moving statues and an altar with a burning black flame from it that have been confirmed. Those are probably things that appear in the rooms. Let's avoid going to the rooms for now. We should just confirm what type of monsters come out in the halls of the 5th floor and then return. After all, that one ice monster starts coming out around this floor. I'm sure that ice monster is probably a room boss as well though.

By the way there was not a single person in the teleport crystal room of the 4th floor. However, there was several traces of camps remaining so I was able to confirm once again that the top teams are often coming here.

The monsters that appear in the halls of the 5th floor weren't all that different from the 4th floor and made up of primarily undead. Just, Ghouls started appearing in the halls as well. Honestly seeing it lined up together with the decomposed corpses of Zombies gives me the chills. We tried avoiding the rooms and walking around for a bit but we didn't run into any other monsters.

Shall we return?

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Year 7443, Month 9, Day 8

We tried going all out and looking into the room on the 5th floor once. Just like the time I first looked into the room with the Scavenger Crawler I remained tense while slowly looking into the room. This is the 5th floor that even the top teams haven't cleared yet. I won't let me guard down even a bit.

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What is, that?

A dog?

I can see various silhouettes like a doberman.

I tried Identifying it and it was a Zombie-Dog. I don't know if it's lost it's sense of smell but the only special skills it has are Infrared Vision and Paralyze. I don't know if it had Infrared Vision since the time it was alive but I feel like Paralyze is something it gained once it turned into an undead. No idea though.

I freeze the entire room with a thickness of above 30 cm from the floor.

I turn around and nod to everyone before preparing my bayonet and going into the room.

Everyone follows after me. One, two...There's 12 Zombie-Dogs letting out something like rotting juices that could be mistaken for drool as they growl and howl at us but unlike a living dog it has a deep sound mixed in so it's an unpleasant howling sounds.

"It seems they can't move because their legs are frozen.."

Zulu said.

"Yeah, that's right. Let's start hitting the closest one from all sides and finish it off?"

Just when I replied to that.

"Gwoarrurururu?!"

Just when I thought one of the Zombie-Dogs let out a howl it came flying over here.....!

! If I look closely it's limbs have been torn off. Different from the zombies of Orks and Hobgoblins, since it's legs are thin it even tore them off all on it's own!?

I split the one that jumped at me starting from the front of it's head with my bayonet that I suddenly went on guard with. If you approach within a certain distance of them the Zombie-Dogs are tearing off their own limbs and jumping at us one after another but if you pull back a bit they just fall on top of the ice and weren't any sort of threat at all. If we calmly deal with them there's no problem at all.

However, it would be dangerous in the worst case if we can't evade it so I had Gwine's spear and Ralpa and Bel use magic to finish them off once more before we gathered the magic stones.

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Year 7443, Month 10, Day 8

"..Nn, this should be fine. The point is around there."

I pointed to the Oshima floating device with my chin. There's close to 100 people on the breakwater and they're all enjoying fishing, eating a light meal, or talking about things. This is above the bank of Okada Harbor in Izu Oshima. Everyone on top of the breakwater is one of our employees or their family. Since our company has no system for employee trips, on a appropriate weekend of the summer we matched our activities with a fishing club of some place and went on a bit of a small vacation.

On Friday night the previous day, we finished up work early and took an eight hour trip a large-scale passenger ship from the town of Hamamatsu to Oshima. We arrived at Oshima at about 6 in the morning but until lunch we played around just like that in the harbor fishing. After having lunch an a random store we entered the inn, it's fine to bath in the sea, or to return to fishing again as well. After enjoying ourselves until evening we can have light party with the fish we caught and then enter the hot springs before resting. Until noon of the next day we can do as we please and then just after noon we'll take the Jettfoil* to return to the Takeshiba Bridge in the town of Hamamatsu in less than two hours.

If we put some sort of large scale name on it like employee vacation then everyone might take it like they're obligated to participate so we just limited it to calling it lodging along with the activities of a fishing club. It's fine as long as

people who want to come and people who it's convenient for come. In order for even young children and people who don't normally fish to enjoy themselves, we're not fishing on a boat but picked the bank as a place to do some simple fishing.

Unlike the fish along the shores of Honshu, the fish of a detached island aren't used to being fished so if it's at the level of a mackerel then even a child who's held the fishing pole for a first time can catch them. If they're lucky they might even catch an island mackerel. If it's someone like me who has a decent level of control and confidence in their skill with the rod then if I use the Oshima device then even from the bank I might be able to catch some sea bream, or medina.

I put some krill on the rod of my wife who is weak to boats while (they only sell krill as bait on Oshima), "Eh..Where?" I point to make it easier to tell for my wife.

"Kawasaki-sa~~~~n, is this fine~?"

A bit of distance away a young new employee is calling out to me. I tried looking over there and the way they hooked the bait completely sucked.

"You won't be able to catch anything with that, you put the hook in through the tail and pass it up through the stomach."

I said that while going to their side and fixing it for them once. On the other side some elementary school or so siblings are frolicking after catching some mackerel. On the other side I guess it seems to be a newcomer girl to the warehouse management together with her boyfriend, a young couple is frolicking in the same way as some elementary schoolers, "No~ It's alive! I can't touch~ it~" ooo, how cute.

I look at the state of everyone while walking and check if anyone is troubled. When I was about to return to my wife's side and turned around on the edge of the bank, someone started talking to me.

"Wai, Kawasaki-sa, wai"

It's Shiina. This fellow was supposed to have been participating alone. Since she's young I'm sure it's lonely with no one to bring along. Her rod was bending largely. She didn't seem to be sticking to one spot but wandering all over the

bank but I guess she had come to this place.

“Oh~ That has a good feel to it! Calm down! Give it your best!”

I light up my cigarette while cheering her on. Shiina regains her composure while panicking, and carefully starts the exchange. On her side Inoue who's brought his girlfriend along that he's marrying next month, I walk past them and help Shiina with the rod from her side while smoking my cigarette and made sure it remained in the water.

Oh~ It's a huge Fat Greenling like a beer bottle. It's a big catch!

(....no..i.....wa....)

?

.....

I was shaken awake by Bel. It seems it's about 5 in the morning. This is the teleport room of the 3rd floor.

(Somehow I feel like I was seeing a fun dream...How unfortunate.)

“Alright! Let's get right to passing through the 4th floor and go to the 5th floor!”

I said that energetically and used water magic to wash my face.

I make water in a bucket and in addition floated some ice in it.

Everyone washes their face with the cold water and we finished preparations feeling refreshed.

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Year 7443, Month 11, Day 29

We've filled in close to 40% of the map of the 5th floor, we've finally risen up to the ranks of the top teams. Though it hurts that we still haven't discovered even a single magic item but this is completely a matter of luck. However, we've found one raw emerald gem, one gold ore, and two silver ores. The gold ore was on the 4th floor and the remaining ones we found all of them on the 5th floor. The raw gem and gold ores each ended up with a price tag of over

10,000,000 Z (10 gold coins). The silver ores were around 1,000,000 Z.

In addition to these items, every time we go to the dungeon we bring back a huge amount of magic stones totaling about 2,000,000 — 3,000,000 Z, so it's said that it's just a matter of time before the Slaughterers get their hands on a magic item as well. Of course I think so too. Everyone thinks so.

However, we definitely won't let our guards down or too arrogant. If anyone shows signs of that we all warn them. Things feel good. Honestly speaking, being able to make it to one of the top adventurers in Baldukk in around a year and a half is good performance. And I'm sure we're the ones with the most accurate map as well.

If we don't let our guards down and properly continue our adventures then I'm sure we'll be able to reach the 6th floor before anyone else. If it comes to that then we'll almost entirely be able to monopolize the treasures. Sooner or later the other guys from the top teams will come to the 6th floor I'm sure, I'm sure we'll do some slightly dangerous things when we're the first ones to arrive on the 6th floor to obtain whatever treasures there are as well.

Until then we just need to keep moving forward one step at a time without getting impatient.

Chapter 112: Greed Company Headquarters

Year 7443, Month 12, Day 1

After paying the wages for the five others that aren't slaves we were about to head the dungeon the same as usual. Along the way, I started talking about things from here on out.

"Since it's about come to the point where we can clear through the 5th floor, from here on..I guess so, in another two months or so I don't think we'll be able to continue with only staying one night in the dungeon like right now but what should we do?"

I start talking to Zenom about that and,

"That's certainly true..It takes from morning to evening to get to the end of the 3rd floor after all..Things get pretty harsh if we don't take a nights rest there. And no matter how much we used to them it seems like getting through the 4th and 5th floor will take a full day as well. It might be about time for us to think about staying in the dungeon for a full week like other parties."

After looking at my face he looked up and replied.
Everyone else didn't say anything in particular but I can tell they don't really like the idea of it. After all, right among the 6 days in the week we're exploring the dungeon for 4 days, and have one half day off, and only one full day of rest. In other words, we only have 5 full days of breaks during the month. If it comes to this then it might be better to not use the standard as one week of work but rather one month.

For example, it might be good to split it into 10 days. From the first day until the sixth day we're in the dungeon, and then we have two days off on the seventh and eighth days and get some proper rest. On the ninth day we go to the dungeon but not to explore just to practice our cooperation. Nevertheless, if I think about the density of our training it still feels more efficient to do it in the vacant lot at the edge of town as we have up until now. And we rest on the

tenth day. If we do this then the number of work days until now was 22.5 days will decrease to 21 days. However, the amount of time we'll be in the deeper floors of the dungeon will be incomparable to what we have until now so if we look at it comprehensively if it has any effect on our earnings it would rather increase them.

The problem is whether we can suddenly spend a whole week inside of the dungeon so putting it frankly, the amount of time we're restricted will increase more than now. You could also change the way of saying as the amount of time we can comfortably sleep on a bed will decrease. We still have to properly pay for the cost of the inn even when we're not staying there. Well, if it's an entire week, then it's like using the inn as an expensive locker but since everyone has amassed a decent amount of wealth. It's also possible to take one persons room and put everyone's stuff there for the time we're out but if someone were to take another persons room during that time it would probably feel unpleasant.

If they're interested in it, I could make use of my privilege as a Type-2 company and create a paid locker in the government office of Rombertia and Baldukk as well. It costs an amount the same level as the cost of an inn but if you gather your assets into a currency above silver coins it isn't all that bulky so if you definitely want to store your assets it's a potential option. Although, this is an asset preservation system for Type-2 companies when they're in the vicinity of the capital to do business for a few days so there's not many people who use it for long periods. That's why it requires quite an expensive maintenance cost of 5,000 Z (50 copper coins) per day.

It's a 60 cm or so cube locker but even if it's just silver coins you put quite a few inside and if you made it into gold coins then let alone a town you could fit enough of them in to buy an entire territory and still have some change leftover. I'm sure you could easily fit several billion Z inside. When you leave it to them the officials produce a list of the amounts and goods inside and confirm status as well. Obviously the license of a Type-2 company is necessary as well so even if they're a noble if they don't have a company over Type-2 then they can't use it.

After that another method of safely maintaining your assets is leaving them at

the temple. As a matter of fact at the temple in Baldukk I'm borrowing a locker similar to the one at the government office. I'm saving up all of the assets I've earned from business selling armor and inside of the dungeon. It costs the large amount of 300,000 Z (30 silver coins) per month but for starters it's safe and since you can just keep leaving stuff there it's reliable for me. The only amount I have on hand is at most? 10,000,000 Z (10 gold coins).

By the way, right now I've left 370 gold coins there, a bit over 370,000,000 Z. Gold coins have a diameter of a bit over 6 cm and width of over 3 mm, so if it's just 500 or so of them then they'll fit inside of a small bag. It seems that platinum coins are one size larger but since I've never seen the real thing I don't know. Even gold coins you can only use at reasonably large stores and right now just one locker is plenty large enough so I have no problem at all.

I digressed a bit there but I guess it's going overboard worrying about the cost of their inn huh? Since I'm paying plenty in wages and how they use that is their freedom.

"..Hn..I guess so. I guess it's fine as we are now until we get to 80% completed on the map of the 5th floor. Either way when we go to the 6th floor there's no choice but to change the method we do it, let's think about it after seeing the 6th floor a number of times."

Even then suddenly spending a week in the dungeon is something to consider over. It might be better to slowly increase the days instead. I'm sure it's necessary to get used to the mentality of remaining tense for several days straight after all.

.....

Year 7443, Month 12, Day 2

We've been exploring the dungeon from yesterday morning until close to the evening of today and when I returned to my inn to change before dinner there was a message for me. It's from Sub-Baron Logflat. It seems that an opening will come out for a good location. I'll try going to Rombertia to take a look at it tomorrow. Conveniently it's Wednesday after all. Since we have the entire day off I'm sure I should have plenty of time to make the round-trip to Rombertia and back after seeing the company headquarters or making negotiations on it.

.....

Year 7443, Month 12, Day 3

After eating break I quickly got on my war horse and headed towards Rombertia. Just in case I've prepared 50,000,000 Z in funds as well. It's a bit too much but in the worst case even if I have to throw down some money I want to make sure to I have a means to get the headquarters for my company.

I went to the "Emerald Duke Grab Reception Hall" and after stating my name had them call out the Sub-baron. The Sub-baron came out right away.

"Sub-Baron, thank you for leaving me a message. It's without delay but I'd like to see the actual place but.."

"Yeah, it's fine, shall we go?"

I left my war horse at the "Emerald Duke Crab Reception Hall" and rode on the carriage together with the Sub-Baron making small talk, while first going to the real estate agency he was going to introduce me. It seems to be a real estate agency on the same level as Takishis Company that I made a request of before and the name is Girean Company it seems. After that we had a person from the company accompany us as we moved towards our destination. It seems to be a general goods store about midway down Bell Road.

I was pleased with it just from a glance. The size is moderate as well. The first floor is a shop and it seems the second floor is a living space. There's some display shelves and room to leave stock as well, this should be plenty.

"This place is nice. I like it. If I were to purchase what kind of price does it have? Also, when can I move into it?"

I tried asking the person from Girean Company. The Dog-people race merchant member,

"If it comes to purchase then, I guess so...According to the story I heard, you also need a workshop as well but if you'll search for that using our company as well then how about 38,000,000 Z? And you can move in right away. It's fine if we just throw out the people living here right now after all."

and said that. Expensive~ I'm sure that 30,000,000 is unreasonable for the

market price but it still shouldn't go beyond 35,000,000 Z.

"Hmhm..38,000,000 huh... By the way how much would it be if it comes to renting?"

"If it's renting then we'd like 250,000 Z per month. After all, the location is good so you'll never run out of pedestrian traffic. There's a branch office of the fourth knight group one block away as well, so it's quite safe."

Hmm, it's pretty vague. It pays off in about 15–16 years. However, if I decide right now then it's definite that someone would be sent over from Bakuddo by the spring of next year. In the first place, I've prepared a bit of extra money so it would be fine even if it was a bit expensive. Since it's in quite a good place after all, I guess it's fine.

"Hmn, I understand, I'll purchase it. However, please show me the inside and the structure. Also, it's fine later on but I want to see several candidates for the workshop as well."

When I said that and the merchant member made a face so happy he might start drooling. Since he's a dog. His tail which I can't see might be swinging.

"Of course we will. I'll let you in right away. Please, come over here."

He said that and invited me into the building. I followed after him into the store. There's pots, kettles, brooms, some small accessories, lined up all over the place but the cleaning has been done to a level where there's no dust anywhere. I wonder if it really wasn't flourishing even with this? Of course I'm sure it's only obvious they wouldn't let go of it if it were flourishing.

Further in the store there was a Cat-people woman who seemed to be in her 30s along with several children under 10 years old. When I nodded to her she returned a weak smile but,

"Hey, Yotlen, it seems a buyer has settled on it. It's this Greed-sama. He says he wants to see the building as well so let him in."

and the merchant member says quite threateningly. Well it's unrelated to me, if they ended up defaulting on the rent then the victim is the company after all. Also, it might simply be that because management got difficult they ended up going into debt to Girean Company as well. I somehow think I might feel a bit

sorry for them but their circumstances don't matter to me at all. I rudely wander around the store hitting the pillars and walls.

I smiled at the Cat-people woman called Yotlen who was cowering away and,
“I want to see upstairs as well but is it fine?”

asked that and she nodded so I'm sure there's no need for restraint. I climb the narrow stairs and stepped foot on the second floor. Just from what I can see, the second floor is a normal living space. I look around at each room and confirm there's no particular problem. I hit the central pillar that goes through to the first floor and frown at the dust that comes from the roof while returning to the first floor again.

The Dog-people merchant member is rubbing his hands together while welcoming me,

“How was it?”

and said that.

“Hn, I guess it's fine.”

I replied like that and the merchant member raises his voice to Yotlen without a moments delay.

“Hey, clear out of here by tomorrow morning, since we've just concluded negotiations!”

and said that so,

“Ah, about that though. It's no problem if you all use it until March of next year. However, in exchange for rent until then you all make sure to keep it clean.”

I just said that and to the merchant member,

“I'll pay in cash right away. Also, show me the workshop as well.”

said that and immediately left the store. For some reason the merchant member seemed displeased and the Sub-Baron grinning as we got on the carriage together again. When it comes to houses, if no one is living in them they damage faster. My father said it before I reincarnated. I just believe in

that. We circled around the six places there were workshops candidates in order. I looked properly at them all but there was only one among them that was reasonably wide, had good water circulation, and I judged to be decent. However, it hadn't been maintained, the shelves that had been abandoned had turned into something like a layer of dirt it was to the point where even the dust had become solid.

Well, if we redo maintenance and repairs on it then I'm sure it can be used. I decided to purchase it as well. I tried going all on haggling this one down to 4,800,000 Z.

I paid a total of 42,800,000 Z, signed the proof of trade, when I had them producing the property certification, I was relaxing in a corner of Girean Company drinking tea with the Sub-Baron.

"Sub-Baron, thank you very much for accompanying today even though I'm sure you're busy."

I said that and lowered my head to him.

"No not at all, you're an important business partner who sells "Saya" to our company after all so it's good to see where we will be going to do business from here on out. It's only obvious. And since we're still in front of this Girean Company as well.."

The Sub-baron says like it's nothing at all while waving his hand.

"Come to think of it, how was the reputation of the "Saya"? That's a high-class product that we can confidently suggest and we have confidence in the quality as well but"

I said that and the Sub-Baron hit his lap before leaning forward.

"That's right, that "Saya" but it's extremely popular. Thanks to that, since we've started using them the sales of our company have been going straight up. We've even reached the point where there was a 50% increase in sales for this month compared to last year and things are bustling with activity. As expected we were too busy so I discussed with the clerk but we're even thinking of bending our own rules and introducing slaves."

He said that with a broad smile. Ah, come to think of it one of his sales points

was that they don't use any slaves.

"That's great. I'm glad beyond all else that we're able to be of use to you."

I smile while replying.

"No, no matter how we think about it, it's thanks to the "Saya". The other day when I discussed it with the clerk he said it as well and even if I ask the opinion from the employees and they all said it too. There's no particular change in the service since before and after we started introducing "Saya". Then in that case the cause of the change in sales can only be thought to be the "Saya". Everyone in our company really can't sleep with our feet facing Bakuddo."

Well, it's more or less just as I imagined. Honestly speaking, in order to see what kind of thing those pig's bowels are I tried going to a brothel in the capital. As expected I thought it's difficult to keep selling them without knowing.

And I was horrified. Did you know? I'm sure a Japanese like you wouldn't know. The thickness of the pig's bowels themselves are pretty vague but before even that they're pretty hard as well. Something like that, even comparing it to the low quality condom I tried using on a business trip to Southeast Asia once makes them look like less than shit. And, it's true that the condoms brother makes are less than the condoms of Southeast Asia as well but even then there's the difference between the moon and a snapping turtle when compared to the pig's bowels. I question the nerves of someone who can properly use something like that.

Ah, come to think of it didn't brother use it? Well it doesn't matter.

"No not at all, I'm delighted that you're pleased with them as well."

"Such modesty..and, that wrapping. Doesn't that have the emblem of the royal family on it? That's a point that the customers were quite surprised about as well, it's become a point of faith in them."

"I'm sure. I directly requested the royal family to allow me to make use of it after all. Well it's a product that's sold directly to the royal family. Just think that the quality is guaranteed."

After hearing my words the Sub-baron nodded as if it were only obvious. Just then the merchant member from before came back with the documents ready.

If I put my thumb print on this with blood and take it to the government office then it's all over. I took the documents that were finished being made and then the Sub-Baron and I left Girean Company before heading to a branch office of the government.

After submitting the documents to the government office we once again returned to the "Emerald Duke Crab Reception Hall".

"How about it, will you try playing for a bit before leaving?"

The Sub-Baron said that but I a bit of unrefined business after this so I climbed on to my war horse.

Honestly I'm grateful for his proposal, I felt like something was pulling me back but it can't be helped.

.....

I once again returned to my future, no, it would be better to say finally got my hands on current. Since I still haven't finished the procedures to register it was the headquarters of my Type-2 company, it's not mistaken but in any case I headed towards the base of Greed Company. I tie my war horse to the stake in front of the shop, and moved over the threshold. If I interview them and they satisfy me, it might not be a bad idea to hire some cleaners.

And, I still need to make a signboard as well. I wonder where there's a place that sells signboards? Well, if I gain some new employees then it should be fine if I leave ordering a signboard as their first job.

Chapter 113: Employees

Year 7443, Month 12, Day 15

Every month on the 15th is the day I do maintenance on the armor of the knight group. The largest crack I've seen up until now was a cut mark in a shield. The kite shield and buckler shields aren't the usual shape of a flat board but rather when manufacturing them they end up with the center of them about 10 cm higher than the outer edges almost like a light pyramid shape but the outer edges end up being weak to cuts. Well it should still be better than a wooden board so I don't think they should have anything to complain about but Enbert who's in charge of producing the armor asks Arnold who's in charge of forging to produce a metal outer frame to strengthen the outer edges of the shield.

However, if it's training then they use a wooden sword so there's rarely large cuts to it but as expected it differs when it comes to live combat. There was a large cut on the kite shield of a knight who came back from the conflict. It seems it was cut from the upper area of the shield and there's a cut in it about 10 cm long. There's no way to return something like this to normal. I can make it look the way it originally did but the part I repaired will end up getting weaker, in the first place I can't repair the outer metal frame.

I couldn't do anything other than honestly say, "I can't do anything other than fix the appearance of damage this large, there's no other choice than to have the knight groups exclusive blacksmith create a new outer metal frame." I felt bad for him when he was making a disappointed face but this is something I had already expected so I'm glad I said it from the start. Without it turning into any major problem, I repaired the small cuts and gashes on the surface of the armor and shields brought in and left the knight group.

Furthermore, when I left the knight group, I apologized as it was related to my convenience but around next month I said it's possible I'd have to shift the repair date. Just, at the same time I also said around the spring of next year we'll be opening the headquarters of Greed Company about midway on Bell

Road and after that we'll be doing repairs there at anytime and they were pleased. Since we're going to have the proper number of people, tools, and materials we can do a more mainstream level of repairs and it's big help to me to have it out of my hands.

.....

After that, I walked towards the headquarters of Greed Company when I just purchased the other day, and went to check how things looked. It seems they're still continuing business as a general goods store but since it's necessary for them to sell out by March of next year, I suggested that they do a total inventory sale and I'm having them do that. Of course, I've already secured a full set of pots and other necessities for the squire family that is expected to be moving in here. After seeing me enter the store Yotlen deeply lowered her head and said.

"Greed-sama, we were really saved. Thank you very much."

"Ah, don't worry about it anymore. I just purchased it normally after all, from here on out, there was definitely a need to hire people as well. Rather than that, how are the sales?"

"Thanks to you it's selling quite a bit. If it's like this then we should be able to get rid of all of it by March."

"That's great. Also, what's going on with the signboard?"

"Yes, I tried asking the carpenter about it. It seems that they probably can make it with no problem."

Weeks back I asked to search for a place where we can order a signboard.

"I see, then how much is it?"

"300,000 Z (30 silver coins) is how much they estimated it at it seems."

Well, I guess about there sounds right.

"Hmn. I understand. I'll come again at the end of the month so tell that carpenter's place to prepare a proof of sales. I'll pay the money at that time."

"Yes, I understand."

“After that is..Ah, a dwelling right. I said it before but there’s no need to hurry but once you have the means to borrow a place let me know. I’ll rent it as a dorm for the company.”

The Yoltan family lost her husband that was the head of the family in an epidemic during the spring of this year, since the license of his company was white no one could inherit it and they were only allowed to finish getting rid of the remaining stock. Since she has 9 year old and 7 year old daughters and a 4 year old son she was troubled with money. She needed 3,000,000 Z (3 gold coins) to pay the taxes for a Free Person at the end of the year, which is this month but she didn’t have that much savings. She intended to sell her house and make some money but since it’s in a considerably good location there was no way to find a quicker buyer on it. There’s not many people who would jump at getting involved with a place like this right away like me. If you just switch to above one road over the market price drops quite a bit after all, and since that’s cheaper to both buy or rent as long as you don’t have any attachment to being on the main street then it’s cheaper.

Since it couldn’t be helped I asked Girean Company to be the agent but the agent’s commission was deferred payment as well. Since advance payment is one of the fundamental of business on Orth, that aspect of Girean Company is considerably conscientious. Since they were in debt to Girean Company on both the agent’s commission and the taxes for a Free Person, the Dog-People race of Girean Company was that threatening towards Yotlen.

Since I had heard most of the details from Sub-Baron Logflat as long as there was no problem with the location and outer appearance I intended to buy it right away from the start. The average agency commission for a real estate agent is 20% the price of the contract. If I were to haggle on it then Yotlen’s portion would be reduced by that much. Every year she needs to pay 3 gold coins in taxes including her daughters and in a short while longer her youngest son will be included in the taxes as well. If it comes to that then it’s 4 gold coins per year. If she could continue doing business then she might have been able to do something about it but in the case of a white license things don’t go that way. It would have been possible to sell the house and use that to apply for a new license but it would have taken time to get approved and since the store

itself would have disappeared the scale of the business would have dropped quite a bit.

It was clear that sooner or later she wouldn't be able to support their living.

“Thank you very much. If it was just like that then I wouldn't have had any choice other than to sell myself. I'm grateful for Greed-sama for not hiring just me but my two daughters as well.”

I'm paying the mother Yatlen 200,000 Z a month and her two daughters 90,000 Z and 70,000 Z a month to hire them. In total that comes out to 4,320,000 Z per year. She can somehow be able to pay the yearly taxes of 3,000,000 Z and get by I'm sure. In order for her to go on living in Rombertia with just those wages and her three kids she would have to live quite thrifty but for the most part she has assets of over 30,000,000 Z as well so I doubt they'll be troubled in their lifestyle for the time being.

I wave my hand towards her while,

“Really it's fine if you don't worry about it. I was just searching for a headquarters for my company as well and it was necessary to hire someone to clean the storefront and workshop after all.”

I said that and left the company headquarters that already belongs to me. I'm sure it would be difficult for the squire family that comes from Bakuddo to act sociable and take care of the storefront after all, even if they were finally able to get used to it, it would be about time for them to shift with a different squire family. And the squire families of Bakuddo are still restricted to the soldiers of Bakuddo. It's necessary for them to properly maintain that they have time to keep training as well. The fact that I would need to hire exclusive employees for the company was in my calculations from the start.

.....

Year 7443, Month 12, Day 24

Today is Saturday. After our cooperation training in the morning, I gave everyone a towel as a present at lunch. It's normal for the average person on Orth to use something like a thin hand-towel as a towel. Since something like a towel with fur standing out from it is considered a super luxury item everyone

was delighted over it. Particularly Zulu and Angela seemed quite happy. It's not all that big like the ones used in a hot spring ryokan in the rustic countryside but it's ability to absorb water can't even be compared with a hand-towel.

It's a good that you can always have a clean towel to use if you just dip it in boiling hot water and then try it off. Since I have the drying spell I didn't feel much need for a towel but for people who can't use wind magic or fire magic they can't use the drying spell so it seems they end up wiping with a thick cloth.

By the way I've already prepared Christmas presents for all of the reincarnated people. Ralph gave everyone socks the same as usual and Bel gave out shirts that would work as underwear. Including me we three always give out just practical items. Gwine gave the girls a hair accessory and the guys something like a good-luck bracelet that we can stick on our arms. Toris said "presents are best as things that disappear" and gave out slightly high-class sweets to everyone.

.....

Year 7443, Month 12, Day 26

After returning from the dungeon and brother and the others were at Boil Manor. I reported to him that I managed to secure a headquarters for the company while we ate together and he said that tomorrow when they make deliveries to the knight group he wants to see it right away. Well just like last year starting tomorrow I intended to make the next 10 days a holiday for the New Years so I have plenty of time. Since this time we have Gwine who is familiar with the capital I thought everyone would head off to the capital but it seems that's not the case. They're supposedly going to take it easy in Baldukk. However, since the story of the headquarters I purchased for my company came out it seems they'll come take a look with the feel of curious onlookers.

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Year 7443, Month 12, Day 27

Including the carriage I bought from Gwine and the two carriages of Bakuddo, our three carriages were heading towards capital in the morning. Just like usual we safely completed making deliveries and after taking orders for next time we all started moving towards the headquarters for Greed Company. I've already

explained things about Yotlen to brother and the others. Since we suddenly rode up with two war horses and three carriages Yotlen's daughters were surprised with their eyes wide while they were cleaning. I hop off my horse and asked if their mother was around.

"Since she said she was going to clean the workshop she's changing in the back."

and the eldest daughter Anna responded. Hmn, then that's good timing.

"I see, then after this we'll go to the workshop as well so have her wait for a bit. Let's go together."

I said that and,

"Will you let us on the carriage?"

and the cat ears of the second daughter Hanna started twitching as she was happy.

"Yeah, it's fine."

I said that and smiled at Hanna. The older sister Anna seemed disappointed. It must be her turn to look after the store. Well, in a short while I'm sure they'll have to deal with trips riding on the carriage between here and the workshop to the point where they'll get sick of it so forgive me on it for now.

I turn around to brother and the others who were waiting and,

"This is the headquarters I just bought this month."

I hold my chest held high proudly while saying.

"It seems you found a good place."

Brother smiled while saying that.

Gwine is surprised as she talked to Ralpa.

"This place. It's called Bell Road and it's a good location for a shop. It's probably extremely expensive."

After hearing that Ralpa raised her face to look at the outer appearance of the store once more. Your mouth is open.

Bel,

“He~ It seems like it will become a lovely store.”

and said that exchanged glances with Angela.

Just like that we were all being noisy in front of the store when Yotlen seems to have finished changing and came out. I introduce her to everyone and then started showing brother and the others from Bakuddo around inside of the store. After nodding satisfied brother,

“Next time..when we make deliveries in the spring I’ll bring along a family of squires. For the most part I’ve thought of a candidate for it. Since it’s the first time and I’m sure it’s no good if they aren’t reasonably skilled. It’s probably Ryogu.”

Dianne huh? If it’s her then she can use all elemental magic and has been producing rubber products for several years. It’s a good choice.

“Yeah, isn’t that a good choice? I have nothing to complain about in regards to her skill and if she gains the experience of spending some time in the capital while she’s young it might be useful from here on out as well..Rozural and Wendy, Enba, Lumis, Dianne and huh? What about Sonia?”

Rozural and Wendy are Dianne’s parents and the head of the Ryogu family is Rozural. Enba and Lumis are Rozural’s parents. Dianne’s little sister Sonia succeeded after Myun as the maid at our house.

“As expected Sonia is impossible. That’s why it’s just Rozural, Wendy, and Dianne. I’ll switch them out every years.”

Well that sounds about right.

“If it’s just three people then I think they can live with no problem.”

Then let’s start heading towards the workshop.

We all start moving again towards the workshop. We let Yotlen and the cheerful Hanna on the carriage and brother and I brought horses close together as we continued talking on the way.

During the time they’re living in the capital, the squires will all have to register as employees of Greed Company. It’s a counter-measure to the taxes though. There’s quite a few things we need to decide on.

.....

The workshop has gotten so clean that I almost couldn't recognize it. Of course, since the cleaning is still continuing it hasn't completely finished yet. But, the dirty interior covered in dust that I saw at the start of this month had completely changed. I'm really surprised and,

"Wow~ It's changed quite a bit~"

I said that and looked at Hanna.

"Yeah! We're giving it our best to clean it!"

Hanna says it boasting proudly of the job she's done but I can't imagine that a 7 year old girl would be much of a force for cleaning it from that condition. I'm sure it's mostly the achievement of your mother. It's fine though. Since it's true that Hanna is helping out as well, her childish boasting is quite cute.

"I see. You're doing a good job. How admirable."

Toris says that while lifting up Hanna from the carriage and lowering her on the ground.

Brother and the squires were taking a look around the workshop lead by Yotlen as they check the water circulation and judged that there's no problem.

"Yeah, if it's this then there shouldn't be any problem with the repairs."

"That's right. As long as we have the materials we could even make things here."

"It's plenty wide as well, it's also nice that a river is right next to it."

"Since it's old it's quite dirty but the building itself seems to be pretty steady."

"I want to try living in the capital as well."

"Try asking Farne-sama about it. But you, since you're clumsy aren't you bad are working with rubber?"

Including my brother they're all noisily talking. It seems that Yotlen and Hanna are starting to clean.

After looking around for a while we all left the workshop. Since it's a bit early for dinner, brother and the orders returned to their inn first. During that time just as I had instructed Yotlen to, with the proof of sale from the carpenter in

hand I went to pay the charge on the signboard. Today after we all finish eating dinner we're returning to Baldukk.

Chapter 114: Spring

Year 7443, Month 12, Day 30

New Year's Eve. Even if it's Orth, it's only obvious that the first day of the new year is a holiday and most businesses close up for the day. That's why today pretty much every store thrives considerably well. Even though I don't particularly have any business I'm looking into food stores as well. Talking about New Years dishes during the New Years holiday is extremely boring but it's probably a good idea to at least completely rest until I'm satisfied once in a year.

Regardless of whether it's a holiday or anything else I'm still continuing with my training so my body won't weaken that easily. If I get too bored then it might not be half bad to go to the dungeon and rage around as well. It's become where I have to bring either Zulu or Angela along but I'm sure that the New Years holiday is different after all.

It seems that recently Zulu is on good terms with a sister that works at a restaurant and the dark expression that Angela had when I first purchased her has completely disappeared. Ah, that's right, starting next year how about I raise their wages a bit as well. I take out a smoked octopus leg I bought at the delicacies shop from the inner pocket of my invernness and start chewing on it while thinking these things and wandering the town.

Oh~ Toris and Bel are window shopping at a store over there. They have their arms crossed and are completely on good terms. How enviable. Come to think of it on the day we saved Bel I was chewing on a smoked octopus leg as well. Even though all four of us has octopus legs in our mouths we were discussing it. I remembered something pointless.

"Master, are you out on a walk?"

Hn? What the, so it was Angela? She's holding bread and some kind of vegetables or ham. I'm sure this fellow is shopping for tomorrow as well. I just

paid their wages for this month this morning after all and there's quite a few restaurants that are closed for business tomorrow as well. Since I said to get your own lunch, she's probably buying up enough food right now for tomorrow's lunch as well. It seems like quite a bit of food for one person though if you think of it as lunch for throughout the holiday then it's an amount that is just right.

"Ah, Angela huh? Buying lunch for tomorrow?"

"Yes, since most places are closed tomorrow.."

After all.

"That's true. Maybe I'll buy something as well~"

"I think that's a good idea. The places that are still open will be extremely busy."

Right.

"That's true..I'll make sure I buy something as well. See you later."

I said that and walked towards the food store nearby. I wonder what I'll buy... In the end, I decided on some dried Meineiji. Meineiji is a seasonal fish but I've seen fat ones being transported after being caught in the reef area west of Baldukk. It might be nice to go fishing next time but I don't have any reel after all. If you grill them with the portable stove magic tool and they're delicious.

It's no comparison to the taste of the dried mackerel I had in my past life though the dried fish of Orth aren't anything to make fun of either. It's common knowledge that fish become more delicious by drying them out. You grill the dried fish and then unravel it and put it in between bread with some mayonnaise and it goes together quite well. I don't know who thought of it but I was trembling in excitement after meeting this taste.

I got two dried meineiji dried and cut like in Japan in my past life and had them tied on a string by the neck. I hung that down while wandering around again. It seems there's some kind of uproar going on at the restaurant a bit ahead but it's nothing unusual.

Well if a member of my parts is involved in the fight then there's no choice

than to arbitrate it so I'll peek in a bit but the only one who I can think of doing something like that is Ralpa when she gets drunk, so I'm not all that worried. Recently she's often drinking with Gwine, and Gwine is the type that gets quiet when she's drunk (I haven't seen her really drunk) so there's probably no problem.

See look, it's someone different. Ah, that guy.. isn't it a guy from {Bright Blade}? Really, those guys are all quite rough. Well anyone who is willing to pick a fight with the members there is pretty unusual as well. I bet it's just some countryside hick who just came to Baldukk. If you've even spent six months in this town you'd know they're the top of people you definitely shouldn't mess with it. As proof of that look, no one is even coming out to act as bookmaker for gambles.

A~a, that bro is going to be beaten half to death I'm sure. It's a Wolf-people man that seems to be in his late teens but his face is bright red as he says something. The Dog-people race man with a large wound on his face is scratching his chin while listening to that. Of course the Dog-people is the member of {Bright Blade}. If I remember correctly his name was...That's right Rongel. He's one of the center members of {Bright Blade}.

I met eyes with Rongel. I shrug my shoulder and pass by. Well make sure you let him off by not killing him. If you kill him it's troublesome right? By the time I finished passing by it seems they had reached a conclusion. One punch huh? I turned around once but there was nothing like an upset.

Even though I say that, around the time we recruited Bel, adventurers often picked fights with us at restaurants as well. Since even on Orth Bel's beauty stands out, she's the perfect bait for drunk adventurers. Bel herself as well but I don't even remember the number of times I've gotten into a fight either. Eventually when we started to be called {Slaughterers} there was almost no one would mess with us though. There's restaurants where Ralpa and Zulu were banned from as well.

What entered my sight is the scenery of Baldukk which is a bit more lively than usual. It seems I was able to safely make it through this year as well. Things are proceeding smoothly in exploring the dungeon as well, I guess the results of our training are finally showing, but it feels like everyone's skill with the sword

has changed quite a bit. Starting next year I want to become the true top of Baldukk in both name and reality.

Hmph. Since tomorrow is New Year's day in order to not forgot my original resolve it might not be half bad to run through the 1st floor alone.

.....

Year 7444, Month 1, Day 1

The second New Year's day I've met in Baldukk. Just like last year I go to the temple for my first shrine visit and donated 10,000 Z. Since you can't see the first sunrise of the year unless you go to the summit of the crater like hills, when it was still start I started my running and went to see it before going to my first shrine visit of the year. After visiting the shrine I went straight to the restaurant and had breakfast with everyone. I gave the five others than my slaves their wages and then returned to my inn.

I excitedly put my rubber protectors on and confirmed my equipment. My leather gloves got some oil on them last night from Ralph's roast pork so I've left them to the inn to clean. I put the map into my bag, my portable stove and dried meineiji, and without forgetting some bread and a jar of mayonnaise I threw them in as well. I put some water from the well into my flask, now then, it's time to depart.

Of course, I'm not calling out to Zulu and Angela. I feel bad for them but this is a ceremony. In order to not forget my original resolve, I need to recognize my original nervous feelings when I first challenged the dungeon. Of course, it's true that the 1st floor is easier than a fart but it's been close to a year since I've gone in with no backup.

"Ya~ Greed-san, happy new year. Are you alone today?"

It's Church-san from the knight group in Baldukk. I guess he's guarding the tax collector at the entrance to the dungeon this early in the new year?

"Happy new year. Church-san. I thought to return to my original resolve for the first time in a while. So it's something like light exercise."

I exchange greetings and after paying the taxes I entered the dungeon and

teleported to the 1st floor.

Now then, I wonder where this is? The number on the pedestal of the teleport crystal is..None! So an unexplored area huh? It's been quite a while. It's the 1st floor after all, I'm sure it's not particularly dangerous. In the first place, since we've filled in almost everything on the map of the 1st floor we already knew the general shape of all of the remaining unexplored areas. And as a matter of fact, if we wanted to investigate them we could at anytime. Because, the remaining unexplored areas on the 1st floor are thought to all be connected to the central teleport room in some sort of shape.

Putting it simply, if you just teleport to a place which connects to the teleport crystal, then once you get to the center room you start moving backwards from there and it's thought that you'll definitely be able to make it to them. It's just not an action that has much meaning. It's a waste of time after all.

However, this time I luckily (?) was able to teleport into an unexplored area. As a matter of fact there's only three blank places left on our map of the 1st floor. If I just walk for a bit I'll quickly be able to figure out which of those three places it is.

Baon!

I use wind magic to strip the traps naked. Everything seems fine. I briskly started walking ahead and in less than 10 minutes I was able to guess where this is. Ah, if it's here then I'll be able to make it to the center in two hours of walking. Alright, let's try doing a time attack for once.

I send the goblins scattering with my bayonet, cut the gnolls to pieces with {Ice Cone}. I pour more mana in to strengthen {Chain Lightning} as I roast Orks, and send {Fire Javelin Missiles} into a Gargantuan Spider to kill it all at once. I charged into a group of Hobgoblins with only four of them and beat them all down before stabbing them in the throat while hurrying ahead.

I've only gathered the magic stone from the Gargantuan Spider. I use {Flame Thrower} to burn some Green Slimes, I'm sure in about another 30 minutes I'll arrive at the teleport room.

Even if it's a time attack, it would be foolish to get injured from hurrying. I

can't let my guard down. After all this is originally a ceremony to come back to my origins. I haven't brought along the clock magic tool but it's probably been about two hours? I took a rest in the teleport room while feeling satisfied. Going off the amount I feel like my stomach has emptied there should still be a while until lunch.

Now then, since I've gone all the way of coming this far. I guess I'll try peeking into the 2nd floor for a bit. After finishing my break I stand up and confirm my equipment. No problem.

"Mehebuka"

I chant the teleport incantation and moved to the 2nd floor.

.....

Now then, I wonder where this is? The number on the teleport crystal pedestal is..None! Another unexplored area huh? It's been quite a while. Since it's the 2nd floor, I doubt it's all that dangerous. In the first place we've filled in quite a bit of the 2nd floor map as well so we already know the general shape of the unexplored areas. And, I feel like I just this as well. I closely investigate the teleport crystal pedestal in the center of the hall but as a matter of fact I was quite pleased. There's nothing above being able to fill in the blanks on our map even just a bit more.

I use wind magic the same as usual to send the dirt flying. I steadily walk down the passage and I discovered an abnormality. It's a pitfall. However..this is...

【Besshuz.Floating Disk.Automending】

【Wind.Void】

【Condition: Good】

【Manufacture Date: -/-/-】

【Value: -】

Is this that area we visited once upon a time? In that case if I return to the teleport crystal this should be on the other side of it as well. I ran back to the teleport crystal and use wind magic once more before proceeding to take a look.

..It's here. But, I can't remember which though I should have buried one of the pitfalls with earth magic. Of course I didn't completely bury it, I just buried it in enough dirt so we could pass through the center of the pitfall but I remember burying it with earth magic.

It's over a year ago but it was the time we first stepped foot on the 2nd floor. I wouldn't forget it that easily. I knew that the dirt created with elemental magic doesn't remain the dungeon forever but even then it was that large of a quantity. If you were to create it in a normal passage then it wasn't an amount that would disappear in a year or so.

I feel the center of my head cool down. I desperately try to remember back to things at that time. If I remember correctly, we advanced ahead at the split back and got rid of a snake..after that we went to a split path and then turned back. I take out my map of the 2nd floor and check it once more. The blank areas on the 2nd floor make up roughly 10% of the whole, since the diameter of the dungeon is about 10 Km, the area of each floor in the dungeon is roughly 80 square Km. Even though it's about 10% that's still 8 square Km or so of unexplored areas.

What should I do? Somehow I feel that this area is different from normal areas on the 2nd floor. If it's the normal 2nd floor then right now I don't think it would be a problem for me at all. It's already been a while since I've reached the highest level of adventurers in Baldukk.

Honestly speaking, if it's now I even have the confidence to take on the commander of the first knight group from the front. I'm sure I'm not his opponent in terms of precise sword techniques but being supported by my high status and the training which I never miss out I think I can show quite the results of that. I won't fall behind any opponent carelessly.

However, you never know what will happen in the dungeon. In order not to forget my original resolve I came here today... Honestly speaking, my curiosity is taking over my head with quite a bit of force. This is probably a special area on the 2nd floor. I might never be able to teleport here again. Is this a chance? I'm sure it's a chance.

I still properly remember.

“It seems there’s a pool of water where fairies live on the 2nd floor.”

It’s a story that only comes out in the adventure legends of the founder George Rombert the First. It’s treated as a story for drunks that no one believes there’s something like faeries but we think it’s a possible story. Well other than that fairies only come out in the legends of Orth so I’m sure it’s not very credible, but even then I think it wouldn’t be strange for there to be fairies.

I wonder if I should keep moving ahead?

I inspect my equipment once more. In addition I’ll Identify myself as well.

【Alan.Greed/5/3/7429】

【Male/14/2/7428 ▪ Human ▪ Viscount Greed Family Second Son】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 15 Years Old】

【Level: 19】

【HP: 160(160) MP: 7105(7436)】

【Strength: 26】

【Speed: 34】

【Dexterity: 24】

【Endurance: 26】

【Unique Ability: Identify (MAX)】

【Unique Ability: Gift of Natural Talent (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic (Lv. 8)】

【Special Ability: Water Magic (Lv. 8)】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic (Lv. 8)】

【Special Ability: Wind Magic (Lv. 8)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic (MAX)】

【Experience: 1071321(1100000)】

I properly put my helmet back on and carefully tighten the end of it. I open my fingers and clench them one at a time. I should be able to do this. Right now, I should be the most powerful existence on the 2nd floor Baldukk. There’s nothing to fear. Remain confident.

I take one step forward and with my bayonet in my right hand I point my left

hand forward. I use earth magic to bury the pitfall once again, and crossed over that.

.....

After going down to the Y shaped split path on the left side I entered another passage. If I remember correctly last time we from the right side. Just in case I'll try going down the right side as well. Along the way, there were two snakes but I use {Lightning Bolt} to kill both of them.

After all it seems that above the Y split they're connected together. Let's return and continue advancing ahead.

After proceeding forward and there was another similar pitfall one more time. I used earth magic again to create dirt and walked over it. I've passed several corners but there's no split path since then. And it seems there's a room ahead. I quietly close in on the room while checking out the state inside of it. I still can't tell what's going on inside. Common sense would say there's a boss in it. Or maybe fairies?

I make sure not to make any sound as I slowly move forward. There's the cases of the Scavenger Crawler on the 1st floor and the Vampire on the 4th floor as well. There might be a powerful boss in there. Otherwise there might be something like occasionally appears on the 2nd floor, a fountain which spits out snakes? Those things are quite annoying.

After all it seems to be a fountain of snakes. Not to mention making it even more troublesome is there's four of them in the room. Just when I was about to enter the room snakes started erupting from the fountain. Roughly 40–50 snakes are spit out of one fountain. Since there's four of those that's a total of 200 of them..I feel a bit exhausted but nothing will start if I don't clear through here.

I looked around in the room but let alone the corpse of an adventurer there's not even some bones. Shit, after some more snakes starting erupting out again I used the spell {Acid Cloud} in the room. {Kill Cloud} would work as well but even with {Kill Cloud} they don't die instantly. They suffer for a short while before dying. That's why it's hard to use in the dungeon. Since it doesn't absolutely finish them off and there's quite a few monsters that don't die. A yellow gas fills

the room, the portion that couldn't fit starts coming out into the passage.

I deploy an {Anti-Magic Field} on my back and ran away from the room at full speed. I'm sure this is a method of attack about only I could manage. Well, even if I leave it alone the {Cloud} type gas should become harmless within about 10 minutes so even if I don't move from here it's fine to just hang out with {Anti-Magic Field} as well.

I moved quite a bit of distance away from the room and just in case I waited about 20 minutes while keeping an eye on it. It should be fine already. I advance towards the room again. Inside of the room had turned into a horrible state. There's a massive amount of snakes moving around with festering and melted skin from the strong acid gas. Alright now, I'll put you out of your misery. I use {Flame Thrower} in AoE mode and burn the snakes to death while moving forward. Since it's troublesome I'll just ignore the magic stones.

It seems that further in the snake room the passage still continues. However, after moving about 100 m ahead I tilted my head. If you were to ask why it's because there's clearly something different in my sight. It's a door. And not like the hidden doors after the 4th floor. It's about a 2 m, double-door that looks quite heavy blocking my way. There's no knob but there's a metal plate at just the height that you can grab to open it.

This door is probably something you push to open.

Well even if I'm tilting my head I can't figure out things I don't know. Since there's a door here that means there's something on the other side and since there's a door it means there's someone who added the door here. However, it would be terrible if there was poison smeared on the door. Even when I use Identify it just comes up as 【Door】 so I think it's probably fine but since it probably wouldn't come up as 【Door Covered In Poison】 either way it doesn't hurt to be careful.

I thought about just kicking it open but if there's monsters on the other side they'll notice from the sound. I put the gun-stock of my bayonet to the door and push towards it. However, the door won't even budge. Even if I try to push against it with the bottom of my boots it's no good. I wonder if it's locked, or in the first place maybe this just looks like a door and is actually a wall, no, it's

possible it's just a pulling door and made to only open in this direction.

It can't be helped thinking like this. If it won't open then there's no helping it. However, I wonder if I can at least look through the gaps of the door to the other side? I can't find anything like a keyhole on the door. I gathered my resolve (it's probably fine though) and went close to look through the gaps in the door but since it's closed far too tight, this, isn't it really designed not to open? is what I thinking at that moment.

When I put my hands on the door to look through the gaps the door gave off a soft light and disappeared. And my mouth went wide open dumbfounded like an idiot seeing the scene on the other side of the door.

The other side of the door was a room so large I couldn't see the end of it (or more accurately I can see far into the distance). And something that shouldn't be possible in a dungeon there's a considerable distance to the ceiling as well. I don't see any source of light but there's light brightly raining down almost like sunlight, there's even vegetation growing. Almost all of the trees are small bushes and as far as I can see a grass-covered plain was stretching out.

What in the world is this? An illusion?

It's such an out of place scenery that I couldn't help but think that.

And, before I realized it the door appeared in front of me and I returned to the inside of the dim dungeon, the scenery of the 2nd floor cave again. In a panic I put my hands on the door again and it gives off a soft light and the door disappears and in front of me the plains is stretching out. If I take one step forward before the door disappears I'm sure I could probably confirm feeling the sensation of stepping on soft grass. It might just be my imagination but I think I smell the scent of grass as well. When I look up the ceiling is so high I can't even tell. It feels like there's sunlight falling from the entirety of the ceiling.

I get the feeling it's almost like being at the bottom of a large well and the lid of that from the upper parts of the wall to the ceiling are giving off light. Although, this well feels like it's several hundred meters or even kilometers.

While I was thinking that the door appeared again, if I peek past the door in

front of me then I'll be pulled back to the reality of the 2nd floor cave that I'm used to seeing. I thought about it a bit and tried touching the door with my fist covered in my brass knuckle. Nothing in particular happened. Next I try touching it with the tips of my fingers from my gloves. It immediately gave off a soft light and the door disappeared, then the illustrious scenery was spreading out in front of me again.

Hm~mm, I guess the key to it is touching it directly.

The problem is that right. In other words, if I take a step past here will I be able to return.

If I can return then it would be fine to keep exploring from here on out but if I can't then I'm sure I'll just die.

And, in the next moment I saw something fly by ahead of me?

Without even enough time to identify it, it disappeared from my sight so it's identity is unknown but it seems that I've confirmed there's some kind of living creature here. The door appeared again.

I took out the 2nd floor map and tried to guess where this is. There's only one unexplored area with enough area for that much space to fit inside.

However, think more carefully about it.

The founder George Rombert the First met with the fairies and continued to adventure even after that.

At the very least he returned.

No, just like me he might have just opened this door and taken a look in without walking inside as well though.

I guess I'll try calling out to something.

If they notice they might try approaching me from their side.

Though I might just cause them to be on their guard.

Well I'm sure they'll be cautious of me.

I touch the door once more and look at the village of fairies.

If fairies are living here I wonder if that means there's food?

Since there's water and vegetation growing after all.

I wonder if it rains?

I have an endless number of questions but there's no way of knowing.

If you don't jump into the tiger's den you can't get his cubs.

It can't be helped getting cold feet. I guess I'll try taking a look.

In the worst case if I try digging at the wall in the area of the door I'm sure I can somehow manage to return.

I take a deep breath in front of the door that appeared again and gather my resolve.

Ah, before that let's try an experiment?

I touch the door and toss a rock that was inside of the dungeon into the village of fairies.

And I heard a light sound as the rock disappears into the grass.

In addition I place a rock around where the door appears.

When the door appears again I wonder what will happen to this rock?

I observe the rock with great interest.

When the door appeared I don't know what sort of reason it had but the rock was repelled and moved over to this side.

I touch the door once more and look at the village of fairies.

Ei~ to hell with it.

The founder George Rombert the First returned from here as well.

There's no way that it's no good for just me.

.....

I took a step into the village of fairies and timidly turned around. Almost as if there's a large hole opened in the wall of the village of fairies you can see the cave of the 2nd floor. I wonder if the door will appear soon...Huh? There's just

the hole opened and the door-like thing isn't appearing no matter how long I wait. Maybe I'll try returning. When I tried returning to the cave area on the 2nd floor and the door appeared in front of me again blocking the way to the village of fairies. I touch the door once more and the village of fairies is spreading out in front of me.

Yeah. It seems to be fine. I was finally able to relax as I took a step into the village of fairies. The village of fairies just from my estimates appears to be a diameter of about 1 km in a circle. In what's probably the center of that, there's a single tree with a reasonable height (5 m or so) that I can see. For the time being I'll try heading towards that tree.

After walking for a few minutes I've roughly come to understand the terrain. The center area is probably a pond. And in the center of that there's something like a small island and that large tree is growing from there. When I was able to see the pond from a distance I was simultaneously able to see a fairy.

【Romi.Pakkus/15/3/7327】
【Male/15/3/7327 ▪ Fairy ▪ Baldukk】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 116 Years Old】
【Level: 3】
【HP: 28(28) MP: 65(65)】
【Strength: 1】
【Speed: 30】
【Dexterity: 24】
【Endurance: 1】
【Special Ability: Naming】
【Special Ability: Fairy Sight】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic (Lv. 5)】
【Special Ability: Water Magic (Lv. 6)】
【Special Ability: Fire Magic (Lv. 3)】
【Special Ability: Wind Magic (Lv. 4)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic (Lv. 6)】
【Experience: 8652(10000)】

Their height is about 30 cm, there's something like the light wings of an insect

such as the mayfly growing from their back, and you literally can't call them anything other than a fairy, there's dozens of something (people?) like that fluttering around above the pond.

Chapter 115: Fairy

Year 7444, Month 1, Day 1

As I approached close to the side of the pond the fairies were still laughing, frolicking, and flying around as if I wasn't here. I was certainly surprised after seeing the fairies for the first time but after calming down and Identifying a couple of them there's several things I've understood.

1. All of the fairies can use all elemental magics.
2. Other than magic the fairies have the special skills **【Naming】** and **【Fairy Sight】**.
3. They have individual names. I guess they did the ceremony using their special skill **【Naming】**.
4. They're freely flying around using the wings like a mayfly or dragonfly from their back.
5. Their height (size?) is only about 30 cm and they don't wear any clothes.
6. There's individuals that have a long lifespan as well (Over 100 years old is common and there's even a couple of them over 300 years old).
7. They have a lot of MP because of the level of their magic special skills and age.
8. I don't know if it's because of their late age but their HP isn't balanced with the other ability values (it's low).

And above all else what's important is that different from monsters, on the bottom the Identify window there's properly an item for **【Experience】**, related to their body level. In other words, you could say that the Fairy race is different from what is normally considered monsters. Also, going off of the above points, you could say that the 7th and 8th are racial characteristics so I can't say it's all that unusual.

I walk to the side of the pond and after taking a good look, the pond has a diameter of about 200 m and what I thought was a small island in the center was actually a peninsula. If I walk a bit I should be able to cross over. I can see a

lot of fairies gathered around the end of that peninsula. Let's try going over to there.

I somehow don't find it amusing that they're not showing any interest in me at all. It's not like I particularly want them to make a fuss but if I try matching it up to myself while thinking about it and if something like a 7–8 m high giant were to suddenly appear I think everyone would be equally surprised as they meet them.

I'm being ignored but it's not like I want to create some strife from my side either. What is it? This feeling. Being ignored itself, is better than it becoming an uproar but if I just keep getting ignored like this and somehow you know~ If possible I want to have some friendly communication, is my true feelings but it's inconvenient to keep being ignored as well.

I think it would be possible for me to catch several of them and make them into an exhibition or sell them at a high price to the royal family but even if it's me if I were to be attacked by this many with magic all at once it would be bad. They only have at most a bit over 100 MP but since they've lived for over 100 years, there was even one with their magic special skill at MAX. I have no intention at all of taking hostile action towards them.

If they can talk, I just want to try asking about the dungeon and about the mechanism for that door. If possible I'd like to try asking about what happened with the founder George Rombert the First in the past as well. After that is... that's right. It would be the best if they would teach me some spells that I don't know.

During the time I'm heading towards the end of the peninsula, I make sure to pay attention to my feet so in the worst case I don't end up stepping on a fairy laying on the ground. I don't know if the fairies are just thinking of me as something like a large moving rock but they're sitting down on my shoulder or resting for a bit on my head, they're all just having their own way. In order to not surprise them I tried calling out "Hello" in a small voice but it seems they don't understand.

It seems the fairies are talking in their own language made of extremely high sounds something like "pirurururu" and no matter what I say to them they

aren't responding.

I arrived at the end of the peninsula. The trunk of the large tree has countless cave-like holes in it and it's almost like a mansion for the fairies. There's a lot of fairies going in and out of it. I slowly walked to below the tree and sat down on an appropriate rock before starting to talk to the fairies.

I wonder if there's no one who understands my words?

"Hey~ hello."

"Do you live here?"

"What do you eat?"

"Do you have some sort of representative?"

"DO monsters not come here?"

"Do you know Baldukk?"

No matter how much I talk to them the fairies won't directly give me an answer. This is no good. I sigh as a small fairy is pulling on and opening the right nostril of my nose. I'll try identifying the special skill **【Fairy Sight】** that I've seen for the first time.

【Special Skill: Fairy Sight; A special skill that the Fairy race possess. It includes Infrared Vision, Night Vision, Far Sight, Clairvoyance, X-Ray Vision, and including strengthened vision, can see mana. This ability increases based on level.】

Don't joke with me. What's with that convenient skill?

It might still be a bit too soon for lunch but it seems like this place is safe so I'll have some lunch with the feel of a picnic and head back.

Thinking that I started digging through my bag and pulled out the portable stove magic tool and made preparations. It was when I had pulled out the dried meineiji, breath, and bottle of mayonnaise. I noticed that all of the fairies that had been flying around me or the tree suddenly landed on the ground and were staring at me. Oh~ I wonder if things like fish or bread are unusual to them? I wonder if I can win them over by feeding them?

I lit up the stove and placed the dried fish on the grill before starting to grill it. During that time I started cutting the bread but the fairies are just staring at my every movement. Right away the appetizing smell of the dried fish started drifting around the area.

It was just that moment.

A single fairy that appeared late landed on the ground in front of me and started talking to me from the other side of the stove.

“That’s a good smell.”

It’s a slightly high voice but I can hear the proper {Common Language}. I was surprised but replied to it.

“You can talk?”

The fairy ignored my question and just continued talking.

“Fish from the ocean huh..How many hundreds of years has it been. I couldn’t help but be fished out...Though I didn’t want to get involved. Hey, that, can you share a bit of it with me?”

It’s true there’s no need to respond to my question since in the first place he’s already responding to me.

“Ah..Yeah, it’s fine. You can eat it all.”

After hearing my response the fairy smiled cheerfully and thanked me. I still have one more after all.

“Oh~ is it fine? Thanks.”

“Eh? Ah, you’re welcome.”

When I replied and the fairy said to the fairies around it “pirururu” in the fairy language. After hearing that the fairies raised a cheer and started jumping around and doing somersaults in great delight. I’m still not all that hungry so I guess I could give them one more as well. No, it might be useful to negotiate for something. Ah, since they can see my bag with 【Fairy Sight】 then I guess it’s already been revealed that I have one more?

Around the time the cheers of the fairies had quietened down, the fairy that was in front of me looking at the dried fish being grilled started talking to me again.

“It’s tiring to talk in a loud voice. Can I sit on your shoulder?”

“Sure.”

I replied like that and after shake the mayfly-like wings the fairy got on my right shoulder.

It seems the other fairy that was originally on my right shoulder moved on top of my helmet.

“It’s been quite a while since a person came here..Did you hear from George? No..I guess there’s no way he’s still alive. In that case, did you just have good luck? Hey~ you, what’s your name? Is it fine if I look at your status?”

The fairy grabs my earlobe and says in a quick pace. It tickles.

“Yeah, I don’t mind.”

“Hmn, is it fine to call you AI?”

What!? It should be necessary to say Status Open. I was surprised and turned my face towards the fairy that’s grabbing my earlobe on my shoulder.

“Hey, isn’t that dangerous! Don’t move so suddenly.”

“Uh..Ah..Sorry about that. But, why...”

I guess since I was making such a surprised expression, the fairy replied to me.

“Ah, fairies can understand. It’s the so-called 【Fairy Sight】. We can see mana after all. We can even see Status. The mana line connected to you as well”

“Huh?”

“Eh? After all there’s a {Report} on you? It’s unusual and since I thought there was something to it I didn’t really want to get involved though. But, since I smelled the scent of a fish from the ocean..There’s no way I could resist it.”

What? What is it saying? Did it just say {Report}?

“Hey~ is it okay if I look at your status as well?”

“Hn? Yeah, I don’t particularly mind. Feel free.”

After the fairy said that he sat in a comfortable spot on my right shoulder and peeked into the fish being grilled on the stove. I touched his hand without restraint and said “Status Open” while Identifying him.

【Karl.Milais/21/6/6811】

【Male/21/6/6811 ▪ Fairy ▪ Baldukk】

【Status: Normal】
【Age: 632 Years Old】
【Level: 12】
【HP: 22(22) MP: 241(242)】
【Strength: 1】
【Speed: 31】
【Dexterity: 25】
【Endurance: 1】
【Special Ability: Naming】
【Special Ability: Fairy Sight】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic (MAX)】
【Special Ability: Water Magic (MAX)】
【Special Ability: Fire Magic (MAX)】
【Special Ability: Wind Magic (MAX)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic (MAX)】
【Experience: 239214(270000)】

Karl huh? And..he was tremendously older than me and all of his magic skills are MAX!

【Fairy race: {Fairy} Species】

Well I thought it would be something like that.

【Baldukk: The sixth seed.】

I don't understand the meaning. Normally, the family name they're a member of is supposed to go here though...

"Hey~ Al. Isn't about to start burning? Either move it or flip it over."

"Eh..Ah.."

I moved the fish a bit on the stove and continued grilling it.

"Umm...Is it fine to call you Karl?"

"Yeah, it's fine if you call me Karl. It's a good name right?"

After saying that Karl turned around on my lap and smiled at me.

"Karl, you are, no, are you a fairy?"

“Hn? That’s right? You saw my status right? And you don’t need to talk so politely like that.”

Karl said that while making a strange face and continued talking to me intimately as I,

“Ah, no. Yeah...And, why are you fairies inside of Baldukk? Do monsters or adventurers like myself not come in here? Won’t you get captured?”

I tried asking that.

“If you saw my status then you should already know right...We’re all priests. There’s no one out there that would lay a finger on us.”

Ah, come to think of it they had the 【Naming】 special skill. It’s true there’s no one out there who would lay their hands on a priest.

“Ah, I guess that’s true...And, huh? Just now, I..”

I was thinking about something really evil like capturing a couple of them and selling them or turning them into an exhibition right...

“I’m sure it’s just that right? You want to say you thought about capturing several of us right? That can’t be helped, if it’s just thinking about it and you don’t actually try to act on it then it’s fine. I’m sure there’s priests in the country of humans as well right...Are they not allowed to fight between married couples? Even their children might feel hatred towards their parents to the point of killing them when they’re small. There’s no way divine punishment would fall over every instance like that.”

That’s true.

“Well I guess it’s fine. It’s true that the fairy race is rare to humans. It can’t be helped...Well it should be a decent way to spend time until it’s finished grilling. First off, if you’re asking why we’re here then it’s because we were born here. And, in regards to whether or not adventurers or monsters can come here, it’s not like they can’t come. In reality, Al came here after all. Although, it’s a matter of whether or not we see a human once in every couple hundred years or so though.”

“I see...By the way, you just mentioned something or other about a {Report}

but, what's that about?"

"Huh? Could it be you haven't noticed it...Why? Ah, this place is fine but..Hmn, {Report} is the name of a spell. Aren't you sending the information you see and hear to someone right? Since it's eats up a tremendous amount of mana, it's an ultra high-grade spell that even I can't use. Judging off the color of it they're probably quite far away. Hey~ rather than that isn't it about time to flip it over.."

"Wait just a minute! I have some kind of spell cast on me!"

"Uwa...that was a loud voice, really. That's what I've been saying. Rather than that flip it over."

Ah! Really! I flipped over the meineiji to the other side.

"What is that {Report}? What kind of spell is it!?"

"Lower your voice a bit more. {Report} is a mix of {Divination} and {Charm}. It's a spell that could be considered legendary. You've never heard of it?"

I'm asking because I don't know. If I knew then I wouldn't be asking. When I shook my head the fairy that was sitting on my helmet yelled "Kya~!!" and fell on my shoulder.

"Ahahahaha, Bell, that was funny. Hey Bell fell off in a strange way! That was funny right!"

It's not funny at all.

"Hey~ Karl. What kind of spell is that {Report}?"

"Ahahaha, something like that doesn't matter at all. Eh? Why are you making such a scary face?"

It's only obvious I'd make a scary face.

"Karl. Sorry but could please tell me in detail about the spell called {Report}? I'm begging you. If it's something I can do then I'll help out in thanks."

"Hn~n. Then give me the other fish as well."

"If that's fine then I'll give it to you."

After hearing my response Karl did a somersault and,

“Really! Feel free to ask anything.”

said that with great delight.

“Ah, it’s true. That’s why please tell me about {Report}.”

“Even if you say to teach you about {Report}~ I don’t know much about it at all and it’s all hearsay though. First off, I just said it before but {Report} is a spell categorized under the {Divination} and {Charm} systems. That’s why maybe it’s not normally known?”

“What is that {Divination} and {Charm} stuff? Is it the name of a spell?”

I’ve never heard of something like that.

“Hmn, starting from there huh~ Well I guess it’s fine. Magic is largely split into 13 systems. {Abjuration}, {Alteration}, {Charm}, {Conjuration}, {Divination}, {Enchantment}, {Evocation}, {Invocation}, {Illusion}, {Necromantic}, {Phantasm}, {Possession}, and {Summoning}. Is up to here fine?”

Like I know. It’s my first time hearing! Not to mention there’s a lot of them. Like I could remember something like that.

“Judging off that face it seems like it’s the first time you’ve heard about them~ I only know of it from hearsay from my mother and father as well though. Well these 13 systems but when you think about it there’s not much harm in reducing them even further. {Charm} and {Enchantment}. {Conjuration} and {Summoning}, {Illusion} and {Phantasm} in most cases those are all two systems in one so there’s not much problem to remember them as the same thing. Also, {Possession} is too unique so if we were to use some extreme logic you don’t even need to remember it. Well in that case you can say it’s something like 9 categories as well. It’s fine to think that all spells are categorized into one of these 9 systems.”

“I see.”

“And, among those the {Charm} and {Divination} system are almost all made up of legendary spells. {Report} is one of those types. I think what is commonly known would probably be {Mana Detection}, {Mana Perception}, and {Sleep Cloud} or so. Incidentally {Mana Detection} and {Mana Perception} are {Divination} and the spell {Sleep Cloud} is a combination of the three systems

{Evocation}, {Enchantment}, and {Charm}. Ah, I guess in that case the spell Fortune-Telling {Divination} isn't known either? It's a spell to know incantations. It might not be commonly known though."

"Ah, ah."

I let out a weird voice. I feel like I've somehow touched some enormous knowledge.

"Ah, isn't it already about done?"

"Eh?"

"The fish, fish!"

Ah, the dried fish. It's true it's about a good time.

"Don't forget about it."

Karl said that in a huff but his expression seemed like he was already about to start drooling. I lower the dried fish from the stove hung it upside down by the tail.

"A plate or something..there's no way you'd have one right."

"Just hold it for a bit like that, we'll all eat it."

Karl said that and then "Piru..ruruppi" called out to all of the surrounding fairies with that voice. After hearing that all of the fairies let out a cheer while swarming to the dried fish I was holding. And when their small pencil like hands they dug out from the body of the dried fish one after another. The dried fish had become a clean bone in about a minute.

Chapter 116: Price

Year 7444, Month 1, Day 1

I throw away the meineiji that had turned into just a bone and take the second dried fish out of my bag before putting it on the grill of the stove and started grilling it again. Karl and the other fairies are all intently eating the dried fish in their hands a bit at a time.

The ones that managed to get the delicious fatty portions of the stomach are curling up their bodies to protect it from the other fairies while eating it, it's the same for the ones who got the meat from the cheeks, eyes, and areas like that. Hmn. These guys, since their height is roughly 30 cm or so, well it means they're less than roughly $\frac{1}{6}$ th my size. Since my height has just reached about 170 cm, and you could say I'm pretty tall for a 15 year old.

In any case, since their height is $\frac{1}{6}$ of me then I guess that would make their body weight 6^3 or so? To be more accurate it would be a bit less than 6, so that means they're about $\frac{1}{200}$ of my weight. If you're asking what I want to say then it's about the volume of their stomach. The dried meineiji I brought was about 30 cm long. The portions of it that were possible to eat putting aside the head from the neck to the tail was about 20 cm worth. When it comes to me in my growth spurt as expected just one is not enough. If I don't have two and some bread I feel it's a bit lacking for a single meal.

I think there's over 100 fairies in all? It wouldn't be strange for there to be about 200 of them. In that case, they probably feel it's not satisfying with just one fish as well. Ah, it would have been good if I bought two more...

"What's this?"

Karl points at the bottle of mayonnaise while moving his mouth as he chews. He still has some meat of the meineiji in his left hand. You, took a bit extra right.

"Ah, it's mayonnaise. If you put a bit of it on the body and" Ah, mayonnaise huh? I don't need it. It's sour after all."

I see. It can't be helped so I smear some mayonnaise on the bread I just cut and ate it just like that. I talk while eating.

"And, continuing from where we just left off, would you mind telling me?"

"Talk? What was it again?"

Stop talking with your mouth full. I'll flick you in the head, this winged insect.

"The magic, the conversation about the spell {Report}."

"Ah, I'm amazed you could remember that. How far did we talk about it again..Ah, I guess it doesn't matter. In any case, {Report} is a spell that shouldn't be known all that well. There's quite a few restrictions on using it after all. Did I talk about the restrictions?"

"No.."

"I see. {Report} is a spell you use on a specific target. It often requires using a lot of mana. In most cases, there's quite a bit of distance between the user of the spell and the target, or at first even if they're close by, they use it under the assumption that they'll separate afterwards. That's why the first condition is that the user needs to have a large amount of mana. After that, it's also necessary to know the target they're using the spell on well. On the level of family you're normally living together with. It seems it's not impossible to use it on a completely stranger as well, but in the case it requires even more mana it seems. Well in the first place {Report} itself uses up a tremendous amount of mana so regardless of whether it's family or a stranger it doesn't matter at all. By the way, this fish, it's my first time eating it. It's really delicious right. It's even more delicious than the Meizassh that George brought in the past! What kind of fish is this?"

"It's a meineiji. And Meizassh isn't the name of a fish. It's a method of drying out fish. It was probably a fish called Eiwas. Were there a bunch of them with something like a skewer passed through their eyes? And they shouldn't have had their bodies cut open like this one. Rather than that."

"Wh, what did you say?! I didn't know that. Al knows everything. I guess this is what you'd call extensive knowledge."

"There's no way I know everything right. As proof of that things like {Report}

or..the 13 systems of magic, it's my first time hearing those. That's why, please hurry with the continuation."

"Really~ Al sure is impatient. If it's like that you won't be popular? It would be best if you properly listened to what people are saying."

This..I want to dry it out and turn it into sardines~ I imagined biting into Karl's head while biting my bread and started to feel disgusted so I stopped.

"..What is it? Suddenly going quiet. Ah, are you reflecting on it? Do you want to become popular that much? How unfortunate but we fairies and the human" "That doesn't matter at all, I'm begging you so please continue with teaching me about it."

"If you had come out like that awkwardly from the start then I would have taught you though..Al sure is a shy one."

Really can't this guy just die already?

"Hey~ Karl. I'm begging, I really want to know. Please teach..Please teach me I'm begging you."

"If I'm being asked that far then I guess it can't be helped. Then, the continuation. In any case the spell {Report} requires an absurdly large amount of mana to use. That's why isn't it only about the Gods? That can use it."

"Huh? Gods?"

"Right. I'm sure it's only about the Gods. Like I~du-sama or Vagwina-sama, don't you know them?"

Putting aside I~du, I've never heard of a name that's one step from becoming a word prohibited from broadcasting like Vagwina.

"I don't know them. It's my first time hearing that as well. Are those the names of some Gods?"

"Hmn, I see. Both of those Gods are pretty old after all. Well to be more accurate they're not Gods but {Demi-Gods}. It seems that recently Lilus-sama was able to ascend to being a {Demi-God} as well. Well even if I say recently it was before I was born so I don't really know for sure on it. Rather than that, Meineiji, was it? Flip it over."

“Ah, yes-yes~”

Just as Karl requested I flip over the dried fish so a different part of the flame is hitting it.

“In any case unless it’s someone like those {Demi-Gods} that have an absurd amount of mana then there’s no way they could use a spell like {Report}. That’s why, I could have sworn at first that Al was the envoy some {Demi-God} had sent over.”

“It’s not a skill right?”

“He~! As expected the things someone with a Unique Ability says are different!”

Eh? I haven’t said a single thing about having a Unique Ability..

“What are you so surprised over? Fairy Sight can see all skills...Come to think of it George was surprised as well. He had a lot of more Unique Abilities than Al. That’s right did you know? George you know, he said his name isn’t George..What was it again? In any case he said he had a completely different name. That’s strange right. Even though he had the name George Rombert. Well rather than something like that but in regards to the spell {Report}“Rather than something like that, you..!”

In a panic I interposed some words but Karl just kept continuing like that.

“In order to use {Report} you know, it seems you select the target for it, but that doesn’t particularly mean they have to be within your vision supposedly. However you know, if they aren’t normally in your sight you’d have no way of selecting them right? Ahahahaa.”

I wonder if it’s just my imagination that talking to this guy makes me feel pointlessly tired.

“Wait just a moment, Unique Ability..Never mind, I’ll ask in order..”

“That’s right, Al. It’s important to properly listen to what people are saying. And, did I already mention that {Report} is a spell the user casts on a specific target? Yeah, right. And then..”

Karl’s conversation kept jumping back and forth here and there, but I was able

to learn several important points.

First, about the spell {Report}. In order to use it you need a tremendous amount of mana. I don't know how much that is but it seems it's no good if it isn't in the realm of the Gods like these {Demi-God}. I don't know at all if I could use it with my mana.

And, the important parts start from here but the spell {Report} isn't a spell that just sends everything the target sees or hears to the user as it's running. It's limited to just the effect of allowing the user to peek into the head of the target it seems. That's why, he said unless it's something that the target is somewhat strongly aware of that remains in their memory then they can't see it. And, it seems that in order for the user to see inside of the targets head the target needs to be in a state where their level of consciousness has fallen so it seems that most of the time it's while sleeping and the user can only see things when they want to look (in other words, unless the user doesn't actively try to look at them they can't see).

And, the memories of the target that the user looks at are stolen. Stolen is a considerably faulty expression. More accurately they're "sealed away as if they're stolen". It might be a bad comparison but if we were to say there's an event called A which the target has strongly remaining in their memory. If the user of the spell looks into the memories of the target during sleep and event A is included in those memories they see then the target will have memories concerning event A sealed away "almost as if it was stolen". Since it's limited to just being sealed away, if there's some sort of occasion then you can remember them again easily.

Here I remembered back to several instances. One year ago and even before that I was forgetting about important things right and left. Of course, everyone has times when they forget about things that aren't important so I'm sure there's plenty of stuff I've forgotten about and just not noticed as well. If I have the spell {Report} cast on me then it's not that I can't agree on that point.

It seems the target is fine as anyone. The easiest target is something like parent and child, siblings, or a blood relative. After that is blood relatives who are a bit further on the degree of kinship. And people like roommates or marriage couples that are on intimate terms like family but not blood related.

Friends, acquaintances, as the relationship gets further away it seems it requires more and more mana to use the spell. It seems that in the end even if it's a No-Name Gonbee-san who you don't know at all and is several hundred Km away it's possible to use it on them still.

Also, it seems that even we say strangers, rather than a blood-relative who lives far away, an intimate person who lives nearby and has similar values is easier to use it on. For example, if I were to use it on my parents or child (I have no children though) then it would be the easiest but by narrowing the search objective it can be easier to use it on a stranger as well.

Rather than trying to look at everything inside of my head things like, "a former SDF officer who was discharged as a result of fighting and likes fish" or even lighter, "people who want new shoes" if it's people who have the same values as me, or rather, I can't express it right but anyone who might share similar qualities, it seems that those sorts of things make it easier to target the spell. I remember back to searching by keyword on the internet. It's probably unrelated though.

According to Karl there's even more of some kind of restriction in the mana of the {Report} that's connected to me and obviously the more restrictions (something like search conditions?) included the easier it is to use, so while it makes sense to me, it's certain I don't feel good about it. When it comes to distance according to Karl it's tremendously far away. Though it depends on the frequency and depth that the spell {Report} is being used but it seems that if someone mentions the memories that were sealed it's common to remember them.

This is probably the cause of my memory impairment. I don't know for sure when they started using it on me but according to Karl, it seems it's less than 10 years in the past. At first I was suspicious of the God who reincarnated me but I guess that means that's not the case?

The next thing that had my interest was what Karl said about the human named "George Rombert" who visited here in the past. In all likelihood it's about the founder George Rombert the First.

I guess that means the legends were true.

And it seems that George Rombert had a lot of Unique Abilities. In other words he was a reincarnated person the same as me. The only thing that Karl was somehow able to remember was that he had around 20 Unique Abilities. He said he doesn't remember what kind of abilities they were. If who he met was the founder George Rombert the First then it would have been about 500 years in the past, so it's probably harsh to criticize him for that. It's good he was even able to remember just the name.

After that is magic. According to Karl, splitting it up into elemental magic like Water, Fire, Wind, Earth, and Void Magic for the five types of magic is the way of organizing them for beginners. It's true that their names appear as special skills so it's easy to split them up like that. However, when it comes to using magic there's always some sort of objective to it. It's something that's only obvious but an action without objective doesn't exist. No matter how insignificant or trivial it is an objective is an objective. And, in order to meet that objective in most cases Void Magic makes up the largest factor towards that.

You're using element magic and void magic in combination to create a spell but spells each have a certain process to them. How you make the elements using elemental magic, the order they're made, what happens after they're made, and how void magic interacts with that. The organization of thinking about things like that is the magic organization called the 13 type system.

For example, it doesn't matter what but if you have an elemental magic of level 2 (above) and level 2 (above) void magic that you use in combination you can use the most simple form of healing spell called {Cure}. This "doesn't matter what" part is where it gets difficult. It's fine if it's earth magic or water magic. Of course it's even fine as fire and wind magic as well. Such magics as those combined with void magic and the healing phenomena that are made through magic is the spell called {Cure}.

Then what system of magic does {Cure} fall into?

Is what it comes down to. It's true if you try to think of it in terms of special skills as the base then it comes out as extremes, so it might be easier to call it "all systems" in that case but that's essentially the product of abandoning the idea of trying to study magic.

The ones that are primarily used for healing {Cure} or light healing {Cure Light} are the {Cure} system or the type for connecting limbs back together {Reconnection} (after all it existed), and those sorts of spells that have some kind of effect on the body are classified under the {Necromantic} system of spells it seems.

The one that removes paralysis {Remove Paralyze} and neutralizes poisons {Neutralize Poison} that are commonly called the Remove type have a classification as well. {Remove Paralyze} is the {Abjuration} system and {Neutralize Poison} is the {Alteration} system.

I felt like scales fell from my eyes hearing this. It's true that since I normally use mana and I can use a variety of spells, and have trained with them quite a bit so it's a concept that's easy for me to understand.

The type of spells used for attack as well, on Orth they're considered Gravel type, Arrow type, Bolt type, Javelin type, and simply have a warhead to that goes flying, or ones that are called the Azahedd type (Fire Ball is of course included but Lighting Bolt, Ice Cone, Disintegrate are considered this type. Simply put they're just classified as different from the above) so it's only obvious they were split up by the wide variety of elemental magic and the scale they use.

If I were to split these up into the systems I just heard, for example {Stone Gravel} is {Stone Arrow}, {Stone Bolt}, {Stone Javelin}, all of those would be under the same {Alteration} system and also include the {Summoning} system but if it's {Stone Missile} that has guiding added to it then not just {Alteration} and {Summoning} but the {Invocation} system is included as well. If this weren't Stone but rather Ice then it becomes {Alteration}, {Conjuration}, and {Summoning} systems, and then if you were to make it into Ice Missile then just like with Stone it would be those three plus {Invocation} system added.

Other than that there's also {Flame Thrower} is the {Alternation} system but {Fire Ball} is the {Evocation} system. Just the same {Shocking Grasp} is the {Alteration} system and by making the range of that even wider in other words {Lightning Bolt} is just the same as {Fire Ball} the {Evocation} system.

Things like the magic sound {Audible Clamor}, {Ventriloquism}, clone {Mirror

Image}, {Invisibility}, and {Paralyze} are parts of the {Illusion} and {Phantasm} systems.

And then spells entered into a territory that I didn't have even the slightest clue about. Spells that have to do with the mentality. The spell that can interrupt the opponent from thinking normally the spell {Confuse} (this seems to be {Enchantment} and {Charm} systems). A spell that makes it so the opponent is more likely to go along with your proposals {Suggestion} is the {Enchantment and {Charm} system, it seems that there's a lot of really useful spells along that end, just the same under the {Divination} system which is considered a legend there's {Find Trap}, {Detect Charm}, {Detect Lie}, {Predict Weather}, a mountain of insanely useful sounding spells.

Incidentally the {Possession} system which is said to be special is only made up of a spell called {Magic Jar}. It's a frightening magic used to seal away the targets soul in a container prepared before hand (it seems a gourd is the best choice).

Putting it simply you could say they're splitting them up based on their use of void magic. Honestly speaking, if it wasn't someone like me who can use a variety of spells I don't think there's much meaning in learning or organizing spells by system. However, it's a way of thinking that matches perfectly to me.

After thinking that far and knowing anew on the existence of a variety of spells I lowered my head to Karl who is biting into the dried Meineiji.

"Karl. Please, would you teach me magic? If there's something I can do in return then I'll do anything. I'm begging, just like this."

After hearing my wish Karl,

"Eh~ that's too annoying. It's not like I can use them all well myself either..Wouldn't it be fine if you just asked the one using that {Report} spell on you? And my stomach is almost full soon, I'm busy. After all I have to take an afternoon nap after this~"

Said that and was about to go off somewhere (probably draw back into his sleeping place). I somewhat was able to grab him and lowered my head again.

"You know~ I'm tired right now. Haven't I already taught you plenty? If you

don't stop already I'll really get angry~ And, there's already no more Meinieji right? You should leave."

Ah, I see.

"Understood. I'll leave for today. However it's fine if I come again right?"

"I don't mind that. However can you get here? In order to teleport to here from the 1st floor, it won't work just through coincidence. Once in every four months, in other words January, May, and September, it's only a matter of if you get lucky when you teleport on the first day of those months. And, I don't know how you did it but you have to get past the {Snake Generator} as well, and if you don't press the switches that are in the bottoms of the pitfalls in the correct order the door won't appear as well. Ah, I have no intention of teaching you though."

Hohou.

"I see..Karl, that's unfortunate.."

"I'm disappointed as well, Al. Since you brought something delicious along."

"Yeah, by the way, do you know of a fish called Meiseiva? I thought about bringing that along next time. I'm sure there's a matter of taste as well but I think it's more delicious than Meineiji. I really wanted to let Karl try eating it. But, it can't be helped."

"Ha Ha, people with Unique Abilities all seem to say things like that. It's true I have interest in that fish but there's no way I'd trade the secret for food. But, it would be nice if we can meet again in four months. If you bring along some fish again at that time I'll talk to you some more. See you later. On your way back it will drop you a place that looks the same but they're different~ Then, Good night~"

Karl said that and flew up to the upper part of the tree.

Not just Karl but the other fairies are all gone as well. I'm standing all alone in the middle of the pond. It can't be helped, I guess I'll head back. I quickly gathered my belongings and started walking back the way I came. I walk through the hole where the door is and after turning around there was no sign or shape of the door anymore.

Next time I'll bring along a lot more fish.

Furthermore, the place I ended up in the dungeon was a completely different place from where I had originally teleported. I was able to realize it was still the 2nd floor along the way but I had to walk carefully for three hours and by the time I finally arrived at the room with the teleport crystal I was exhausted.

Chapter 117: Fierce Attack

Year 7444, Month 1, Day 1

I somehow managed to return to the town of Baldukk in time for dinner. I had a slightly extravagant New Year's dinner(it's just that the ingredients were slightly higher quality) with everyone and then returned to the inn. I was invited by Toris and the others to go drinking but there's something I have to do alone in my room for a bit.

It doesn't even need to be said, trying to release the {Report} spell cast on me. It's a spell that's supposedly God-level extra high difficulty to use in addition to taking an ultra amount of mana, but you know~ even my mana is God class. Probably though. I sit down on the chair in my room and grab my head with both of my hands. Right, in order to deploy an {Anti-Magic Field} on my head. The amount of mana I'm putting into it is all of it remaining except 5 MP. Since I have 7,063 MP remaining right now I'll use 7,058 (I only recover 12 MP per hour from natural recover after all, I used a reasonable amount of MP in the combat on my way back. The amount of MP required to use the spell {Anti-Magic Field} multiplies in 5s with an addition of 3 so if I were to use it all my MP would hit 0).

Since I just ate and it's just a matter of getting tired enough to go to sleep so I thought of using all of my MP as well but I want to avoid being unable to endure it and attacking a woman walking down the street. And right now as long as my MP doesn't hit 0 I'm safe inside of the inn so it's fine if I just sleep after.

I calm heart and start kneading mana. I normally use {Anti-Magic Field} quite a bit but the amount of MP I put into it is at most a few hundred. The last time I used this much all at once was when I was still small and devoted to increasing my MP. Even then I've only used {Anti-Magic Field} while trying to precisely control the MP used in it about five times so it would probably be best to resolve for it to take about 10 minutes to properly activate.

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.....

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Alright!

I take the {Anti-Magic Field} I deployed and while remaining focused on the spell {Report} cast on me I aim it towards me head.

..This should be fine. I'm probably already fine. The only thing remaining in between my hands right now should be the MP remaining from the remnants of the {Anti-Magic Field}. If I Identify my glowing hands then I can tell exactly how much MP was used on that spell {Report} by subtracting it from the MP remaining. I should have 5 MP remaining. If I use Identify it will turn to 4 but it should be fine. Since I'm interested I'll try Identifying it.

Eh!?

My hand isn't shining!

I can only think of one possibility.

It perforated through my {Anti-Magic Field} that was using 7,058 MP, in other words over 7,055 MP was used on the spell {Report}, is what it means. Since I've used {Anti-Magic Field} a lot since the past against my brother and sister I've completely gotten a grasp on it's characteristics. The bare minimum uses 1 MP in earth, water, fire, wind, and 4 in void for a total of 8 MP. With this you can erase any spell that uses up to 5 MP. I just said it but after that if you add 1 MP for all magics after that (in other words, 5 MP each) you can increase the aggregate amount of MP erased with just that. If it's the {Anti-Magic Field} I just used then it should be able to erase a spell that uses up to 7,055 MP.

I just stared at the palms of my hands in a daze but I've gradually started to feel like laughing.

"kukkukku"

I don't know if it's a {God} or a {Demi-God} but the world is a vast place.

"Ufufuffufu"

With just 7,055 MP.

“Heeeee e e e”

I guess it's the frog in the well doesn't know the ocean.

“Ahhaahahahah”

There's someone that would use this type of spell which you never know when it would come in handy after countless years of checking. It's truly a God, this is. If I try to calmly think about it, it's not something man could manage. I already knew more than well enough that the beings called Gods existed but once again I can't help but think they're amazing. Simultaneously I feel some sort of pitch black emotion rising up that is difficult to control but I decided forcibly push it back down.

Well if it thought of me as something harmful and intended to remove me then if it can use this much mana then shouldn't it already have been able to do it, rather, I'm sure with just a single fingertip something like me would be turned to ash. Since that hasn't been done to me until now, I guess it means that it's accepted my actions. No, it's also possible that it's just observing me. Either way I'm sure it doesn't see me as a threat and most likely doesn't have any intention of killing me as well. I don't know if it was able to tell that I just tried to remove the {Report} (Since it seems that it can only look in on my memories when my conscious is decreased {Report}) but in the case it does know, I wonder what will happen to me?

I tried thinking about it a bit but I thought that it wouldn't particularly do anything. In my past life around when I was an elementary schooler in the 1970s. I kept a beetle inside of a fish tank, I took care of and observed it everyday. I kept some crayfish as well. I've gotten hurt from being pinched by both of them. However, both the crayfish and the beetle were existences that were far for me to consider them a threat. Even if the crayfish and beetle I was keeping were to have the ability to think, and think that the fact that they're made into pets isn't amusing, and I knew that they were thinking of trying to escape from there, I'm sure I wouldn't have tried to do anything special.

Of course, even then I would properly give them food and as long as they're alive I would remove the dirt, clean the fish tank, and take care of them. Even if I know they're planning to escape since I also know they can't open the lid of

the fish tank with their power, even if they were to try it right in front of my eyes I wouldn't get angry at them. Let alone that I'd probably think, "oh~ they sure are energetic" and show even more affection towards them.

In other words it's the same as that. It might not be any different from researchers who put trackers and such on dolphins, sea turtles, and other animals and watch their behavior patterns and such like that. Rather than a child taking care of his crayfish the researchers would probably be the ones less likely to involve themselves with the target though.

Of course I don't have any proof. It might all just be my own delusion. For the most part there's also a God that reincarnated me so it's possible it might just want to know if I were to die or the cause of death or something. After all, the first time I met God it replied that several had already died and told me what the causes of death were for them. If I were to mention the harm of it, then it's about some random memories being sealed up and even then if someone mentions them it's a seal so weak I'll remember them. It's certainly a bad memory that I forgot about things in regards to the efficient way of acquiring the magic special skill but I completely remembered that after being punched by brother.

Since then I've made sure to be careful as well and written a memo called "to keep the laws of Bakuddo" and have it hanging on my wall. Right now the only memories that I would be troubled by forgetting are just these. It's an extreme argument but even if I were to forget anything other than this I wouldn't be troubled right away by it. Of course, if I were to forget something like language, the way to use magic, or how to use Identify there's a lot of things I would be troubled by but according to the story I heard from Karl what is lost is limited to memories of declarations in episode memories so it's not just limited to language, knowledge, or some type of skill (It's not just limited to Unique Abilities and magic. The way to use the sword or fishing techniques are included) those sorts of meaningful memories are probably no problem.

In other words, the "method to acquire magic skills" that my mother developed and the "exhaust mana during infancy to increase it at a certain probability" are within the range of meaningful memories so I won't end up losing them (being sealed away). However, because "keep both of these pieces

of knowledge a secret” is an episode memory there’s the possibility they could be sealed. Giving one or two more examples and since the knowledge “exhaust mana during infancy to increase it at a certain probability” is a meaningful memory I can remember it but the reason why I managed to learn that is an episode memory so it’s possible it could be sealed. Although, since this is something I can find by using Identify to check the sub-window on MP so if I see it again I’ll probably remember.

Just the same way my name Alan Greed isn’t a meaningful memory but an episode memory. However, the names of third parties and items are classified as meaningful memories. Because the first method someone has of recognizing their self-awareness is to know their name and a lot of the first memories are of their name. Particularly in the case of me with experience reincarnating, I already had the ability to retain episode memories since I was a baby.

In my case, it was the same as being born with an adults level of ability in regards to episode memories so the instance I learned my name was like a once in a lifetime event on the end of episode memories. However, learning about Status Open was a meaningful memory so I can’t forget it. Even if I were to forget my own if I check my own status or use Identify I would remember it right away just like when brother pointed it out.

If I think about it like this I can calm down a bit. However, it’s bad having memories sealed. It’s bad but since I don’t have any method to resist it, if I don’t at least force myself to think this way then it’s not good for my sanity. It’s true that even if I were to stomp around cursing here it wouldn’t solve anything after all, I need to do whatever I can to maintain my thoughts and emotions in a stable direction.

In any case, the spell that allows you to counter spells {Anti-Magic Field}, at the very least even if I use something on the level of 7,000 MP it seems to have been no good. I intend to try it once more using all of my MP this time after going to sleep and waking up with full MP tomorrow morning. Since my maximum MP is 7,436 the highest amount I can use for {Anti-Magic Field} is 7,433 and it will only be able to erase a spell that uses up to 7,430. It can erase something that uses 400 more MP than this time.

In my common sense I can only think of sister other than myself that can use

over 400 MP for a single spell so normally with this much increment it would be able to erase any spell but...

.....

Year 7444, Month 1, Day 2

Obviously after I woke up I immediately tried using {Anti-Magic Field}. I put less than half of my hopes on it but after all I guess you could say, there was no blue light remaining in my hands as proof that the {Anti-Magic Field} was remaining. It's definite that the spell {Report} cast on me used more than 7,430 MP. Somewhere in my heart I had the thin hope that "maybe.." is only obvious. Though it just ended up being that reality is harsh and..Damn it.

Since I only have 3 MP remaining, after eating some food I thought of relieving myself before using up the last of my MP and going to sleep.

On my way to the restaurant and I started to consider whether {Report} was only used on me or if it was used on all of the reincarnated people. It seems like all of the ones I've so far Kuro, Mary, Ralpa, Bel, Toris, and Gwine didn't have any sort of issues with their memories. Well even if they did unless it was over something major it's unlikely they would point it out themselves so it's impossible for me to know about it...The closest thing is when Bel mentioned whether or not our mental ages have only grown up to around the as our physical ages again and she didn't say anything in particular about missing memories.

Even I only noticed something like missing memories about a year or so ago. It seems like it actually had started at least half a year prior to that but in any case around the end of the year before last I started to notice it was strange and had felt something was off but I wasn't completely aware of it. The only way I can think to resolve that is to have Karl look at them.

If all of the reincarnated people are targets of the spell {Report} then while it doesn't feel good but it's something I can accept and think that it can't be helped. However in the worst case if I'm the only target for it, the number of things that I'll need to think about will increase quite a bit.

Even just thinking about it a bit, why is it only me? is the problem. If the user of the spell {Report} was the {God} or {Demi-God} that reincarnated me then

why among the 39 reincarnated people was I the only one selected? would be the problem that comes up. In this case, I could think of things like because I had 2 Unique Abilities, or in the first place there were several of us chosen as samples, but it really can't be helped just thinking about it.

Next up is whether or not it was really the {God} or {Demi-God} that reincarnated us that used it on me? is the problem that remains since before. I'm sure the myriad of Gods aren't all involved with reincarnation. It's even possible that it's completely unrelated. I can't even deny the possibility that it's not a God but I can almost assert that's unlikely. Because even if there was someone who had more mana than me, they still shouldn't have more than double the MP. Particularly a spell like {Report} Karl said that it would only be enough to last for at best a few minutes. In other words, it would be necessary to re-use it several times in a day.

Of course, if they just use it once then after that if they leave a period between it for a short while it's also possibly to use it again but in that case it would be meaningless if they don't use it knowing it would have no effect when they use it on me again in the middle of the day when I'm conscious. At the very least, during the hour or so I met Karl, last night, and this morning, it would mean they've already been using it several times. Even if I suppose in the case that they have double my MP it wouldn't make sense. It's not unthinkable that it was just a coincidence but I should have been the target (or at least one of them) since at least a year and a half ago, and there's also the possibility that they're using the spell {Report} on my party members in order as well.

However, that's probably minuscule. Most likely it's an existence that has MP on a level far beyond how many times mine and can use it like an abundance of water, and it's unnatural to think of that as a person that's mixed in together with the average person of Orth or another reincarnated person. Even if that was the case then that person would be spending day and night just to use the spell on me so I doubt they'd be able to maintain any sort of lifestyle. It's not unthinkable that they can do other actions while using spells like me but even then it's difficult to think they can keep that up forever.

That's why in this case it's easy to come to terms with supposing it's some sort of super-natural existence, since super-natural existences have already

been confirmed after all..Yeah, it should already be that the chances of it being a God are incomparably high.

Since there's no way I'll be able to guess all of the possibilities, there's no other choice than narrowing it down to a few candidates and cutting down the rest. Even if the correct answer was among those then that is that. No choice but to give up.

The remaining problem is..I've arrived at the restaurant. For the time being I wonder if I should talk about the things that happened yesterday? No, even if I talk about it there's no way to resolve it. Most likely it would just end up giving them feelings of terror in regards to something that is impossible to resolve right now. If I were going to talk about something it would be about the portions unrelated to the spell {Report}. Even that I'm sure it would best if I just bring them the next time I go to Karl's place. It's still four months ahead. If something comes up during that time I'll talk about it then.

.....

Year 7444, Month 1, Day 17

It's about something that happened in area we visited for the first time on the 5th floor. We discovered a room a bit ahead in the passage of the dungeon as usual. We carefully closed it on it. The only thing we could see from the edge of the passage was the dim wall of the room but in roughly the center of the room there was a 3 m or so stone statue of a giant demon. It has wings like those of a bat growing from it's back and horns growing, there were four stone statues of a demon or something like that all with their backs to each other facing each wall of the room. This seems to be that. Gargoyle. Near the end of last year I once caught sight of one. In that case I guess that should be the same as well...

I had everyone stop just before the room and as we carefully look into the room and after all it was there. There's something like an altar with black flames raising from it on the left side of the room. On the wall of the opposite of that altar there's two passages that go even further in and there's one more on the wall to the right as well. I can't tell if there's anymore passages on the other side of that from where we are.

If we step foot into the room the gargoyles in the center of the room will

move and try to attack us intruders. Simultaneously the black flames coming from the altar will burn even brighter and I don't know what sort of principle it works on but another monster will be summoned in front of the altar. The first time we stepped into a room with an altar a group of ghouls was suddenly summoned and I got the chills.

However, the last time we found a raw ore of an emerald was near the end of last year, midway through November, we discovered it enshrined in a small shrine on top of the altar. After we finished wiping out the gargoyles and the ghouls and we're investigating the room, the altar that had just been spitting out flames until then, the flames gradually got smaller and the double doors on the shrine suddenly opened. We borrowed it from out of there.

Since we had heard that you can obtain treasures from the altars with the black flames on the 5th floor we got quite excited. And without a doubt after obtaining a raw gem, we returned to the surface quite pleased. Remembering back the raw emerald from that time ended up selling at an absurdly high price of 14,950,000 Z.

I looked around at everyone and pointed in the direction of the altar. After noticing the altar all of us zombies for money had smiles on our faces. I'm sure I'm grinning as well. If in just a single go we were able to find a magic wand that lets anyone use the spell {Fire Ball} then it's the same as making enough money I'd never have to come back into this depressing dungeon again other than visiting Karl. Even if that's not the case there should be a reasonably valuable treasure in there.

"Zulu, Angela, you two charge at the statues in the center of the room. I'll back you up. Zulu take the one on the left, Angela the right. I'll take down the two on the front with the spell {Stone Javelin}. After that I'll aim for the right side. Backing up Zulu will be the last. Be careful.

Zenom, Toris, Ralpha be cautious as you proceed towards the altar. Bel and Gwine you two back them up on that end. It's fine if you don't pay any attention to our side. After Zulu and Angela finish up the statues, if there's any monsters left on the altar side then split up and go after different monsters or if it's one then attack from a different direction. In the off chance that no monsters come out from the altar then Zenom you back up Zulu and everyone

else remain cautious. Alright?”

After confirming everyone nodded, we checked our equipment once again.

Zulu and Angela stand at the front and I'm behind them. On our left side with Zenom at the center, Toris and Ralpa have their weapons in hand, and behind that Bel has heard bow at the ready, and Gwine is behind that ready to stab things with a spear that's about 3 m high. Since Gwine's weapon is a spear it's necessary to let her start a bit later. Our preparations are perfect.

I looked at everyone once again and sent out the order.

“Let's go!”

Along with my signal Zulu and Angela ran off towards the Gargoyle statues in the center of the room, the unit with Zenom at the center started towards the altar on the left as well. The moment they stepped foot into the room the gargoyle statues yes shined with red light and they spread out their bat wings.

The reason I did use magic on them while they were still statues is to take into consideration the MP efficiency. When I saw them last time I tried using {Fire Ball}, {Lightning Bolt}, and {Stone Javelin} from outside of the room but I was only able to put a slight scratch on them and in order to destroy just one of the gargoyles while it was still a statue it took over 500 MP. However, once they start moving they degrade to the same level as normal monsters. Honestly speaking, if I hadn't heard about the altar with black flames and moving statues I would have probably just walked into the room on guard thinking they were just creepy statues and been ambushed.

After the gargoyles start moving they're reasonably fast. They can fly as well.

I used {Stone Javelin Missile} from behind them after they ran off and took out one of the gargoyles, then used {Stone Javelin Missile} once more to hit one of them that had flown into the air as well. Zulu and Angela have arrived in close range to the remaining two.

I heard a bowstring from my left side. It's probably Bel's shooting. It seems that monsters have already been summoned.

“!!”

I heard the sound of Gwine take a breath and run off. It must be a powerful enemy. But, there's no other choice than for them to endure it for now. I'll back you up soon.

I use {Stone Javelin Missile} aimed at the head of the demon swinging its arms in front of Angela. I was magnificently able to land the hit but even with only half of its face remaining it's still attacking Angela. It doesn't die. I need to get rid of it quickly.

{Lightning Bolt} which reaches the enemy in an instant is an easy to use spell but it's a problem that the power of it is spread over a wide area, if you try to use it from behind allies then swords can act as lightning rods so even if it's a good attack for quickly attacking it's difficult to use in these situations.

I finish off the gargoyle in front of Angela with {Flame Bolt Missile} and used {Stone Javelin Missile} to attack the gargoyle in front of Zulu once more. The stone spear I made is guided through my mana towards the chest of the gargoyle. By the time the gargoyle notices it's already too late. I don't know if it was faster that my stone spear hit its chest or Zulu's bastard sword stabbed into its stomach but in any case the gargoyle died.

Angela has already changed her stance with the broad sword, jumped over the corpse of the gargoyle in front of her, and started charging to the left side. Zulu kicked off the gargoyle to pull his bastard sword as well.

I look to the left and changed my sight to the direction of the altar.

“!”

A large 4 m long pure white lizard had appeared. Isn't that the so-called ice monster that I've heard about!? There's no where on its body that an arrow has stabbed into. Though it's at a distance of over 20 m away, it's hard to think that Bel would miss a target that large, I wonder if the scales on its body deflected it.

“Aim for the right eye!”

I used the spell {Fire Arrow Missile} at the same time as I gave out instruction to Bel. It doesn't do that much damage but since my first objective is to crush its eyes doing damage is put off for later. It's plenty as long as it works well for

tight turns and is easy to keep in sight because of the light it gives off, while still having some power.

I send the {Fire Arrow Missiles} flying towards the ice monsters left eye through the gaps in Zenom and the others charging at the ice monster.

For a short while I move the large fire arrows a bit higher up and let his attention focus on Zenom and the others again. Simultaneously thinking I should insure that I have a good line of sight for the next attack I start running towards the center of the room. Of course, when it comes to missile type spells (ah, come to think of it Karl said it's invocation system to control it like a missile), since you're guiding it there's no need for a line of sight but it's easier control if you can see clearly.

If I stand on the corpses of the gargoyles in the middle of the room then I should be able to see from about 30 cm higher.

I run while guiding the {Fire Arrow Missile} and aim for the ice monsters left eye.

I heard the bowstring ring out once again from behind me.

It must be Bel's shot. I don't know if she used Shooting Intuition but I'm sure she did.

The ice monster's head shook to the left. Even if Bel's arrow didn't stab into it's right eye, it's definite that it hit nearby.

"Alright!!"

I heard Gwine's voice. I guess that means she was able to crush it well.

Right now!

I suddenly made the {Fire Arrow Missiles} I had circling above it swoop down towards the right eye of the ice monster.

Zobuju!!

I heard such a sound as the {Fire Arrow Missile} stabbed into the ice monsters right eye and burned the skin around it at the same time.

Gyaoon!

The ice monster let out a roar. Unlike the Horned Bear it should be just a normal roar.

Something like a white smoke is leaking from it's mouth.

Is that..cold air!?

Sis Anderson of the {Black Topaz} mentioned it.

““It will breathe a breath of ice. In other to oppose it you need at least level 4 fire magic.””

However, I'll finish things off before it spits out that breath!

I use the spell {Fire Javelin Missile} and guide that towards the ice monster.

Zenom avoids the head that the ice monster is shaking around in pain and hits it in the jaw with an upper cut using his {tomahawk}. Since Zenom doesn't use a helmet I can't tell where his head is facing in between his pink beard and hair.

On his right side Ralpa was just swinging her {Tomahawk} with both hands into the right side of it's body. The light from the flames of my {Fire Javelin Missile} reflect from her dyed golden hair.

Since the body of it is in the way it's hard to tell but I heard a voice filled with spirit like “Teya!!” from Toris.

A bit behind Ralpa behind the left back leg of it I saw the same red hair as me from Angela charging in.

A few steps behind Angela is Zulu charging towards the tail letting out a battle cry like “Gugo~”

We're completely beating it from all sides.

The {Fire Javelin Missiles} that I had flying above 5 m from the ground I guide and had suddenly descend aimed at the ice monster's back.

“Ga!!?”

I felt a sharp pain run through the back side of my right thigh. Since I wasn't ready for it at all and I was suddenly attacked I ended up abandoning control of the {Fire Javelin Missile}. The javelins ended up flying towards the opening of the cave behind the altar instead of descending.

“Gu!!?”

I felt pain run through the back side of my upper right arm this time.

It's an arrow!

I'm being attacked from behind!

I felt an impact in the center of my back and head as well.

But, on those ends I had the armored plates from my rubber protectors and helmet so it seems it deflected them.

As expected of the 5th floor. I don't know if it's a goblin or hobgoblin, but was there a zombie that uses the bow!

“Shit!!”

I turned around and saw several silhouettes with a slightly higher brightness coming from the other passage connected to the direction we came from.

I used Identify out of habit. They're large for goblins, is it hobgoblins or orks!?

No, even in that case they should be slimmer. Their movements are dull as well.

An attack from a different group of adventurers!

With this timing!

I felt something like a sudden heat from the arrow wounds.

There might be poison on the arrows.

Hmph, I already know this poison.

I pointed my open left hand towards them.

By that point I had already neutralized the poison.

It seems that about half of them are equipped with swords and spears.

Which idiots are these?

If you're going to try and kill me then aim to crush my head and do it in a single attack.

Looking down on me.

{Chain Lightning}

Chapter 118: Father

Year 7444, Month 1, Day 17

A bluish-white lightning surges from the left hand I've stuck out.

In an instant the electricity hit the guy standing at the front holding a long sword and round shield, and a moment after he was surrounded in the cage of electricity it quickly divided and split into two directions hitting two more guys behind him. It then split up again but this time it didn't hit four people, it hit two more even further in the back. It was just a matter of it not having enough targets. And when it was about to split up again since it hit the two archers in the back that were about to fire another arrow it ran out of targets and disappeared.

"Al-san!"

Bel's scream echoed around.

I guess she noticed the sound from the {Chain Lightning} I used and noticed we were under attack at the same time.

I don't have the time to pay attention to Bel, there's no time to leisurely be checking the identify window either.

Since the guy at the front with the long sword and round shield took a direct hit of the {Chain Lightning} while it was still converged he's most likely dead. The two behind him are probably dead as well. The problem is the two guys in the back holding a spear and broad sword, and the four archers even further in back.

"{Fire Javelin}"

"{Flame Javelin}"

"{Ice Cone}"

"{Web}"

Right now they've taken electricity and their muscles seem to be contracting but there's no telling when they'll be able to move again. I sent magic javelins

flying into the guys holding the spear and sword to make sure they die and then sent ice blades flying in the direction of the archers all at once. If they're lucky they might be able to barely survive it. If they are then it's just a matter of strangling them as we ask the reason for the attack so it'd be fine as long as a few are remaining. After we properly make them tell we'll finish things off by killing them though. Finally I used the spell {Web} to make sure they were restrained to the ground so it should be fine.

The arrows are still stabbed into the back of my right thigh and my right upper arm but I've already neutralized the poison so afterwards if I just have someone pull them out and use the spell {Cure All} twice then a scar shouldn't even remain so for now it's more important to quickly kill this ice monster.

I turn around again and look at the ice monster. Everyone is still moving. It seems that the only target for their arrows was me since I was close to the entrance they came in from. I saw Bel throw her bow away in the edge of my sight, take her short sword out and run to my side.

“{Fire Javelin Missile}”

This time for sure I sent some scorching spears flying into the ice monster's back without missing. If I look closely Ralpa seems to be dragging along one of her legs. Angela's left arm seems to be twisted a strange direction from below the elbow as well. Gwine is sticking out her spear to back up Ralpa. It seems that Zulu doesn't have any problems and is swinging his sword down on the tail. I can see Toris moving pretty nimbly on the other side of the ice monster as well. Zenom is alone right in front of the head of it swinging his {tomahawk} up into it.

Shit, since I couldn't back them up with that timing, Angela was unable to evade an attack from it's tail or something. I wonder if Ralpa got dragged into that?

In any case after hitting the white lizard in the neck with {Fire Javelin Missile} once more, Zenom sent another attack flying into it's head. It seems to have died.

【

【Male/14/6/7438 · Frost Lizard】

【Condition: Acute Wound.Bleeding.Burnt.Bruised.Stab Wound】

【Age: 5 Years Old】

【Level: 11】

【HP: -4(268) MP: 11(11)】

【Strength: 46】

【Speed: 12】

【Dexterity: 20】

【Endurance: 80】

【Special skill: {Ice Breath}】

What a monster. His HP is absurdly high~ It seems it's still not dead but his HP has entered the negatives, so it's no problem to leave him be for now.

“Toris, Zulu! Bring Ralph and Angela over here.”

I said that and turned around once again.

First one, human corpse. Ah, I guess the damage was too intense. Amen.
Second one, Rokkardo.Benkus, level 16, 【Condition: Death】 he's not wearing a helmet.

Third one, Jiardo.Rongel, level 16, 【Condition: Death】 I Identified his tail.

Fourth one, Samantha.Rauguai, level 15, 【Condition: Death】 I Identified the wound.

Fifth one, Kamiaris.Donguravus, Level 16 【Condition: Death】 I identified this guys tail as well.

Hmph, well it's fine.

“I'll pull it out, please endure it.”

Bel said that and pulled the arrow out of my arm.

“Gu..”

Ouch~ Shit.

“Mu”

Following that she also pulled the arrow out of my thigh. It seriously hurts. I immediately stuck my finger in where the arrow pierced through and used healing magic to close the wound. The pain still remains but it can't be helped.

“Ma..Master! These people are..”

“Master! You’re injured!?”

Angela and Zulu who brought her along were shocked. Ah, since we entered the dungeon in Baldukk, yeah, it’s their first time seeing me injured since I bought them. Well, as long as I don’t remain conscious of it much it shouldn’t harm my level up much. Probably though.

“Ah, first off Angela. Show me”

“Higu...”

I twist Angela’s arm back into the normal position while cutting her sleeve and putting my hand to the affected part before using healing magic. Angela’s face twisted from the pain but if it’s just this level of fracture, I’m sure she’s doing well, endure it.

“Al-san! Are you alright!? Ah! These people..”

“Al..”

They must have seen the point where Bel pulled the arrows out, Toris was talking in a panic while lending a shoulder to Ralpa as she dragged her leg but he held his breath after seeing the pile of corpses on the other side of the altar from the gargoyle’s corpses. Ralpa is scowling in pain. So it was her leg. That’s troublesome~

“Ralpa, is it a bruise? or a bone fracture? In any case I’ll fix it so take off your pants.”

“..Nn, I don’t think it’s a fracture. I can still walk. I’ll do it myself so it’s fine.

I guess it’s fine then. It’s not particularly like I want to touch this girls leg and it’s not like Ralpa is being embarrassed over it at this point either. It’s something we’ve done countless times until now after all. However, since Ralpa has gotten pale from the pain her HP has decreased by close to 40%. Since it’s not an injury that she’ll die from I guess it’s fine for now. If she’s still limping after everything is over I’ll force it on her though.

“I see, if it gets painful then say something.”

I said that and looked at Zulu before ordering him.

“Zulu, there’s four people fortified at the entrance. If they’re dead then that’s fine but if there’s still someone alive then don’t kill them..Ah, never mind, after all I’ll go, come with me. It would be troublesome if they can use magic.”

Without waiting for a response from Zulu, I turned around again and raised my voice.

“Zenom, Gwine, just finish off that lizard bastard!”

“Sure!”

“Yes!”

Before they even responded Zenom and Gwine were swinging their weapons to finish it off. Ah, I guess Gwine isn’t swinging. She’s stabbing with all of her power. It looks pretty solid.

“Bel, while you have the chance now pick up your bow. Toris you come along as well.”

I said that and looked at the two who are restrained with {Web} on the ground with their heads facing over here. Both of them have leather helmets that are like caps with a metal plate on them over their heads so I can’t Identify them. The other two don’t have their heads over here so I can’t identify them until I go to their side as well.

Accompanied by Toris and Zulu I started walking towards the four people strained by {Web}.

With my bayonet in my hands I approach them while remaining on guard.

I think only two of them are still alive. They’re vaguely moving. One of them with their head faced down and the other facing their head in the other direction. First off I saw my bayonet into the back of the one moving with his face to the ground.

Then I identify the wound.

Masarukk.Ringon, level 14, **【Condition: Death】**

Next I stabbed into the one facing the other direction and Identified the wound.

Jobanni.Rogmitt, level 16, **【Condition: Electric Wound.Bleeding.Stab Wound】**

he has magic special skills of water and wind at level 2 and void magic at level 3.

This guy is barely still alive. His HP is about to enter the negatives so if I don't heal the wounds he's bleeding out of from the {Ice Cone} then he'll die in another 10 minutes or so. Let's just leave him to die.

Now then, the main dish.

I stab the guy moving, and Identify his wound the same way.

"Gyaaaaa!"

Rimuru.Heidens, Level 17, 【Condition: Electricity Wound.Bleeding.Stab Wound】 Remaining HP 8.

He has magic special skills of earth magic at level 3, water magic at level 4, and void magic at level 4. 5 MP remaining.

One more goblin left.

"Gumu!!"

Jankot.Demitoridas, level 18, 【Condition: Electricity Wound.Bleeding.Stab Wound】 Remaining HP 11.

His magic special skills are earth and water at level 3, fire at level 4, and void at level 5. 3 MP remaining.

For the timing being it's fine to leave this guys identify window out.

"Hey, you pieces of shit. If you can talk then respond to my questions."

There's no response from either of the two of them.

"Ah, I guess you can't respond? How unfortunate. It can't be helped going on living with such a heavy wound like that so I'll put you out of your misery right away."

After I said that and,

"Save me, please save me."

I heard that sort of weak woman's voice and,

"Shit..why was he still able to use magic..I guess I picked the wrong."

I heard the man say that.

“Hey, {Bright Blade}-san I’m talking to you. You’re the leader Demitoridas right?”

I said that and,

“What about that, brat..”

He’s still talking arrogantly like that.

“After all. So you were attacking parties just as the rumors said. I didn’t think it was true.”

I said that and stepped on the wound on his leg.

“Gu!! Gi!!”

His HP went to 10.

“Well, it’s fine. Yo, old man. Suddenly shooting some arrows into my back what sort of idea did you have? Thanks to that some of my party members ended up being injured. You can’t complain even if we killed you right.”

It seems that Bel, Ralpa, and Angela the women all gathered over here. Ralpa’s face is still pale.
This guy...

“Come on, say something.”

I said that and stepped on the wound on his leg again.

“Guo!!”

“Not to mention, you even so courteously smeared poison on the arrows..”

After hearing my words Zulu and the others jumped.

“Did you say poison?”

“Master..”

“Are you alright?”

“Quite a bit of blood came out.”

The last one was Ralpa’s line after seeing all of the blood on my pants.

“Ah, I’ve already healed the wound and removed the poison so there’s no need to worry. Though you know, it’s true that thanks to these bastards Angela

and Ralpa suffered unnecessary injuries. Though what's even more true is that while we were in the middle of battle they were sneaking around in back shooting poison arrows at me."

I ordered Zulu whiling looking at him.

"Hey, Zulu, for the timing remove all of the equipment from these guys. Take off all their possessions. Starting from this old man, everyone, stay on guard. Ah, if they don't have any weapon then break their fingers."

It's fine, if it's just at the level of a bone fracture of the fingers since they've already lost most of their HP they probably won't die from just that much. I stab into them one after another while releasing the {Web} and taking off their equipment. We took all of their belongings until Demitoridas and Heidens were down to their underwear before I restrained them with {Web} again.

We gathered all of the weapons, armor, and things from the remaining corpses and half-dead. Let's take the magic stones from the demon statues and the lizard. After that is.."

I look at the shrine on top of the altar. Following my glance everyone looks at the shrine. That is..Oh! Isn't it a raw gem!? What good prospects. It's a but unfortunate that it doesn't seem to be a magic items but this is all a matter of luck after all.

"Zenom and Zulu take care of the lizard. Toris, Gwine, Angela come with me to the demon statues. Bel and Ralpa investigate the altar."

I exchange glances with Bel while saying that. I think that Ralpa probably doesn't have much resistance towards taking her pants off in front of us at this point but she probably didn't want to be seen by the guys from {Bright Blade}. I'm sure you can't tell if they're dead or alive just from a glance and since she knew I was talking to the old man right away it's definite that there's survivors after all. If she goes behind the altar I'm sure she'll be fine.

We each went to gather the magic stones. Everyone is remaining cautious of the survivors of {Bright Blade}.

"Hey, it's fine if you use magic as well. We'll just kill you at that time though."

I turned around and said that.

Now we just need to quickly gather the magic stones and treasure before heading back. In addition I'll say it but I think we should probably take the magic stones from the corpses of the members of {Bright Blade} as well.

It took about 30 minutes to gather the magic stones. Incidentally I had Zulu and Angela take the magic stones from the corpses. I mean, I still have some resistance to it.

I guess along the way they heard the specific details, I heard Gwine's "Eeeh..that can't be.." and Zenom's thick "What was that!" voice echo out.

It seems that Bel accurately read my glance and pulled Ralpha behind the altar before using healing magic quite a bit. Both of their MP had reduced by a lot. And, there's a red raw gem in her hands. It's a {Ruby}. It shows up with a value of around 3,900,000 using Identify. Converting it to Z and that's 39,000,000 Z. The price it actually sells at will probably only be about half of that at 19,000,000 — 20,000,000 Z. This is amazing!

"Now then...Hey, old man. This, you know what it is right? Right, it's the bottle that has the poison you shot into me. And, right now, you two have wounds all over your body. Ah, they're all over your face too right."

I show it to the two of them while taking the lid off the bottle and started tilting it.

"Stop!!"

"Hii~!!"

They're making insanely frightened expressions.

I stop tilting the bottle. I glanced at everyone's faces. Everyone is either making an angry expression or an expressionless face like a Noh mask, but just Gwine seems to be just as frightened as well.

Hmm...

"Al, lend it to me."

Zenom said that and grabbed the bottle from my side and started throwing it all over their faces. In no time at all.

"You bastards, you better not think you're going to be saved. Don't fuck with

me. Ralpa took on an injury she didn't need to!"

Ah, is it that sort of thing huh...Well, I intended it to kill them as well so it's fine though.

"Uwa, uwa~~~!"

"No..No~!"

It was hard to hear Zenom's statements from their screams of fear along the way but I still properly heard it.

"Die!"

Zenom continued to swing his axe down on their heads as they writhed in pain from the poison. Their gray matter scattered all over the place. The only ones who didn't look away were Zenom himself, me, Ralpa, Zulu, and Angela.

Incidentally Toris and Gwine's levels increased while exploring the dungeon today.

The guy at the front who took some ultra high voltage electricity to his body and was burnt black a portion of his equipment was fused to his body so we had to abandon it but just as would be expected from one of the top teams their equipment and weapons we're pretty high quality. I'm sure there's some equipment we could switch out with our own. There's even some expensive armor like Banded-mail as well. It's going to be troublesome carrying it back but it's the good kind of trouble.

Ah, the guy that was on the verge of death (I forgot his name) properly died.

Chapter 119: Bright Blade

Year 7444, Month 1, Day 17

Since we had a lot of baggage and to avoid as much combat as possible we hurried back down the passage we came. We even lessened our caution against monsters a bit to put priority on speed.

“Hurry, even in the case that monsters come out I’ll blow them away. It’s a battle with time.”

“Ah!”

“Yes!”

I quickly explained things to everyone after that and without even taking a short break we all ran back the way we came from. The number of corpses of {Bright Blade} that were remaining there was 9 in total. There should be 1 more. Either they were there during the attack but were far enough distance away for me not to notice and ran away or they were left to look after their luggage in the teleport room of the 4th floor I guess. When we teleported into the 5th floor there was traces of a camp on the 4th floor but no one around. So most likely it wasn’t someone looking after their bags but rather they ran away.

Somehow the atmosphere is heavy, I guess I’ll try to change the mood. I started talking while we walk.

“Hey~ everyone. I have a bit of something to discuss. It’s about the days we explore the dungeon.”

I said that and everyone made faces like “so it’s finally come” with faces filled with resolve as they looked at me.

“Since we’ve explored quite a bit of the 5th floor. It’s about a good time to go to the 6th floor. I’m going to change our schedule starting next month. Starting from February we’ll enter 3 and then 4 consecutive days, we’ll gradually increase the number of days we spend exploring the dungeon. However, we’ll

properly have the same amount of days off per month 7.5 as we have until now. We'll do the same 2.5 days of cooperation training as well. But, since I'm sure it's exhausting to explore consecutively, I'll probably increase the number of days off as well. I'm taking into consideration consecutive holidays. Well I'll see how things go until partway through February and then modify the schedule. It depends on our stamina."

Excluding Zenom everyone's making complicated faces.

"That's true. Even if you increase the number of days off a bit the amount of time we spend deeper in the dungeon should increase so I'm sure our earnings will go up, I agree."

I guess it's because I talked to him about it before, Zenom immediately raised his voice in agreement.

"That's true..It's just as Zenom-san said. I think that's fine as well."

Toris agreed as well. Hey now, I thought that you and Bel would be against it though. I mean, if you think about it through the month, the amount of nights we'll spend in the dungeon will increase. With our schedule of exploring the dungeon until now we've only spent one night at a time in the dungeon so it was only 10 days in the month but I think it'll increase from here on. For him to agree with something that would decrease their consumption rate of "Saya"...

"..I'm fine with it as well. Let's earn some more."

There was a strange pause in Bel's reply. I wonder if that means since I've spent more time with her than Toris I can read her feelings better?

"If everyone is fine with that then I am too. Let's give it our best."

Gwine is making a slightly stiff smile but agreed.

"..Che."

I'll ignore this girl. However, well I guess I'll say it for her.

"Hey Ralpa, I'll teach you so you can understand it with that pitiful head of yours. The fact that we're exploring the dungeon longer certainly means that we'll earn more as well. Up until now on the days we return from the dungeon and even then only on the Tuesdays or so when there was no training the next

did you have chances to drink through the night but when we have consecutive holidays you'll be able to drink several days straight, so I think the number of chances for you to go drinking will increase.

I intend to do the cooperation training in the afternoon of several days as well."

After I said that and the edges of her mouth raised up a bit. She's so easy~

.....

We returned to the teleport crystal that brought us to the 5th floor. We're about to teleport to the center of the 4th floor teleport room. It's a good thing only the top teams are able to make it to that room so either no one will be there, if there is it will be people from a different top team, or it'll just be the single remaining member of {Bright Blade}. I thought everyone's expressions would lighten up a bit because we were finally able to return to the safe area but that wasn't the case. Alright, my carefully selected elite properly understand the critical moments it seems.

We'll teleport in and restrain the remaining member of {Bright Blade}. Otherwise, counter attack them.

I stretch out my hand to the crystal rod.

"It's just right, I'll talk a bit before we teleport."

I said that and looked around at everyone. They're all tense.

"Once we teleport everyone scatter. It's fine you drop your baggage on the ground. If you find the remaining member of {Bright Blade} hold them down without hesitation. If they aren't there then gather your baggage and prepare to counter attack."

Everyone nods after looking at me.

"We'll team up with Gwine and I, Toris and Bel, Zenom and Zulu, Angela and Ralpa. In the order I just said we'll observe the crystal rods in pairs. If he ends up teleporting in alone then kick him down without hesitating. It's fine to hit him as well. In any case pull him off of the crystal rod. It's fine if you cut him down as well but if it comes to that make sure you absolutely don't kill them. Isn't that fine Zenom?"

“Yeah, I understand.”

We’re all holding baggage on our shoulders and in our arms but in a way we can quickly prepare our weapons.

“Alright, let’s go! Ridakkuzu”

.....

We all teleported into the teleport room of the 4th floor. That instant we all dropped our baggage on the ground and scattered in different directions. Simultaneously we pulled out our weapons and looked around the room. There was one party resting in the corner eating some food.

It seems they were surprised because just as they thought we dropped our luggage after teleporting in we suddenly pulled our weapons out and started giving off killer intent. I guess that’s only obvious. However, as expected of the members of the top team representing Baldukk, they reacted quickly. Everyone pulled their weapons close to them and went on guard while gauging us.

They’re the {Verdure Brotherhood} huh?

“Hey, Greed-kun, that’s dangerous. Shut away your weapons.”

The leader Vilhaima calls out while standing at the ready. He still has the same deep cool voice even though hes an elf.

One, two, three, nine of them huh? Other than the elf that just joined a short while ago it’s the same faces as usual.

“Ah, sorry about that. We were just attacked by those bastards from {Bright Blade} so..We were standing on end. Rather than that, how long have you guys been here? While you were here did anyone from {Bright Blade} teleport in?”

I responded while holding my bayonet just like that but while responding I’m still looking around the room. It seems there’s no one but {Verdure Brotherhood} in this room. I give everyone a sign to lower their weapons and,

“Toris, Bel. Sorry but change places for the first lookout. Everyone else gather your bags and take a break in the corner. Since Ralpha and Angela were injured, just in case if you can sleep then get some rest.”

I said that and put my bayonet on shoulder before walking towards Vilhaima. I

showed both of my hands just in case to prove I wasn't hiding anything. I guess he was relieved seeing me like that, they started lowering their weapons as well. Idiot. Since the palms of my hands are still faced towards you I could bury you alive at any point with magic. Well since I was just attacked and my nerves are still on end I'm feeling a bit aggressive.

Including Virhaima the other members of the {Verdure Brotherhood} couldn't hide their surprise after hearing my statement but I could also see faces like it somehow made sense.

"Judging off your appearance it seems that you weren't able to wipe out all of those guys from {Bright Blade}..How many are remaining? Also, we arrived here about two hours ago. Since then the only ones to enter this room including teleport, you guys were the first. And I want you to tell me what happened in detail. Honestly speaking, I think what you guys are saying about being attacked by {Bright Blade} is probably true. But you know.."

Shit..in other words that sort of thing. But, I guess it can't be helped. I can comprehend it.

"I see..while we were fighting against the ice monster in an altar room on the 5th floor, when we were just about to defeat it they suddenly ambushed us from a different entrance. Thanks to that, including myself several us were injured. However, there's only one of them remaining. I got rid of nine of them on the spot there. We gathered their magic stones as well. Will you confirm them?"

After I said that and the members of {Verdure Brother} all faced each other and started whispering things.

"..Are you serious?"

"Does that mean with just them they wiped out {Bright Blade}?"

"It doesn't..seem like a lie. I remember seeing that armor."

"{Slaughterers}..So their skills were true huh?"

"They said there was an ice monster? Does that mean they defeated the ice monster?"

"They're saying that so it's probably true."

"They.. can defeat that.."

“..Che...You~ all are loud~! Shut up?! Sorry about that, they’re all idiots.”

“No..I don’t mind. But, I can’t say much more than I just did. After all it was pretty sudden, we desperately fought back and couldn’t do anything like going easy on them. Just look at this. I was shot in the back with arrows. Suddenly in the middle of fighting with the ice monster. It was really dangerous.”

I said that and showed them my back where I was shot in the thigh and arm (since the wound itself is already healed, it’s just a mark like where an arrow hits armor) and the half-dried blood still remaining on it. After that I also called out to Zulu and had him bring the arrow that Bel pulled out from me.

“I see. However, you should know that we can’t decide things with only hearing your side of the story right? Honestly speaking, it’s a monthly occurrence for parties to all be wiped out or take enough damage that they fall apart but when it comes to a party on the level of {Bright Blade} I’m sure it’ll be some huge news. The knight group might come out as well. It would be fine for you to just return to the surface and pretend like nothing happened as well but if it’s just then as expected you know..I’m sure it would be difficult to get rid of {Bright Blade}’s equipment. Even if their faces were like that they were pretty famous after all.”

Certainly that’s true. That’s why I was trying to secure the remaining one as well.

“That’s true. It’s certainly just as you’ve said. Well, that’s also why we returned in a hurry after the combat without even properly resting. In order to secure the last one remaining that is.”

“I see. It would be fine for us to help with the capture as well but, I guess if it’s just one then it’s fine..Ah, by the way, which one is remaining? Is it Demitoridas?”

“No, we killed the leader Demitoridas. Probably, it was some sort of rear guard that’s always near the end of their party I think? I don’t remember their name.”

Honestly speaking I don’t remember the names of every member of other places parties. I’ve checked the abilities of people who stand out and seem pretty strong though.

“Got it...Either Martha, Logmitt, or Bikkens sounds about right then. Do you need help with capturing them? If you do then it’s fine if we help but..”

“No not at all, it’s plenty with just us. We don’t need to go to the point of troubling you that far. Since I’m sure they took a reasonable amount of time to get to that altar room as well. I don’t know how much time it will take for them to get back to the teleport crystal alone but we intend to stake out here for as long as our food lasts.”

I said that but I doubt it will take that long. Even at longest wouldn’t it only take around half a day? Including Demitoridas, all of the guys who attacked us barely had any mana remaining after all, so I think they got rid of a decent number of monsters along the way. Since some half-dried food and rotting meat still stuck to the magic stones came out of their pockets after all.

“I see. However, we can’t just accept that. It’s a problem with order in the dungeon. Alright, listen well. I’m not particularly doubting you. But, I want to impartially hear the viewpoint of {Bright Blade} as well. Pull back here. If you intend to do anything more yourselves from here then you’ll be suspected of erasing evidence. If possible I want you to standby outside of the room. Of course, I promise we’ll take responsibility and secure the remaining member when he teleports in. If you doubt us then it’s fine if you exchange one of your members with ours, I’m sure they wouldn’t recognize from just a glance so that’s fine. If they change helmets and are wearing armor there’s no way to tell. After we capture them, I’ll listen to their story. You guys can come out after that.”

What’s with this guy, trying to take command like he’s so important. What the hell is the order within the dungeon. Something like that doesn’t matter at all. Or what is it? Do you think you’re the master of this dungeon or something? Well it’s not like I don’t understand what he wants to say and in some meanings it’s more convenient for us that way.

He must have noticed my doubtful face, Virhaima scratched his cheek while continuing.

“Don’t make a face like that. I won’t let things go badly for you. It’s not like we particularly like those guys from {Bright Blade} either. Even you’re interested in

what the remaining member of {Bright Blade} says when you're not around right?"

Vrihaima said it with a slightly more timid feel.

"..I understand, I'm sure it would be the better choice for us to do as you say here as well...We'll exchange lookouts. We'll switch in the elf from our party who's looking out right now."

"Rock, Ben. You heard the conversation right? You two keep lookout first. After that Baas, exchange your equipment with this elf from the Slaughterers. You remain on standby in the hall with the slaughterers."

After hearing that I called out to Toris as well.

"Toris, switch out with the lookout of {Verdure Brotherhood}. You exchange equipment with this person from the {Verdure Brotherhood}. I'll give you the detailed explanation."

I explained the details to Toris after he quickly ran over and got him to agree and then after switching equipment with a member of {Verdure Brotherhood} he concealed himself in their group.

We all gathered our bags again and moved a bit away into the cave to standby.

.....

The amount of time we've been on standby has continued for close to five hours. We talked about recent events with the elf Baas who exchanged equipment with Toris while waiting so it wasn't completely boring. Baas is a 36 year old elf and you could say his personality is rough but if you try talking to him just his tone is rough and he's pretty much a normal adventurer. However as expected of a member of one of the top teams, he's quite skilled. Since the only one older than him in our party is Zenom, the way he seems to be looking down on us pisses me off but it's true that can't be helped when we're all brats.

If I try talking to him he properly replies and he sometimes talks to us as well. It's true there's some parts he's underestimating us on but he understands that I'm the leader of the {Slaughterers} and isn't bluntly looking down on me. We continue whispering (even if we're close to the teleport room since we're

outside we don't feel like talking loud) and laugh over jokes while getting familiar.

It was just then.

"Alright!"

"Ora~!!"

"Gue!! Ou~ch, what are you doing! SO suddenly!? Let me pass. I'm returning to the surface."

There was a voice echoing from the teleport crystal room. Everyone quiets down.

"Yo~ if it isn't Bikkens. What are you doing alone? Aren't you together with Demitoridas and the others?"

That's Virhaima's voice.

"Ah? Ah, so it's you..No, that is..That's right! Those bastards from the {Slaughterers} are crazy! They suddenly attacked us!"

This must be Bikkens from the {Bright Blade}. He's babbling on about random shit...All of the members of the {Slaughterers} including me were making angry expressions. Only Baas was making an amused face. It's not funny.

"Ha~!? Are you serious!? And, did the all powerful {Bright Blade}-san just brazenly get done in?"

That's a skillful interjection. It's the voice of the Rabbit-people spear user of the {verdure Brotherhood}.

"That is, just listen to this. That brat leader of the slaughterers suddenly hit us with some magic. I've never seen a {Lightning Bolt} as amazing~ as that before... Since I was a bit of distance away in the back being careful of monsters I was safe though you know."

"You don't say, so everyone was done in? What happened to everyone else?"

This time it was the voice of the female dwarf. Her weapon was..what was it again?

"No idea~ I thought it was bad~ so I just ran for it right away...But, it's true

they suddenly attacked us while we were taking a break.”

This bastard, let alone taking a break the ones who attacked while we were in the middle of combat were you all. I have no intention of rejecting that sort of behavior itself. Honestly speaking, I don’t even think it’s cowardly. If you win, your side is just after all. But, think about what to do when you screw up.

“Let me hear about that in more detail. If it’s true then we’ll need to hand them over to the knight group right.”

Virhaima’s voice. He’s calm.

“Ah, su, sure. But is it fine to do tomorrow? I’m tired. I want to quickly return to the surface.”

“Isn’t it fine, just a bit. We’ll at least treat you to a meal, eat together with us before you. I won’t say to pay us, it’s my treat.”

The human woman huh? If I remember correctly she uses a sword and shield.

“No~ I’m really tired. After all I returned while avoiding monsters all on my own. I just want to sleep, already~”

“I guess it can’t be helped. But you know, things won’t go that simply right? What are you going to do if the slaughterers came back here chasing you? You should at least tell us the circumstances before you go. And {Bright Blade} was attacked in a passage right..there’s no way that could have been the case right. There’s no way they’d have been that careless after all.”

It’s the voice of the other male elf than Baas. It seems that his skill with the bow is pretty high. Well, even then I think our Bel is several levels higher than him though.

“Che...Even though I’m in a hurry..On the 5th floor you know, isn’t there a room with the altar. We we’re taking a break there. I was the only one being cautious of the passage. We were suddenly attacked there. Since we had just defeated a monster, I’m sure Demitoridas-san was letting his guard down a bit. They suddenly hit us with some magic and in no time at all several people fell down. And, since they were all done in so fast, isn’t it scary~? I desperately ran away before they noticed me.”

“When is that story from?”

Virhaima again.

“Of course today. It was around 7–8 hours ago I guess?”

“I see. You were able to return alone in just 7–8 hours?”

This is Virhaima as well.

“Ah? Yeah, since the direction of the passage I was being careful of was connected to the direction we came from after all..”

“He~ you had quite good luck.”

The human man. He should have been using a sword and shield same as the woman.

“Yeah, really though. Is it fine if I go already?”

“Not yet. But you know, Demitoridas is quite the fool. Why was it only you alone that was keeping lookout? Going off that store then there were three passages connected to that room right?”

“Yeah, that’s right. The hall we came in from, the hall ahead of that I was keeping lookout on. And after that is the hall that the {Slaughterers} attacked us from, just those three. Is there something strange about that?”

“It’s strange right? Even giving you the benefit of the doubt, it’s still fine that you weren’t being cautious of the hall you guys came from in the first place. But, it’s completely strange that out of the remaining two halls you weren’t only being careful of one of them right? I can’t think that Demitoridas is that much of a fool.”

That was the Wolf-people woman who uses a bow.

“What was that! So you’re going to doubt me! It’s not a lie.”

“I didn’t say that far right. I just thought it was too weak too not have a proper lookout setup when you’re taking a break in the dungeon.”

The Wolf-people woman continued saying that.

“Ah, no, ma, Martha might have been keeping lookout as well. I think she was probably done in by the {slaughterers} first.”

“Oh, I see. If that’s the case then say that from the start.”

“Yeah, sorry about that.”

“And, Martha was done in without even being able to raise a voice. Did he kill her instantly with a spell?”

Viruhaima again.

“Isn’t that how it went? Since I didn’t see it I don’t know though..”

“But you know~ Even if they were to suddenly be ambushed with a strong {Lightning Bolt}, that they would suddenly be done in without being able to do anything is just a bit..”

It’s the human female warrior I guess.

“Yeah, it seems like they at least counter attacked. I saw Demitoridas-san shooting a bow. But I thought it was no good even then.”

“Ha~? That’s amazing?! He was able to shoot back with a bow after taking a hit from {Lightning Bolt}..Don’t lie, this bastard!”

That was the voice of the old man dwarf who uses a {Battle Axe} bigger than the one Zenom uses as he retorted it.

“Ah, no, that’s just how I saw it and he might have done in before he could shoot it.”

From there it just started to drag on. He ended up getting caught up in several places from Virhaima’s guided interrogation and was captured.

After being called out by Virhaima we entered the room and Bikkens openly started to panic.

I showed the arrow that hit me and since it was a considerably high quality arrow it would be easy to determine who purchased it, and while that arrowhead was already dry it still had blood and some meat stuck to it. The fact that I took the arrow from behind. The fact that there were marks on the back of my helmet and armor which matched up with the form of different arrowheads, when we pointed that out to him and he showed an expression of resignation but it didn’t go to the point of admitting that they attacked us.

How stubborn of him.

In any case after we all tied up Bikkens, we returned to the surface.

We reported it to the knight group but Bikkens denied it at that time as well.

.....

After that, it's a story from another day but there was backup fire from an unexpected place.

Doruleon, the guy who we previously saved when they were attacked by a slime and nearly wiped out was still in Baldukk. He was the second son of the owner of the high-class restaurant "Dorureon". Right, that restaurant that I went to the first time I took orders from the commander of the first knight group Baron Logan.

"Greed-san and the others didn't just save me from a perilous situation but they didn't demand the equipment from my dead allies either. They returned everything saying it was the belongings of my deceased allies. Of course, I paid them a bit as thanks for saving me but that's the obvious thing to do. I can't think that Greed-san and the others like that would progressively attack other adventurers."

Of course, it's not proof of anything at all but it became an important testimony for reference.

It might have been big that the knight group of Baldukk also visit "Dorureon" a lot of as well but in any case, Bikkens ended up being executed on the next judgement day.

The equipment and assets of {Bright Blade} all ended up becoming mine. However, all of their savings outside of the dungeon (as expected even these guys had a locker with the government office) were confiscated by the government office it seems. Since it's not something that we gained as a result of combat in the dungeon, so it ended up just being processed as if a citizen of Baldukk died. I thought it was a waste but it can't be helped.

The two suits of metal armor {Banded-mail} that were still in reasonably good condition I had Zulu and Toris use. The long sword that was of pretty good quality I had Toris exchange with his, the broad sword to Angela, and the spear

to Gwine. All of the other armor and equipment than that we sold for money. Furthermore, there was a high-quality bow as well but Bel said “something I’m used to using is better” so we just sold it as well. I’m sorry the order of dates might be a bit out of place but of course this was all concluded around May.

Chapter 120: 6th Floor

Year 7444, Month 2, Day 1

Finally, we're finally aiming for the 6th floor starting this month. The day that we {Slaughterers} will become the top team of the dungeon in Baldukk in the true meaning has come. It's not like I want to bask in the self-satisfaction of being called the top team. We're going to achieve something others have not and along with making a foothold for the future we'll step foot into the virgin land these past few decades and obtain unseen treasures. If it was just about earning safely then even if we continue as we have now in another few years we'd probably have earned enough to live our entire lives, we have enough power that on the 2nd floor there's just about nothing that could put our lives at risk I'm sure.

However, isn't that boring?

In our plans we'll spend the night tonight in the teleport room of the 3rd floor. Tomorrow we'll arrive at the teleport room of the 5th floor and spend one more night there. And the day after tomorrow we'll finally step foot on the 6th floor. Until two days after tomorrow, we plan to spend almost a full two days exploring the 6th floor. Of course we'll be camping in the teleport room of the 5th floor. For the time being there's almost no one who would be camping here and depending on the case if we can make it to the teleport room on the 6th floor I think it might even be good to camp there.

However in the case, we'll end up using the teleport room of the 6th floor as a starting point to explore backwards and we won't gain any information on teleport points from the 5th floor so I don't really want to do that.

In any case, we'll be taking the first steps on the 6th floor. There's only stories told from the founder George Rombert the First but since it seems that the 6th floor is like a maze where teleport keeps happening even though there's no crystal so we'll probably need to depend on Gwine and Ralpa's Unique

Abilities even more than until now and it's possible that their remaining MP will become a life line for us.

After we finish up breakfast, we all head towards the entrance plaza which is quite congested.

Zulu bought a pork skewer at a stall and after sticking it into his mouth he threw away the skewer. I gave the two slaves their wages of 20,000 Z (2 silver coins) yesterday. Zulu's increased by 1.4 times and Angela's increased by 1.5 times. Their morale is high today.

The entrance plaza of the dungeon is packed as usual with adventurers entering the dungeon, the parasites, guides, merchants trying to sell incomplete maps of the lower floors, and merchants who deal in preserved food and equipment.

When we arrived there the people moved out from in front of us almost like the ocean was splitting and as the path opened up cheers were raised.

I walk through there without emotion.

I can hear voices filled with envy and admiration from here and there.

It's been less than two years since we came to Baldukk and even though we don't even have a full party we've quickly risen to the top groups, the other day we were attacked by {Bright Blade} in the dungeon for reasons of jealousy and impatience (or at least that's how it's rumored to be), and instead turned the tables on them wiping them out so the {Slaughterers} have become an existence that stands out quite a bit.

"Greed-sama! Please put me in the {Slaughterers} as well! I'll show you I can be useful!"

"Firefreed-san, he's so cool right. He's masculine and I can look up to him."

"Greed-sama! If you add me to your party then your scouts will become more complete! How about it!?"

"Ehe...Young lady Akdam, I've been in the care of your father. You should help connect me with Greed-sama."

"No wait, Gulinel-chan, I've seen you riding on the carriage when you were little! Once your beard grows out come be my wife~!"

"Ah, Greed-sama! Don't forget about us Boton brothers! We'll show you we can

be far more useful than those riffraff around there!”

“Oh~ Bernadette-cha~~n! I’m cheering for you~! Tolkelis drop dead!”

“What are you saying! Kalstalan-sama~! Look over here~! Kya~ that, he just waved his hand towards me! Rabbit’s should quickly die!”

“Greed-san! Introduce me to your older sister! I’m from the Viscount Penlaid families..”

“So that Laios is Zulu huh? After all he has an amazing physique.”

“That Dog-people is Greed-sama’s combat slave as well right? I’m sure she’s eating some good things~ her breasts are big~ after all the women of the same race are good. If they don’t have the second set of breasts then it’s half the charm!”

“Greed-sama! How about it, this? It’s the new model of backpack!”

“Ou~ Ralpa! Let’s go drinking together again~!”

I feel like the ones calling to Ralpa were a bit of a different direction, isn’t that just drinking buddies? Don’t get into fights. I bow to Church-san who is making a bit of a dry smile and after paying the 80,000 Z taxes for all 8 of us we headed towards the teleport crystal rod at the entrance.

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Year 7444, Month 2, Day 3

We’ve spent two nights inside of the dungeon for the first time. There’s no recent remains of a camp in the teleport room on the 5th floor. I’m sure there’s not much need to worry about someone coming here for the time being. Since we intend to spend the night camping here as well, I’m sure we’ll be in the care of this room for a short while from here on out.

We started setting up a special set of camping tools in the corner of the room that we hadn’t used until now. We brought along several buckets this time. Several large cloths as well. It’s in order to take a shower in a different corner from where we sleep. On our way here from the 1st floor we’ve gathered the wood spears from monsters for this sake as well, we’ll use those as materials to create a stand, and then we’ll put the bucket we intend to put hot water in above those. If we just put a couple of small holes in the bottom of the bucket then while it’s crude we can bathe in a shower.

After all the other adventurers in the teleport room of the 4th floor stink quite a bit. Since the 4th and 5th floor themselves have quite a bit of rotting smell floating around normally it doesn't stand out much but once you go out to the surface you can easily tell. And from the information we already had, we know there's wild boars on the 6th floor. Pigs should be able to smell on the same level as dogs. Thinking that it would be best to drop as much body odor as possible is another big reason we decided to setup the shower.

When I talked about this "plan to turn the teleport room of the 5th floor into a base" with everyone there was about half for and half against it. Incidentally, Zenom, Toris, Zulu, and Angela were against it and Bel, Ralpa, Gwine, and myself were for it. It seems that Zenom and Toris couldn't understand the meaning in making a shower itself.

I'm sure that the primary reason Zulu and Angela were against it was because they knew they would end up having to be the ones to carry the tools for it. It was a considerably negative and reserved disagreement after all. When I explained my thinking to them and before it was still an intention just a plan they were negative to it and timidly said "it will just end up pointless". They're most likely worrying about the shower equipment being destroyed by some different adventurers. It's true that every time we enter the dungeon bringing along not just the one bucket for washing our feet, but even more materials for a shower which doesn't have any relation to our lives wouldn't be amusing at all.

I wonder if it's because everyone who agreed with it other than me is a woman. Since we've only ever spent one night in the dungeon until now I'm sure they were able to endure without a shower but since we have a long-awaited safe area I think it's only natural to agree with the desire to want to spend time resting there clean. After hearing that Zenom who still hadn't accepted it until I told my reason for agreeing with it said, "I had completely forgotten about the information on the boars from the 6th floor. No, I hadn't forgotten about it, I just didn't think that far." and agreed with it as well.

In regards to the concerns about it being destroyed by other adventurers but I said we'd put a note explaining how to use it and the reason for it because of

the boars on the 6th floor and try to make it acknowledged as a shared asset by the other top teams and they agreed with it as well. It's just what I think but there's no idiots among the top teams. Even that {Bright Blade} I don't think were idiots. If you're going to aim for the 6th floor or beyond you'll definitely need a shower facility and I think that without a doubt rather than putting priority on obstructing other adventurers from trying to carry in something they can use themselves, they'd just put priority on the convenience of not having to carry it, and after explaining that Zulu and Angela agreed as well.

In any case there's no need to worry about it being destroyed and a shower itself is an appreciated thing, it's definite that taking a cold shower first thing in the morning feels good after all.

After cleaning ourselves up we finally are proceeding to the 6th floor. I grab the teleport crystal rod and chant the incantation.

“Shihotoko!”

Just the same as usual our surroundings completely changed. The ceiling is considerably high up. I think it's over 50m. I don't know if it's because it's so high that the light doesn't reach but overall it feels like the amount of light inside of the dungeon has decreased. There's no difference in the pedestal the teleport crystal is on. We investigated the symbol on it and Bel wrote “1” with a random stone in the direction it pointed. Incidentally, the walls are the same as the 5th floor made up of a mix of stone and dirt almost like a cave but since the ceiling is strangely high, it feels more like being at the bottom of a dark valley. The floor is the usual rugged ground.

Gwine uses her Unique Ability, and looks around the passages in both directions with a sharp gaze. Ralph points in the direction that's North. According to that the passage is just stretching out South and North it seems.

After inspecting our equipment and making sure there's no problems and,
“Let's start going from this direction I guess?”

I said that and pointed North. Now then, let's start advancing the same as usual.

I'll create some air with wind magic and reveal the hidden pit falls..since the

ceiling is too high it's absurdly inefficient. Up until now I've been able to discover pitfalls and hidden switches units of 100m but even if I use the same amount of mana it only blows the dirt away about 10-15m ahead here. If it was the same sort of stone walls as the 3rd floor then I could make do with water magic but it seems like the structure of the pitfalls themselves are different, so I don't think that will work either.

Uhe~ after making it here we end up having to proceed slowly like the first time we entered the dungeon~? Everyone is making dispirited expressions. It seems like the 6th floor is really going to drag out.

However, it can't be helped making complaints, shall we go...

For the time being we'll proceed using Gwine's spear as a pole. Returning to the 5th floor once passed through my head but as expected there's no poles that are over 3m. It was when we spent about an hour to proceed 500-600m or so. Angela started moving her nose.

"Something is a considerable distance ahead of us."

Bel responded with a twitch.

"Quiet.."

Her ears stand on end and she closes her eyes concentrating. Everyone is tense while watching her every movement so as to not miss what happens.

"Four legs..multiple..I think? Since there's some distance I can't really tell for sure but it's definite there's something there."

Four legs huh? I wonder if it's a wild boar? Right when I opened my mouth to have us correct our battle formation,

"It's coming! One of them!"

Bel opened her mouth and warned us.

"Zulu, Angela, fortify the front with me! Zenom and Ralpa be careful of the rear! Bel if you see it then shoot! Gwine back us up with your spear between the gaps! Toris take care of guarding Bel!"

The {Slaughterers} quickly fixed our positions after hearing my instructions.

The energetic movements sound good but it's our first combat on the 6th floor. I can also tell everyone is tense. Even I'm tense. After all it's a monster I'm fighting for the first time, there's no way I'd know its characteristics or attack methods.

Just like that 10 seconds or so passed by. Bel said in a confused voice,

"Huh? Huh? The sound has, I can't hear the sound anymore..Huh?"

saying that. What does that mean?

Everyone is looking at her with a confused face.

Bel lowers her bow and started concentrating on her ears again with her eyes closed.

It was in that moment!

"Al!"

"Behind you!"

I heard Ralpa and Zenom's yell. It's behind Zulu, Angela, Gwine, who were all turned around facing Bel(in other words, in front of us) at a location about 20m a wild boar suddenly appeared and started charging at us!

"Guo!!"

It seems it body slammed Zulu in the back and Zulu's large build was sent flying. It's huge! It's length is over 2m and it's height is over 1m as well, a wild boar like that passes by my side and following Zulu, Bel was run over as well. Bel let out a voice of "Ngu!!" as she was sent flying, after gaining momentum the wild boar aimed to body slam Ralpa who was even further in the rear but since Ralpa already saw it in advance she was able to dodge it.

Shit, where did this thing suddenly appear from!?

I only thought that for an instant before shooting {Flame Javelin Missile} into it's ass, and just as it tried to change directions while in pain I let it eat a {Stone Javelin}, when it was recoiling from that Zenom and Ralpa attacked it and smashed their axes into it's head as it died.

I quickly ran over to Bel and identified her but it seems the tusk stabbed in through her flank and she's losing a lot of blood. Close to 70% of her HP was

lost. Toris is trying to take off her leather armor in order to use the spell {Cure} he just learned so I pushed him out of the way and used a knife to cut open her leather armor before using the spell {Cure All} directly on her. The wound immediately closed and her HP recovered. After seeing that there was relief in Toris's face.

Zulu was wounded even worse than Bel but it seems he was somehow saved from damage to his spine. Just the same I used the spell {Cure All} to heal him and the crisis was concluded. It seems there's a considerable amount of pain remaining for Bel and Zulu and they can't stand up.

"Ralph, how did this thing appear?"

I remain cautious of the front while asking Ralph who's behind me.

"I don't know. It suddenly appeared."

Shit..What does that mean?

"There shouldn't have been anything there but it abruptly came out in the middle of the passage. It was abrupt."

Zenom said while agitated as well. I couldn't help but turn around.

"Al-san, could it be.."

Toris is holding Bel up while looking up at me and opens his mouth.

"Ouch..Al-san, the footsteps I had heard suddenly disappeared. Nn...a short while after that the wild boar suddenly appeared close to us. Pro..Probably isn't it that rumored teleportation on the 6th floor?"

Bel continued after Toris's words while in pain. I see, so that's how it was. What a troublesome floor. I focus my attention ahead again while,

"Shit..so that's how it was...It can't be helped, Toris, sorry but help me lend a shoulder to Zulu. Ralph to Angela you help Bel. We're retreating for now. Zenom be cautious of the rear, Gwine sorry but watch the front."

"Eh? What about the magic stone..."

Ralph and Gwine said at the same time.

"It's fine this time. First we need to secure out safety. In the first place, if

something were to charge in while we were leisurely gathering the magic stone, there's nothing we could do about it."

In a short one hour after we stepped foot on the 6th floor, a distance of only about 500-600m we're curling our tail up and running back, huh? It can't be helped, this is our current ability. However, as expected of a floor that's blocked the top teams until now. I'm sure that the top teams right now have challenged the 6th floor several times. But, they probably gave up on clearing through it. I'm different, just watch!

In any case we already know for sure there's no traps so we should be able to return to the teleport crystal in about 10 minutes. Depending on the recovery of Bel and Zulu, we'll try challenging it once more.

.....

We were able to return to the teleport room on the 5th floor without anything in particular happening. I created some dirt in a random spot put some blankets down to make a simple bed and then we placed Bel and Zulu there then I quickly opened my mouth.

"Shit~ It was like the "computer game" I played in the past. I guess that means monsters suddenly {Warp} near you.."

"That seems to be the case. I guess this is what they meant by "even though there's no crystal, teleportation is repeated".."

and Toris said that. That's exactly the case.

"The painful part is that there's either no way to deal with it or even if there is some sort of rules or pattern to the teleporting then there's no other choice than to try and determine that."

After hearing my words Toris opened his mouth once again.

"That's true. I wonder exactly how much time it will take to see through the patterns of the teleportation assuming it even has one.."

"Toris, don't say anything that sounds too much like a complaint. Let's start out from trying to find out the rules. We'll go to the 6th floor countless times and putting aside the monsters if we try teleporting as well..Ah."

Ralpa warned Toris but it seems she realized it.

“That’s right. I just thought of it as well. The monster that just charged into us was only one. Bel, if I remember correctly you said you heard multiple footsteps at first right?”

I tried asking Bel and she replied while still laying on her side.

“Yeah, it’s true I got the feeling that there were several of them at first. But, it was only one that came running over here. There’s no mistake on that. Those footsteps disappeared along the way and..after a short while I was charged into.”

“Then that’s, during the time the footsteps disappeared it was on the way of teleporting I guess?”

Gwine threw out her doubts but there’s no way no one would know the right answer.

“Nn~ it might be okay to think that way but it might be different. The only answer right now is that we don’t yet.”

Toris replied. Well it’s true there’s no other reply than that.

“..What Bel just said, the boar that suddenly appeared, and the information we had heard about the 6th floor before hand, we were able to confirm all of these things. Let’s talk about just the things that we’ve been able to confirm. It’s fine to guess the things we can’t confirm but since it could end up giving us preconceived notions let’s not guess about things that we’re already guessing.”

I said that and looked around at everyone, and then opened my mouth to continue.

“What’s definite is that, the 6th floor is different from up until now, and that the monsters suddenly appear. For the time being it’s only appeared on our side but it might even be possible for it to appear from behind us or while we’re in the middle of combat. It’s necessary to be pay even more attention to all directions than we have up until now. Also, we have no information on the traps of this floor. Since we have no idea what kind of traps could be laying in wait for us, this is something that needs caution as well. I’m sure only Zenom, Ralpa, and Zulu would know but it’s a situation like the first time we entered

Baldukk. Since we already have people with experience with it, let's relax. Is up to here fine?"

After confirming everyone has nodded I continue again. In any case it's important to offer them some material to help them relax and wipe away the anxiety.

"And, one thing that's definitively different from that time is Gwine's ability to produce maps. Matching that together with Ralph's ability to confirm the direction and we're the best in the world at making an accurate map. That's why as long as we can solve the mysteries surrounding the teleportation of the 6th floor then we'll definitely be able to clear it."

It seems to be necessary to change our goal in words for clearing the dungeon from "earning money" to "clearing" in order guide their feelings. If it remains "earning money" then when it comes to comparing to the amount of risk there might be someone who gets cold feet as well. Mostly Gwine though. And I casually raise Gwine up as a central existence to us. If we don't have her, Gwine, then it's harsh, but as long as we have her, Gwine, we'll definitely have the power to do this.

"And that's how it is. That's why Gwine, we're all relying on you. I'm depending on you."

"Yeah, please leave the map to me! Let's combine our power and clear through!"

Gwine clenched both of her fists together and replied. I really like honest kids.

"Now then, the continuation. In regards to the teleportation but there's no other choice than to try that already. If it was just the monsters that are teleporting then I don't think the story would be passed on as, "even though there's no crystal, teleportation is repeated". Most likely the ones doing the teleportation includes us. I can think of several problems that come up there. First off, the starting point of the teleportation. Is it a specific location, is the place it teleports to fixed, or maybe every time you enter the starting point of the teleportation it teleports you to a completely different place. Next is..and this is important but"

“Whether or not the place everyone teleports to is the same, right?”

Bel said that.

“That’s right. Normally in order for us to be cautious of the surroundings and make it easier to move when we’re attacked we maintain a certain amount of distance between us right? That’s why, combat..though this is the same even if the starting point of the teleport is fixed or ahead of us but it would mean we teleport from the front. If the teleport destination is fixed then we can group up immediately and we should be able to somehow do it without thinking too deeply about it. However, if I think about the case where we end up teleported to different locations and it’s going to become difficult. There’s a number of conditions we’ll have to think about like the time when we’re teleporting or if making contact with each other let’s us teleport together.”

“That’s true. And, for example if the teleport destination changes every five minutes, quite literally anything seems possible.”

Toris said that.

“Yeah, that’s right, and one more thing.”

“The starting point for the teleport? was it, things will be completely different if we can see that or can’t see it at all.”

Ralpa said that. Yeah, she’s not an idiot right. For some reason I have the imagine of a brainless fool though. She thinks considerably quick.

“That’s the case. This is my prediction and guess, and in addition my wish, but I don’t think the information “even though there’s no crystal, teleportation is repeated” is from the notes of Rombert the First. It’s said to be something that comes from what the person himself said, but at the very least Rombert the First had multiple allies and they made it to the 8th floor and returned as well. It’s true that it never says whether they all made it back unharmed or without missing anyone. If I think about that then I think most likely that everyone teleports together. If everyone teleported to different places then they might end up having to take on a group of monsters alone after all. It would feel unnatural if everyone one of his allies had that much combat power on their own. I’m sure there were slaves to carrying the bags as well. Putting aside

water, if the food ran out things would get hard.”

I look around at everyone again before continuing my words.

“And, I think that you can see the origin point for the teleporting. I feel like it would be more natural to think of this as a type of trap on the 6th floor. Even if it can’t be seen there would be a method to recognize it. For example, throwing a stone as we walk.”

“I see. In other words if the stone we throw disappears in mid-air then that would be the starting point for the teleport. There’s plenty of worth in testing it out. If it comes to that then it won’t be that much different as up until now as long as we remain careful of the monsters that suddenly teleport nearby.”

Zenom said that and gravely nodded.

Obviously it’s not just that. The starting point could be moving around as well and if it’s a fast speed then even if we throw a rock it would be pointless. However, if it’s something magical then in the worst case I could stand at the front and use {Anti-Magic Field}. Even if I can’t offset it with {Anti-Magic Field} if the light from my hand disappears we’ll know something is there. Just the same if we prepare something like an extremely long pole and maintain a {Light} at the end of that then I feel like we’ll be able to notice something as well.

Well no matter~ Rombert the First was able to do it. I’m sure that we can do it too..Come to think of it Karl said that Rombert the First had over 20 Unique Abilities. This might be no good...

Chapter 121: Fairy Village Again 1

Year 7444, Month 2, Day 14

Somehow or other, we ended up going past our original plans, we spent from February 1st until the 5th inside of the dungeon, after that we took 3 consecutive days off, then from the 9th until yesterday the 13th we explored again. The conclusion we arrived at from adventuring during that time was that after all the teleportation on the 6th floor is a type of trap. If you throw a rock while walking it's actually pretty simple to discover them. The width of the passage is about 9m but on the walls of both sides of that there's a fixed stone with a strange symbol carved into it. In between those two stones there's a space of about 6m that's the starting point for the teleportation.

After testing out throwing a number of rocks inside we confirmed it. In other words, you can pass through about 1.5m from the stone. Even if you throw a rock in from the other side it seems to teleport. Other than that, there were still the same arrow and pitfall traps as well. It's actually more troublesome to discover those. That's why we haven't advanced much at all with exploring the 6th floor so far.

Furthermore, the stone with a symbol carved into it seems to be part of a large boulder sticking out so we gave up on digging it up. Also, the symbol isn't uniform. Just guessing but the symbol is probably different for each teleport destination? is the best opinion we could come up with. Even when we tried to carve off the symbol, the stone, or rather boulder was too hard so it was impossible. Well even if we were able to shave it off considering the recovery ability of the dungeon I feel like it would restore to normal after a short while so I don't think it has much meaning. Since we don't know where we'll teleport to on the 6th floor it's not like we're often passing by the same spot after all.

We still haven't tried going inside of one of the teleport traps. There was the far too reckless proposal of Ralpa to go all out and try jumping in but it was

immediately rejected by everyone.

Incidentally, we were able to confirm that nothing happens when just sticking the end of a pole inside. If you throw it in it teleports. After carefully observing and it seems that when more half of the object passes the teleport trap it activates. We weren't able to confirm if that's the same for living creatures. If there was a goblin wandering around we could tie one up and kick it in but unfortunately the only thing we've seen is the wild boars {Cave Wild Boar}. As expected capturing a wild boar of this size alive is a bit unreasonable. Even if we were able to I don't think it would budge even we kick it.

In any case, just like this we've predicted that exploring the 6th floor is going to take an extremely long amount of time. There's already no choice but to firmly sit down and make an effort on it over time. The things to be gained are big. After all, even though we've only entered rooms on the 6th floor twice so far but the first time there was about 10 wild boars and no problem at all but the second time, there was an altar like the ones on the 5th floor and what was summoned was a {Cave Great Boar}, after we defeated that an idiotically huge ore of gold came out.

A large ore of gold that was two times the size of an adult's head was immensely heavy and according to Toris it has the weight of above 50 times that of a liter of water so it should have weighed about 50kg. I'm sure the purity of the ore must have been high as well, since it seemed that it would have amounted to 20kg or so of gold after being tempered and if that's true then it seems it will sell for over 60,000,000 Z.

Since it seems that this is the first time this large of a gold ore was brought back in Baldukk in several decades the adventurers were all excited. Since we reported that we found this ore on the 5th floor we succeeded in pulling the top teams to the 5th floor. Particularly {Sun Ray} jumped at this information, today they've even split their party in two and are clearing it at the same time.

Just like we do every year exchanged birthday presents all five of us celebrated that we were safely able to reach our 16th birthday and the fact that it seems one week later the tempering will be done so we'll get our hands on a huge sum of money as well. Everyone got into the spirit and drank a lot. Since

as expected things were pretty painful the next day I seriously started to think about using {Neutralize Poison}.

All five of us reincarnated people had an increase in ability values thanks to the increase in age. Everyone's levels increased as well, the lowest Gwine is already level 12, and even though she's in one of the top teams it's no problem at all.

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Year 7444, Month 4, Day 25

After returning to the Boil Manor from the dungeon and brother and the others were there. It seems that brother and the others arrived on the night of the day before yesterday and instead of going to make deliveries to the knight group without me, they waited. I mean, I did get a letter saying they would arrive tonight after all..so I relaxed thought it would be just right. The caravan from Bakuddo this time brought along a huge load. Starting from this month for roughly two years, the Ryogu family of squires from Bakuddo will be living in Rombertia after all, I'm sure it's their luggage as well. After all, there's only two carriages, other than the goods for delivery the carriages packed with their belongings are piled up like a mountain.

That's why it seems they left the village about a week early. Well in the end they were slowed down for two days in Baldukk so it was canceled out but if I think about it, it's only obvious they got here faster.

I thought for a bit and then said to everyone.

"Ah..Sorry but the next time we were supposed to enter the dungeon was April 29, but since there's some conveniences for the company as well I think we'll have a slightly early {Golden Week}. Starting from May the 3rd. That's why I'll make the 7 days until May the 2nd into days off. I know it's a bit abrupt but someone tell Zulu and Angela about it as well..Ah, I guess I'll tell them when we eat dinner."

Since the start of February for this roughly three month period, we've been vigorously continuing to explore the 6th floor but because of caution towards the traps, the exploration is barely progressing at all, it's just our guess but we

think we've only proceeded through about 10% or so of it so far. We haven't found any magic items but we have found a total of 4 ores and raw rems, a rate of 1–2 per month, so we're finding them at a quick pace and the fact that it's satisfying is our greatest salvation.

I'm glad I was able to remember at the last moment. May 1st is the day I can try going to Karl's place again. I don't know if I can make it there or not but there's plenty of worth in trying it for almost an entire day. This time I intend to bring along a lot of fish.

Well in any case, for right now let's just focus on our meal in celebration of our reunion. I said to brother and the others "please wait just a moment I'll go and change" and immediately went inside, removed my protectors, took a quick shower, and changed into neat clothes. Incidentally when I went to the shower room both of them were already in use (probably Bel and Ralpa), so I returned to my room and pulled out my bucket for cooling in the summer to use as a shower.

I put my sword band on my waist as I head towards the lobby where brother and the others are waiting and after hugging Rozual and Wendy who I hadn't seen in a while, I smiled to their daughter Dianne and said, "I've prepared a good place so look forward to it. Ralpa and Gwine came along as I was greeting the other squires escorting this time. So the first ones showering were these two huh?

Brother started talking to me displeased for some reason.

"Al, I've heard about you from the people of the inn, it seems that you're said to be the number one adventurer in Baldukk already. That's quite something. As expected, you're doing well."

I'm being praised right?

That's right, Al-sama. We heard rumors about you during dinner the other night, it seems you're called the {Slaughterers}, and you even managed to wipe out a group of adventurers that attacked you the other day! It seems that it was a crime committed because they were jealous of Al-sama's progress or something..However, as expected of Al-sama. To defeat them instead is quite something."

In comparison Sean is in an extremely good mood. Rozual and Wendy are smiling as they praised me.

There I was pulled into a corner of the lobby by brother and he started whispering to me.

“Al, I have a bit of something to talk about. What’s the meaning of {Slaughterers}? It better not be a name given because you’re attacking adventurers or something right?”

Brother is looking at me with a stern look. Ah, I see, he was displeased over the name {Slaughterers}. It’s not surprising since brother hates crooked things. Since he doesn’t come to Baldukk all that often it’s only obvious he didn’t know.

“Yeah, please rest easy. The name {Slaughterers} is a nickname given to us because we’re killing almost all of the monsters we encounter in the dungeon and bringing their magic stones back. Other adventurers normally try to avoid combat as much as possible while progressing further into the dungeon. However, we don’t go out of our way to avoid monsters. We’re defeat them all and proceeding even further. I’ve definitely not done anything that would dirty the honor of our name.”

I properly looked at brother’s eyes while saying that.

“..I see, I feel a bit relieved hearing that...I thought my heart would stop for a moment when I heard you were being called the {Slaughterers} the other night. Of course I had faith in you. The other squires believed in you as well. But, since adventurers are exploring the dungeon..It wouldn’t be strange if anything happened. Sorry for doubting you. Forgive me. However, the {Slaughterers} is quite a dangerous nickname. I was surprised. And, if you had changed, I was worried that I wouldn’t be able to agree with your objective anymore.”

Brother put both of his hands on my shoulders while saying that and lowered his head. I,

“Please raise your hand. But for you to doubt me is mean. I won’t do anything that would make father angry. I don’t like the name {Slaughterers} all that much either but it’s a nickname that comes in handy. It’s not all that bad.”

I laughed while saying that and separated. Brother,

“Nn..I’m sure. It’s a nickname that’s hard to look down on. Since there’s young girls in your party as well...It’s true if I think about it like that it’s not that bad huh? But I would have preferred you being called {Justice Blade} or {Royalty Wolves}.”

said that and laughed. {Justice Blade} and {Royalty Wolves} are the names of legendary parties from several hundred years ago. They’re the subjects for a number of fairy-tales. {Justice Blade} challenged a dragon when it was raging around in the Dirt Plains in order to protect the surrounding villages, and while they were wiped out, they managed to injure the dragon forcing it to retreat. The {Royalty Wolves} were a party of Wolf-people race that existed during the era of the second King and acted as volunteer soldiers during the war with Gulanan Empire, their leader was a direct subordinate of the founder and first King. Since the first King saved the the Wolf-people race during his adventuring days they weren’t able to forget that debt and acted as shortstops when he was invading other kingdoms to expand his territory, it seems they played quite a big role in those wars. Since they weren’t associated with the army but rather treated as a shortstop organization of volunteer soldiers so they aren’t treated as soldiers but rather adventurers.

They’re both extremely famous examples of adventurers but not to my taste. If you were to ask me I prefer the ones where they focus not on the group of adventurers but the individuals, like Rombert the First or the adventurer who founded Kanbitt King, King Rogmokk.Za.Pitviper, so that’s what I’m aiming for. Since it’s a foreign kingdom that’s quite far away I don’t know the details but it seems that even though he was just an individual adventurer, he took over Kanbitt Kingdom that was a trashy small country at the time and raised it up into a large power in just one generation. He did such a sudden expansion of the country that it could almost be considered founding it new, so it’s got quite a few stories about it. Unfortunately he wasn’t blessed in children so it seems that he had no heirs but even then it’s amazing he raised up a single country. I can honestly respect him.

“But don’t misunderstand me. I’m not aiming to be a top-class adventurer... It’s not like I want to be praised by someone. If it’s necessary than I’ll ambush people or even trick them. As a result I might even end up attacking some

adventurers. It just wasn't necessary until now so I didn't do it "Yeah, I'm sure. I've already come to terms with that. Since the world isn't that easy. I just, was worried that you were killing just to kill. I mean if you hear that you're being called a name like {Slaughterers}, it's not unreasonable to think that right?"

Brother grinned while saying that. And,

"Ambushing is only obvious. During wars I'm always thinking how to outsmart the opponents as well. Intentionally letting the opponent get full of themselves and after getting nearby, things like tricking them I'll do as many chances as I get. I just haven't done it because I didn't have the chance. I already know that there was nothing like what I was worrying about so that's fine."

said that and patted my head.

"You've gotten big, Al. I'll be overtaken pretty soon."

Brother isn't as much as Zulu but quite tall. Around 185 cm or so? I've already passed 170 cm but it's probably a matter of whether I can even hit 180 cm by the time my growth stops and I doubt I'll pass brother. I,

"One day."

Said that and laughed.

"Farne-san, it's been a while."

Bel and Toris came out after changing.

"Yo~ it's been a while. I'm glad to see the two of you are doing well, if Al does anything crazy just tell me anytime and I'll scold him for you."

Brother said that joke and after laughing with Toris and Bel about something walked towards everyone else.

I wonder where we should eat for today? I guess "Dorureon" is good. I told Ralpa, "Let's go to Doruleon. I'll tell Zulu and Angela. So go ahead." and then walked towards the inn my two slaves are using "Shuni".

.....

Year 7444, Month 4, Day 26

After finishing deliveries to the knight group, and explaining that all repairs

and deliveries can be checked with at the headquarters of Greed Company from now on, I introduced the Ryogu family that would be staying there, and accompanied by everyone from Bakuddo we started towards the company head quarters.

Yotlen and her family have already finished moving to a cozy house in a location a bit of distance away. Since I've already given her permission to bring her youngest child, the eldest son Kamunal together to work, she has no need to leave a young child alone while she's working. I introduce them to the Ryogu family and introduce the Ryogu family to Yotlen and her family. Yotlen and her family are quite reserved but the Ryog family was about equally reserved in manners as they greeted each other.

The only Free People in Bakuddo other than old woman Shaymi was the Doksh family of hunters. Since both of them were talents we couldn't do without there was not feelings of awareness between the social stands when it came to them in a remote place like that. It's different when it comes to slaves though. And if you look at it from the Ryogu's point of view, they're the only people they have to depend on in the large city where they don't know left from right, so it's only natural for them to watch their manners. I guess I'll put some final emphasis on things.

"Rozural, Wendy, Dianne, they're formal employees of Greed Company. That makes them your seniors. Also, Layla, Anna, Hanna, they're employees of Greed Company right now but normally they're squires of Bakuddo. Make sure you're not rude."

This should be fine. Brother is nodding as well.

It seems that every corner of the company headquarters has been properly cleaned and just as I ordered there's a signboard that says "Greed Company" hanging at the entrance. The Ryogu family carries their luggage up to the second floor and after putting a bit of armor on the displays in the storefront, they intend to go out and buy the necessary things for today. Since the shelves are still remaining they just put various samples like rubber sandals, boots, cushions, and such without adding a price tag yet.

"Dianne, use this carriage for deliveries. Properly look after the horses."

I said that and left the carriage I bought from Gwine in their care.

Seeing brother said,

“Wait just a minute. Obviously we intend to return to Bakuddo once but we’ll be back pretty soon. We need to bring the stock for selling as well. I would like to use that carriage as well.”

and said that. Ah, I see. I guess we can’t leave it until now summer. It’s true that in order to carry things all at once having more carriages would be good.

“Eh? Ah, I see. Then, feel free to use it.”

I said that and called out to Dianne who was about to bring the carriage around to the back.

It seems they’re going to start setting up tools, and the barrels with latex, sulfur, charcoal, and wood acid in the workshop tomorrow.

After we finished shopping and closing up, we all went to dinner together as a party to get to know each other better. I’m sure it’s fine not to go to an ultra high-class restaurant. A place that is just a bit nicer than usual where it’s easier for everyone to talk casually is better. Ah, that’s right, I need to properly tell Rozural about presenting, or rather selling the condoms to the royal family. Thinking that when I was about to teach Rozural about manners, brother said,

“Al, it’s your company so you can do as you please, but as expected shouldn’t you do the deliveries to the royal family yourself?”

and gave me that advice. Hmn, it’s not like the King and Queens come out every time so it should be fine if I just give them instructions, and I thought it wasn’t necessary for me to do it though. Well it’s true that visiting the castle is considered an honor after all. It would be bad if they thought, “you looking down on us” after sending a normal commoner in. It would already be bad after something happens and it’s not too bad to occasionally come to the capital. However, it’s not good for the organization if I’m always the one standing on the surface..I see, I couldn’t help but think about it in terms of companies from my past life but the economy and business aren’t developed as much in this world.

Even if we mention a huge store it’s nothing more than a large individual shop

after all. It's not unreasonable. Thinks like branch stores and offices is a concept that only developed more recently on Earth as well. I'm sure it's quite a hard to understand a lot of things if there's no technological advancement to methods of communication as well. Ah, come to think of Keel's Jabb, otherwise known as Haritaid, I wonder if he's doing well~ Well, there's no need to force myself to do it for right now. It should be fine if I teach them about things over time.

In any case I made reservations for a restaurant for tonight and I need to take care of deliveries tomorrow. After that, there's a number of things I need to discuss with the Ryogu family and take care of this month in the capital, including teaching them common sense. After all it's almost the day I might be able to meet Karl.

.....

Year 7444, Month 4, Day 30

For the time being I've finished teaching the Ryogu family the common sense of a large city and left Rombertia just before evening. I return to Baldukk in a hurry and I need to take care of some things. First off I have to buy a large amount of dried fish, a handful of magic stones. I can't forget my portable stove and clock magic stools either. After that is some sandwiches for myself as well.

If I remember correctly Karl said, "In order to teleport to here from the 1st floor, it won't work just through coincidence. Once in every four months, in other words January, May, and September, it's only a matter of if you get lucky when you teleport on the first day of those months." I'll immediately enter the dungeon starting tonight and kill some time in the teleport room on the 1st floor until midnight, then just after the date changes there's no choice but to repeat teleporting inside. Since I'm still technically supposed to be in the capital until the day after tomorrow, if I quickly buy everything I need and enter the dungeon, I'm sure I'll be able to enter the dungeon without the loud Zulu and Angela noticing. Even if I'm not in luck and can't make it to that area..I don't want to think about it.

Since I made until the day after tomorrow into days off I feel like something can be done about it if I spend the entire time teleporting over and over. Ah, come to think of it he also said, "and if you don't press the switches that are in

the bottoms of the pitfalls in the correct order the door won't appear as well." I feel like there's no other choice than testing that out a number of times. That time, what order did I bury the pitfalls again? Well, if I go I'm sure I'll remember. Even if I don't bury them I can go to the bottom of the pitfall and investigate searching for the switch as well.

In any case, it's definitely necessary to meet and talk with Karl once more. Of course, it's also important to have him teach me spells but before that there's something I need to ask, confirm with him first.

I increase the speed my war horse is running as my feelings get a bit more impatient.

Just before 9 pm at night I was able to reach the teleport room on the 1st floor. Of course I sent the monsters along the way flying with magic and just ignored the magic stones. It's a bit of a waste but I can't afford to waste time. Since it's suspicious to just sit alone dazing out in the room, I sat down in an appropriate passage while occasionally confirming my clock magic tool.

I don't know if it's from yesterday or this morning, but a party of 7 just entered from a different passage that seem quite exhausted, they might have been inside since quite a while ago but they're resting now. Once the number of people increases a bit more it might be possible to pretend to be tired as I sneak into one of the groups. In order to avoid standing out I've taken off the helmet of my protectors and covered my face in a baggy hood. I didn't bring my bayonet along either. I just removed the sword and put that into its scabbard and have it on my waist so it should be difficult to tell it's me from a glance.

Oh~ from a different passage there's another person wearing a coat with a hood that appeared alone as well. They occasionally appear right, these sorts of people putting on airs of isolation. Since they're exploring in Baldukk alone they probably have some decent level of skill but there's a limit to how far you can go alone. Oh my~ they teleported to the 2nd floor without even taking a break. Well, feel free to go die in a gutter somewhere at your own convenience

I bite into the sandwiches I bought quite a few of for dinner and meals tomorrow while glancing at the foolish adventurer who's teleporting alone, and continue observing other adventurer groups that are coming from different

passages. This time is..a full party of 10 huh? Ah, they're the group that of 6 that came to Baldukk several months ago. It seems they're properly increasing their members. They're taking breaks as well so it gives me a good impression of them. However, even though they're weak right now they're certainly my rivals. It would be great if they charge in recklessly and end up as a bonus for us.

I'm making sure to always pay attention to the passage behind me. If someone approaches then I intend to stand up and move quickly into the room. It seems that another group of adventurers is coming from a bit over 10m behind me. I'm sure they can't see me but I can see them from the brightness increase of my Identify. After shifting my vision it seems to be a party of 8.

I lift my heavy waist and enter the teleport room, then lowered my waist against the wall with my head looking down.

Chapter 122: Fairy Village Again 2

Year 7444, Month 4, Day 30

After that several groups of adventurers entered the teleport room on the 1st floor and took short breaks, or started teleporting to the 2nd floor. It's a big help that I was able to doze off for even two hours.

Since I was using the alarm clock {Cantrip} I was able to wake up just before midnight. After confirming with the clock magic tool that the date had changed past midnight, I slowly stood up from the wall I was sitting against and approached the teleport crystal.

I grab on the crystal rod, and chant the teleport incantation.

“Rigoruku”

I teleported to the 2nd floor. I check the symbol on the pedestal of the teleport crystal and search the wall.

Number 84. It's no good...

The one I'm aiming for is number “356” that I wrote the last time I visited Karl. Since nothing other than that is my objective for now there's no meaning. I should quickly return.

“Rinteren”

I returned to the teleport room on the 1st floor again.

There's various things said about the rules in regards to where you appear in the room but no one has been able to come to a satisfying conclusion. It's said you just return to a randomly open area in the room. Since it's about 30m in every day direction, a reasonable large space it's almost never completely packed.

Even if we were to test a situation like that, it's said that you would just be returned to a bit outside of the passages on the side.

I return to the center of the room and after grabbing the crystal rod I chant the incantation.

“Homika”

I teleported to the 2nd floor.

Number 26. It's no good huh?

Well I already knew it wouldn't be so simple so I made preparations for it to take some time before coming.

In the worst case all of today, I intend to test it out for an entire 24 hours.

“Fokubo”

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Year 7444, Month 5, Day 1

I wonder how many times I've teleported?

I think I've done it at least 20 times.

It takes a reasonable amount of time to search for the number every time I teleport. I think about two hours have passed.

It's good that the symbol on the pedestal pointing to the wall is nearby so it doesn't take much time to search like if it were down the hall.

“Kumurika”

This, place has a good feel to it. I check the pedestal and investigate the wall.

..It's no good huh?

“Kano beze”

I returned the 1st floor again. I walk towards the center of the room.

“Hey, you. You've been pretty restless for a while now. Even if you don't get as neurotic about it as that the 2nd floor isn't that much different compared to the 1st floor.”

The one remaining party of adventurers called out to me like that. They're a group that I saw enter the room from a glance after I had repeated teleporting a number of times.

Their ages are about the same as me, or a bit above that.

If I remember correctly they're a party of just non-humans that came to Baldukk a short while after we did and the leader is the second or third son of a high

ranking noble from Kanbitt.

They should have only just finally been able to make it to the 2nd floor.

I can't say much about other people but they're newcomers of 1.5 years or so. A considerably skilled group.

"Hey, Joni, ignore him. He's exploring alone. It's kindness to let him choose the course he wants to as many times as he pleases."

"Yeah, and things about other people don't matter at all right?"

"Tan belu"

I teleported to the 2nd floor...This place is different as well. I don't think the humidity was this high. Just in case I check the symbol on the pedestal but after all it was pointing further into the hall.

"Matozo"

I returned to the 1st floor again.

"Hey, you! Even though someone is talking, what's up with that!?"

The Tiger-man named Joni who just called out to me stood up. How annoying~

"You talking to me?"

I face Joni and say.

"That's only obvious! There's only us and you in here!"

"I see, it's not like I'm causing any sort of trouble for you. Just ignore me."

I said that and started walking towards the crystal rod again. It's a waste of time.

"Hey now, don't fuck with me! Show me your face! Covering it with something like that!"

He started running at me.

"Joni! Come back! Stop already!"

Someone in Joni's party said that but Joni continued running at me ignoring the voice.

It can't be helped so once he got near me I turned around and said.

"I said to ignore me right?"

Since I turned around with good timing Joni was a bit overawed it seems but,

"Ah~!? If I just keep watching for a while now you've been going back and forth from the 1st and 2nd floors, you're annoying~! There's no way I could relax and get some rest!"

And tried threatening me.

"It seems like your allies are calm and resting though?"

I said that and pointed at Joni's party taking a break against the wall with my sword. They're just watching amazed while saying things like "Idiots really can't be helped. We can't deal with him~"

"..Gu. They're unrelated. I'm getting irritated over it. Make up your mind whether you're going or not going~!"

He said while his tiger ears are twitching from the ends of his crude leather hat.

'Yeah, I'm sorry about that. But, I have my own objective over here. So I'll be continuing for a while longer. Can't you be patient with it?"

I haven't raised my voice much but since the room is close to empty if no one is talking you can still hear decently and a voice was raised from Joni's party.

"Joni! Stop that already! Are you not going to listen to what I'm saying!?"

The one who raised their voice was the Tiger-man who seems to be a bit older than Joni.

"You too, I'm sorry we got in your way. Feel free to go."

That man continued to say that. This guy is probably the leader. I bowed my head lightly towards him and walked towards the crystal rod again before grabbing it.

"Bro~ but you know.."

"Sehotogu"

I teleported to the 2nd floor.

I went on guard at the same time as I teleported in.

There was a group of gnolls gathered together about 5m from the teleport crystal rod.

I swing my sword and use magic and it didn't even take a minute to wipe out the group of 12 gnolls.

I wipe the blood on my sword on the dirty leather of the gnoll and finally created a bit of water to carefully wipe it out before putting it in the scabbard and checking the symbol on the pedestal.

..So this place is wrong too.

“Wakermosshu”

Joni returned to the place where his party was and was sitting down. I glanced once in their direction then walked towards the center of the room.

“Che.”

I heard an obvious click of the tongue echo out but it's not like he's directly picking a fight with me so it doesn't matter at all.

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I continued teleporting another bunch of times but I can't get to the place I'm aiming. It's still not the time to get impatient. There's no choice but to take it easy as I go.

While I was continuing to teleport Joni's party finished their break it seems. They all suddenly had their equipment on and were carrying their bags.

Since I noticed that, I looked for a good time and without going to the crystal rod I just stood waiting.

Of course since they've already finished preparations to depart they'll teleport soon as well. With this the annoying one will disappear.

They must have noticed I was waiting, the leader who stopped Joni raised one of his hands to me.

I guess it's thanking me for letting them go first.

I lightly nodded my head and saw them teleport off.

I return to the teleport crystal again and while waiting for the incantation to float up I teleported to the 2nd floor for the several dozenth time.

..It's no good again. I sighed after finding the number "216" on the wall.

I return to the 1st floor and repeated teleporting to the 2nd floor.

It was around the third time I teleported to the 2nd floor after that. I had to go on guard after teleporting again. There was a group happily gathering the magic stones and equipment from the group of gnolls I killed several tens of times earlier next to the teleport spot. It's Joni and the others.

It's true that the magic stones of gnolls are delicious but something like 100,000 Z is like change to me at this point so nothing to bother over. And today time is far more important. I don't have any intention of getting in their way. It's true I think those are gnolls I killed but to them they're a free bonus.

There's no choice than to wait here for the tens of seconds it takes for the incantation to return to the 1st floor to float up again.

Obviously they went on guard after noticing that I had suddenly teleported nearby but since they saw I wasn't doing anything in particular they must have noticed I was about to return right away. They all returned to their own work.

"What is it? Do you have some kind of complaint?"

Joni said towards me while cutting open the chest of a gnoll. Why does this guy keep trying to pick fights with me every time?

"Not particularly.."

I said that and looked at the crystal rod. It should be about time.

"Hey, you, stop acting so important! I'll fucking kill you!"

"Joni! Stop that already! Even Rokis-san already said it right!"

The Laios-sis is scolding him bit,

"Candy, you~ shut up. Hey, say something, you afraid huh?"

And, Joni is picking a fight with me again.
Ah~ it's seriously a waste of time dealing with you.
Halfway out of interest I tried identifying Joni.
It's because I thought I wanted to see the faces of his parents after checking his family name.
There's no way I could do that but, it was just reflexively.

Joni.Ridden, level 6.
He's two years older than me huh?
Ho~ The fourth son of Sub-Baron Ridden huh?
Never heard of them before.
I wonder if this guy is from Kanbitt as well?

The leader is Mittorig.Rokis, level 9. 23 years old.
The second son of Marquis Rokis huh?

Come to think of it Kanbitt Kingdom is the same as Korakut Kingdom and they were founded by adventurers was it?
Though he's the second son, even the son of a Marquis becomes an adventurer?
Otherwise maybe it's a part of their countries culture that anyone below the second son can't get a promotion without becoming adventurers.
If it's like that then it would feel pretty bad. Though it would have been convenient if I had been born there.

"Ah? Stop spacing out looking in a...Ah, yo..you ar..Eh?"

It seems Joni realized my identity after peeking in from below my hood and seeing my face.
His grim expression changed and it seems like the color of face got a bit worse.
I glanced towards the crystal rod and the incantation to return to the 1st floor was floating up.

"Is it fine if I return now?"

Since it seems like my face was seen, it can't be helped.
I looked straight back at Joni who was looking at my face in the hood from below.

“Ah, yes..please do..”

I casually grabbed on to the crystal rod while chanting the incantation to return.

“Defugosu”

I returned to the 1st floor.

Well, I was the one wandering back and forth in front of them countless times while they were resting.

It can’t be helped if they think it was a bit annoying.

And they’re probably still at the level where they don’t know the teleport room is a safe area. Since they haven’t properly slept, it’s not surprising their nerves are on end. There’s no point in getting angry over something on that level every time, and I have more important things right now. However, it’s not good that they realized the leader of the {Slaughterers} was doing something strange.

It’s possible they might start to think that there’s some kind of secret on the 2nd floor. It’s true though.

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I continued to teleport another couple dozen times.

I’m starting to feel pretty hungry.

Maybe I’ll take a short break and eat something.

I sat down against the wall and started eating the sandwiches I bought yesterday while drinking some tea.

Since I haven’t properly slept either I’m a bit tired, but hey, this age is durable. Even if I don’t sleep at all for two days or so I’m sure I can keep going. I was able to doze off for two hours or so last night, so I can still keep going.

I wash my face with some cold water to disperse the sleep, grabbed the teleport crystal again, and teleported.

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I'm absolutely sure I've teleported over 100 times already.
Just doing some rough math and the amount of time it takes to teleport once, check the symbol on the pedestal, find the number on the wall is about 2–5 minutes. Since I can sometimes figure out that it's not my destination without even having to check the symbol, it takes an average of 3 minutes for one trip. That comes out to teleporting 20 times an hour.
The time right now is about 10 in the morning.
That would mean it's possible for me to have teleported 200 times.
If I were to go off of probability theory then it's likely I should be able to make it to my objective of "356" by 10 pm at night or so.

"Kazuroku"

I teleported to the 2nd floor.
I check the symbol, and the direction it's pointing on the wal.."356"..Umu. It seems I was safely able to make it.

Next up I think it was the switches at the bottom of the pitfalls right?
Which direction did I go from the start last time?

I thought I would be able to remember but both directions are a vaguely curved cave with no real characteristics.
But, it should be a loop from this point.
No matter which direction I proceed it comes out to a Y shaped split path and beyond that is the room with the {Snake Generator}.

In any case I need to check the bottom of the pitfalls.

Just like usual I use wind magic to blow the dirt away and head towards the pitfall.

I tilt my head in front of the pitfall I found and looked at the bottom of it.
It's about 3m in height and has a depth of about 5m, the width covers the entire cave from wall to wall.

Last time I used earth magic to create dirt and buried it but it should have been a matter of coincidence that I was able to press the switch.

I focus my eyes and try to find something like a switch at the bottom of this pitfall.

..There it is.

I discovered something like that in the corner of the pitfall. It's a square rock about 1 cm in every direction.

There's several other rocks rolling around but that neatly square rock is unnatural.

Even if I use Identify it just comes up as a rock but if it's just using the same type of rock as others in the dungeon then it's not understandable.

Since it seems to be smaller than other rocks from a glance it doesn't look like you could push it but it doesn't seem mistaken that the secret lies in the {Floating Disk}. It might be there's more to it and that's just the only part sticking out.

Come to think of it Karl said there was an order you had to press them as well. There might be other switches as well.

I started looking around the bottom of the pitfall again but I couldn't find it.

Then, in that case the switches would be in the other two pitfalls I guess. There's one on each side of the Y shape split from the teleport destination and then there should be one more a bit past the Y shape area on one side. At the very least I think I need to look at the pitfall on the other side first. After all last time I came up the Y shaped split from the left side. This would be the right side I think.

I returned and went down the opposite side and after checking the pitfall there and there was a similar square rock.

Most likely that's the first switch?

..I bury this pitfall and then bury the one on the opposite side, and then finally bury the pitfall past the Y shape split and that's the right answer I guess?

Doesn't that mean that, the chances at first are 50% for the correct answer, and then the next time is in some meanings 50% as well. Does the door appear with such a high probability?

I put my hands on the side of the pitfall and observed it closely once again.

No clue..Other than the square switch, I can't find anything particularly strange at the bottom of the pitfall.

Hmn, what should I do?

The first time we came we should have come up around from the Y shaped area on the right. In other words, that was definitely the wrong answer. Even then I don't think anything strange happened.

So it shouldn't be anything that would kill me.

Then, I guess I should bury it with dirt and sink the {Floating Disk}, the moment I thought that I noticed it.

Huh? Isn't the correct answer to sink the {Floating Disk} and push that switch with it? If I'm certainly Ralph was pushing it were feet as well. But, wasn't this a pitfall in the first place? It's fine that the {Disk} sinks when you place a certain amount of weight on it. However, I've been making dirt on it up until now but the speed it sunk in was slowly. Pitfalls, aren't they supposed to be intended to do damage by putting a lid on them that breaks all at once causing damage from the fall? They increase the damage by putting spears or stakes at the bottom like on the 3rd floor and 4th floor is what I thought. On the 5th and 6th floor it's almost always a sharp mass of needles.

If they were hoping to cause damage from the fall then this {Floating Disk} doesn't have any meaning.

It's not that there's none at all but even if I were to jump on it I can't imagine it suddenly sinking all at once. Even when I put a large amount of dirt in the middle it slowly sunk down. The amount was about three uses of level 5 earth magic, it's about the amount of one use of level 6. Though if it was just to sink the {Disk} one use of level 4 should be plenty.

Yeah, for the time being I'll try putting the amount of one use of level 4 in the middle.

I use earth magic and void magic and put a 1m cube of dirt or so in the middle. The {Disk} slowly started to sink.

After taking about 20 seconds it reached the bottom.

After observing to see if anything changed and, I found it.

It was nothing at all.

On the front wall of the bottom of the pitfall (?) a small lever appeared. The portion that came out was around 3 cm or so I guess?

In order to observe it better I jumped down on the dirt I created and it seems there's a similar lever on the opposite side of the wall as well.

Ah, I got it. You need to push these levers down?
Not to mention probably from this side as well.

Because, last time I came I didn't put dirt in the middle like this time but I filled it with dirt and then after the {Disk} sunk down, we started to cross over the dirt from this side walking over it like a bridge.

I went all out and tried pulling the lever on the side I came from down. Next I tried pulling the lever on the front side down. I made some dirt and crawled out of the hole before returning to the Y split.

Last time I don't think I buried the opposite side.

If I remember correctly I just checked that the hole had become like a ring shape and then continued ahead. I should probably do that again this time. I continue down the Y shape split and found a hole. Just the same way I sink the {Disk} and look for levers.

..It's there.

This time there's two of them about 1m over on this side and one of them on the opposite.

The problem is what order to pull the two on this side down.

Hmn, how did I create the dirt last time again?

I'm sure that I ended up pushing the two on this side down first..Since I had the bayonet in my right hand and was using magic with my left hand. I feel like I would have ended up burying the left side first.

Then in that case I guess it's to the right from where I'm facing?

If I come this far and make a mistake and, I somehow feel like I'll end up having to start over from the 1st floor..in worst case I might even have to wait another four months.

I can't afford to make a mistake here but thinking about it won't change anything.

There's no hints at all, so I guess there's no choice than to go all out and pull down the right side.

I pulled down the right side, then pulled down the left side. And pulled down

the one on the opposite side, and after making more dirt I crawled out.

Ahead of here is the room with four {Snake Generators} which no normal adventurer would be able to make it past. Just like last time, I used {Acid Cloud} after a decent amount of snakes came out and then used {Anti-Magic Field} to retreat. After waiting an appropriate amount of time to continue and burning away the half-melted snakes with {Flame Thrower} I continued forward.

The door is..thank god. It's there.

I take off my gloves, touch the door, and took a step into the fairy village.

Chapter 123: Fairy Village Again 3

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 1

The fairy village doesn't seem to have changed at all since I came at the start of this year. Even though we're inside of the dungeon there's light almost like that from the sun coming from the high ceiling and it might just be my imagination but it feels like the temperature is higher than the dungeon as well. It's a scenery like an illusion of a meadow covered in bushes. I hold back my impatience in order to not scare the fairies and slowly advance towards the center of the pond while circling around it in order to get to the large tree growing in the center.

I lower my bag and first take out the grill. Just like last time the fairies still aren't paying any attention to me. There are ones who take a break on top of my head and shoulder as well but it's limited to just feeling like a short break on a rock as they climb on me. I came to the rock I sat on last time.

Now then, I think it's just before noon now? Just in case I checked the time on my clock magic tool but just as I thought it was about 11 am. I put the clock magic tool in one of my large pockets and take out the stove magic tool from my bag, then places the grill I just took out on that. And, I took out the dried meineiji and lit the fire on the stove.

Several minutes after smoking the dried fish with the fire and a bit of smoke and good smell started to float around the area, I started to notice the fairies gather around me. I wonder if Karl isn't around?

"Karl, if you're here respond to me."

After I said that and

"I've been up here for a while now."

and I heard a reply from on top of my head. So it was you~ the one crossing their legs on top of my head.

“What the, so you were up there? I brought some fish along, you’re eating it right?”

“Eh!!? Is it fine? I’m happy about that, by the way why do you know my name?”

Th..This guy..He forgot about me.

“What are you saying. I brought the dried meinieji at the start of this year right?”

“Ah, so it was Al huh? Since you’re wearing something like this I couldn’t tell.”

Ah, I see. Since I had the hood covered so far down you can’t see much other than my eyes.

“Sorry about that. I’ll take it off now. Just move for a moment.”

After confirming that the fairies on my shoulders and head flew off I took off the coat.

I folded my coat up and placed it on the side of the rock and then sat down again.

Karl flew on to my right shoulder.

“I’m amazed you were able to come again. Not to mention, it’s just you again right? Was the {Snake Generator} not moving?”

“Ah, another snake fountain? No, a lot of snakes came out of it. I killed them all.”

“Hmn..Then you’re considerably strong. Just like George.”

Karl said with admiration.

“Nn, well, I’ve gone through a reasonable number of troubles. I had to teleport from the 1st floor to the 2nd floor over 100 times.”

“Eh?”

Karl raised his voice in surprise.

“Hn?”

“Al, could it be you teleported here from the 1st floor? You really put a lot of

effort into it. If you don't have quite a bit of luck then you can't make it from there. But you know, it would have been much easier to teleport from the 3rd floor."

Hey, wait just a minute, what in the world is that!?

"From the 3rd floor? Eh? There's a method like that!? You didn't mention a single word about that last time.."

"I won't say it. Ah, I see, last time was the first time for Al was it. That is~ I won't say it either. Mila will get angry at me. Ah, Mila is my older sister. She's the head of this place. Mila you know, even though she's already at a good age she does nothing but sleep~ Though I'm sure in another 40–50 years I'll be doing that as well though. And, Mila~" "Karl, how do you teleport from the 3rd floor?"

"Al is really impatient right. I think I said it before but if you're like that then you won't~" "Please teach me."

"Really, it can't be helped. Since you've already come twice it's fine to tell you but. It's no good if we don't ask Mila first."

"Then, try asking her! I'm begging you."

"N~ Didn't I just say Mila is sleeping? I'll try asking when she wakes up. Rather than, isn't it about time to move the fish?"

Yes-yes..This is fine right.

"And, that spell you taught me about last time {Report}..I tried to erase it with {Anti-Magic Field} but it was impossible...Is there anything I can do about it?"

"Eh? An, {Anti-Magic Field} you say!? Ahahaha! Al sure is an idiot~ There's no way you could do something about {Report} with that. I said it right, unless it's an existence like a {Demi-God} they can't use it. If it was a half-hearted {Anti-Magic Field} there's no way it could stand up to it I'm sure."

Yeah, I already understand that well. After all it's unreasonable to try and oppose these {Gods} or {Demi-Gods}. But you know {Report}, I still don't like it. Every time they look in a portion of my memories gets sealed away, no matter how I think about it, it's harmful to me.

“Then, what should I do about it? Please teach me.”

“There’s several methods to negate spells that are already complete and in the first place negate the spell when it’s cast on you. It’s true that {Anti-Magic Field} is one of those. It’s the basics of the {Abjuration} system after all. Other than that there’s also {Globe of Invulnerability}, {Dispel Magic}, and {Anti-Magic Shell} that you can resist spells with as well.

Well, the only ones that could be effective against the spell {Report} are {Anti-Magic Field} and {Dispel Magic} since they exist on the same level. It’s impossible for {Globe of Invulnerability}. The only one you could probably manage with your power is {Anti-Magic Shell} I’m sure. Do you know {Anti-Magic Shell}?”

No idea.

“Judging off that face it seems you don’t know. Then it’s impossible. It’s not like you’ll die, you’ll just become a bit more forgetful so it’s not all that harmful right? It would be best if you just give up.”

Like I’ll let things end like that.

“Karl since you know that {Anti-Magic Shell} can you use it?”

“That’s only obvious right? Something like magic I can’t use..There’s a ton of them. But, if it’s on the level of {Anti-Magic Shell} then I can use it.”

“Then, would you please use it on me once?”

“Ah, turn around.”

Ah, yes-yes.

“And, what was it again? Getting here from the 3rd floor? Mila is sleeping right“That’s why you can ask that once she wakes up, if you want you can even go wake her up right now. Rather than about the conversation of using {Anti-Magic Shell} on me to crush that {Report}.”

“Ah, was that right? It can’t be helped..Ah, wait just a moment. Go a little bit further over there. If I use it like this then the fish will..and I guess that area is fine? I’ll say it for once as well but you don’t have any magic tools or {Magical Weapons} right? If you have any on you those will break as well. It negates all

magic after all. But, Al you sure are brave. It would be completely impossible for me. Not being able to use magic for the rest“Wait.”

“Really now, what is it, won’t the fish get burnt?”

“I won’t be able to use magic again in my entire life?”

“That’s only obvious, after all {Anti-Magic Shield} negates any magic. There’s some risk but isn’t using Al’s magic skills fine as the catalyst? Since it’s just right that you have all of them.”

There’s no way that’d be fine! This winged insect!

“After all let’s stop. Is there no other method?”

“Other than the ones I just said and, there’s none that are realistic. Ah, as long as you have enough mana you can crush the {Report} with {Anti-Magic Field} though. That’s impossible for the most part though~”

“Hey~ I’m begging you, isn’t there some other method to do it?”

“Hmn, since you went to the trouble of bringing fish again, I want to teach you but you know..I’m sure {Dispel Magic} is impossible..Ah, there is one method. But didn’t I tell Al about it last time?”

Did I hear about it?

“Isn’t it fine if you just have the person who cast the spell on you take it off? If it’s that then you can do it right away, and nothing inconvenient at all should happen.”

I knew that. I feel like I heard about it last time as well.

“I don’t know who the other person is or where they are either.”

“Come to think of it you did say something like that. And, isn’t it about ready?”

Ah, yes-yes. We walked over to the stove and I lifted the meineiji up by it’s tail. Just like last time Karl said “pirururu” to the surrounding fairies and they all swarmed it changing it into just bones. It was really in no time at all.

“Karl, this is meiseiva. It’s a bit large right? It’s delicious.”

I pulled a new dried fish out of my bag and said to Karl and

“It’s big right. And there’s a lot of fat floating on the surface. It really looks delicious. Cook it quickly.”

“Yeah, wait just a minute. Since it’s large it will take a while longer to cook than the meineiji.”

“Yeah that’s fine, since it looks thick I’m sure it’s worth eating as well. Meiseiva was it?”

Karl said while sitting on my lap and observing the dried fish on the stove.

“Yeah, it’s meiseiva. And, returning to the conversation from just now but”

“N~ It’s possible to investigate it using {Detect Magic User} but you know.”

“Is that a spell?”

“That’s right. For example if we were to say you have some kind of magic used on you. It’s a magic that let’s you detect who, where, and what they’re doing right now. Though it requires a catalyst of something like a spherical gem that’s as transparent as possible of this size (20 cm or so). Something like a crystal is best. The more transparent it is the better. Also, the bigger it is the better.”

Ho~

“And, if you use {Detect Magic User} to specify the user then they will show up in the crystal you use as the catalyst. The other side won’t be able to see you from their side. In that case it’s fine if you just use {Telepathy} to talk to them. Though it might come to negotiating from there.

But the thing you need to be careful about is the size of the gem you use as catalyst. I just said that about this size is fine but with this size they’ll only show up for about 100 seconds or so. I think you might already know but {Telepathy} can only be used if you can currently see the target, so you would need to finish up the conversation during that time.”

..I didn’t know. But, it seems like that will become a big clue.

“I see now, then, Karl, I don’t have the gem right now but I’m sure I can prepare one. If I bring it here can you use {Detect Magic User} and {Telepathy} at that time? Since I don’t know either of those spells.”

I shifted the meiseiva while saying that.

“Eh? Why? I mean can’t Al use all magic..Waha~ I bet the levels of your magic skills are low right. Then in that case it can’t be helped. It can’t be used unless all of your skills levels are at least at level 7 after all. Or was it 6 for {Telepathy}? Well I guess it’s no good in either case. Since you brought along fish, it’s fine.”

Eh? What was that, does that mean even I can use it?

“No, all of mine are level 9? Ah, only fire was still level 8 I guess? {Status Open}..All of them other than fire magic at at the highest level.”

Karl was considerably surprised after hearing that and said.

“He~!! That’s amazing. You’re still..16 years old aren’t you! Al sure has some talent with magic. I only reached that class with magic when I was past 200 years old. But in that case, you should do it yourself.”

“No, that’s why I said, I don’t know how to use {Detect Magic User} or {Telepathy}.”

“Ah, I see. Come to think of it Al was still a beginner at magic. I guess it’s not unreasonable that you wouldn’t know..”

I..was just a young fresh beginner of magic huh...Well I guess looking from this guy who’s of the fairy race then it might look that way so it doesn’t piss me off at all, but somehow, you know, I don’t feel satisfied.

“Then Karl, I’ll request again once more. Would you please teach me magic? I said it before but I’ll do whatever I can in thanks. I’m begging you, just like this.”

I lower my head to the fairy that’s on my lap.

“Hmn, I don’t particularly mind though. But if I think about it like that then I guess George was superior huh..Though when he came here it was when he was around 30 years old so I guess it’s strange to compare him to Al? But there’s not much difference between 16 years old and 30 years old so after all I guess Al is the one who’s no good? Though George did have an amazing number of Unique Abilities~”

I feel like there’s a pretty big difference between 16 and 30 years old but I guess to someone that’s over 600 years old it’s the same...

“That’s right, I’ve started to remember them. You know George, he called

himself Kurojo, or something like that~ Well that's fine but his Unique Abilities were pretty amazing. Like 【God's Bloodline】, 【Heart of Vengeance】, 【Gift of Heavenly Talent】, 【Greater Identify】, 【Immobile Will】, 【Martial King】, ah, that's right there was also something like 【Power to Understand】. He said it was something like a power that let him forcibly understand things he didn't really get. I wonder if that's why he was able to use magic on such a high level as well~ Come to think of it George said he was going to make a country or something but I wonder what happened? Do you know?"

I know.

"Yeah, I think he was the founding King of Rombert Kingdom. It seems to be a story from over 500 years ago though. Since I think it matches that period as well, it's probably that George or Kurojo that Karl was mentioning that used Rombert as his family name right? In that case there's no mistake it was the founder his majesty George Rombert the First."

"He~ I see. In any case he had something different than normal people after all. Though Al feels like a normal person."

Shut up~ I already know something like that. It's none of your business.

"Umm, well something like teaching you magic is fine. It's nothing in particular after all."

I shifted the mseiseiva again so I don't forget it and had the flame touch the tail.

"Yeah, I'm in your care. Let's start right away."

"Nn, I guess so, then..Let's start with how to knead your mana."

Starting from there? As expected I already know that much.

"That's already fine. I know it."

"He~ I see. I guess that's true. Then in reverse let's start from magic. Do you know {Light}?"

"Yeah, of course."

"How do you use it?"

“I use the mana of my void magic on the objective of..”

.....

After that since we had plenty of time Karl’s lecture jumped from here and there as he started teaching me from the start about the systems of magic, and I had him teach me several spells as well. I’ll just write the important points but,

1. For starters forget about the method of splitting them up by water, fire, wind, earth, and void.
2. Void magic is the foundation of everything in spells.
3. The magic system changes based on the image and method you use void magic with.
4. It’s necessary to think about and get an image of the void magic you plan to use and the elemental magic needed to be added to that.
5. If you can’t do 4 then you can’t skillfully use spells.
6. The best way to do it is to watch someone who can already use it and confirm the effects usage of it.

Is what it came out to. Just, there was a hidden technique as well. That’s incantations. The incantation makes use of the spell Fortune-Telling {Divination}, and when you’re using that it’s necessary imagine the spell you want to use in your head as you construct it. Since the duration of {Divination} itself is limited it seems it’s difficult to use for things that are too advanced but even then I was told that it’s important to start from learning to use {Divination}.

For example a spell I already know that creates light, it’s {Light} but after using the spell {Divination} during the duration it lasts I try to imagine the effects and method to use {Light} in my head during that period and the incantation for kneading the mana on each process of it will float up in my head.

{Light} only uses void magic. The normal process for using the spell is to set the target in your sights and imagine a clump of mana there. During that occasion, if you point your finger or the palm of your hand towards it, it’s even easier. It’s thanks to that process that your hand or fingertip shines with blue light. If you master it you can do it without pointing your finger or hand but since it’s the basics you start imagining while facing your hand. Here the

incantation “tozu” appeared in my head.

Next up it enters the stage where it comes to how much mana you’re concentrating into the clump. Normally you adjust the amount of brightness or the duration the light lasts here. If you don’t think anything then you can skip past it. However, if you want to know the incantation you can’t skip past it. Well, I’ll think about it based on the standard. And then the incantations “borusu” and “nobun” appeared in my head.

And, we come to the image of light. In my case I use the image of a florescent light. It’s because the first time I had mother teach me magic I imagined something like a round florescent light. You need to convert mana to light. Here the incantations “keirechi” and “shiraku” floated into my head. Combining them all together and it comes out to the incantation, “tozu.borusu.nobun.keirechi.shiraku”. In this case, you can create a white florescent-like light of about 40W for roughly 5 minutes and consume 1 MP with void magic.

This is an incantation that belongs only to me. They differ based on the person. I remembered back to the healer at Bakuddo village older woman Shaymi at this point and realized that what she was using was most likely not a real incantation but a pose to increase the feeling of virtue to it. Furthermore, if you reverse the spell for {Light}, (to “rizu.burumando.behezu.romirugorun.dyumaku”) then you can use the reverse magic {Darkness}. Since both {Light} and {Darkness} were spells I could previously use it was easy for the incantations to float into my head.

If it was a spell I couldn’t use (didn’t know), then it wouldn’t be as simple as this.

For example I didn’t know about the spell Invisible Familiar {Safe Servant}. It’s a lost spell that is part of the {Conjuration} and {Summoning} systems. This is a spell that lets you summon an invisible servant that can carry things that aren’t very big of up to about 10kg.

It can’t move over even a slight bit of difference in surface level and if it takes any damage at all it disappears but if you create it using earth magic, wind magic, and void magic, it lasts for about an hour. It seems it can even keep up

with me if I start running in a sprint. Depending on how you use it, it seems it can clean tables, chairs, and things that aren't all that dirty on a simple level, so it somehow seems like a spell that could be useful in a plain sort of way as well.

Thanks to Karl's coaching I was somehow able to use it and simultaneously learn the incantations through {Divination}. Next up you chant the incantation and learn the mana efficient method of using it but it comes out to this super long incantation, "zu ritto.rebi.ka tagu nia. heru kon do. hei roki ki fu.shizu miffa do~n.baru.goru.kiru mu.kuri neru.besu ku.ji jami.heru to nin shu.kejumanmaru.churifu.devin.warisuto". It's necessary to recite that at a certain speed and furthermore within a fixed time. In the first place it's difficult to even remember. Next time I should bring along a note pad.

However, while making mistakes, and getting caught up countless times during reciting the incantation and I was able to properly understand how to use the mana for it. Once you can understand that much it's a lot easier. It's the same as riding a bicycle that I mentioned in the past. An assistant for supporting with it is necessary at the start but once you somehow are able to ride it after that it's fast. Rather the assistant or supporter start to get in the way. Learning spells is something like each one of them is trying to learn to ride a new bicycle. It's considerably difficult until you're able to learn it but once you learn it you can improve all on your own.

After using several spells as I learned the incantations and I was able to understand well why the systems of magic were split up. Even though they're different magics there's several common words between them that I noticed. According to Karl, realizing that seems to be the most basic of the basics.

"In other words dividing it up into 13 systems based on the usage of mana is for this reason?"

When I said that,

"There's no way it's that simple right. However that way of thinking itself isn't mistaken."

And said a bit sarcastically.

After that, I was able to get him to teach me one of my objectives that was the spells {Detect Magic User} and {Telepathy}. Since I don't have any catalyst

for it, it's suspicious whether I was really succeeding with it but that can't be helped. I was able to confirm that I was properly learning {Telepathy} that didn't need a catalyst though.

It seems that you need a transparent gem in the shape of an orb with a diameter of at least 10 cm or so in order to use {Detect Magic User}. It's necessary to somehow get my hands on one of those. I thought about breaking the teleport crystal rod and using that but it's impossible because it's not at least 10 cm. Even when it comes to buying one, I'm sure they're not simply selling something that large. There's no other choice than to explore the dungeon and find one. If I can find a raw ore then rather than selling it I'll have a skilled artisan polish it for me and use that as a catalyst, there's no choice other than that. According to Karl he said that it's possible to find crystals in the dungeon of Baldukk after all.

It was already long since night at this point but the light shining down in the fairy village was the same afternoon as usual. Since I thought it was strange I tried asking Karl about it and,

“What's night? I don't know anything about that. After all I've been here since I was born.”

and held his chest high while saying that. I went through quite a bit of trouble getting him to stay with me without going to sleep up to here. I brought along a total of 20 dried fish but there's no way they could eat that much. I ended up having to give him the portable stove magic tool, leftover dried fish, and threw in some magic stones, and the failed hard candy like thing I brought along just in case and I was finally able to get him to stick with me this far.

Furthermore, I tried asking him if there was any sort of spell to escape from abnormal mental conditions that increase fear like the Roar the Horned Bear uses that have been a worry of mine for many years. And then he told me there was a spell called {Afraid} and the reverse spell of that {Remove Afraid}, which are close to that but I can already use the spells {Afraid} and {Remove Afraid}.

Those are spells that trigger something like hysteria and recover from that so it's completely different from opposing terror. After all I guess the only method to deal with Roar is to be higher level than the opponent or have a reasonable

amount of MP. I can't take it easy.

Incidentally, Karl's older sister Mila didn't wake up. I got him to promise to get her permission before I come next time in September and I was chased out of the fairy village as I left. I checked my clock magic tool after leaving and the date had changed.

Chapter 124: Comb

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 3

The end of the days off. Starting today we're exploring the 6th floor again. Thanks to the information I gained during these days off, the dungeon isn't simply a place for me to gain treasure, but it's become a place where I can obtain the catalyst needed to use a spell in order to negotiate with the one who used this {Report} on me. It will change the amount of fighting spirit I'm putting into it.

Since I was supposed to be in the capital until yesterday, I paid everyone's wages before the break started. There's no way I'd let there be any delays in payment. I was eating a chicken roast, some eggs, and a badly made muffin for breakfast while looking around at everyone's faces. Yeah, I can feel that everyone is energetic from their expressions. It seems they were satisfied with their days off.

"Come to think it, that guy supposedly died."

Ralpa is saying to Zenom and Zulu next to her. What is she doing talking about dead people this early in the morning...It's not like she said it to me, so I'll just ignore it.

"Hn?"

"Who did?"

Zenom put some egg on his muffin while and Zulu put some pepper on his egg while responding.

"Remember, after we came here..Nn~ It was around the time we went to the 2nd floor, so it's those guys that came to Baldukk a short while after Maruso entered our party, right? That Tiger-man noble who came from outside of the country."

I guess there was still some roast remaining on a rib. Ralpa said while taking

the bone out from her mouth.

“Ah, that young guy called Rokis or whatever? He was the son of a Marquis or something right? Did he die?”

Zenom finishes his egg muffin while saying.

“No, not Rokis but one of his followers. The male Rabbit-people named Biku. I think it was a short while after Maruso joined us. When Zulu came along with me shopping, didn’t it turn into a fight? Don’t you remember? Zulu.”

“..I don’t remember. In the first place there were a lot of people who picked fights with us over Koloil-sama around that time so we got into fights often.”

I guess it’s that, do you remember every time you’ve eaten bread? type of thing. It’s true I don’t remember them all either. Honestly speaking, I don’t remember getting into an argument or fight with Rokis and the others either. Other than that one incident in the dungeon the other day. It’s not unreasonable that Zulu doesn’t remember.

“I see. Well it’s fine. And, that Rabbit-people died in the dungeon fighting against an Ork it seems. But, since it was after they started to retreat they weren’t able to recover the corpse.”

Ralpa is talking while she uses the bone she pulled off the rib as a toothpick. Is this girl really a woman? I feel like I’m about to be stuck with some serious doubts. I’m sure Bel and Toris are stuck together as usual so they haven’t noticed but Gwine is frowning as well. I’m sure my expression isn’t much different from Gwines as well.

“Isn’t it something that happens often? Was there something that seemed strange about it?”

Angela said while putting some roast chicken between her muffin. Zenom is focused on eating his completed egg muffin.

“It’s not particularly unusual. I think that Biku just let his guard down. Ah, Kalstalan-sama can I use the pepper?”

Zulu, isn’t that too much pepper? I’m amazed you can calmly eat something like that.

“Well you would think that right. But you know, I don’t know if it was the 1st or 2nd floor but since Orks will run away all on their own if you defeat or injure one of them, so depending on how you think about it goblins and gnolls are more dangerous right. I guess he must have been hit in a pretty bad place.”

It’s true it’s just as Ralpa says, Orks and Hobgoblins have a decent amount of combat ability individually but since they specialize in group combat, if they even take a bit of damage it’s often they start to retreat. Gnolls sometimes show signs of that as well but when it comes to goblins they just keep charging at you so you could say they’re more troublesome. There’s times when weak adventurers are eaten. However, putting aside newcomers, it’s unusual for an adventurers with enough ability to make it to the 2nd floor to get killed by an Ork. Though it’s not that there’s few enough of them for it to be unnatural though.

“Al-san, why is Ral like this? I don’t think she was like this in the past but I guess people really do change..”

Gwine is putting ham on her muffin as she talks to me.

“Really though...I don’t know about in the past but she was only putting on a feigned face for the first few days after I met her. After that it was always like this.”

Ralpa was watching as I responded to Gwine like that but she didn’t say anything. After all it’s the truth. I bite off a bit of the roast chicken leg while making a face that said “I haven’t spoken any lies” but it seems Ralpa decided to ignore us and she’s still continuing to talk to Zenom and the others.

From the other side of Ralpa and the others,

“Really, stop eating just meat and eat some eggs as well.”

“Eh~ I don’t like eggs. I just took them for your sake.”

“Eh..Is that so? Thanks. I love you.”

“Of course I do too. That’s why if you’re not going to eat that chicken I’ll take it.”

“That is no~good~.”

And I hear a strange conversation that I’m not sure if I’m envious of or not.

The couple of Toris and Bel are as annoying as usual this morning. I've just decided that you two are standing at the front until the teleport room on the 3rd floor for today.

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Year 7444, Month 5, Day 8

After returning from the dungeon last night I slept a full night and today I was able to relax and take a break. Right now I'm having dinner with everyone. This "Murowa" is a good bar to relax where their selling point is the skewers they offer while you have a drink. Since it wears away at your nerves quite a bit exploring the dungeon for 5 days straight, the day after getting back we don't feel like doing anything. I'm lenient towards them spending their time sluggishly and self-indulgent. Even then one of my slaves and myself never miss out on running for about two hours though. Recently I've been seeing the faces of Toris and Gwine when I go for my running in the mornings as well. Since the course and pace differs by person it's not like we're running together.

This time we weren't able to get our hands on anything big while exploring the dungeon. It was just the magic stones from monsters. Since normally this is only obvious, it's not something to get depressed over but since I got quite enthusiastic about exploring the dungeon I was a bit disappointed. Ah, really, I wonder if a raw gem crystal won't come out already?

"Today you know, when I was eating together with Gwine at "Rasurun", I heard about it again."

Ralpa is talking about some sort of information she heard about again. No, it's not something as refined as information. It's like the rumors you hear at the well-side gatherings. Are you a housewife?

"About what?"

Bel tried asking Ralpa. Just ignore her there. Toris and I exchange glances and Toris started pouring some lukewarm beer from the pitcher into my mug. I asked the Laios waitress for two more pork skewers and poured some beer back into Toris's mug.

After the waitress went and gave the order to the kitchen with her swinging

beautiful long scarlet hair and then she sat down “next” to Zulu who was sitting alone at the next table over and started talking about something. Why didn’t she sit across from him?

Angela, Gwine, and Zenom are getting excited about the topic of the beard Gwine has started growing recently. It’s a beard which you can barely tell has started growing if you look closely at the bottom of her jaw and below her nose. It sounds like a conversation to comfort Gwine who is worried about it. Zenom is giving his opinion of “A woman with no beard has no charm” but it seems she doesn’t approve.

Toris is skillfully eating some dried ibodi with his {My} chopsticks. I’m eating keiswago in fish and vegetables also with {My} chopsticks while (I get a good impression that Toris is also properly using chopsticks~) drinking some bear as well.

“And you know, this time it seems it was Joni. You remember right? I think it was last winter, ah, since it was last year before we met Toris and Gwine so it should have been after the new year. It’s the Tiger-man who tried to pick a fight with us to hit on Bel at “Danfulu”.”

It’s the voice of a rumor loving housewife.

“Eh~ I can’t remember. There’s too many.”

The voice of a rabbit who is putting on airs.

“Is that sarcasm?”

“No, it’s not sarcasm I really can’t remember.”

“Yes I know, you’re popular after all.”

“N~ That’s not the case~”

“And, it seems it was the other day but that Joni supposedly died. It seems it was a trap. That crossbow one. So there really were people who get caught in that~ I need to be careful as well..”

He~ so that guy died? The one that tried to pick a fight with me. Getting caught up in a trap and dying, he really was an idiot. Before I noticed the dried ibodi that Toris had in front of him had turned into a bone as if it was eaten by

fairies, and Toris was looking at that with a difficult face.

“What is it?”

What is he making such a difficult face for?

“Eh? No, this sea bream, I mean ibodi was pretty good so I was thinking of ordering another, or maybe getting some boiled with vegetables like Al-san.”

He sure is worrying over something weird.

“Hn, then, I’ll give you half. Order an ibodi and then give me half.”

After I said that and,

“Is that fine? Then let’s do that. Excuse me~”

Toris happily responded and called out to the waitress but she’s sitting on Zulu’s lap at the table next to ours. Work.

Even then the waitress reluctantly was running a finger along Zulu’s chest as she went to take Toris’s order to the kitchen. After noticing Toris and my glances Zulu looked the other direction and brought his mug to his mouth. You, the contents of that are either tea or water right?

“Though, if Ralpa’s story is true then wouldn’t that mean Rokis-sans party is in need of people. If two people were killed then they have 8 people right now right? If they were doing it with 10 people then in terms of combat ability things might be pretty harsh for them right now. Well it’s not something for us to worry about but I wonder if they’ll buy some slaves or something.”

“I wonder about that~ If I remember correctly, weren’t there only 6 of them when they came to Baldukk? A short while after that they teamed up with a group of four and become a full party. Though they might have just bought 4 combat slaves. Won’t they just scout some random guys or purchase someone?”

“He~ I guess their leader is doing a pretty proper job? Well I’m sure it’s fine as long as they’re earning.”

“I don’t know about that far~ But if they’re still at the 1st and 2nd floor I’m sure they aren’t making much. Isn’t it impossible to properly earn anything until

the 3rd floor?”

“Then I guess for now they’re just good talkers? I’m amazed they keep up at it even though they don’t have any achievements.”

“No, since they were able to make it to the 2nd floor in a year and a half they’re still pretty quick. I’m sure they’re reasonably skilled.”

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Year 7444, Month 5, Day 18

It’s the final day of our three day break. After we finished up our cooperation training and were about to take a slightly early dinner. We met up at the restaurant “Rasurun”. In order to leave my equipment and get lighter before going to eat the five of us other than the slaves were walking on our way to Boil Manor.

“You’re Greed-san right, from the {Slaughterers}?”

There was a young Laios woman who called out to me in front of the inn. Just when I was thinking I had seen her face somewhere before, I remembered. She’s the one from Rokis’s party. Candice.Hash, level 8 huh? The eldest daughter of the Viscount Hash. I wonder what her business is?

“Yes, I am but do you have some business with me?”

I faced the woman Candy and replied. Everyone from the {Slaughterers} and is watching over.

“There’s something I want to talk about for a bit, so I would like to borrow some of your time but..”

She’s saying it with some reservations but she’s properly looking me in the eyes.

“It’s fine. What is it?”

After I replied and Candy made a slightly relieved expression before continuing her words.

“Umm, could you please act as an agent for us with Ronslail?”

“Ha?”

“As a matter of fact..There have been quite a few deaths in our party recently...Another one of our combat slaves died in a boss room on the 2nd floor today...That’s why it’s came to discussing about purchasing a new combat slave..”

Ah, I see now. Since recently the “Slave Store, Ronslail” that I purchased Angela and Zulu from has made quite the name for itself. After all it was the store that provided two front-line slaves for the {Slaughterers} so it’s gotten quite famous for that, any adventurer who has a decent amount of money would prefer to buy their combat slaves not from the exclusive shop “Tani Company” but it’s been the recent trend to purchase combat slaves from “Slave Store, Ronslail”. Supposedly it even requires making reservations there now. It’s great that her business is flourishing.

Even now that elf madam occasionally calls out to me that she’s gotten her hands on some good slaves. Come to think of it since we started spending 5 days in the dungeon our bags have increased quite a bit. It might be good to buy a slave for carrying baggage and keeping lookout of our bags.

After thinking for a bit I,

“Wait just a moment.”

I said to Candy and turned around to everyone and,

“Come to think of it, I’ve heard it’s convenient to have someone to carry bags right?”

I tried asking everyone that.

“That’s true..”

“Yeah, it’s always tiring on the way.”

“Always forcing Maruso to prepare the meals as well you know..”

“Someone who is better than Zulu at massages would be good.”

“It would help if we had one.”

They’re saying things like that.

“Then, after we change lets go and try buying one. Go ahead to “Rasurun” and wait for me.”

I said that and since Gwine and Toris haven't seen a slave trader before they're coming along but "If Toris is going then I think I'll go too" is what Bel said so I just said "If you want to come then feel free.", but for some reason they all seemed a bit excited. Purchasing a slave doesn't feel all that much different from hiring an employee with extremely few human rights. Since Ralpa and Zenom didn't seem interested at all they decided to go and wait at the restaurant.

"Excuse me, sorry for making you wait. Since it was just right we've decided to purchase 1 slave as well. Shall we go together? I'll introduce you."

And Candy was happy after I said that to her. Well normally not many people would do this after all. It's something like sending salt to someone that could become your rival after all. But, honestly speaking the strength of our party isn't really related to the work of the slaves so selling a favor to a reasonably skilled party isn't too bad. Putting it bluntly, there's no way they could become a "serious" rival for us after all."

"Umm, I'll call for the leader right away. We'll be waiting in front of the store, so we'll see you there soon as you please."

"Yeah, we'll head over after we finish changing as well."

I said that and split ways with her.

After quickly changing, putting on some neat clothes, and putting just my sword in the belt on my waist it was just as I saw Ralpa and Zenom head towards the restaurant.

"That part, so they've lost close to four people in these past two weeks right?"

"If they recklessly try to challenge an opponent then those things happen. It's not unusual."

"Well, in our case since we have Al after all."

"That's true. His decisions in the dungeon are correct. Since he's trying to make sure we don't overdo it all the time. Even then we're still earning that much."

They were saying things like that. It's because if we were to overdo things the only one remaining alive in the end would be just me.

Together with Toris and the others, we started on our way towards "Slave Store, Ronslail".

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I talk about the time I bought Zulu and Angela with Toris and the others as we head towards "Ronslail" and in front of the store Mittorig.Rokis and Candy from just now were waiting. After we got close Rokis approached and greeted us.

"Greed-san, I'm sorry about this. Since it seems you're going to introduce us to Ronslail..we're really saved. Really thank you very much."

"No, please don't mind it. I was jsut thinking about buying one myself."

I said that and entered the store.

The madam of the store is standing listlessly at the reception desk smoking as usual until we entered the room and she trots over to us.

"This is, Greed-sama. Welcome to our store. Please come sit over here."

And she suggested the sofa to us. I urged Rokis on and the two of us sat down on the sofa. Candy, Toris and the others are standing behind us.

"Yo~ How is business going? It seems you've gotten quite big or something.."

I started from recent news.

"Yes, we have quite a bit. Thanks to you we've gotten quite a few reservations so right now we're stocking up even more than before. Recently the number of combat slaves we deal in has exceeded the total number of labor, sex, and general slaves. We have quite the reputation going for ourselves right now. Up until now we've only dealt in a total of about 30 people per year but thanks to you it exceeded 40 people last year. The increased amount was all combat slaves. Hoho Ho~"

That's quite amazing~ an increase of more than 33%. Well given the location I'm sure it was 10 combat slaves until now and the remaining was a total of 20 mixed slaves or so.

“That’s quite amazing. However..I guess that was my mistake then..So there’s something like reservations..”

I already knew but I said it as if I was troubled.

“Oh? You were here to purchase for the first time in a while? That is certainly a problem. Unfortunately we don’t have any stock of combat slaves right now..”

The madam said with an expression like she was really troubled.

“Ah, today I didn’t come intending to buy a combat slave. Well, there’s no problem with it being a durable slave either way but this time I want slave that exclusively carries bags a {Porter}. Please show me your stock. You should be fine on general use slaves right? Also, this is the son of Marquis Rokis who is an adventurer in Baldukk as well. The one who wishes to purchase a combat slave is him but..I guess that’s a problem. I’m sorry about speaking so selfishly but I wonder if you can’t speed up arrangements for him?”

“Oh, is that how it was? If it’s an introduction from Greed-sama then I can’t just ignore it. However, right now we don’t have any stock of combat slaves so..We intend to get some stock around the end of this month but..I’m very sorry.”

The madam said and politely lowered her head to Rokis. Hey now, you can’t increase your stock of combat slaves until the end of the month, doesn’t that mean they’re already sold from reservations the moment you get them?

“Eeh!!? Is that so..can we make reservations for them?”

Rokis tried asking the madam.

“Yeah, of course you can. Is it alright if inquire with you at your inn? Depending on our stock we’ll send a messenger out. Since this time it’s an introduction from Greed-sama, we’ll let you check them before other customers.”

Oh~ It seems she’s being considerate for me. Sorry about that~

Rokis showed the madam his status and gave the name of the inn he’s staying at before leaving the store. This time he put in a reservation for three combat slaves. If it comes to the son of a Marquis I’m sure he has some money. Is what I

was thinking but it seems he's resolved to throw down all of his assets. Candy gave a detailed listing of their budget down the last bit of it.

Well something like the state of other peoples wallets doesn't matter at all.

Rather than that, it's finally time for her to show me their stock of slaves.

"Ah, Ronslail-san. Since it's an exclusive {Porter} slave I want one that isn't too old or young. A male in his mid-20s to mid-30s would be best. I have no intention of letting them fight so they don't need to know how to use a weapon. But, it would be best if they have quite a bit of strength and stamina. Also, if it's someone who can cook and do massages that would be good as well."

After hearing my extravagant requests the madam put her hand to her jaw while thinking.

"Al-san, is it fine if they're not a combat slave? If they were attacked while watching the bags then.."

Toris called out a bit worried.

"No, it's not necessary. It's not like monsters come out after all and either way if another party attacked them alone there's no helping it. It would be pointless even having them resist. Regardless of whether they're a combat slave or general slave they won't survive a situation like that. And there's no need to let them participate in the combat while we're on the move as well. I have no intention of bringing them along to the 6th floor which seems dangerous either."

It seems the madam was waiting for me to finish replying before she said.

"Please come over here. I'll prepare them now but unfortunately I can only prepare two people who meet those conditions right now."

We all followed after the madam and were let into a room in the back. After waiting for a short while the madam brought back two men.

Lorence.Giberuti, Level 4, 26 years old, Dog-people race.

Mathew.Basshisu, Level 5, 32 years old, Human race.

Both of their conditions are good and they seem pretty healthy. But, I don't

even need to go to the point of using Identify. Giberuti is the better choice because he has Super Sense of Smell. Though Basshisu isn't a bad choice either and his strength is a bit higher than Giberuti, but since Giberuti is young I'm sure he'll surpass that soon.

"What's the price of these two?"

"They're both 3,500,000 Z. They weren't born as serfs but rather they were servants of a carpenter in Rombertia. Since they didn't have much talent with carpentry and this time it's the request of none other than Greed-sama, this time you also introduced a customer to me, it's a good deal on them."

3,500,000 Z huh? I guess you could say it's the average price for a general slave who doesn't have an occupation and wasn't a serf.

"Is it fine to talk to them?"

Bel asked the madam.

"Yeah, please do."

The madam smiled while responding.

"You two, what are your names?"

"I'm Lorence.Giberuti."

"I'm Mathew.Basshisu."

The two of them honestly responded. That's only obvious huh?

"Have you entered the dungeon before?"

"I have not."

"Never."

That's only obvious as well.

"Can you use the sword or spear?"

Gwine started asking as well. However, that's too unreasonable.

"I've never held them before."

"I can't use them."

Well, it's not like there's a big difference between them, so it doesn't matter

either way. I almost want to just say you all decide. However these guys, I can't help but feel they're just asking out of interest.

"Do you smoke?"

"No."

"No."

There's no way a slave would smoke something like a luxury good~

"Can you cook?"

"Yes, it's a specialty of mine."

"I can most things."

Well, it was one of my conditions after all.

"What about massages?"

"I was educated on it by my previous master."

"Is it really fine!?"

Hey, why are you looking at Bel? I reflexively looked at Toris's face. He's glaring displeased. That's only obvious. This human is no good.

It should already be fine right.

"Then..Yes, 3,500,000 Z. We'll take the Dog-people man."

"Yes, I've certainly received it. We'll have the proof of sales prepared by tomorrow morning. Will you visit the temple tomorrow? Or on another day?"

"Yeah, I'll come to receive him tomorrow morning, so we'll do it after that. Hey, let's go."

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Year 7444, Month 5, Day 19

Before heading to the dungeon we went to "Slave Store, Ronslail" and picked up Lorence.Giberuti and then just like headed towards the temple to get the naming ceremony done. We purchased a huge a shoulder basket and had him carry everyone's clothes, food, and luggage. Everyone is still holding a small bag of their own stuff but it's the one we had prepared with three days worth of preserved food (1kg of dried meat or so) and some other small things so we're

much more agile than before.

We entered the dungeon before noon and not quite as late as midnight but just before 10 at night we were able to arrive at the teleport room of the 3rd floor.

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Year 7444, Month 5, Day 20

We've made it to the teleport room of the 5th floor. Up until now it took us around 12 hours to clear through the 4th floor but we were able to shorten it by close to 1 hour. That's a splendid thing. Giberuti is a pretty cheerful guy and everyone is already calling him Larry. At the very least by purchasing him the amount of time we spend gathering magic stones on the way should be shortened a bit as well. And above all else it's nice that we don't have to carry so much bulky things as well. Four days worth of underwear and things ends up coming out to quite a bit to carry and the food is quite heavy as well. Including him that's 5 days and 4 nights worth of preparations, including extras a total of 140 meals and if you include the pots, stoves, and buckets it weighs around 50kg. Of course if we just had one person holding all that then it would slow us down from the start so we split up to about 2-3kg per person.

With this everyone only has to carry a bag that weighs about 5kg each but even from the first day everyone's belongings got quite a bit lighter. Also since everyone had to throw their bags down during combat until now we couldn't bring along things like eggs but this time we can eat eggs even in the dungeon and our bread or vegetables won't get smashed throwing them either so I'm sure our meals will improve as well.

Our second night in the dungeon last night was already a few times more comfortable than it has been. Giberuti's skill at cooking was quite something. Maybe I'll buy a slightly better stove. Though he wasn't as skilled as Zulu when it came to massages he was still pretty good. Hmn, I'm glad I bought him. I wonder how much I should make Giberuti's wages? Since he's not a combat slave, I guess 20,000 Z (2 silver coins) should be plenty as a monthly salary.

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Year 7444, Month 5, Day 21

“Please put your seal here.”

I check over the estimate that was handed to me and make sure there's no problems. Yeah, it's fine. The price is good as well.

“Here.”

I pushed the X-stamp seal on it and sealed it with the mark of the company.

“Thank you very much.”

Inoue took the estimate document from me and headed towards the scanner. I'm sure he's going to turn it into a PDF and mail that to the other party. I returned to my process of producing materials for a sales meeting next week. I've been producing materials all day since before lunch without eating. The Wednesday's before a meeting are always like this. I need to finish making it by today and make sure it gets the {OK} from the department head by the end of the week.

I can have my subordinates produce the detailed graphs and tables but the composition of the materials themselves can't be done by anyone but myself. The trends of orders from last month and the remaining stock, the predictions for this month, the reasons why we arrived at those numbers. It's troublesome but it can't be helped. The one who reads this out at the meeting is the department head who is an executive but if a question comes up it's the duty of my the assistant head to offer an explanation.

..I guess I'll take a break.

I take a cigarette out of the suit I had on my chair, grabbed my lighter and started towards the smoking area.

I light my cigarette and take a puff, I look out the window at the scenery with the cigarette in my right hand. It's been raining since this morning. It feels like my feelings will start to sink.

“Kawasaki-san.”

Hn? I turn around and Shiina was there.

“Thank you for your work, here, please take this. I bought it on accident.”

Oh~ this is the brand of coffee that I like. The vending machine at our place was changed with a different one last week so there's been a number of cases of pressing the wrong button and purchasing the wrong thing.

"That's kind of you. Thanks."

(....v.....m...e..)

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Year 7444, Month 5, Day 24

After returning from the dungeon the other night I was tired so after having dinner with everyone, we left Gwine and Ralpa the heavy drinkers and including me all returned to the inn to sleep. Judging from their appearances they probably didn't return until late at night. The next morning when we were having breakfast the woman of leisure, well-side housewife Ralpa was talking.

"Just listen! This time it was Tim who was done in it seems. It seems he stepped on a trap on the 1st floor while they were fighting against a Giant Spider in a room. He just make reservations for three slaves the other day right?"

"Ral, it's hard to tell from just that. It seems that another person from Rokis-san's party died. It's probably because they were impatient and went to the 1st floor with just 6 of them.."

Gwine supplemented it.

"He~ that's quite foolish. Even though it wouldn't have been too late if he had just waited for the slaves...However, even reasonably skilled guys will die from traps huh? That sure is dangerous, we need to make sure we're careful as well."

Toris said while sighing after hearing that. I agree completely.

"And you know, it seems that Tiger-man who is the son of the Marquis finally had some thoughts on it so he decided to just properly do cooperation training until the slaves come without entering the dungeon."

For some reason Ralpa was saying amused by it. If you just think about it a

bit that's true.

"Ral, who did you hear about that from?"

Bel said that.

"Hn? The guy I drank with yesterday. I forgot his name but I think he was a pretty good guy."

"Ralpha, since you're not a child anymore I won't say it too strictly but that is..is it a proper guy?"

Zenom said that uncomfortably. What is this old man saying?

"Ah, you don't need to worry. We had Gwine there who's strong with alcohol, so we just drank together."

"Then that's fine but.."

Hey now, don't be getting talked away~

"Zenom-san, Ral might seem like this but she's pretty level-headed, you don't need to worry."

Angela offered a helping hand to Ralpha.

"Maruso, you might say that but..Larry what do you think?"

Zenom threw the conversation to Giberuti with his slightly grim voice.

"I still don't know much about Ralpha-san so..But, I can say this much. I doubt there are many people who could be an opponent for Ralpha-san. After all, master and the others are the top adventurers in Baldukk the {Slaughterers} right? I heard about it from Zulu-sama."

Giberuti responded with a light tone, but I see, so Zulu said that. You, haven't you gotten quite boastful? Come to think of it Zulu is quietly eating at the edge. However, his expression looks pretty dangerous. Those are the eyes of a lion aiming for it's prey. Of a male that doesn't hunt though. Zulu's view is aimed towards the Laios woman with green hair working in the kitchen. Was the waitress of "Murowa" just playing around? This guy...No wait. It seems he was looking at the lamb leg that was hanging down in the kitchen. Sorry about that, Zulu.

However, I feel like something is off.

What is it?

I'm quietly bringing my thick cut bacon to my mouth alone.

The fragrance spreads out in my mouth and nose. It's delicious.

Was there something in the conversation that felt off to me?

It's not strange that Zulu doesn't use pepper. He only puts a ton of pepper on eggs. It's the usual that Ralpha is talking about pointless rumors as well. It's also the usual that Zenom is worrying about Ralpha. There wasn't off about what the newcomer Giberuti said either.

Then, what is it?

Isn't it just a common story about how Rokis's party is breaking a bit at a time like the teeth of a comb? Is it the way they died? It's a common story to die while fighting monsters or getting caught in traps. There's always at least one person like that per month. There's even stories about groups being completely wiped out so it's not all that unusual that they would be concentrated in a party like Rokis, I'm sure that with less members their synthesized combat ability was reduced and they were less cautious of the surroundings after all...

Trap?

Chapter 125: Trap

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 25

Morning, I woke up before daybreak and before having breakfast I think while running. Angela is keeping up behind me as I run. These guys, don't they get tired of that? Just like this Zulu and Angela switch out daily under the pretense of fortifying as my bodyguards. The only times they don't come with me are long holidays like the end of the year and when I go to the capital, also if I'm just randomly wandering around the town.

It's not like they're particularly causing any trouble for me so if my slaves can relax better like that then I'm just letting them do as they please. It's not a bad thing to run after all. It leaves a good impression that as long as I don't talk to them first they have no intention of interrupting my thinking as well. I run up the crater-like hills surrounding the town of Baldukk as a warm up and once I get to the summit of the crater I increase my speed running the roads. I wonder if I can't increase my Endurance a bit more already? I started running when I was 10 years old but I've still only gained 1 point in Endurance from my daily running.

There was an early dawn sky when we left but it's gradually started to get brighter. After breakfast yesterday, because of the exhaustion from the dungeon I took it easy for a day and thought about various things. In regards to the continued casualties in Rokis's party.

Since I'm sure that Rokis's party had enough ability to make it to the 2nd floor, even if their members were in their late teens to early 20s, I didn't think they were all that foolish(or reckless) in their behavior. Since they were able to make it to the 2nd floor they should have properly been producing a map and being reasonably careful.

However, it's a fact that you never know what will happen in the dungeon and as a result of that there were some casualties. If I remember right then the first

one was the Bunny-man died in combat to an Ork. Next was the Tiger-man who died from a crossbow trap. I don't know if the Bunny-man died on the 1st floor or the 2nd floor but since they're a party that goes to the 2nd floor it should have been there. In regards to the tiger-man the crossbow traps come out on the 2nd floor as well so it's a very possible story.

After that, two people have died in boss rooms on the 2nd floor. It's unknown if they died as a result of the combat or traps but just going off information from the surface there's nothing strange there either. If it's at that level, it's really something that happens all the time.

However, the next one is the problem. On the 1st floor, while in combat with a Giant Spider in the boss room, one more died from stepping on a trap. It takes some guts to enter the dungeon after 4 people had already died and combat ability has dropped but it's not all that strange. It was after he made reservations for three combat slaves after all, I'm sure he wanted to earn even just a bit. In the first place, we only had four people when we first challenged the dungeon. And if it's at the level of the 1st floor it's not like there aren't people who enter it alone so it's not all that strange.

Giant Spiders are a large spider that have a body of around 50 cm, they're individual combat ability isn't as high as Gargantuan Spiders. However, different from Gargantuan Spiders when they come out in the boss rooms they come in groups. They have poison as well and are reasonably fast so depending on how you think about it they could be seen as more troublesome than Gargantuan Spiders. However, they don't usually have webs in their nest like the Gargantuan Spider so if you make sure to fortify your defenses they aren't all that much of a problem. Unless they manage to jump on you and bite somewhere there's no armor or clothes you won't take much damage either.

That's why, if most adventurers have confidence in their skills they can just kill them in one thrust of the speed or quickly run through the room shaking them off. If you were to say something extreme then as long as you properly fortify your defenses it will take time but even some newcomers can deal with them. I doubt there's any newcomers who properly fortify their defenses though. Their magic stones are roughly the value of 2 goblins each and since they have

poison, it's common to just run past them or ignore them, that level of monster. After all antidote medicine is 20,000 Z (2 silver coins) for even the cheapest ones. And you never know when other monsters might come attack you while you're fighting them so most people just choose to run past them.

The reason why Rokis and the others chose to fight against the Giant Spiders, I can only imagine as to being they thought they wouldn't take much damage and if they're careful they could retreat before any other monsters came, though that itself is fine. Even when it comes to stepping on a trap in combat, it's not a good thing, but well it happens. There are times when you can't always pay attention to your feet in combat after all. There's no surprise you might step on a trap if there is one. The problem is that trap was supposedly in the boss room.

Up until now, at the very least until the 6th floor we're at we've never discovered anything like a trap in one of the rooms. I guess you could say there's something small that is similar to that though. Though I think the possibility we just overlooked them is high. I think that that but somehow I can't just accept that. The only time traps that come out that kill in a single hit are the crossbows starting from the 2nd floor. Even then it's only if you take it to the face, neck, heart, or vital organs, in many cases it won't kill you instantly. Though in reverse you could say it's plenty enough to kill you.

The only traps on the 1st floor are pitfalls, unless you fall in head first they shouldn't be anything that you would lose your life from. Since it seems to have been in combat, it might have been possible when he had some momentum going he tripped and rolled in head first, is a possibility as well but in that case I wonder if they would say "stepped on a trap"? Well, that was just something Ralpa heard from rumors, so I don't think it's all that trustworthy but...

In the first place if you interpret "stepped on a trap" as "activated the effects of a trap" then it's no problem. The problem is that trap was in the boss room on the 1st floor and it's unknown what kind of trap it was. In some meanings you could say it's only common sense that it's either a pitfall or alarm if it's a trap on the 1st floor (even on the map we produced of the 1st floor there's nothing but those two types) but I can't deny the possibility there's even a

crossbow. There's even worse traps than that on lower floors after all, it wouldn't be unnatural at all if a huge metal ball suddenly came rolling, the ceiling suddenly falls, or some spears come flying. I've heard that there's a case on the 2nd and 3rd floors where the wall is a pitfall (if you lean on it then the wall pushes in), as well.

I wonder if we should investigate it?

If you think about it realistically then I'm sure it's impossible. However, after thinking about it this far I realized that what was bothering me was something different. Or rather, since I just don't want to think about it I was thinking more about investigating traps. I noticed it yesterday morning. In the first place the first victim the Bunny-man, they say he was killed during combat with an Ork. I wonder if this is true? It's hard to imagine a party of adventurers who can make it to the 2nd floor dying to a monster other than the boss rooms.

Putting aside some newcomers, these are guys who were exploring the dungeon for over a year. It's unthinkable that they let their guards down and their skill shouldn't be bad either.

Were they killed by someone else while in combat with the Ork? Since it seems they retreated they weren't able to confirm the corpse of the Bunny-man. Whether it be a sword or spear wound, an arrow, or maybe even spell (If it comes to {Air Cutter} or {Winder Cutter} from a glance they look like sword wounds). In any case, they aren't idiots so if they notice the situation is a disadvantage to them they'll start running. If during combat with multiple orks someone were to fall, it makes sense they'd run if they can. Just like Orks do in that case.

The second victim, I heard that the Tiger-man who picked a fight with me died from a crossbow trap. I wonder if this was during combat as well? During a time when they're fighting with multiple monsters the guy next to them makes a mistake and falls. After the combat when they check him and there's a bolt from a crossbow in one of his vital organs. There weren't any other monsters. Ah, this guy, so he stepped on a trap huh? Otherwise someone else stepped on the trap and the bolt unluckily hit him. Here..after searching there's a switch nearby. This is a trap.

It's not strange thinking that way. Rather it's only obvious.

It's the same for the ones after the third. The fact that they died during combat was the same as the first and the fifth one is said to have died from a trap but it's not said to be a pitfall. The only trap that's come out with a specific name so far is the crossbow. A considerably shocking death through falling into a pitfall it would be stranger for them not to mention it.

Shit. Is this the revival of {Bright Blade}. If you're going to ambush the opponent then you want at least two to three times the enemy in numbers. Since if you don't crush them all at once you it's easy to end up taking damage on the attacking side. You gradually reduce their numbers starting from those with the flimsiest equipment, once they've been reduced to a certain number you wipe them out all at once. Since the limit that you can enter the dungeon with is 10 people the first objective would be to reduce them to 5 people or less.

Previously, the timing that {Bright Blade} attacked us was perfect. A powerful enemy like the {Frost Lizard} appeared, we used magic consecutively to get rid of the gargoyles, and all of the {Slaughterers} were focused on attacking the {Frost Lizard}. After some amount of damage was done to the {Frost Lizard} they tried to use focus fire on me who seemed to be out of mana and can use magic, next up would have been to finish off the archer next to me right away. By that time the rest of the party would have been exhausted from combat with the {Frost Lizard} so they would have had trouble dealing with a sudden attack. The only method for the {Slaughterers} to survive in that situation would be at best to have the dwarf girl using the spear move around to guard the rear while somehow quickly finishing off the {Frost Lizard} then all trying to attack at once.

If I hadn't been there, no, if I had been out of mana then the probability we would have been wiped out was really high. However, that was a strategy that could be used because we were in combat with the {Frost Lizard}, no, because we were in combat in a boss room on the 5th floor. And in the first place, the {Slaughterers} only have 8 members. Putting aside the vampire that came out on the 4th floor, if it's just at the level of the 1st or 2nd floor one person can remain to keep the monster in check while the rest of the members could have done some damage to {Bright Blade}. Of course, in the end {Bright Blade}

probably wouldn't lose but if there's a possibility they would take some kind of damage I'm sure they wouldn't try initiating such a reckless attack.

It's only obvious but {Bright Blade} has already been wiped out so it's someone new.

I don't know how they're following after Rokis's party but it's not like there's no methods at all. I'll try thinking about the several methods that are possible.

A.

1. First off they start by doing something to reduce the number by even one. This is fine even if it's a coincidence.

2. Next time by coincidence as well..

..It's only obvious that's impossible. What kind of out of the world probability would that be?

B.

1. First start off by somehow reducing their numbers my one. This is fine as a coincidence.

2. After the next time, one of the attackers uses the spell {Invisibility} and sneaks in when they teleport together.

3. Use a crossbow and watch out for the chance during combat..

..Rejected. {Invisibility} is a spell I wouldn't even know if I hadn't heard about it from Karl. I can't imagine there are many people who can use it. There's also the problem of the duration and their equipment.

C.

1. Have one of their allies sneak into Rokis's part. Bribing one of them is fine as well.

2. After that..

..How are they going to meet them in the dungeon. It's impossible. Rejected.

D.

1. Have one of their allies sneak into Rokis's party. Bribing them is fine as well.

2. That person looks for the chance and shoots a bolt from a crossbow at them.

..It seems difficult but it's probably not completely impossible. It doesn't have to be a bolt but magic is fine as well. After killing them if you pretend to be the

first one to discover their corpse and point to a bolt nearby it could work. On hold.

E.

1. Go ahead and wait in the teleport room on the 1st floor for them.
2. Split the party into multiple groups, while they're in combat aim or guys who are spacing out they aim for with a crossbow and kill with a bolt. It would require a considerably high level of skill.
3. In this case, they wouldn't have had their eyes set on Rokis's party from the start. It's possible that they just happened to succeed twice and after that they tried putting priority on them as well.

It's an extremely difficult thing to manage but not as much as A. It doesn't just have to be the 1st floor but if they wait in one of the areas leading towards the center of the dungeon not far from the teleport room then it's not a completely impossible method. Though they would need enough skill to deal with the monsters on the 1st floor alone...On hold.

F.

1. There's a method of using the teleport crystal rod that I, no, that isn't commonly known. For example if you chant the same incantation as the previous party you can teleport to the same location...Since there's supposedly people that have tried this that shouldn't be the case but there might be some method that isn't known.

I'm sure the probability is low. For the time being, On hold.

G.

1. There's someone who has some sort of Unique Ability that let's the attacker know the current location of their target.

It's close to F but this would make them a reincarnated person. If I think about the number then after all it seems like a low probability. It's also unnatural that they wouldn't notice us, or we wouldn't notice them while wandering through the town as well. If it's a Japanese then they would probably try coming to talk after all...Well, for the time being, On hold.

H.

1. One of the attackers can use some kind of spell that can determine the location of the target.

It's about the same as B. {Locate Object} or {Locate Mammal} I guess..For the most part it's pretty unlikely. Rejected.

The one's to take into consideration as a possibility are from D to G but F and G..I wonder about them. It's pointless to even start thinking about in the case that it's one or both of those. Particularly F. In this case, they would have a method to send a large scale unit into a single area of the dungeon so it would be unnatural for it not to be known. Ah, I guess it's pretty meaningless if they can't use it past the 2nd floor huh? If it's just a matter of clearing through the 1st floor then 10 soldiers would have no problem after all.

Well it's fine. I should think if there's any other methods in regards to D and E. It's about time for my running to end.

.....

I have breakfast together with everyone the same as usual while concentrating my thoughts. It should be fine to ignore G and H on this occasion. There's not much meaning in just thinking about it. The one with the highest probability is probably E. I'm sure it could go even in combination with D. In the case that it's combined with D, it would take several months to get close to them or sneak someone in but it's not something that can't be done. In that case, if the attackers were alone or few in number then the reason might be related to a grudge as well, in the case it's also a mix with E..I can't abandon the possibility that it's related to a grudge but there's also the possibility that it's a job, as well. Of course, even if they're alone it's possible it's a job.

"What is it? Making such a complicated face. Did something happen?"

I guess it's because I was making a frown while thinking and not really participating in the conversation.

Zenom called out to me with a worried voice.

"Yeah, I was thinking a bit about Rokis and the others."

Ralpa jumped on after hearing my words.

“Ah, after all it was bothering you? I thought it was strange as well right.”

He~ so you did too?

“I wonder if that’s the case, it sounds just like a story you can hear from anywhere though.”

Angela entered the conversation.

“As a matter of fact, it was bothering me a bit as well. Particularly the part about a trap in the boss room, isn’t that unnatural?”

Bel added as well.

“Ah, Bel you think so too? Up until there were no traps in mon-rooms right? That’s why, I thought this was a really serious matter, yeah.”

After all Ralpa noticed that part as well. However stop abbreviating things like mon-room.

“Ah, if you put it like that, that is true. There were no traps in monster rooms up until now.”

Toris agrees with Ralpa and Bel.

“However, Kalstalan-sama, isn’t that just that we haven’t been able to find them until now?”

So Zulu agrees with Angela huh?

“Since it’s not like we’ve seen all of the rooms up until now..Hn? However, since around the 4th floor we’ve seen pretty much all of them..It’s true I don’t think there were any traps.”

Zenom said seriously.

“But, in that case then what in the world..Ah.”

Judging off Gwine’s expression it seems she arrived at the same possibility as I did.

“Probably..It’s just probably but I think there’s someone targeting Rokis’s party.”

I bit off a piece of my bacon, left my oatmeal with salt and pepper flavoring to

the side, and took a sip of bean tea before saying that.

“Yesterday, I’ve been thinking about it since then..”

I said all of the things I just organized in my head since yesterday while running. Excluding B, C, G, and H. Since I’ve started to become able to trust Zulu and Angela if we weren’t in this place I wouldn’t mind telling them about it though. Giberuti is here as well.

“Hmn, if you put it like that then that feels like it might be the case as well.”

Bel agreed with me.

“Certainly, if you say it like that then that seems to be possible.”

Toris thought of it as well.

“I wonder what their objective is?”

Gwine said her thinking one step ahead.

“If you were to think about it normally then, it’s probably a grudge. Maybe they’re resented by someone for something in the past?”

Zulu shows a glimpse of his hasty thought processes. Though I wonder if it’s really a good idea to hastily come to a decision. That is still plenty a possibility.

“That Rokis-san is the son of a Marquis-sama from somewhere right? Isn’t it assassination or something? I don’t know about Rokis-san’s siblings, father, or mother but if the Marquis-sama is a minister that isn’t the lord then it could be their political opponent or something. Depending on the case it could even be a job from his family to reduce the members of Rokis-san’s party in order to call him back home, or something like that.”

Giberuti who was quiet until now said that. Huh? This guy, he can think things out pretty well.

“Larry, you, weren’t an idiot? Since you’re always so frivolous I thought you were a bit out of it.”

There’s only one person I know who calmly say things like that. That’s why you’re still getting into so many fights.

“That’s rude. I’m not an idiot. I have a head that can properly think about

things.”

Giberuti responded a bit angry. When he faced Ralpa his drooping ears jumped up a bit. Even though he’s a 26 year old bro I thought it was a bit cute.

“Forgive her, Giberuti. Just as you can see, she left her brain in her mother’s stomach. She’s a pitiful child. You can tell the hardships Zenom went through right?”

I said that to Giberuti to calm him down and continued my words.

“Ralpa as well I’m always saying it right. It’s your convenience to think that way but stop putting it into words every time. The atmosphere will get worse. In the first place it’s not amusing. Shut your mouth for a bit. Let’s stop with this conversation already. It’s not like we’re the ones being targeted after all. It’s not guaranteed that Rokis is being targeted either. Even if that is the case, it’s just a matter of ROKis giving it his best to repel that. That’s the end. Let’s stop there.”

After being told that by me Ralpa was a bit displeased but she just pouted her lips and started to sulk. It’s true it might seem like she’s reflecting a bit but I really wonder. I’ll give her points for obediently remaining quiet though.

.....

Year 7444, Month 5, day 27

We’re entering the dungeon again starting today. I wonder if Rokis was able to get his hands on some slaves? Just past noon the other day, from a glance I could see them doing cooperation training in a vacant lot on the edge of town but there was five of them. However, I haven’t seen them since yesterday. I’m sure they got their hands on some. I wonder if they’re entering the dungeon yesterday and today? I wonder if they noticed that they’re being targeted? Well even if they have realized if they don’t enter the dungeon they can’t earn anything. Since it’s easy to tell sooner or later they’ll curl their tails up and run home, if they don’t want to return home then there’s no choice but to enter though.

Just like usual we smoothly cleared through the 1st and 2 floors, we took slightly early lunch in the teleport room on that 2nd floor. Next to all the guys

that are chewing away at dried meat and preserved foods we're crunching away at a cabbage, spinach, and garlic stir-fry with salt and pepper seasoning while biting into chunks of pork in a delicious meat soup. We took a two hour break to regain our energy while being looked at with stares of envy and teleported to the 3rd floor.

We crushed the first monster room and cleared through the second one with no problem either. On the third room there were four {Cave Gorillas} so we struggled a bit but we were able to wipe them out without any injuries. And we charged into the fourth room.

It was something we already knew before we entered the room but this is a room with something like torture devices. A bed with something like handcuffs and shackles on it, an {Iron Maiden}, a pitchfork, some pliers with spines on them, a wooden horse made from metal, some crosses and other devices for waterboarding, some of the wooden parts seem to have degraded a bit but large devices are scattered throughout the room. We've never tried entering a monster room of this type until now.

But, the moment we entered the room and just in case I was taking a look around it happened. There were six passages that lead into the room but all of those exits suddenly had some kind of metal cage fall down sealing us in the room!

The only ones who made it into the room were Zulu, myself, Gwine, and Toris us four. The remaining five are still outside of the room. I ran up to the iron bars but let alone Zulu, I can't even open it with my strength. This is bad, we were split up! It was only a brief moment that I thought that, Bel and the others who were outside were yelling warnings.

We turned around in a panic and I caught sight of a large silhouette raising from the bed approaching over here. It's height easily exceeded two meters, close to two and a half. Before I even said anything Zulu and Toris fortified the front while Gwine went on guard with her spear. I went into stance with my bayonet while,

"We'll meet the enemy a bit closer to the center. It's difficult for Bel to support us."

said that and had Toris and Zulu charge forward.

The silhouette is closing in on us with large steps. If I look closely it has something like surgical scars and incisions all over it's body and it's skin is like patchwork. The thickness of it's right and left hands, and right and left legs are slightly different and the length of it's right and left hands are slightly different as well. {Frankenstein} huh? It's wearing pants that are close to a worn-out cloth and while it's wearing something similar to a shirt only a small port of it is remaining so it's almost useless in terms of defense. It's basically one step above being naked.

【

【Male/4/4/7444 · Flesh Golem】

【Condition: Incisions】

【Age: 0 Years Old】

【Level: 14】

【HP: 313(313) MP: 20(20)】

【Strength: 40】

【Agility: 20】

【Dexterity: 25】

【Endurance: 100】

【Special Skill: Thunder】

【Special skill: Magic Resistance 100】

This is no good, this guy is the dangerous type. In the first place, he's still unharmed but his condition is incisions what in the world?

“Everyone disperse!”

I give the order and start kneading my mana. He has a special skill called Magic Resistance but putting aside fire or wind, something with substance like an ice or stone spear should have an effect. I created some ice in {Frankenstein}'s surroundings. After all it was pointless huh? In the first place, I was intending to freeze his entire body but the moment all of the water that gushed forth touched {Frankenstein}'s feet it disappeared and the magic seems to have failed partway. So Ice is no good huh? In that case.

“{Stone Javelin Missile}”

Since it seems dangerous I sent five of them flying. {Frankenstein} clenched both of his fists and raised them above and then crouched down as if he was going to smash them into the ground all at once. What is he doing, this idiot? Before his fists can reach the ground my stone javelins will reach his head and his open back.

This will do a lot of damage!

The moment I thought that the stone spears disappeared without a sound the moment they hit.

What?!?

“Master!!”

Angela’s yell echoed at as she had both of her hands on the iron bars.

His hands hit the floor. Sparks are shot off between his two fists and in an instant that followed along the ground until it reached me.

This is!...n’t bad.

The electricity passed by my feet and hit the wall behind me then went in a different direction.

Ah, it’s the rubber-sole boots huh? Excluding Giberuti we’re all using boots that have rubber soles.

I guess we should be fine as long as it doesn’t use something like {Lightning Bolt} that shoots through the air?

Zulu who was about 5 meters to the front of me on the right jumped over the wooden horse and charged at it with his bastard sword while letting out a battle cry. On my left side about 7–8 meters away Gwine is taking the pin out of her bag and dropping it on the floor before going on guard again with her spear. A bit to the left of that Toris has already thrown his bag down while holding his long sword in his right hand is charging along with Zulu.

I can’t fall behind them. I throw away my bag as well and prepare my bayonet then dashed towards {Frankenstein} at my full speed.

Along the way an arrow hit {Frankenstein} in the head. It’s reinforcements from Bel. That’s helpful. His HP dropped to 310.

There's only that much damage even though it hit his head!?

I saw Zulu jump in as he swings his bastard sword from the right side of my vision.

{Frankenstein} raised it's left arm and blocked that. Zulu's sword sunk about halfway into it's left forearm. It's HP dropped to 301.

Toris ran in and started cutting at {Frankenstein} from the left.

Just the same as {Frankenstein} blocked Zulu's attack it blocked it with it's right arm. HP 296.

I overtook Gwine and while both of {Frankenstein}'s arms were sealed I stabbed into the right side of it's stomach with my bayonet then used all of my power to pull it out towards the right side. Something like entrails came out of the wound. HP 284.

Almost simultaneously Gwine's spear was thrust into the center of it's chest and immediately pulled out. HP 277.

I went to roll through the space between Zulu and it's left arm where Zulu's ken was still stuck.

However, of all things! {Frankenstein} forcefully waved it's left arm to the inside! Of course while Zulu was still holding on to his sword! Even after Zulu was thrown into me he still had hold on his sword. In my case since I was hit by Zulu's body I ended up falling to one knee collapsing on the ground. I don't know what happened to Toris.

Shit!

I quickly corrected my posture and using the force of standing up I hit Franken (it's annoying to say) with my gun-stock in the jaw. HP 275.

And, then Franken's HP started to drop quickly. HP 270, 265, 259, 253, 248.

It seems that Toris is cutting away at it's back. I guess it was a blessing that he doesn't have as much strength as Zulu, Toris was able to pull his sword out right away.

I quickly jumped backwards while maintaining some distance and simultaneously ordered Zulu.

“Zulu, use it!”

In exchange for replying to me Zulu let out a tremendous war cry of gogaaa~~!!!! while cutting in at a high speed. HP 228, 210, it seems he cut it's left arm off from below the elbow. Even then Zulu's gale-like attacks continue. However, it's blocking all of Zulu's attacks with the remainder of it's left arm. 208, 205, 203. The left arm Frank was using to block Zulu's attacks is all worn-out. Unfortunately he wasn't able to do much damage at all along the way. It's probably because there's almost no HP remaining in his left arm.

I charge in a bit late and stab, cut, twist, kick, and smash it as well. HP 194, 192, 191, 181, 179, 177.

Another arrow hits it's head. HP 174, 171. We've finally gotten it down halfway.

A spear is stabbed into it's chest and pulled out. HP 163, 155.

It's right arm was swung down. I managed to dodge it by lowering my head but it seems it was aiming for Zulu who was on my right. He took a direct hit when he was about to swing his sword again and Zulu went flying. I quickly heard the sound of Zulu's large body hitting something.

““Zulu!!””

”“Zulu-sama!!””

I couldn't hear Bel's voice but she's probably firing the bow. We can't rely on Zulu's Instant Speed anymore. I dodge the fists that was returning and this time focused my attacks on it's left left.

“Aaah!!”

Gwine's voice rings out. Her spear was grabbed and thrown away. Gwine runs towards the direction her spear was thrown in a panic.

Someone fired a {Fire Arrow} into Franken's face but jsut the same as the stone javelin it disappeared. It was probably Ralpha.

I cut into it's left inner thigh and thin cut while pulling out and jumping backwards. HP 149.

HP 144, 138. It's Toris's attack. I guess it's started to annoy him but after I

took a bit of distance Franken turned around to face Toris.

Hn? Special Skill: Magic Resistance 93 , it seems it's not an invincible barrier against magic. However, I would have to hit it with magic another 93 times huh? I think that number is probably the number of times it can resist but there's no time to leisurely be opening the sub-window.

This time I start attacking it from behind like Toris did. There's a number of deep cut wounds on it's back.

"oooh~!!"

I put some fighting spirit into it as I stab in with my bayonet and kick off to pull it out. HP 130. I don't know if I was able to crumble it's posture a bit but it's attack with it's right arm missed Toris. An arrow stabbed into it's left shoulder. HP 128.

Once again with bayonet, this time I stab into the back side of it's right leg, twist it out, and cut into it. HP 120, 118, 110. Shit it's movements don't get any duller at all. Frank swings it's right arm down towards me as I'm attacking it from behind and misses. Another arrow stabs into it's upper arm. HP 108.

It continues swinging it's right arm without paying any attention to the arrow. I heard a sound like Goshi~!! and Toris went flying but stopped just before he hit the wall of the room.

"You-chan!!"

"Toris!!"

"Kalstalan-sama!!"

I can hear multiple screams from the other side of the iron bars.

It seems Toris let go of his sword but he's still breathing and desperately trying to stand up.

"Yaaaa~!!"

Around the left side of it's back ribs Gwine's spear stabs into it. So she already made it back? That's admirable of you. HP 100. Franken didn't make the foolish mistake of following after Toris and turned around to me. With Gwine's spear still stabbed into it. I guess Gwine couldn't pull her spear out. That spear just

barely spun over top of my head. Th..that was dangerous~

It's arm swings down aimed at me. It's not a good idea to think about taking it on. I'm sure I'll just end up being smashed away like Toris. I succeeded in dodging with a hair's breadth.

However, my posture collapsed. If it goes like this then I might take the back of it's fist on it's way back.

Ei~ it can't be helped. I use wind magic to create a lump of air between Franken and myself. In an instant I was blown backwards. As expected I saw Franken fall over in a somersault. Thanks to my rubber protectors I didn't suffer any injuries from the stone floor but it still hurts. I saw Zulu stand up using his sword as a cane in the edge of my sight. I use Identify on Toris and he still has about 30% of his HP remaining but his condition is bone fracture. From a glance his left hand from the elbow below are bent in the reverse direction and his left leg is strange as well.

This is bad! If his leg is broken then he can't move. I quickly jumped up and after preparing my bayonet I charged at Franken again. I returned Identify to Franken as well.

“Nuaaaa~!!”

I naturally raised a groan. I showed as if I was going to stab into it but used wind magic to my immediate left to shift the position of my body. Soon after that I used wind magic against my back to suddenly accelerate. Since I'm not using the palms of my hands to activate the magic, the mana efficiency falls a bit and it requires some concentration but I practice daily for cases like this.

It's a sudden acceleration that feels like my bones are creaking but my bayonet was magnificently able to stab through it's chest with full momentum. HP 85. I quickly twisted my body and with all my power kicked off while pulling it out. Franken staggered back two or three steps but quickly gained it's balance again. It fixed it's stance as well. It's coming to attack me while swinging it's right arm and the remnants of it's left arm.

I dodge with a paper-thin difference and thrust my bayonet in, then pull it out while mowing it down, I move around while holding it in check.

Several arrows hit Franken in the head one after another. HP 78, 75, 72, 69.

Zulu..Shit..Still not here?

Zulu is starting to charge in once again after standing up and preparing his stance but his speed has dropped quite a bit. I watch as the left arm passes by and dodge the punch from the right arm. Some black blood is flying around as it tries to kick as well. I put a kick into it's leg that's the center of it's balance and when Franken's kick weakens I received it with my gun-stock. Making use of that momentum I hit it in the stomach with my gun-stock and cut it's upper body with my bayonet when it's posture collapsed. HP 60.

I quickly raised the magazine portion of it to hit it in the head. HP 59.

Predicting an attack by it's arm I curled my body up to let it's arm cut air and then used the force I stood up with to stab into it's abdomen with my bayonet and immediately pulled it out. HP 51.

After stabbing into it's abdomen again Franken's upper body fell forward and a {Tomahawk} sunk into it's left shoulderblade with a dobo!! HP 42. Either Ralpa or Zenom. Either way that was nice!

Zulu swung down his bastard sword again there. HP 32. Oh~ He was able to cut off it's left arm from the shoulder.

Unable to endure it Franken fell to one knee but quickly rose back up used it's remaining right arm to pick up it's left arm and started swinging that around like a club.

Zulu is calmly dealing with that.

It seems before we noticed we had moved close to Toris. It would be bad if we involved Toris who can't move like this. I order Zulu "Endure!" and thrown my bayonet down before running to Toris and immediately using {Cure All} on the bone fracture in his arm and leg while going over to grab Toris's long sword that was on his side.

I hold Toris's long sword in both of my hands as I turned around to Franken.

Frank who was in combat with Zulu tried to evade Zulu's attack and ended up turning around to face him from the front.

Gwine's spear that was still stabbed into it's back circled around almost

hitting me from the right this time. That was dangerous~

It was good that I crouched down suddenly and evaded it but if it's like this then I can't attack right away.

Franken is swinging his right arm with it's extended reach like crazy.

Shit, this location is bad. I'm sure Toris can't move right away either. I need to somehow move the battlefield.

I rolled past Franken on his side and went to attack his flank. However, I was blocked by the extended reach of his arm and couldn't hit him well with the sword. It seems just a bit of Zulu's attack landed. HP 30.

Without missing the moment Franken's posture collapsed I went all out stepping in and cut at him with the long sword. It went well. HP 22. I quickly jump back and stand on guard with the long sword again.

There it starts groaning while swinging it's left arm that was cut off again. I somehow was able to dodge it by ducking but it was my limit just dodging it. I jump up just a bit again and fixed my stance. However, Toris is right by my side. Zulu seems to have found an opening and is stabbing in with his bastard sword. HP 18. An arrow hit him. HP 15.

However, it seems it was shallow. After pulling his arm back Franken went to swing his arm straight down. This trajectory is bad!

It can't be helped. It shouldn't be anything that kills me.

I use magic in the space between Franke, Toris, and I...another {Tomahawk} hit Franken in the upper arm again! though I don't know if that was faster or my wind magic.

I think they were almost the same. However, the {Tomahawk} that hit Franken's upper arm sped the speed it was swinging down a bit. I certainly was able to activate my wind magic but I completely hit the arm.

Thanks to that I ended up flying in a direction I wasn't predicting. Almost right behind me. There should be a wall right behind and hitting directly would be bad, wind magic..I wasn't able to make it in time and hit the wall.

However, there wasn't much impact at all. But, of all things!

There is a trap in this room!

It's a pitfall.

Not to mention it's the type that falls inwards when you lean on the wall!

I felt like I heard a sound like kin! ring out through the center of my head.

Shit, ah?

O?

Oh?

Falling!?

I used wind magic with as much force as I could but it didn't send me back up..It's not activating!

Be!!?

I bounced on the slippery floor. Is it not that deep?

Go!!?

I rebounded off the floor and bounced again. It's slanted!

Gu!!

This is bad!

Why!?

I frantically tried to grab onto the floor but it was slimy and I ended up slipping.

Ga!!

Gi!!

Gu!!

Ge!!

Am I the ball of a game of pinball!?

Wind magic..It's impossible huh?

Chapter 126: Mana Exhaustion

{Meteor Swarm} (All Elements Lv.9, Consumes 4,500 MP)

It creates a swarm of mysterious objects that have a diameter of 10m and smashes them into the target. Super dangerous.

Al there's still some cheats remaining for you!

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 27

I gave it my best desperately trying to cling to the protuberances on the floor but they're at best a light uneven slope of about 10 cm and the surface is slimy so there's no way to grab on to them. It's to the point where it was good luck that I somehow managed to shift my posture so I was sliding down with my feet first and my head up. I quickly perceived that the lid of the dark slanted pitfall closed from above.

Because, up until now there was some slight light from the entrance but now it's completely shut off into darkness. This is bad, Identify..and just as I was thinking that I saw some small amount of light from my lower body but! just as I thought that both of my legs were standing properly on the ground. Of course, I still had the momentum remaining so I ended up rolling along just like that.

I touched the floor and felt the sensation of solid and dry dirt. Then I'll use the spell {Light}..I can't use it. In that case Identify, I can't use that either! What does this mean!? I suddenly started to feel helpless in the pitch darkness so I started to search around for the long sword I had let go of before I realized it and started crawling around but I couldn't find it.

Shit!! What in the world!? is this.

I can understand that I fell in something like a pitfall. I also know that the lid of it closed right away. Along the way down I saw a bit of fine light but..was that, teleportation huh!? Is this not the 3rd floor that I was on until just now!?

I looked upwards and yelled out "Hey!" but there was no response.

I thought I might end up calling some monsters over so I thought again and stopped yelling but the impulse to scream out remains just as large as before. We were just a bit away from defeating Franken. I wonder if, those guys will be alright? I think they should have been able to defeat it in another one or two hits, so I want to believe that they're fine but..Somehow I suddenly start to feel uneasy about it.

Come to think of it, since it seems I've survived the immediate emergency, it might just be my imagination but I feel hungry..I'm hungry! Ah,aaaa,aaa,aa.... Shit! This feeling. It's mana exhaustion!

This is bad, this is bad, this is bad. This is very bad!

Following that I intensely want to have sex.

The desire to sleep has quickly started to come on as well.

I guess it's because I was in a situation where I didn't even have the time to worry about feeling any desires until now. Otherwise, the anxiety I felt around the time I hit the ground was caused by running out of MP as well?

Ah, my bag. There should be three days worth of preserved food in my bag but..It's not here! I should have been carrying it on my back..damn it! I pulled out the pin and threw it aside before charging into Franken. Then, in that case the emergency use antidote and healing potion that I put into the pack on my D ring..I guess it was no good that I had put it inside of a leather bag but the medicine bottle feels like it shattered inside the bag.

Then, in that case..Ah, shit, I feel hungry and my crotch is raging with violent energy. I took off the crotch protector portion of my rubber protectors. It hurt since it was hitting. Of course I'm still holding the crotch portion that I took off. There's no way I'd throw it away right. However, with this my only belonging is the flask I had hanging from my tassets on the opposite side. It seems that this one is safe but it's empty. No, there might be one or two drops of water remaining though.

My weapons are..the brass knuckles in the fists of both of my gauntlets and the throwing needles built into the simple shield on both of my arms for a total of 20 of them, and the knife I have fixed to the band on my right thigh. It seems my safe is safe as well.

However, I'm tired. Boiling. Hungry. If it was just one, since I'm already an adult I'm sure I can still endure it. However, for all three primary desires to come at once, what kind of torture is this? If I felt like it I could at least take care of sexual desire but if I was attacked or killed by a monster in the middle of that, for an eternity..rather if I die here there isn't even a next era.

Ah, but, I've been rolling over here and there while screaming.

If there was a monster nearby then it's strange that I wasn't long since attacked.

Then, in that case I guess there aren't any monsters nearby, in other words... The moment I feel like I'm able to start thinking clearly, the feeling of wanting to satisfy my desires gets stronger to where I can't hold it back. Shit, shit!! Be cool! The feeling of starvation is terrible!

I'm tired!

I want to do it!

I was able to think "No matter what I do isn't staying in the center of the room a bad idea? with the little remaining ability to think I had. It would be good if I can make it to the wall but I don't know which direction the wall is in.

I'm hungry!

I want to do it!

Tired!

Ah, really, I don't mind if I die so just let me eat something! I remember back to the food I ate on a trip to a hot spring ryokan once. The raw whitebait was delicious. Why am I only remember small fish?

I'm tired!

I'm hungry!

I want to do it!

Damn it, I miss my bed. Water bed, why aren't you here for me right now! If you would let me lay down right now even if it was 10,000,000 yen..in an instant. Come to think of it I wasn't the bed faction. Beds make me remember

the SDF and I never liked the sensation of springs. I liked to spread out a futon and sleep on that. The light blue pillar cover is mine...

I want to do it!

Tired!

I'm hungry!

I remember that one girl who was a prefect match for my type that I only got a glance of back at "Ritton" in the past. I wonder if this is the decline of consciousness level? For some reason just her face has turned into Miki's face when she was younger. No, it's not like Miki's face was particularly my type though. I guess I've more than half started to fall asleep.

I lay down face up with both of my hands covering my face. The inner band of the protectors on my knuckles hits my face. The rubber hurts chafing against. Since it was irritating I took off the protectors on both of my hands. Ah, my throwing needles disappeared. I guess they didn't disappear?

I rub my face with my leather gloves. It seems I was drooling before I realized it. It's like rubbing saliva all over my face. My breathing has started to get heavy. I bite down on the fingertip of my right hand and pulled it out of the glove. The apprentice of Boil Manor properly washes and dried it in the sun but the smell of sweat still isn't completely gone.

I use my right hand without a glove to take the glove off my left hand. I loosened the fastener on my helmet and took my helmet off as well. I lifted my upper body up and scratched away at my head with both hands.

In any case, I want to fill my stomach, embrace a woman, and sleep like the dead. Saying it additionally I feel terrified of this true darkness where I can't see anything at all. Could it be that my eyes have just lost sight completely? Maybe the {Light} is properly shining and Identified activated just as it should have as well? I think my sense of touch is normal and my senses of smell, hearing, and taste are the same. Just one, my sense of sight isn't working properly. Ah, I wish I had at least been carrying a lighter magic tool.

I lay my upper body back down on the ground again while scratching. I feel like various things are gradually not mattering anymore as my desires become

more maddening. In the next moment, I suddenly like I touched something hard where I had my hand stretched out. What is it? I nervously touch it with my hand and I was able to figure it out right away. It's a sword. I can't tell if it's Toris's long sword that fell down with me or not but it's properly got the shape of a sword.

If it's this then..I might end up damaging my only remaining main arm that is my knife but I resolved on it. I crawl around while drooling and after finding a hard rock with a diameter of about 10 cm and I took the knife out off my thigh before swinging my knife down with all my force.

On the second try sparks flew out in front of my eyes.

The sparks left behind a vivid afterimage and disappeared in an instant but the sparks are proof that my five senses are still working normally. In other words, the symptoms right now aren't an abnormality with my eyes, and it's not just a situation where I'm hungry, want to have sex, or tired either. It's 100% that I've run out of mana. If I don't take some rest then even if I endure it recovery is pretty unlikely.

I return my knife which probably has a chipped blade now to the scabbard on my thigh while fumbling with it and make sure it's fixed with the band and then I gathered my belongings scattered in the surroundings. I put my gloves on top of my gauntlets and above that I put the crotch parts of it and made a simple pillow, then I put the sword I picked up next to that.

I don't know if this is a reasonable place to get some rest but rather than trying to crawl around in the darkness getting some rest seems like the better choice. I can't do anything about the feelings of starvation but I relieved myself while drooling and then laid on my side. The last remaining thought process I had was to bring my sword closer to my side..is what I think but I probably just reached out towards it. Without even trying to concentrate on it I was pulled into a deep sleep.

Right now, if I were to be discovered by a monster I'd definitely be a goner.

.....

Kachin! The good feeling sound of opening my lighter rings out as I lit up my cigarette.

I inhale a breathe of smoke deep into my lungs and slowly exhale it out.

Miki who was laying with her head on my left arm and hugged closer to me.

It's our 10 wedding anniversary day.

I just finished giving her {Sweet 10 Diamond} ring after saving up in my secret stash for a while along with money I won from co-workers in Mahjong.

Although, since we're a married couple that both work and don't have any kids (can't have any) so we aren't all that troubled with money. It's true it cost over 1,000,000 yen but the amount of I won from Mahjong covered about half of that.

"Hey, why did you buy something like this?"

Miki looks at the ring stuck on the side of her wedding ring on her left hand while asking. As expected she doesn't have a grasp on even my wallet but since she has a grasp on my salary and savings situation so she was quickly able to guess that it doesn't match up with what I can normally afford.

"Yeah, it's from my secret stash. I had been saving up for it for a while."

"Fufu."

She looks at the ring while putting her head on my chest and let's out a happy voice.

I touch her hair silky hair and comb through it feeling the good sensation of it.

"Hey.."

"Yeah.."

I took another puff of my cigarette and pushed it into the ash tray.

I face my body to the left and grope her good shaped breasts that still haven't lost their shape.

They're a bit wet from sweat.

I push down my wife and cover her lips with mine.

"..Nn..the cigarette's..ah..."

(....de..na.....no..)

?

.....

“Guboe~!!!”

It’s an attack!

It seems I was attacked while sleeping!

I feel like I was suddenly hit in the stomach with a hammer.

It feels like the hammer is still on top of my stomach and I’m being held down.

“Ghit~!!”

I frantically tried to reach for my sword but it wasn’t within the range I could reach. The tips of my fingers were only able to touch the protectors I was using as a pillow.

I stretched out my hands to the foreign object on my stomach and tried to move it away.

The hammer on top of my stomach raised a voice.

Ei~ move!!

I struggle around and push it away.

It seems the opponent has started hitting back.

“Damn it!”

I roll around in the darkness, I somehow was able to secure the freedom of my body but I don’t know where my sword is, and I don’t have the protectors for my crotch or arms. In order to not make a sound I slowly reached my arm out to the knife on my thigh. Simultaneously I confirm that I can calmly make decisions. At the very least I was able to rest for over 1 hour it seems.

In the past, I tried using Identify periodically on brother and sister after they fell asleep after using up all of their MP and checked their MP so I know well how it works. After falling asleep MP will recover to about 6 in 3 hours, after that it rapidly starts to increase in the amount it recovers and in about an hour after that MP fully recovers. Incidentally, during the final 10 minutes 75% or so of that recovers. If I didn’t have more than 2 MP remaining then it would be bad

but judging off this feel I should have close to 6. In that case..I can use Identify. I activated Identify vision.

Just like usual the brightness of the things in from of my sight increased. I was relieved that I was able to use Identify with no problem but the thing that was in front of me that increased in brightness was something like an overcoat or robe. If I shift my glance a bit and I saw an opening of the front of the robe where clothes are. I shift my glance up a bit.

I can tell they have the bottom half of their face covered in some type of cloth like a mask. If I don't look a bit up at their face then I probably can't use Identify. However, in the next moment,

"..Elf? No, it's different. You're too tall for a Dwarf either. It seems that your eyes can see in this situation but you aren't a monster right?"

And started talking to me. It's a somehow stiff {Common Language}. It seems it's an opponent that I can talk with. If I can talk to them then I can earn some time. First I need to confirm my own condition.

"I'm a human. Since you can see in this situation then does that mean you have Infrared Vision?"

I responded like that while quickly using Identify on my hand that doesn't have a glove on it.

【Alan.Greed/5/3/7429】

【Male/14/2/7428 ▪ Human ▪ Viscount Greed Family Second Son】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 16 Years Old】

【Level: 21】

【HP: 177(178) MP: 4(7442)】

【Strength: 29】

【Speed: 39】

【Dexterity: 27】

【Endurance: 29】

【Unique Ability: Identify (MAX)】

【Unique Ability: Gift of Natural Talent (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Water Magic (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic (Lv. 8)】

【Special Ability: Wind Magic (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic (MAX)】

【Experience: 1336232(1430000)】

So my MP is 4 huh? In other words I should have had 5 so I must have rested for close to 3 hours. If this guy had come falling a bit later...However, since I was woken up with only a half-incomplete amount of sleep I feel like it's considerably low but this 4 is the normal amount of mana for a 16 year old. And my experience has increased by quite a bit as well. It seems they were able to defeat Franken. It would be good if no one died though.

I quickly returned my glance and used Identify on the other person. The upper and lower parts of their face are covered in cloth like a ninja and I can only see their eyes.

It's like only their eyes are floating in the darkness.

【Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol】, 【Level 10】, 【Dark Elf】!? And..and.. 【Unique Ability: Unit Organization(Lv. 6)】, there's some clearly shining red characters there. It seems they're suffering from some light blunt trauma as well. If I look closely and unexpectedly their maximum MP is over 250 though it's currently at 0. I'm sure it'll get painful pretty soon, they might already be having trouble enduring it but I'm amazed their holding that back. It's quite the willpower. In addition if I look closely their eyes are black as well.

"You're a Japanese person right?"

I tried talking to them in Japanese.

"..!! Ku. Why..why do you know that language? Gu..I thought I was the only one who knew it but.."

What is it? This person? I'm sure they're in pain because their MP is gone but what are they saying?

"You, what are you say..Well it's fine. I won't attack you. And, it's probably pretty painful right?"

Just in case I removed the knife I had fixed on my belt while saying that.

Since their face was hidden within their robe as they faced down my 【Identify】 was cut off.

I wonder if I should 【Identify】 them once more?

No, even if I don't use 【Identify】, it's terrifying not be able to see anything.

My MP is getting severe (If I use it once more it'll become 3) but I used 【Identify】 once more. It seems like the person in front of me is a reincarnated person but somehow they aren't very clear. I should remain cautious.

It seems they're loosening the string on their robe around their neck. Their breathing has started to get heavy.

They took off the robe and started to remove the hood of their black clothes. Their gloves seem to be the same type of long leather gloves as mine.

"I'm going to use {Light}."

I said that and used {Light} on the ground between Chizumagurol and myself. I didn't bother waiting for a response.

Suddenly the surroundings got brighter. Since I had my pupils wide open, just in case I closed my eyes before using {Light} but even just the light coming in from between my eyelids was enough to blind me for a short period.

I'm sure it's the same for this Dark Elf as well.

I slowly open my eyelids.

It must have been quite bright for Chizumagurol after taking off the hood. They're covering their face with one hand.

Just as I expected the hair that was hiding behind the hood was a glossy black. Their ears are a bit pointed almost like an Elves (I guess it's only obvious because Dark Elves are Elves too though).

Just from the glance of skin I could see it was light violet color and if you were to put a portion of that skin up to my own it's a disgusting color as if I would have been poisoned there.

They slowly move their hand while trying to block the light from their face as they lower it.

During that time I'm vigilantly scanning the surroundings.

There doesn't seem to be any monsters in the range the light stretches..

There also doesn't seem to be any walls in the range of the light either..Shit.

The ceiling is..It's high but for the time being it seems to reach. I guess around 30–35 meters?

My protectors and weapon..are over there. I felt relieved. After all it was Toris's long sword.

While I was restlessly looking around the surroundings, Chizumagurol who was looking at me suddenly fell forward and started holding their head while groaning. I panicked a bit seeing that state but in order to remain cautious I didn't approach them. Just in case I used Identify once more but it was still just 【Condition: Blunt Trauma】.

Is it some kind of feigned illness?

However, soon after they let go of their head that they were holding they remained crouched over while looking straight at me.

"I've remembered a little bit."

Chizumagurol said that in Japanese. However, at the same time it seems like they're desperately trying to endure the suffering from being out of MP and they had a stiff smile on their face with sweat pouring down.

I feel like it's somehow a nostalgic smile.

I only have 2 MP remaining.

Chapter 127: Dark Elf

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 27

“Ah, I guess that’s..great.”

While looking at Chizumagurol’s face on their knees while looking up at me with a starving glare saying things that I don’t get like “I remembered”, I somehow got a nostalgic feeling from it.

However, I can’t remember well. This face, I’ve seen it somewhere...

“Ffu.....Talking...Nn...Saw face...Suddenly various things..Ah...I remembered but..Uu...God..this..sort of thing..Han..Kka..Kawa..ki,san..I am..”

Eh? This person, just now, they were about to say my name from my past life right? They know me...

Who is it?

Miki? there’s no way that should be the case! Their facial features are completely different after all, and they were about to call me “Kawasaki-san. In the first place she would never have such a disgusting color like this. There’s no way she should! She must not!!

Yumi? My girlfriend from high school? No, it’s probably different. I’ve seen her face at high school reunions since we both were adults but at that time she called me “Kawasaki-kun”, I think.

“I..I’m hungry..so..Yeah!!..a bit..tired..a aa...th..is..ku..n..wa?!!”

Ryoko? My girlfriend after that? I think that’s even less likely. I’ve heard that Ryoko married and left the country with her husband who works overseas.

“P..lee.ase..an!!..and..fa,fa..st..u..ku...”

The Dark Elf is embracing their body with both arms like they’re trying to endure it.

...

“Nn!!” they faced down.

.....

“A..aa!!” They raised their face and looked at me. Their eyes were wet with tears.

.....!

Is this..Shiina?

“You..are you Shiina..?”

Putting aside that unnerving light violent skin color there’s some facial features remaining from Shiina my subordinate in my past life, or at least I feel like there is. Since I don’t know her face from when she was 15 or 16 I couldn’t remember right away.

“Nn..Yes..It’s Shiina.. Ngu...And...Fu...I was...finally able to... meet..aaa..Cu..cute..wwaaaa..Nn..Su...Subordinate...re..reward..Nnn!!”

I thought she was enduring it but it seems she’s groping her chest with her left hand. After all it’s Shiina.

“Sorry but there’s nothing to eat and no matter what the situation I have no intention of embracing you. Though if it was about three hours ago it would have been dangerous.”

I ruthlessly declared to Shiina as she was suffering from mana exhaustion and drooling with her 10 cm or so long characteristic pink forked tongue for elves sticking out with about 3–4 meters between us on the other side of the {Light}. Just going off of the details from Identify there’s no she’s a useful talent and I believe I’ve already got an understanding of her personality and tendencies. As long as she hasn’t changed a lot I can trust her as well. Probably even among everyone I’ve met up until now, no, since I still don’t know of any other reincarnated people I haven’t met yet.. so she should be the person I can trust the most on Orth.

“Th..That..can’t be..a..aaa..nn..kuu...Already..already...”

Even if you look up at me with that sort of heartrending face, things that are no good are no good. Even if your face has gotten quite a bit better looking

from the Elf blood mixed the inner-company romance of Greed Company (for the time being my three slaves are automatically, and the rest of the members are for convenience sake employees) already has it's stomach full with Bel and Toris. In the first place, it's too soon for me to get with a single woman.

“P..Plea..please...I can't...endure...nnnnn!! Aaah!! Always..endur..fu~aaan!!”

She bit the fingertip of the glove on her right hand and took it off and then moved that right hand between her legs and started moving it. Ah, I guess I was just like this until a short while ago?

“So...So..many years already...Aa!! Ku!!kuu~n!”

While making sure to be vigilant so nothing suddenly attacks, I pick up the stone that was shining with {Light} cast on it in between Shiina and I while saying.

“Yeah, that is, hmm. I'll look that way so do something about it yourself. After that you should go to sleep right away. I'll sleep as well. Alright?”

I caught a glimpse of Shiina who is almost sitting in seiza while rubbing her legs together restlessly and I went to pick up Toris's long sword. Give up.

“A, aaa! Th..This is!!”

Uwa!! What is it so suddenly? Don't surprise me like that. Shiina moves her limbs like an inchworm as she crawls along bringing her face close to ground a bit nearby. What is she doing, this girl? I'm a bit interested but since it's not related to work, and furthermore since she's currently suffering from mana exhaustion I know it's nothing good.

“N..suu~!! Nwaaaa~!! Th..This scent is, chestnut flowers!? Coul..could it be tha..aro..around here Kawasaki-san did!!?”

Shiina is rubbing her face against the ground while snorting her nose smelling the scent.

“Uoohey!! Stop that!!”

I spontaneously yelled but without even paying attention to me, Shiina continued to move her right hand stretched out between her legs at a high speed.

“Aaah~ Wuun!! It’s already dry..it’s not remaining anymore..a~n!!Kuun!!”

Shit. This is no good. I can’t watch anymore of this!

“Aa!! I..I can’t stop! Ah, this..co...coming~”

In a panic I threw the sword and stone to the side and rushed up behind her. I grabbed her left hand that was groping her breast and her right hand that was rubbing between her legs while she was licking the ground(!) and grabbed Shiina by the hair before forcibly pulling her away, then used a hand-to-hand combat choking move to apply pressure to her carotid artery. I quickly grabbed Shiina’s long hood that was on the ground nearby and after spinning that up thin I tied up her wrists behind her back, just in case I also pulled out her short sword and threw it in a place a bit of distance away.

Around 30 seconds had passed by that point. It wouldn’t be strange for her to wake up at any moment. I quickly felt around her body to see if she had anymore weapons and after all she had weapons hidden all over the place it seems. 8 knives, four throwing darts, a strange pipe..is this a blowgun? What’s up with this girl, she has a mountain of weapons on her.

“Ha!!!?Aaah!! Th..that can’t be to tie me up!! Tying me up of all things~!! Bohe!!”

After waking up right away Shiina for some reason was looking at me with wet eyes filled with expectation. That idiotic looking face for some reason rubbed my nerves in a very wrong way and pissed me off so I put in a light kick to her stomach and shut her up.

“Shut up!! I don’t have those sorts of hobbies~!! Stop saying it so cheerfully!”

After all this girl, might be person I should avoid putting any faith in the most...

She’s twisting her body and I can’t really determine if she’s enduring the pain or enjoying it but I gathered up all of the weapons I could from there and turned my back to Shiina who was making wet puppy-dog eyes that looked like they were clinging on me along with an expression filled with lust as she was breathing heavily, and then walked away from there.

“Aaah!! That’s so cruel!!”

“Shut up~! Idiot! Just go to sleep already!! This is an order!!”

Shiina continued saying something rolling around in agony but after a short while it finally got quiet. Since both of her hands are tied up she shouldn't be able to do anything. In any case obediently go to sleep.

I considered using 1 more of my remaining 2 MP to use {Light} once more and check her condition but since there wasn't much meaning I stopped. I wonder if it's because my remaining MP is so low? I thought about keeping watch but somehow I suddenly felt like it was just idiotic.

Just in case, I used the {Cantrip} Alarm clock to wake me up in 5 hours and after moving outside of the range of Shiina's Infrared Vision (Shiina is level 10 so if I move further than 30m she shouldn't be able to see me but I moved over 50m away) and then laid down on my side and closed my eyes. I thought it was a bit careless but everything other than that just started to feel idiotic.

.....

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 28

I opened my eyes hearing the Alarm Clock {Cantrip} ringing in my head. I think it was around 4pm that we fought against Franken. After that I rested for about 3 hours and just now I rested for another 5 hours or so. I guess it would be just around the time the day changes? It's only obvious you could say but there's still nothing but darkness stretching out. I wonder if it's because I put some distance between us but I don't seem to have been attacked by her..desires?

I cross my arms and look at the {creature} who's lukewarm body temperature I can feel from my back sleeping facing me on the lower right side. It seems the tentacles from such a {Creature} had stretched out to my body. Since I was surprised just in case I checked my pants but all of the buttons were still properly done up. Nn? I feel like something is covering my body..The robe huh? This girl..even though I should have tied her up, she somehow managed to untie it at some point. I thought about using the spell {Light} to make it bright but it's already been about 5 hours since then. I might wake up Shiina...Well I guess it's fine. I'm sure she's slept plenty as well.

I use Identify and use the spell {Light} to light up a rock that's about 20m away

and after gently removed Shiina's left hand from my body, I carefully crawled out of the robe that was covering Shiina and I and after crossing my arms I took another look at her. Since I moved away from her Shiina's expressionless face is facing the right as she sleeps almost as if she's dead.

I don't know the common sense of dark elves but as usual her skin color still looks like a disturbing light violet color as if she's a rotting corpse. Well, since the light violet color is uniform throughout her entire body rotting corpse might be saying too far. The dark elf that I saw previously in Rombertia had a much deeper skin color, a violet that was closer to black and their hair color was pure white with not much pigment but I guess this is because Shiina is a reincarnated person?

If I look closely there were a lot of old scars remaining on both of her hands after her gloves were removed. I wonder why she didn't use a {Cure} type spell soon after she was injured? Putting aside {Cure} if she used {Cure Light} or {Cure Serious} then she should have cleanly been able to heal them before the wound turned into a scar. It's difficult to imagine that she couldn't use healing magic with this much MP and level of magic skills.

I didn't notice it just now but there's a deep cut wound that seems to have healed from her left nostril up along her cheek to her ear. Other than that I guess it's because she has the similar blood that Toris does, her facial features are quite good looking. I think that Shiina was decently good looking in her past life but soon after she entered the company my impression is too strong of her when she was always nervous, didn't properly say things, looking downwards, and had a dark impression so I've never thought of her as beautiful or cute. I've only ever treated her as a subordinate and a good spirited friend. Of course, thinking she's my cute subordinate and thinking she's cute or beautiful as a woman are completely different things to me.

"Fu..."

I let out a sigh and stroked Shiina's short hair that doesn't even go down to her shoulders. I only got a glimpse but she has some large wounds down the right side of her forehead as well that were already healed. Come to think of it this girl, she better have properly recovered her MP before she came over here?

【Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol/5/3/7441】
【Female/14/2/7428 ▪ Dark Elf ▪ Lail Kingdom Commoner {Lilac}】
【Status: Blunt Trauma】
【Age: 16 Years Old】
【Level: 10】
【HP: 105(110) MP: 252(252)】
【Strength: 16】
【Speed: 24】
【Dexterity: 19】
【Endurance: 17】
【Unique Ability: Unit Organization (Lv. 6)】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic (Lv. 4)】
【Special Ability: Water Magic (Lv. 4)】
【Special Ability: Fire Magic (Lv. 4)】
【Special Ability: Wind Magic (Lv. 4)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic (Lv. 5)】
【Experience: 139298(150000)】

Hn? It's only vague but I feel like Speed and Endurance are high. Since she has that many wounds all over her body I thought her HP would be pretty high but... All of her magic levels are about to level pretty soon as well. Her skill levels aren't that high taking into consideration her MP (even though I say that, they're still at a level capable of using it with her fingertips so it's still plenty good) I wonder if there's some sort of reason for that?

【Unique Ability: Unit Organization {Party-zation}; the user can organize a unit {party} with them self as the leader when in contact with any target. The number of people that can be included in the organization is equal to the level of the ability plus one. In other words, the maximum number of people is the user plus ten, for a unit organized with a total of eleven people. Furthermore, the duration of the ability is a number of hours equal to the level of the ability plus one.

The user can reuse the ability during the duration in order to extend the length of the duration as well. In that case the remaining duration will be cut off. Furthermore, the user can cancel the effects of the ability at anytime during the duration and freely exclude any member of the unit.

It's necessary for the target to open their heart towards the user in a way similar to that of a friend or family and must focus their awareness towards the user. During the effect of Unit Organization the members of the unit will gain the following privileges. However, the leader that is the user of the ability can freely select whether or not to provide the members with below privileges.

1. Able to grasp the approximate(10% margin of error on both angle and distance) direction and distance from other members.
 2. An increase in ability values of the members of the unit equal to the number of members.
- .Up to three people can gain 1 bonus point to Dexterity including an additional bonus of 1% increased experience points gained.
 - .Up to five people can gain 1 bonus point to Speed including an additional bonus of 2% increased experience points gained.
 - .Up to seven people can gain 1 bonus point to Strength including an additional bonus of 3% increased experience points gained.
 - .Up to nine people can gain 1 bonus point to Endurance including an additional bonus of 4% increased experience points gained.
 - .Only when there's a unit of ten people can all gain 1 bonus point to all ability values including an additional bonus of 5% increased experience points gained.
 - .The bonuses stack.

Including the above-mentioned, the leader that is the user can freely issue orders to the members individually(to multiple members otherwise everyone simultaneously) . However, the orders can only be sentences made up of a single word and the number of times the orders can be given during the duration of the effect is equal to the level of the ability. This number of orders is only applied when a unit is organized. In other words, bear in mind that when reusing Unit Organization to extend the duration of the effect this number of orders that can be made is not recovered. Furthermore, the members of the unit have no obligation to obey the orders. These orders do not rely on sound and are issued directly into the head from the leader the moment they wish for it as they call out to the consciousness of the member, so the member will only be able to understand the meaning in a language they understand.】

Hm~n. This Unique Ability is pretty useful.

I don't know if it decreased because I hit and kicked her or if it was lower from before that but the fact that her HP was reduced by a bit bothered me a bit so when she wakes up it's fine if I use healing magic on her bruise. I looked once again at Shiina's quiet sleeping and just in case checked my status again. After making sure my MP had properly recovered just when I had stood up to go and pick up the stone I used the spell {Light} on.

"Ah..Ka..Kawasaki-san.. Just now was, that is..I showed you something very unsightly.."

"How long have you been awake?"

"Since about an hour ago or so."

Shiina lifted her body up from laying on it's side and said while embarrassed and fidgeting. If you were awake then call out to me when I woke up.

"..For the time being gather your belongings. We'll start talking after that."

I went to the stone I used {Light} on and then picked that in order to gather my belongings scattered around, my helmet and gauntlets..Huh? my gloves and crotch parts are missing. Huh? They should have been placed together but... when I was looking around and,

"What's wrong?"

She must have noticed it, Shiina called out to me.

"Ah, no, my armo..the pants portion of my rubber protectors are mu.."

"I was properly warming them up for you. Being the loyal subordinate, that I am was!"

While breathing heavily Shiina took off the crotch portion of my protectors. It's true it's warmed up by Shiina's body temperature but...She seemed to be holding her chest high proudly when she handed it to me.

"You're telling me to, wear this?"

"Of course. Now, please do, use it while it's still warm."

Ah, really..Like I could wear something like this! And I really want to yell and throw it to the ground but because my MP has recovered I guess, I couldn't put

any feeling into it.

“No please don’t~ looking at the portion I was wearing so intently. Isn’t it embarrassing? Ah, also please take these as well.”

She took my gloves out from the cleavage of her ninja clothes and handed them to me. She’s holding both of her hands to her cheeks and twisting her body embarrassed. Your entire existence is an embarrassment. In the first place, this, better be dry? If it’s wet with some strange fluid I’ll seriously punch you. Well I guess I can’t afford to say such extravagant things right now...I think. I let out a sigh being unable to help it before pulling up the tassets of my armor. However, this girl, even though her waist is definitely thinner than mine and she didn’t have any rubber protectors on her upper body, how was she able to wear tis? Even if she closed the belt on the sides I think it would slide down but..Ah..She clamped down on it between her thighs and legs..I don’t really want to wear this anymore~

.....

“You’ve gathered all your belongings right? First off respond to my questions. Your questions are fine after that. Alright?”

I put on my gauntlets while saying that with a slightly serious face.

“Yes.”

Shiina responded with a serious face. The time for playing around is already over.

“Did you enter this dungeon alone? Do you have any allies?”

I check the throwing needles in my gauntlet while saying.

“I was alone. I don’t have anyone I could call an ally.”

Shiina is checking her knives one at a time while placing them where they go on her body.

..I’m closely looking at Shiina’s eyes but she doesn’t seem to be lying.

“Do you know where and what floor this is?”

“I don’t know. I fell into a pitfall trap and came down so..”

So she did as well huh?

“I see..It’s the same for me. You can you talk in Ragdarios Language right?”

There’s no large abnormality with Toris’s long sword.

“Yes, I can speak it. I studied from a young age.”

She confirms her throwing darts and puts them on her thighs. It seems there’s still some room to spare on her thighs so she must have already used some.

“Hn, got it. I think it’s fine right now but just in case let’s talk in Ragudarios language {Common Language} from here on out.”

I use the spell {Light} on the stone where the light disappeared from once again.

“I understand.”

Nn?

“What is it, you’re close. Move a bit further away from me.”

“Isn’t it fine? There’s no one here other than us two. And we were reborn after the accident right? Then..it’s largely difficult for me to say but..the madam is no longer around right? Then, in that case..m..me.”

Shiina slides over to me with her nostrils widening. I unkindly push her back and,

“Really, what is it, that’s true but you know. And, your {Common Language} is somehow strange. If you were to say that then it’s just “difficult for me to say”.”

I said that and glared at her.

“Ha~ It’s strange? However, I’ve already gotten used to talking like this so..”

Shiina said while looking slightly down.

“..Well it’s fine. There’s no meaning if we can’t convey things. “Return to Japanese.””

“Yes.”

“You said you remembered right? What did you remember?”

I confirm my knife with a crack in the blade and then put it into it’s scabbard

before fixing it with the band.

“Things about before I was reborn. I remembered the life of Shiina Junko. Of course, I still have memories since after I was reborn as well.”

“Huh?”

What is she saying?

“I’ll explain it in detail later but I didn’t remember much of anything at all after I was reborn. I only could remember Japanese and the names of some things. I didn’t have any memories about my life at all.”

Shiina said while confirming a small knife that was hidden inside of her leggings. This girl, so that’s how she escaped from being tied up?

“Nn..That’s hard to..I guess it’s fine for now. Next. When did you enter the dungeon Baldukk? You just said you don’t have any allies but did you enter alone?”

Suddenly Shiina’s atmosphere changed.

“If you were to ask when I entered this time then it would be about one day ago. If you are asking since when I started entering then it would be around the end of the last month. Also, I only enter alone. I don’t have any allies after all.”

I heard about it just before as well but it’s convenient that she doesn’t have any allies.

“So it’s not like you’re in a party somewhere right?”

“Yes.”

“Then next. What floor have you entered up to?”

“The 2nd floor.”

Ho~ So she made it to the 2nd floor alone..Though if I think about her MP and level of magic skills then it’s probably no problem.

“What’s your Unique Ability?”

“..”

Shiina made a serious face while looking at me with upturned eyes but,

“It’s called Unit Organization {Party-ization}. Until I remembered I only understood things about the surface of it but now I think it’s a useful ability.”

And said like she had resigned to it.

“I understand, for the time being up to there is good. We can slowly talk after we leave the dungeon. Is there anything you want to ask about?”

I put on my helmet and tighten it up while asking.

“Yes, there’s several things, but for starters.”

Shiina made a serious face.

“Why did you suddenly talk to me in Japanese?”

! Shit...

“I tried remembering back to it but it seemed strange to me. Kawasaki-san is a human right? You shouldn’t have Infrared Vision..and even if you did you shouldn’t have been able to see my face. It doesn’t seem like you have Night Vision either. Even if you did have that I can’t imagine that you could see in situation with no light at all. I thought it was some kind of spell that I don’t know but..if there was a spell like that then it would be too strange that a Dark Elf {Dyulo} doesn’t know about it. Is it a Unique Ability?”

This is very bad. Shiina calmly said while looking into her blowgun pipe before returning it to her waist.

“You’re trying to cover it up I see. If I look at your hands I can tell. How many years do you think I worked together with you Kawasaki-san? The times when you’re touching the nails of your other fingers is when you’re gathering your thoughts to try and hide something.”

This girl is troublesome...

Chapter 128: Miduchi

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 28

“..”

Shiina who has finished confirming her equipment is watching me with a serious face while I'm remaining silent.

“It's not like I intend to blame you for anything. If you want to keep it a secret then I won't tell anyone, I just found it strange. If you don't want to say then that's fine.”

Shiina quietly said that. And,

“But, that you won't trust me is a bit..that is..lonely...since 16 years have already passed since then, I guess it's not unreasonable though. But, I just remembered a moment ago. That's why I can remember it like yesterday. I was on my way to my appointment with Sexton Company when a train drove into the bus I was riding. But, I can remember the events like it was yesterday.”

She said that and made a sad smile.

“..Ha..I guess it's fine if it's you..It can't be helped, I'll reveal the trick. Promise that you won't tell anyone.”

I scratch my cheek and said that and Shiina's face suddenly got cheerful.

“Of course. It's a secret between just the two of us. Yeah, I won't tell anyone.”

That's certainly true but..when you say it, it just feels unpleasant right. I look at Shiina in the eyes while saying.

“It's called Magic Acquisition. Quite literally it helps learn magi“Supposedly people who can calmly tell lies have psychopathic tendencies. Who do you think I am? Please don't think that I the Dark Elf, “Rank 1 warrior class”, Shiina Junko, no, “Miduchi the Silent” would fall for such a simple strategy.”

! This girl..after all I thought it was strange that she was entering the dungeon

alone but she's no longer just a simple person, I guess that's what this mean? Though I don't really get "Rank 1 warrior class" or "Miduchithesilent"...but, psychopath, you...Though I don't feel like it's all that incorrect. The first time my heart got a bit disarrayed but I explained it away by saying it was for Myun's sake and I didn't hesitate at all when I killed everyone from {Bright Blade} the other day.

Well if I was bothered by something like that then I wouldn't even be able to get involved with a single war from here on out. I already know. In the first place, if you say that then all of the heroes in the world would be psychopaths after all. I'm aiming for that as well. Whether it be Orth or Earth the people who can calmly kill living creatures or monsters that have arms, legs, a head and walk upright is messed up in the head somewhere. That goes the same for you too, Shiina. Since you're inside the dungeon after all.

“..”

“..”

The silence continues for a few seconds.

“Why can you say that's a lie? Is there some sort of merit for me to lie to yo“There are merits, a lot of them. Also, I'll say it any number of times but please don't think that I don't know much about Kawasaki-san. Please don't underestimate me. How many times do you think I accompanied you during sales? When Kawasaki-san tells lies while doing sales, he always makes sure to properly look at the other person's eyes. Didn't you previously say it before? “When you tell lies you need to fortify your resolve so even if it's just for that time you're even lying to yourself.” like that.”

...

“I was always working by your* side for eight years. I was always watching you. Even if you try to deceive me it's pointless. If I combine Shiina Junko's feelings and the 16 years I spend as a dark elf training my skills of observation and discernment then I can almost perfectly see through the lies. It's fine if you decide not to tell me as well but please do not tell me any lies. I also do not intend to, no, to only you I will absolutely never tell any lies.”

..Anata*, huh?

How long has it been since I was called that?

I suddenly remembered Miki.

“I’m sorry. Seeing through them is probably limited to only you. But, it seems I already confessed my feelings to you just now. I remembered what I said and did after running out of mana last night and since it was so embarrassing my tension went up that high and became like that though...

Kawasaki-san, about you but..I love you. These 16 years since I was reborn I can’t do anything about the fact that I forgot it, but I really love you. Since I understood we were reborn as a result of that accident..I was able to say it because I knew that your wife is no longer around..that’s why I can say it. I’ve always loved you since many years ago. Please at least...at least don’t lie to a woman like this. I’m begging you.”

...

“Why are you remaining silent? You already realized my feelings since a long time ago right?”

“I already knew. Obviously...There’s no way I wouldn’t realize right?”

We were both adults after all, I was married and had my own family. There’s no way it’s something that could be said and I had no intention of confirming it either.

After hearing my words Shiina raised her face up a bit and shed some tears.

“Thank goodness...So they were conveyed. Just a bit..this is..something I’m happy about.”

She said that while looking at me.

I can’t lie to you right.

I kept company with her without thinking in terms of advantages or disadvantages.

Of course it wasn’t the relationship of a man and woman though.

I took a deep breath and then opened my mouth.

“It would be better if you don’t learn the name of the ability. I’ll explain it later but I’m passing it with other reincarnated people as Magic Acquisition. Since I’m sure you’ve already met God so I think you know though.”

After I said that far and Shiina,

“Reincarnated people! Somehow that’s a cool name~ Well if you say it like that then it’s certainly strange*. Also, I’m sorry. It’s true I met God but as a matter of fact I don’t really remember much from that time...All I remember is that the people who died in the accident were reborn on Orth and the method to use my Unique Ability, also that I was carrying some kind of large problem and it seems God lent me a bit of a hand in doing something about that. Incidentally I think that this large problem is probably referring to my memory loss.”

Said that.

“I see. If you don’t remember then that can’t be helped but the growth rate of reincarnated people is higher than that of normal people. This is“Ah..I somehow was able to remember that.”

Ah, I see.

“..When your body level increases things like your mana increase but the degree of those increases is high, is basically what it means.”

“Body level?”

“It’s fine so remain quiet for a bit and listen. I won’t teach you about it.”

“Excuse me.”

Shiina who was nodding with a ho~ ho~ while listening suddenly apologized with a shun~

“In any case, in order to increase this body level you need to gain various experiences...Like killing living creatures. Almost certainly when a certain amount of that is accumulated you level up. My Unique Ability is like a bonus to increases how easy it for these level ups to occur and right now I can probably grow at about three times the speed of other people.”

“..”

What, is with that expression? Could it be you’re doubting me? I swear I haven’t said any lies.

“..”

I look back at Shiina.

“..And?”

Shit.

“About what?”

Since it's a bit amusing I think I'll try to pretend to have forgotten.

“It can't be explained with just that right? There's a continuation right?”

That's an expression that says she won't forgive evading the question. Ah, the eyes of a Dark Elf are just like an Elf's her eyes are slightly slanted like Toris. I change my tone of voice a bit while saying.”

“Ah, really. You're as troublesome as usual. But you know, if you hear this then you won't be able to go back anymore, I won't let you. I won't forgive betrayal and I won't forgive telling others. Think that you'll be tied to me for the rest of your life.”

After hearing that Shiina shed some more tears from her eyes and opened her mouth. And, that face was smiling.

“Aha, what are you saying? Do you think I would say anything that would inconvenience Kawasaki-san?”

...

“Something like that doesn't matter at this point. But, after hearing that I wanted to know even more. That means I can stay by your side for the rest of my life right? Or else does Kawasaki-san think that I will betray?”

...

“How about it? Please respond to me.”

“..I don't think so.”

Just a bit, I'm feeling a bit annoyed that I was able to reconfirm once again that I trusted this girl this much. Shiina was happy after hearing my response.

“Then, even if I were to go somewhere you won't think I've betrayed you right?”

I thought about it for a bit before saying my reply.

“..I probably won’t think so. I think I’d probably just think there was some kind of reason for it and I’m sure you wouldn’t expose the secret on your own.”

“I might end up revealing it after being tortured?”

“That can’t be helped.”

“We haven’t met for 16 whole years. Is it okay to trust me that far?”

“Is it no good?”

“There’s no way it’s not good! That can’t be..Trusting me so easily..Aren’t you an idiot?”

“I’m sure I’m an idiot.”

“Indeed an idiot.”

“Yeah, an idiot.”

“I love you.”

The idiot is you. Don’t cry.

“I don’t love you, unfortunately.”

I said it while smiling.

“I already knew that..But, even if you don’t say it right now..”

I let out a large sigh and opened my mouth. It’s about time to finish things up.

“I saved a kid during the accident on the train. I received that kids Unique Ability as well. You don’t need to remember the name of this one either. Just remember them all as Magic Acquisition...The reality of this one is a power that can see through the true nature of things. It’s something that’s close to an expansion on Status Open. That’s why I know that your name is Mizweritt.Chizumagurol, your body level is 10, your elemental magic skills are all level 4, void magic is level 5, and I even know your experience points. Let alone your Strength and Speed, I can see things like HP and MP which are vitality and mana turned into numerical values. In addition saying it and I can see the specific details of Unit Organization {Party-zation} as well. The fact that you still have some bruising remaining as well.”

I finally confessed it. Shiina quietly listened to my conversation but her expression gradually turned to shock I knew like a high speed photograph. Right now her face is making three Os with her mouth and eyes open.

“What’s that? Amazing, or not, it’s creepy, Unfair. Cruel.”

“..I thought you would say that. It’s completely something like cheating after all.”

“But my name isn’t Mizweritto. It’s “Midu~ritto”. Please stress the accent not on the Du but on the Mi.”

The Zu’s and Du’s are pronounced vaguely different in the {Common Language} but, ah, I see.

“Yes-yes, “Midu~ritt” right. Is “Mili” fine? Or is “Rizu” better?”

“If possible I’d like you to call me “Miduchi”. Also, please teach me Kawasaki-san’s name.”

I forgot.

“It’s Greed. Alan.Greed.”

“Then, is it “Al”?”

“That’s right but..”

“What is it?”

“Being called my nickname by you is somehow..”

“Don’t mind the small details. You won’t be able to rise up in the world like that.”

“..”

“I’ve confirmed all of the things I wanted to confirm in a hurry. After this please slowly let me hear various things once we confirm our safety.”

“..Yeah.”

I somehow don’t feel satisfied with this.

“Please relax easy. If you saw my skill levels then you should already know but I’m strong. My power level is 530,000. We will definitely be able to get out.”

“Ah, I see.”

I can still transform about three more times though.

“Then, please excuse me for a bit.”

Miduchi said that and touched my cheek. For an instant I felt like Miduchi suddenly appeared really close to me but I’m sure it was just my imagination. However, I guess this is Unit Organization. I somehow or other feel like Miduchi is close by me.

“..Thank goodness. It went well. Al..If I was hated then it would have failed.”

Idiot.

“My heart is vast. No matter what happens there’s no way I’d hate you right? Let’s go.”

“Yes!”

The two of us stood up and started walking.

Heading towards the surface.

.....

It was good that we got enthusiastic as we started walking off but the room is far too wide and I can only light up about 30-40m with {Light}. Let alone something like an entrance to a passage, I still can’t find a single wall. We keep walking and walking but it’s just this plain dull and dry ground stretching out.

“It’s suspicious if we’re even following straight ahead.”

After I said that and,

“Certainly that’s true. Should we split into two groups for a bit?”

Miduchi said that and crouched down to put up a stone and used {Light} on it. We both turned around with our backs facing and we can see the same light from over our shoulders so we know we’re moving in an almost 90 degree angle in a different direction, we can also tell the approximate distance and direction thanks to Unit Organization. It will split up our combat power but it can’t be helped.

We hold on to our rocks with {Light} cast on them and the two of us split up in

two different directions.

.....

Around the time I had walked for about 12 minutes the words “gather” and “don’t hurry” appeared inside of my head. There’s already a considerable amount of distance between myself and Miduchi. The reason I was able to know it was 12 minutes was nothing more than a guess based on the duration of {Light}. She must have either found something or something must have happened. I can see a small light far into the distance. According to Unit Organization there’s a distance of around 420m to that light, Miduchi. Since we were both remaining reasonably careful of traps our speed is around 30m/minute. If I were to compare it to how fast we proceed through the passages of the dungeon then it’s quite a fast pace because I feel a bit impatient to escape as soon as possible.

I changed my direction straight towards the light Miduchi is holding. It would normally be faster and safer if I ran straight towards her down the path I originally took but I didn’t have the confidence I couldn’t follow the same path back. Since she sent the order “don’t hurry” it’s probably not an enemy attack so it should be fine if I slowly make sure it’s safe as I walk over.

I was able to safely make it to Miduchi but there was just some normal chain-mail that wasn’t strange at all and a single long sword inside of a crumbling scabbard laying around. The values on both of them aren’t anything special they’re pretty common goods.

“Al-san. Here, look at this.”

Yeah, I’m looking at it. I Identified it as well. However, I don’t think it’s something make an uproar over in this situation. If we were to bring the chain-mail back it would probably have a value of over 1 gold coin so you could say it’s a lot of money but it’s not a good idea to carry a lot of things back when it’s just the two of us in this situation.

“What about this?”

“The sword wasn’t drawn. Just from what I can tell the chain-mail has only passed time as well and there’s no holes in it either. I think it’s only rusted because of the corpse of the person who died. There’s nothing that could be

called damage on it so it seems they weren't killed from combat."

That's certainly true. In that case, what was the cause of death?

"Most likely wasn't it starvation? Since this room is so large. If they can't use magic then it's even possible they would just keep wandering around in circles."

That's true.

"I thought about it in regards to that but I'll use an attack spell from the flame or fire type. If I use it normally then it can go about 60 meters or so and if I change the angle I could try and figure out if there's a wall with 60 meters. I called Al-san because I didn't want to surprise you by suddenly using attack magic."

I gave up on using attack spells to investigating taking into consideration the possibility it might carelessly call some monsters but I guess it's true it's the same for the light. I only decided to go with her suggestions because in the worst case if a monster comes then we can throw the stone with {Light} on it up in the air as high as we can then run away as fast as possible.

"Yeah, if you've prepared yourself for it, then I'll do it. The range of my magic is farther than yours. And..look."

I create a {Flame Javelin} and added a {Missile} to it then sent it flying. It's the place to show my Void Magic Lv. MAX. I can do the same thing with 10x more efficient use of MP. Of course it's just for the void magic portion of it so it doesn't raise the amount of damage it does. It's common for {Flame Javelin Missile} to use 9 MP for the level 3 fire magic and level 6 void magic but in my case I can do the same thing for 3.6 MP. If I use the same 9 MP then in terms of speed(acceleration power) I can increase it by 5 times and I can increase the range by 5 times as well. Of course the void magic remains 0.6 MP like that, it's fine to just make the size of the warhead bigger and raise the power of it. This time rather raising the power, the range is more important though. I thought it would be a bit strange to increase the range too far so I just decided to go with an adequate 3–4 times farther.

I have it doing a lap around us at about 200m in the surroundings. After we were unable to see the {Flame Javelin} once I had it turn back around. At the very least there's nothing about 200m in our surroundings. Once it returned

back in front of us I released the guidance and sent it flying ahead of us. It continued flying another several tens of meters from the inertia and then fell to the ground. I think it probably flew around 250m?

“Mi..Missile..And it even had extensions to it’s range..the level of your magic must be considerably high..I had confidence in my mana and magic skill levels as well but..this is..somehow.”

Miduchi is surprised. That’s only obvious. Extending the range itself is fine if you just put in two or three times the MP but since Missile requires a void magic of at least level 6 to use after all. That’s why sister surprised everyone when she took the exam for the knight group and was able to pass just from the level of her magic skills.

“It should be quite better than just sending it flying right. Also, we definitely won’t end up circling the same area. We just need to do this.”

I poured even more mana into the {Light} on the rock in my hand this time I didn’t increase it with continuation this time but extension. Increasing the duration with continuation has far better MP efficiency in comparison but it’s troublesome if you intend to use a different spell during that time. There’s no change to the way the light itself looks. I used 100 times the normal amount of mana, used 100 MP to increase the duration of the effect by 10 times (Other than attack spells the effect doesn’t increase proportionate to the amount of MP you add to it. It increases with a square root.) With this it will last for 50 minutes.

“This {Light} will last 10 times longer than a normal one. And, just like this.”

I used a normal {Fire Ball}. I sent it flying about 100m and it went a bit further thanks to the inertia and then fell to the ground and exploded. Burning stones glowing red were sent flying around. I’m sure we’ll still be able to see the light for about 10 minutes or so.

“Let’s go to there and leave a {Light} rock once more. If we just keep proceeding like that then at the very least for 50 minutes or so we should be able to proceed in a straight line. After that I just need to use {Light} again before the duration of the effect disappears.”

I said that and started advancing forward.

“..Ha~ I’ll lose my confidence, really. Exactly how much leeway do you have in your mana?”

“Easily more than 10 times yours. That’s why it’s fine for you to relax and come with me.”

“Ten..Ten times..Exactly how much is that? My mana is said to be reasonably high though..”

Miduchi’s shoulder dropped down. It was then.

“Ah..sorry~ I feel like I need to take a shit.”

“..Really~ It can’t be helped. I’ll face this direction so please do it quickly.”

I’m not Ralpa but it’s best to say things honestly. It’s been a good amount of time since I ate lunch after all, so it can’t be helped I’m sure. I quickly left everything out that I could and used water magic to wash my ass and then dried it before pulling my armor back up and putting my protectors on. The period of time it took a mere three minutes. I’m sure a trick like this is impossible with plate-mail or splint-mail. Incidentally I buried the shit that came out with dirt.

“Sorry for the wait, now let’s go.”

“..That was fast. Pla, no, so that is rubber armor..”

“Yeah, it’s light and durable, it’s easy to take off and put on and to clean as well. It’s nice right?”

“Ha~”

“What? Do you have no interest?”

“That isn’t the case. But, our first priority right now is to escape from here.”

“Well, I guess that’s true. By the way, are you fine?”

“About what?”

“Toilet.”

“While Al-san was sleeping I went in a place a bit of distance away.”

“I see.”

There’s no need to be careful around her anymore than Ralpa. She’s

something like a wife in a different way than Miki.

.....

I wonder if around one hour has passed? We just dropped the third and fourth rocks with {Long Duration Light} on them. We've probably advanced about 2Km while shooting {Fire Balls} in a random direction I guess? My MP has cut around 6,800. Since we found another person who starved there doesn't seem to be any monsters at all so I'm talking with Miduchi about various things. Like our lives after we reincarnated, the topics for conversation have no end.

We've finally started to become able to see the wall ahead of us. The wall is stretching out slightly slanted even further on both the right and left sides. Now then, what should we do?

"Hey, dungeon beginner. We won't follow along the wall. There's not much that I can think of judging from this width though. It's might first time seeing a room this big but I know of one room that's this class. It was round in a shape. Can you guess what I'm worrying about?"

"That's only obvious. The fact that an entire floor of the dungeon has become one giant room right?"

"That's right. Then do you know what way we should move?"

"There should be a teleport crystal in the center of the dungeon. If the wall is in a circle then if we follow straight along a right angle we should be able to arrive there."

"That's right. Although, there's still plenty of possibility remaining that the entire floor of the dungeon isn't a perfect circle. If we can't find anything by the time we arrive at the wall on the other side then this time we'll need to walk along the wall."

"I understand."

I was about to start walking off with my back to wall but if this wall is really the outer circumference then it should be a diameter of about 10Km and the circumference should be about 31.4Km. In order to check if it's really perpendicular I had Miduchi back up about 200m from the wall. When facing the wall I used the spell {Lightning Bolt} towards the wall. The lightning went

straight towards the wall and rebounded.

If it accurately comes back at me then it's okay to think that it's perfectly perpendicular. If I use the spell {Lightning Bolt} normally then it has a range of about 80m and I can extend that up to 800m but as expected that's too far. It should be fine at 5 times the range. Even with this while it normally costs 12 MP to use it only costs me 10.

I try shooting it several times while making small adjustments to the angle... This should be fine. The {Lightning Bolt} splendid reflected back to right in front of me. So it's this point huh? I used {Fire Wall} towards the wall from the same point. I didn't increase the range this time. I just increased the duration. With this it should last for about 100 seconds. However, with this I was able to draw almost a straight line from the wall. If we place some {Long Duration Lights} along here then even after the flame disappears thanks to the {Long Duration Lights} we'll still know that we're heading in straight line from the wall.

.....

Just as we predicted, I don't know what floor this is but it's basically one entire floor made into a giant room. While carrying our hungry stomachs we continued walking for close to three hours before we finally ran into something like a large cylinder shaped outer wall. There were several pieces of equipment from people who starved in the past along the way to here. In order to go all the way around it in worst case we'll need to walk another 300m or more.

We continued to take small breaks with the wall to our back while adjusting the direction we were moving.

"I wonder if the teleport crystal is on the other side of this wall?"

Miduchi asked anxiously.

"Yeah, probably. If there isn't then you and I are already...Since we can somehow do something about water, we'll last about a week. We'll need to find a method to do something during that period."

"I've started to get hungry right."

"..Since we've only had water to drink after all.."

“Since it’s just the two of us after all..”

“That’s true.”

I regret throwing my bag down at this late point.

“I want some proteins.”

Miduchi licks her lips illuminated by the light. It was an obscene movement that sent a shiver down my spine.

“Sure I want to eat some meat as well.”

“Al-san can let out some proteins right?”

She’s just sticking the end of her forked tongue out of her lips and moving it like small scissors. That’s quite skillful.

“Huh?”

“You can let some out right?”

I don’t know a spell like that.

“I don’t know a spell that conveni ah...you bastard~ I’ll kill you, shut up. Rather~ you’ve changed quite a bit. Or else is this how it really is?”

“Didn’t I just say a slightly {adult} joke? I was just trying to make the mood more cheerful.”

Don’t say it so disappointingly. I hit the wall that’s towering over my back with the palm of my hand while,

“It’s about time we head off. There should be some place on this that will let us inside.”

“Yes~~ So the break is already over..Ha~~”

Don’t get sulky with that creepy skin color.

“It should be plenty to rest for five minutes. Don’t complain.”

Chapter 129: The Gazer

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 28

We leave the 30cm or so rock with a square like characteristic in the place we were resting until now along the wall as a landmark and then started walking with the wall along our right side. Miduchi is still holding a different {Light} rock. After walking for a short while there was an opening in the wall and you can tell it's a passage further inside.

"It would be bad if we suddenly approach and there's something inside. Shouldn't be return once and try checking the other direction for passages as well?"

Miduchi said. There's no reason to be against it.

"That's true, I think it's probably fine but it's true the probability is high something is inside. Let's try going around to the other side once then?"

I said that and turned around.

We pass by the place we were resting until just now and continued even further along the wall with it on our left side. Judging from the distance we walked, we'll have ended up making one full lap around the pillar pretty soon. Ahead of us I can see the passage entrance.

"It seems we returned. There's nothing else we should go and or look at. Let's go."

"Yes."

"Fundamentally the rooms in the center of the dungeon where the teleport crystal is are around 30m in every direction. However, this pillar has a diameter of 100m or so. It's possible there's a monster inside. Let's make sure we remain cautious."

"Of course."

Miduchi holds her short sword in her right hand and the {Light} stone in her

left hand. I'm still holding Toris's long sword in my right hand as well. We carefully stepped foot inside of the passage. The width of the passage is roughly 3m, the height of the ceiling is around 4m I guess. The passage itself seems to have a length of around 10m? 10m ahead the walls and ceiling on both sides disappear. It turns into a large room with the floor stretching out.

"Be careful of traps."

"Yeah."

We slide our feet as we proceed. Since {Light} cut off once along the way Miduchi reused it again. In addition I had her make two extra {Light} stones that I'm holding.

We stepped foot into the room. Since it's inside of a large cylinder, I guess it's a doughnut shaped room? In the front I can see something like an even thinner pillar than the one we just entered that's around 40m. Judging off the thickness of this 100m or so pillar that we walked around and the 10m length of the passage we just passed through, it's outer area should be around 80m, and inner diameter around 40m, with a width of about 20m a doughnut shaped space, furthermore inside of that there's another 40m round pillar in the center is how it's structured.

My intuition is telling me. There's a boss in this room! I quietly whisper to Miduchi.

"Stay behind me on the right side. If you can see a monster then anything is fine hit it with some magic. Alright, stay behind me on the right."

"Yes."

Since both Miduchi and I are right handed. We're holding our weapons in our right hands. Then I need to remain on the side where her heart is.

And, soon after we stepped foot inside of the doughnut I threw the two stones we had used {Light} on ahead of time in both the right and left directions about 20m. I guess it heard the sound of that falling. I could see something drifting in the center of the passage(?) of the doughnut shape on the right side. There's no mistake it's a monster. I identified it in an instant while using an attack spell.

It's {Lightning Bolt}. In an instant from my left hand electricity surges and reaches in front of the monster, and then it bounded 50–60 cm in a different direction! It can't be, again!?

【

【Asexual/25/7/6444 ▪ Death=Tyrant kin】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 999 Years】

【Level: 25】

【HP: 1114(1114) MP: 347(347) 】

【Strength: 20】

【Speed: 27】

【Dexterity: 89】

【Endurance: 24】

【Special Ability: Infrared Vision】

【Special Ability: Magic Reflection 24】

【Special Ability: Slow Beam】

【Special Ability: Sleep Beam】

【Special Ability: Charm Beam】

【Special Ability: Floating Ray】

【Special Ability: Petrification Beam】

【Special Ability: Bleeding Beam】

【Special Ability: Fear Beam】

【Special Ability: Disintegration Beam】

【Special Ability: Death Ray】

【Special Ability: Venom Beam】

“Run away!!!”

Just as I said it I ran back the way we came. The speed it's floating over here doesn't seem to be all that fast but there's no way to know if that's it's full speed. Miduchi and turned around the right side and ran away at full speed.

The passage that took us close to 2 minutes to pass through on our way we ran through in less than 2 seconds, when we arrived near the pillar I said “Over here!!” and ran towards the last {Long Duration Light} rock we had placed in a dash. It was a good thing in this bad situation that we placed random rocks with

{Light} on them in various places so we didn't end up tripping or falling over.

Around 400m from the entrance passage of the pillar, it's almost like an airfield at night with how the light from the {Light}s are lighting up our path. We couldn't do anything other than hide in the darkness a bit away from the light while keeping watch.

"A..Al-san. Just now you used magic while running right?"

What are you asking at a time like this, really.

"Yeah, I can do it. Since I trained to do it."

I replied to it irritated.

"Is that a Unique Ability as well?"

Ah, for that sort of reason.

"No, this one is just the results of seriously training on a daily basis for a number of years..!"

We were whispering in a low voice but I put my head on top of Miduchi's head(I can't see so I just guessed where it was but it doesn't seem to have been mistaken) pushed her down to the ground, while I laid down as well.

The monsters that slowly came out of the passage had a diameter of just over 2m and a blackish-red body that was something like a rugged sphere floating in mid-air. From the top of the sphere there was a number of things like tentacles growing off of it. And then..in the center of the sphere there was something like a large opened eyeball. Underneath that I can see a number of fights like a large atrocious looking mouth. It's floating around here and there near the entrance of the passage as if looking for it's prey. Even though it has an eye can it not see visible light?

"Ah!! That is behol.."

Do you know about it? Miduchi.

As expected of a Dark Elf I guess. Though I know what's expected of them.

"Right now, I'm looking at it. Quietly.."

I'm sure Miduchi remembered my Unique Ability, she quietly held her breath.

“It’s race is Death=Tyrant.King, HP is 1114, MP is 347. Age is 999 years old, level is 25...It has so many special skills that it’s a pain to try and read them all out..”

I whisper in a low voice.

“They’re all beams right?”

“Eh...Yeah, not all of them though. Most of them are beams. I’m amazed you knew that. I’ll check over as many of them as I can before the {Light} cuts off.”

I said that and opened the sub-windows of 【Identify】.

【Death=Tyrant kin: The result of a species of Eye=Tyrant race turning undead. One of the special skills it possessed before turning undead Magic Resistance was weakened into Magic Reflection, and in comparison for only being able to use it a number of times equal to it’s level, reductions in HP from aging are lost. Also, the characteristic large eye in the center of it’s body almost completely turned into a mineral crystal upon turning into an undead and it’s ability Anti-Magic Ray was lost but simultaneously it’s weakness was also lost. Furthermore, it’s vision has weakened and it only has half the range of 1.5m per level remaining in it’s Infrared Vision. As a result of the eyes on the ends of it’s tentacles rotting and becoming dull the only remaining vision it has is the halved Infrared Vision from the large eyeball in the center of it’s body. Furthermore, since it’s brain has also rotted it’s intelligence has decreased considerably and it’s thought process has fallen to less than the level of a wild animal. Since that is the case, it is best not to think that conversation or negotiations are possible. Nevertheless, there are differences between individuals abilities depending on the state they were in when turning undead.】

I’ll open the second stage sub-window and check it as well. There seems to be quite a few places I can open it up but for the time being I’ll check it’s previous race. It would be good if something like a weakness is written down though.

【Eye=Tyrant: A magical living creature. It doesn’t possess the ability to reproduce. It has a spherical body covered in a chitin like that of the shell of a crab and large single eye in the center of it’s body. In every direction stretching out roughly 15 degrees in a cone from this eye it shoots off an Anti-Magic Ray. Just as can be seen this large eye is the weakness(it takes triple the normal

damage when done directly to the eye) but it has an eyelid. Also it has fangs in its large mouth and specializes at biting as well. It possess ten tentacles from the upper part of its spherical body and each of those can use a different type of magical beam in a straight line. The varieties of beams are delay, sleep, charm, float, petrify, bleed, fear, disintegrate, death, and strong poison but all of them are the result of a magic effect. As a result of that, just the same as Magic Resistance and the various types of vision the special skills require the use of mana just like when using magic. The range is equal to the Anti-Magic Ray that comes from its primary eye and increases by 2m per level. Its extremely intelligent but by nature is fundamentally evil and extraordinarily crafty, it almost never acts impulsively. Its normal vision can pick up visible light including Infrared Rays, Radiation Rays, and X-Rays.】

Aaah!! That eyeball bastard returned to the passage..I guess using 【Identify】 anymore than that is impossible. I wanted to check its special skills as well...

“Fu...That thing is..dangerous..”

Its more powerful than any monster Ive encountered up until now. Things like Franken or the Vampire are just like babies compared to that. It seems that a lot of parts of it have weakened since it was alive because it turned undead but its still not an opponent I can relax against. However, its extremely big that I was able to properly use 【Identify】 unlike up until now. However, a mineral crystal...I definitely would like to obtain it here.

“Al-san, that thing is a Behol..{The Gazer}. It has a meaning like looking or {The Gaze}. And it even has a suffix like er added to the end of the characters combining verb and noun. Being able to see the real thing..Im deeply moved.”

Is this girl an idiot?

In what world is there an idiot being moved seeing a monster..right in front of me.

“Isn’t that English? Not to mention the auxiliary verb isn’t even necessary. Well, I can’t say youre wrong though.”

“Adding the {The} is a form of beauty and to make it easier to understand. The reason its English is..and, Huh? Didn’t you notice it? All of the monsters that appear in this world are like the ones that come out in games and legends?

Most of the characteristics match up as well.”

Ah, that, I’ve heard about it from Kuro in the past as well. Well, I wasn’t surprised hearing that in the first place since there’s magic like Status Open though.

“I had lost my memories of my life but I hadn’t lost knowledge about these sorts of things so that’s how I managed to survive fighting against monsters up until now.”

What’s with, this girl, she’s even more useful than I thought. Something like a dictionary. Come to think of it she did say she liked games...

“You, plus 1 point.”

I said it while feeling a bit of admiration.

“It’s fine if you praise me even more.”

Don’t say it so proudly. However, there’s no mistake it’s nice.

“What’s it’s weakness?”

“It doesn’t have one. If I had to say then it would be the large eyeball in the center of it’s body.”

...

“After all I take back the point. But that thing, it seems it’s an undead. It feels like the ones that aren’t undead and have a living body are stronger overall. It seems it has the ability Magic Reflection but it seems it can only use it another 24 times, and the other beams I think we can do something about with {Anti-Magic Field}. Since they’re beams ice is out the question but if we can at least make it so it can’t use Magic Reflection anymore then we should be able to just bury it or something.”

“Hohou~ by the time you just mentioned HP or MP and stuff but is that number high?”

Since I hadn’t brought up(most of the topics were about our upbringing. Since there were quite a few corpses that starved with no signs of combat, in order to natural increase our understanding the topics came to our lives until now) explaining ability levels up until now in our conversations it’s a question that’s

only obvious.

“It’s HP was..1100..Well just over 1100 and a few points. Putting it frankly it’s absurd. In the case of a human, the peak is at 30 years old or so but even then it’s 110 or around 120 for someone with a lot. I’m sure it’s because your level is high for your age so you have 110. After that, it also had close to 350 MP as well, this is abnormal. A first-rate sorcerer has around 50 or 60. I don’t know why but you have 252 though. Well, I can more or less guess though.”

I gave a quick and easy to understand explanation of the numbers.

“Uhya~ that is quite~ high. But, what should we do?”

“There’s no choice than to run or fight but the inside of that pillar should be a room and it seems that thing is the boss of the room so there’s no choices. Since it doesn’t seem like we could evade it while running pass to grab the teleport crystal with our backs to him. That’s why there’s no choice but to fight.”

If it’s me then even if it’s a bit of a waste of MP I could create an {Anti-Magic Field} on my back, and above all else I can run while using but so technically there is the option of evading it and running. However, that mineral crystal is too captivating to give up. If it’s a crystal then it would be the best. Crystals are minerals right?

“I’ve come up with a rough strategy. Since there’s only two of there’s fundamentally only two strategies we could take. One is to run into the teleport crystal further in and teleport. However, if there’s no crystal rod in there then we’re done for so it’s rejected.”

“That’s true.”

Even though were up against an opponent with no real weakness, I was a bit surprised but Miduchi honestly agreed. Although, even if you can’t see the details of Identify like me, if you have as much MP as she does I think it’s only obvious to think you can win but..I don’t think the opponent is that easy.

“And, the remaining option to “fight and win” is what we end up at but we’re going with a strategy that can’t really be called one here. Since there’s tentacles above it’s body.”

“It uses beams right? The brutal types that kill you, turn you to stone, or to dust.”

This girl really knows well.

“I’m amazed you know that...That’s right. However, it seems that this is an effect of magic so it should be possible to block it with {Anti-Magic Field}. That’s why I’ll become the shield. You should stay behind me and when you see an opening attack it with magic. 24 times, in worst case if you hit it with magic 25 times then it shouldn’t be able to use Magic Reflection anymore. After that we’ll finish it off with magic. Listen well, make sure you don’t run out of mana. If you lose control of yourself in combat you’ll die.”

“I already know that much, really..But, if I have to hit with magic over 20 times then I can’t put any power into it?”

“Isn’t it fine even if there’s not much power in it?”

“Then I think that should be fine.”

“Ah, also, since it’s probably in the shape of a doughnut so we’ll slowly move back while going around in circles. If possible I’d like to create a dirt wall to block or hide from the beams but don’t put much expectations on that. Even if it’s me I can’t use a different magic while using {Anti-Magic Field}. In the worst case if it comes to a dead end then it can’t be helped. I’ll surround it in an {Anti-Magic Field} so if it comes to that..you beat it to death.”

“If it comes to that time then if possible I’ll cut off the tentacles from the eyeball. It’s the conventional method of combat against {The Gazer}.”

“I see, got it. Then, for the time being I’ll prepare four rocks with a long duration {Light}. I’ll hold those. I’ll scatter them around while moving through the doughnut to use for light. While I’m doing that you just focus on using attack spells on it. Only during the start I’ll use an attack spell as well. I think I can probably land eight hits on it. Got it?”

“..I understand.”

An amazed response came back. I’ve practiced using up to eight warheads at the same time with my javelin-type attack spells.

“Alright, let’s go.”

I stand up while saying.

We’ve already gotten it to use Magic Reflection once but I don’t know what kind of timing it will recover them. We need to hurry. Even if it comes to burying it with ice or dirt I can’t imagine how it will work because of Magic Reflection. It might even end up scattering ice and rock over here causing us to be in danger. It’s limited to the final resort.

And, I took into consideration hitting it with consecutive attack spells from outside of the range of it’s vision which has supposedly gotten weaker but I couldn’t adapt it because it’s unknown what the differences are remaining between individuals. It would be best to think that the range of Infrared Vision differs based on the length of each tentacle as well. I can’t forget that depending on the direction of the tentacles it might even be possible for it to see a distance of up to 75m. Unless we were to hide behind the pillar in the center there’s no way to hide from a distance of 75m.

Even if we suppose that after turning undead it’s vision has dropped to the bare minimum, if we cling to the inner area of the doughnut then it’s almost entirely in it’s sight.

.....

We returned once again to the the side of the entrance of the passage on the pillar while remaining vigilant. The guided lamp like {Light} we used on the way has long since disappeared but the rocks with {Long Duration Light} are still remaining so we followed along those and returned back to the pillar again. Just in case I create some more {Long Duration Lights} and placed them around the base of the pillar.

And, just as planned I made another four {Long Duration Light} rocks and quietly peeked into the passage. Obviously it’s close to pitch black and I can’t see well. If I remember correctly, then it already can’t see visible light so I don’t think it will react to the light from the {Light} and felt a bit relieved on that point.

I quietly stretched out my left hand and lit up the passage with the {Long Duration Light}. After all it’s not in the passage itself. It must have returned to

it's original position (?) after losing track of it's prey like a normal room boss. I turned around once to nod at Miduchi and after gathering my resolve took a step into the passage.

Soon after we entered the doughnut shaped room I threw one of the {Long Duration Light}s inside.

It's there.

It's about 60m further on the right side of the doughnut. It's in a position where it can hide behind the pillar in the center.

I can only see the large spherical body and eye and a large mouth with no slits. It's just floating around as usual but it seems to have reacted to the sound of throwing the rock it's slowly started turning around.

Without a moment's delay I launch some {Flame Javelin}s into it. In an instant eight flaming spears reached the eyeball bastard but after all bounced off and disappeared. I created an {Anti-Magic Field} with almost double the mana of the eyeball bastard, 700 MP before the spears reached it and made it into a board shape to create something like an anti-magic barrier. This amount of mana and shape is one I've used a lot in the past against sister during training so it didn't even take 1 second to activate. I'm already in the realm of masters.

And I looked at the eyeball bastard with 【Identify】. 【Special Skill: Magic Reflection 17】. Damn it, it seems that while we were taking our time it's number of uses remaining recovered. I guess that means at longest it recovers one per 10 minutes. Well that should be fine.

It seems Miduchi is firing off {Flame Arrow}. A flaming arrow flew past my right about 1m away. I quickly transformed the {Anti-Magic Field} stretching it to the right. The {Flame Arrow} splendidly was about to pierce through the eyeball bastard but this ended up bouncing towards the ceiling and disappeared as well. Another 16 times huh? The eyeball bastard completely finished turning around. Now, it's time for the real thing.

A small amount of lightning-like light came off my {Anti-Magic Field} barrier as proof that it was able to negate the magic. I'm sure this is some kind of beam. The eyeball bastard's MP went from 347 to 335. It's not all that strong at all but I take one step backwards.

Following that something like a red light was given off by one of the dull eyes on a tentacle from it's upper body. It was blocked by my {Anti-Magic Field} in an instant and I wasn't able to see the light. So there's transparent beams as well... Although even if it was colored no matter how I think about it, it's impossible to evade a beam of light that's been fired.

This..Will Miduchi really have enough time to stick her face out and fire off attack spells?

"Hey, it's a change in plan. Ah, no, it's fine. Since it doesn't seem like there's any gaps it's fine if you don't attack. We'll just keep backing up like this."

Thinking it would be bad like this I maintained my {Anti-Magic Field} barrier while we returned to the passage. During that time it seems we took about five hits from beams. The eyeball bastards MP is dropping rapidly and is already at 276. I'll take on all of your beams and cut off your MP.

I guess as expected the eyeball bastard only has about the intelligence level of a wild animal, it just keeps firing off the beams consecutively. Lightning is being given off of the surface of my {Anti-Magic Field} one after another. The speed it's floating towards us at is about pace an adult can speed walk. The eyeball bastards MP is already 151. We're maintaining a distance of about 30m from it while slowly retreating backwards around the doughnut.

Around the time we retreated about ten steps, it finally seems to have given up on firing beams. However, the eyeball bastard still has about 64 MP remaining.

This is bad. I guess even wild animals won't just keep blindly attacking. Once it realizes that it's pointless, what will it do next...I guess there's no choice but to aim for it's openings.

"What should I do? Should I try firing spells at it?"

"Since you can't use missiles that's not good. If you even leave the shadow of my {Anti-Magic Field} for an instant you'll take one of those beams.."

"However.."

We glare at each other while walking backwards at a quick pace. After all, this speed is this guys limit. We've almost gone about 1/4 of a lap around the

doughnut.

Ah~ I want an anti-personnel landmine {Clay-more}. If I had a landmine I'm sure I could damage it with that. Since I'm sure this thing can only reflect magic. One day I should think about developing the delayed fuse, including an electrical fuse and electric detonator. If it's electricity then I can make it with {Lightning Bolt} after all...Though if it's the electric current and voltage of {Lightning Bolt} there's no way I could send it down a metal wire that's only a few hundred meters.

There's no meaning in thinking about things I can't get my hands on right now. We're in a state of lull but I don't want to go into a battle of attrition. I guess we should try going all out and moving to the edge of the outer wall, where it should just barely be outside of range of it's Infrared Vision before attacking? Since I'm sure the beams are equal to the range of it's sight so it should only have about 1.5 times it's level remaining, so if we're at least 40m away from it..I considered it from the start but if I suppose there's no difference, then even just making a small error on the distance will mean death. After all I guess it's rejected.

Nn...

Miduchi can't use {Missile}. I can use it.

And Miduchi has all of the elemental magic skills.
She should still have over 200 MP remaining as well.

"Hey, you, can you use a power {Anti-Magic Field}?"

"I think I can probably use it but since I haven't really practiced it much it will take some time, but I, can't use magic while walking."

..I guess it's no good...

I didn't really want to do it but I guess there's no other choice than to wait for him to approach or approach from our end and after wrapping him in {Anti-Magic Field} we attack. I wonder Magic Reflection works on {Anti-Magic Field} as well?

No, wait a minute...

Chapter 130: First Time

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 28

“It will take time, around how much?”

If it's just several tens of seconds then I can probably earn it. If it's at that speed (the speed an adult and walk quickly) then if we just do a lap around the doughnut depending on the course we might be able to earn three or four minutes.

“Probably over 10 minutes..”

So it's no good.

Then how about this?

“Let's pull it closer and then throw the rocks with {Light} cast on them at it without letting them touch my {Anti-Magic Field}.”

“Eh? I understand.”

I'm sure she has some doubts about it but it's good she obeys right away.

Miduchi quickly picked up a random rock and used the spell {Light} on it. Simultaneously I threw the second {Long Duration Rock} I had into the center of the passage in order to secure light.

I guess because I had been standing still, the eyeball bastard had already approached to within 10m.

The rock with {Light} cast on it hit him right in the center of his muddy white eyeball with a thud. There was no change to the rock. It's HP didn't decrease and there's no change to the number of uses on Magic Reflection either. I guess it doesn't reflect low-threat magic?

We raised our speed again a bit and increased the distance. Something we can throw..20 throwing needles and a knife with a chipped blade. Miduchi has a total of 9 knives. 4 throwing darts. Blowgun. We don't have anything decent..If

Bel was here we could have her shoot consecutive arrows from behind the anti-magic defense wall though...

Even if we try using the blowgun with wind magic instead of blowing into it according to Miduchi due to problems with the durability of it, the power can't be increased very much. Maybe I'll challenging the production of metal air gun when we get back. In the past I made several varieties but according to the stories I heard about crossbows it's power was below that. Due to problems with the shape of the ammunition there was too much air resistance. It ended up being single shot but I went through quite a bit of trial and error to prepare my bayonet.

I made an iron pipe and then put an exclusive arrow in from the back. Then put some cotton in the middle or back of the arrow and use your fingers to seal the remaining side and use wind magic from that finger. It will only fly about 40 meters or so and there's a limit to how much power it could have. Though because the arrow will have cotton on it, it will quickly decelerate. Even if you raise the level of wind magic your hand will come out of the pipe this time and it's pretty much the same in the end, since you can't aim there's no meaning to it. Integrally speaking it's a bit better than just blowing a blowgun with your breath but in the end I gave up on it.

In any case no matter what we throw that we have onus right now it can't do any damage to that eyeball bastard. If we were to throw our swords and it hit right then it might be different but if throw it once it's over after all.

"It's fine already, next is..I'll get even closer to the inner wall. You hide behind {Anti-Magic Field} while making dirt walls in an appropriate location on the other side of him from the pillar. The height will be where I can hide from them and a width of 1.5m should be plenty... now, go!"

"Yes!"

After confirming that Miduchi had run off I glared at the eyeball bastard again. He's still looking atrocious as usual. I'm sure if I were to release {Anti-Magic Field} here even once I'd die in an instant. I really want to make fighting in close combat while holding my long sword and using {Anti-Magic Field} at the same time my last resort. After all his Magic Reflection takes effect around 50—

60 cm from his body. Since I don't know what will happen if {Anti-Magic Field} touches it, I don't have any method of attacking while maintaining that much distance. I'm sure if I were to jump over the {Anti-Magic Field} even if I stab it, if a beam hits my hand I'd probably die. I raise my speed of moving backwards against thinking I should increase the distance to 30 m or so.

"I did it!"

I heard Miduchi's voice that she's finished the work.

"Alright, standby just like that. I'm going to move into the inner walls so you follow along it as well!"

I threw down the third {Long Duration Light}. Suddenly I looked the left where the pillar is acting as the core of the doughnut and I can see a passage just like here. The passage bends directly to the right and obviously I can't confirm the teleport crystal.

"I'm 5m behind you. I made the wall about 2m to my right."

Miduchi called out to me.

"Alright, pull back at the same speed as me. Just before you can't see me anymore stop. Once I'm hidden behind the wall count to 20 seconds and let me know."

"Yes."

A wall appeared in my field of sight. The eyeball bastard is about 30m ahead.

I quickly hid behind the wall and released {Anti-Magic Field} before using a new magic.

It's a spell I just had Karl teach me at the start of this month. I've still only practiced it using the standard amount of mana but it should be plenty.

"{Delayed Blast Fire Ball}"

Of course it's also possible to use this like a normal {Fire Ball} but it's true worth is that there's no need to fire off the warhead. Or to be more correct you send it flying but since you're just moving it about 1 cm it's not much different from not moving it. You can set the time on the delay before it explodes, and quite literally like a landmine, it's possible to match the timing up for when it

explodes. This time I'm setting the time. After all I can't let go of {Anti-Magic Field}. I was able to create 10 of them in the 20 seconds before Miduchi gave me the signal. I set the timer on all of them to 5 seconds later and then used {Anti-Magic Field} once more before quickly retreating along the inner area of the doughnut.

It seems the eyeball bastard lost sight of me since I was hiding behind the wall but must have guessed I was behind the wall. Without floating around in that spot it kept moving without slowing down over here. It's already in a place about 5m away. 4 more seconds.

It seems to have sent off a beam of light towards me after I appeared from behind the wall and some lightning ran along the surface of my {Anti-Magic Field}. Oh~ I forgot to Identify. It's MP is 51 huh? Alright! Another 3 seconds.

With {Anti-Magic Field} still deployed I quickly retreat. There's only about 2 m between the dirt wall and the inner wall of the doughnut. The only way for it to chase after me is to follow along the outer side of the wall. Of course it could fly over it as well. If it uses Magic Reflection to reflect the wall then that would be even better. Another 2 seconds.

There's also 10m of distance opened between it and myself. Miduchi has grouped back up with me as well. Another 1 second.

Come!

I saw it fly over the dirt wall. The moment before it landed all of my {Delayed Blast Fire Ball}s exploded at once. Along with a loud noise the burning rocks were sent flying all over the place including my direction but were blocked by the {Anti-Magic Field} and disappeared long with the lightning.

There's no choice other than to repel these.

It seems that he's still unharmed. However, just as planned his Magic Reflection changed to 6. It's a success!

When I'm reflexively taking a triumphant pose and,

"Alright! We'll do that once more. Go and make some more dirt walls just the same as before!"

I said that ordering Miduchi and then we started retreating again. While I was at it I threw down the last {Long Duration Light}. It's about time we've done a full lap...

Just like last time I had behind a dirt wall again and this time I used a different spell. If it has emotions then it should be getting quite impatient about right now. If it doesn't have any then I don't mind at all though. Well it would have been fine to do this with the dirt wall just before but it was critical to get the number of uses on his Magic Reflection below 8 uses so it can't be helped. If it's 8 then just one attack of my attack magic will take it out.

"Clone {Mirror Image}"

I activate the spell for 10 seconds or so and 6 clones of myself appeared and ran in both directions out from the wall. Right away one of them took a green beam and disappeared. The second one took a blue beam and disappeared. The third one took a yellow beam and disappeared. The fourth one took a pink beam. The fifth one probably took a transparent one. The sixth one...Isn't disappearing!! I quickly released the {Mirror Image} and used {Anti-Magic Field} once more. After leaving the wall I used Identify. It's MP is 1!

Take that! This rotting eyeball bastard {Rotten.Eye.Ball}!

I wonder if that remaining 1 MP is really just a decimal point? It's just using Floating Beam to keep itself in the air right? One of it's upper tentacles was always facing itself.

I made a ferocious smile with my teeth showing while releasing the {Anti-Magic Field}.

Since it can't do anything, even then it's still trying to float over here and use it's only remaining weapon that is to bite with it's fangs.

I calmly used attack magic.

{Fire Javelin}

Eight {Fire Javelins} went flying towards it's body covered in a chitin shell. Six of them were deflected but the remaining two pierced through it's shell and let off a boiling sound from the structure of it's rotting body cooking. I felt like I could smell the scent when you cook crab or shrimp with an outer shell. I guess

it wasn't its vital point, or in the first place it may not even have a vital point but each hit only did about 100 damage.

"We can already do this. You finish it off."

I said that to Miduchi and she used magic as well.

The same {Fire Javelin}.

However it's only one. Even then the damage is the as mine (that's only obvious though) 100. One more and even further one more. She's already dealt 300 damage to it. Her elemental magic should have leveled up. I thought about identifying her but I should remain watching the eyeball bastard. This thing's HP is still just over 600. Come to think of it when we were up against Franken our damage was strangely low. After it's HP enters the negative I'll try punching it to confirm it.

It's HP smoothly decreases. I'm saying "Another three hits..two hits..for the final one use a weak attack." and giving out instructions to Miduchi, it's HP went to -9. The moment it's HP went into minus the eyeball fell to the ground and stopped moving.

I said "Let me punch it once." and approached the eyeball bastard and then swung down Toris's long sword with all the force in my right hand. HP is -85. I was able to do 76 points of damage. Since it seems like the defense of it's shell is pretty high you could say that's about appropriate. Then, in that case I guess that Franken's original defense was just abnormally high.

"After heating it once more it should completely die. However, wait just a minute. I want to read everything."

I said that and opened all of the sub-windows of the Death=Tyrant.King before reading them.

I see now, it's strong. However, it's certainly not an opponent that can't be beat. Since it was just Miduchi and I this time we were able to win without any victims. If you don't mind victims then if you have a unit of about 50 people and surround it then I'm sure about 30 would be incapacitated but in the end you should be able to beat it from all sides. Though putting it in reverse, if you wanted to get rid of this thing you would need 50 people who all attack it

simultaneously and it's necessary for them to be prepared for more than half to be taken out. If it's a living Eye=Tyrant then I'm sure even more people would be needed but it shouldn't be impossible to kill them. No, I guess even then it's impossible, if it's living it seems they're tremendously intelligent after all.

Hmm...

Well if they end up running into one in the dungeon when I'm not around then I'm sure they'll be wiped out...I guess it's fine.

"Swing your sword a number of times checking the sensation and weight of your sword before you kill it with that. Once you kill it try checking the differences swinging after."

After I said that and Miduchi nodded before repeating swinging her sword a number of times. It seems she's doing something like combo techniques as well. After that she walked close to it and dealt the final blow to the Death=Tyrant.King.

Then she started swinging the sword again, after testing out her combo techniques she seems to have understood.

"Level up was it..I feel like my body has vaguely gotten lighter but it's certain if you don't pay close attention to it you wouldn't notice..Honestly speaking, if I wasn't told about it I definitely don't think I would have noticed it. Even after I was told I was still half in doubt about it."

Just as I predicted, it gave a tremendous amount of experience points. It's level and HP were high, and it had a large serving of special skills after all. It seems it was over 40,000 originally, and since I have the bonuses from the 1% and Gift of Natural Talent, even though I only did about 20% of the damage to it I got around 22,000 experience. If I had been the only one to damage it I'm sure my level would have gone up.

【Alan.Greed/5/3/7429】

【Male/14/2/7428 ▪ Human ▪ Viscount Greed Family Second Son】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 16 Years Old】

【Level: 21】

【HP: 178(178) MP: 4829(7442)】

【Strength: 29】
【Speed: 39】
【Dexterity: 27】
【Endurance: 29】
【Unique Ability: Identify (MAX)】
【Unique Ability: Gift of Natural Talent (MAX)】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic (MAX)】
【Special Ability: Water Magic (MAX)】
【Special Ability: Fire Magic (Lv. 8)】
【Special Ability: Wind Magic (MAX)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic (MAX)】
【Experience: 1358264(1430000)】

【Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol/5/3/7441】
【Female/14/2/7428 ▪ Dark Elf ▪ Lail Kingdom Commoner {Lilac}】
【Status: Good】
【Age: 16 Years Old】
【Level: 11】
【HP: 116(116) MP: 92(257)】
【Strength: 17】
【Speed: 25】
【Dexterity: 20】
【Endurance: 18】
【Unique Ability: Unit Organization (Lv. 6)】
【Special Ability: Infrared Vision】
【Special Ability: Inclination Sensing】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic (Lv. 5)】
【Special Ability: Water Magic (Lv. 5)】
【Special Ability: Fire Magic (Lv. 5)】
【Special Ability: Wind Magic (Lv. 5)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic (Lv. 5)】
【Experience: 172656(210000)】

Now then, since we've finally been able to take a deep breath, there's some important to do. First off is the magic stone. I don't really want to dissect this rotting shell but I can't overlook it.

It took over an hour but we took the magic stone out. It was considerably heavy and a hue that you could almost call it pure white. The value when I identified it was 1...12,345,678..Seriously? If I were to sell it wouldn't that be close to 100,000,000 Z! Rather~ I wonder if a magic tool shop in Baldukk would really buy this? Up until now the most expensive magic stone hasn't even exceeded 4,000,000 Z once. It's suspicious even for the capital.

After that is the main event. There was a magnificent globe shaped crystal that came out from the large center of it's biggest eyeball. It's a big help that it doesn't require being polished but it has a diameter of even over 30 cm. The weight is easily exceed 40Kg and feels like it might even be close to 50Kg. I can't easily carry it around. There's no other choice than to roll it but I don't want to damage it.

I wonder if there's no other choice than to do it here...

I don't think a new boss will appear for at least 10 hours but I think we should at least go one floor above.

Also, it's only obvious but there was nothing else that was worth anything. I thought there might be crystals inside of the eyeballs on the tentacles but that wasn't the case and they were just filled with a gooey gray fluid.

We tried investigating the room in the hole in the center of the doughnut but after all the teleport crystal rod was standing on a pedestal there. However, there was no incantation floating in it. I wonder if that means this is the lowest floor and you can't proceed any further than here so there's no other choice than to return to the surface? We went through quite a bit of labor to carry the crystal ball over and I somehow managed to hold it with one hand while holding the crystal rod together with Miduchi and chanted the incantation.

"Return us."

.....

The location we teleported to was the corner of a teleport crystal room that I haven't seen before. The walls were made of rocks almost like sandstone and there was fine sand along the floor making it a bit hard to walk. However, it should cause any damage to the crystal and this place should be safe for the time being. I guess you could even say it's suitable for the urgent business. I

exchanged glances with Miduchi and I guess all of our tension up until then dispersed, we both fell backwards exhausted on the floor. Since the place we fell backwards to is the same white walls of the dungeon and a ceiling of about 10 m that gives off light there's no need to use {Light} anymore.

The sand that's a bit of distance away from us giving off a light the further the distance it is from us but it still looks like each individual grain is giving off a shining light so it even has a sort of illustrious beauty to it.

It would be fine after we return to the surface as well but I doubt anyone would hear things here.

I lean my back against the wall and placed the crystal ball on my right side. On my left Miduchi stretched out her legs in the same way.

"Since we can finally relax and talk..Let's talk about the things we were holding back on until now.."

After I said that and Miduchi hung her head down a bit,

"Yes.."

and said that in a small voice.

"Since I didn't know when it would come to combat until now I intentionally didn't try asking...I didn't want to cause any disturbance in you after all. If it's something you can talk about then I'll listen. Though I won't force you to say it.."

".."

Miduchi isn't saying anything.

"Well it's fine. I can imagine it for the most part. I've heard about that "Rank 1 Warrior class" being an assassin job after all...You were attacking the party of Rokis, the son of some noble right?"

"That is...Umm.."

After hearing my words Miduchi looked at me once but quickly hung her head down again. Positive huh?

"..It's not like I'm angry over it. That's your job right? Godu~guru-san was it? You need medicine for your older brother right?"

“..Yes.”

Miduchi responded with a voice that was about to disappear.

“How much do you need?”

“Eh?”

“That’s why I said, how much do you need to buy that medicine?”

After hearing my question Miduchi hanged her head down and said in a whisper.

“..Twice a day, he needs to drink medicine, made from a special mushroom called Rakuhogg, it costs 10,000 Z..It costs 7,200,000 Z per year. Even then my older brother’s body just keeps getting weaker..If my uncle and aunt hadn’t been taking care of him he already wouldn’t be able to walk on his own. That’s why, if I don’t take on lots of jobs there’s no way for me to buy the medicine..you’ll look down on me right. I’m killing people all over the place to save my older brother. I’ve already long since gotten numb to it, I can kill without even thinking anything. I’m a murderer.”

It seems it’s true that as long as you pay money Dark Elves will take on assassination jobs. It was a rumor I had heard in a bar so I didn’t put much trust in it.

“Even I’ve killed people as well. I wouldn’t particularly think anything about that at this point. Don’t worry about it.”

“But..”

“There’s no but or anything about it..I’m sure it was painful up until now..”

“Eh? I’ve never thought killing people itself was painful. Since I was educated and trained that way after all.”

Miduchi said with a confused tone of voice. What was that, really~ Even though I thought to comfort her with a bit of a good feeling to it and it’s this. Even further Miduchi,

“Though it was painful since I remembered the life of Shiina Junko, and there’s such a large difference in values and how we’ve spent our lives. If I just remained Miduchi then it’s true I had various complaints but I had already come

to terms with killing people as a job so I didn't think anything about it."

and declared that. I see.

"Here, you can have this. Take it with you. If the value is normal then it should be close to 100,000,000 Z. If it's you then you should be able to sell it directly to the country right?"

I said that and gave her the magic stone of the Death=Tyrant.King that we gathered.

"Eh? But.."

"It's fine. Even if I held onto it I don't have any place I can sell it. In the first place, you dealt most of the damage to it."

"..Thank you very much. It's a big help."

After receiving the magic stone Miduchi courteously lowered her head.

"Yeah, don't worry about it."

I said that and continued my words.

"And, did you finish up your job with Rokis?"

"..Yes. I was finally able to finish him off. The job this time" "It's fine, you don't need to say that far. However, let me ask one thing. How were you able to specify Rokis's location inside of the dungeon?"

Up until then Miduchi had been looking at me but she faced ahead of her and looked at the teleport crystal rod.

She casts her head down a bit and takes a deep breath, before finally, clearly speaking.

"..It's hard to say....I seduced one of his party members."

While I was quietly looked at Miduchi's face and a slightly unexpected response came back.

"Seduced you say, you did?"

I really can't imagine Shiina being able to do it but I guess that means that if it's Miduchi she can calmly do it.

“Even if I’m like this I’m still an Elf after all. In my hometown I’m considered unsightly but my face isn’t all that bad right? And, just look, my breasts are unusually large for an elf after all..”

She said that a bit embarrassed and made a sad smile. A single line of tears was shed down the side of her face from the direction she was facing me. She sure does cry often. It’s true her breasts are plenty above a D cup and are quite large for a 16 year old Elf. However, if you were to see Bel you’d fall over backwards.

“..I’m dirty..And I used the Unique Ability I used on you today to form a party with them. Of course I made it so the man I seduced couldn’t tell my location from his end. I laid in wait in the 1st and 2nd floors. While hiding in the darkness I got rid of them using throwing darts and the blowgun. I used magic as well..”

“I see..How does it feel when you can tell the location of party members that are on a different floor in the dungeon?”

I wanted to change the topic.

“I don’t know.”

“Eh?”

I wasn’t expecting this response. What does she mean she doesn’t know?

“The dungeon is a strange place. I can only determine the location of members who are on the same floor. I can tell if they’re on a different floor or outside of the dungeon but I can’t tell what direction or how much distance there is.”

“Hmn..”

There’s nothing more to ask than this. It’s fine as long as the mystery is solved. And, I didn’t want to listen to anymore, I don’t want to see anymore of the pained face she’s making.

“I see, got it. And..”

I grabbed Miduchi’s arm as she was sitting on my left and pulled her over to me.

“If you don’t like it then say, just as you wished, from now on you’re my

woman.”

Her forked tongue moved passionately inside of my mouth...

Simultaneously I dug out my wallet from my large pocket on the right thigh of my pants.

I only have one, damn it...However..this is..I guess this is the suspension bridge effect? No, the dangerous has long since passed. Well, now that it's come to this it doesn't matter at all.

.....

“That was my first kiss.”

“I see.”

So the blood of dark elves is blood as well. The blood has rushed to her head and her cheeks are a light pink color. No, it might be more correct to say light red-purple.

“Thank you very much.”

“Don't say something like thanks.”

We were laying on top of the fine sand while talking. Miduchi has her head on my left arm and is facing here while wrapping her left leg and left arm around me.

“After this is, about me, probably about both of us. Have you heard of a spell called {Report}?”

I shifted my body facing the left and looked at Miduchi's face from the front.

“{Report}? No, I've never heard about it.”

I'm sure. I'm sure it's necessary to confirm first here. I've tried coming up with random excuses in order to use {Anti-Magic Field} on the heads of each one of the reincarnated people in my party a number of times but not one has the light in my hand disappeared. During those times I convinced myself that “It's not like they would have the magic cast on them forever. I'm sure it's just a time they aren't using it.” However, right now I'm confident of it.

“Just watch.”

I used the bare minimum {Anti-Magic Field} with my right hand and held it to my head while concentrating on the {Report}.

I look at Miduchi's face who's eyes have gone wide seeing the things that occurred in front of her and I use {Anti-Magic Field} once more while holding my hand to her Miduchi's head and tried concentrating on the {Report} that should be cast on her. Just as I predicted, the {Anti-Magic Field} lost it's effect and dispersed along with a small flash of electricity.

I brought that hand just like that before Miduchi's eyes.

Miduchi has her eyes wide open while looking at the palm of my hand in front of her in shock.

"It should be related to your memory loss as well. There were a lot of things you remembered once you saw my face right? I've forgotten about a number of things as well.."

I guess my words as I was calmly talking didn't enter Miduchi's ears,

"Eh? This..Magic is cast on..."

and was whispering in a daze. I'm sure it's only obvious you would be dumbfounded over it.

"Hey, for now put your clothes on. This magic called {Report} is troublesome and you know.."

.....

We spent a bit over ten minutes putting our equipment on while I explained the details of the spell {Report}. Miduchi was so surprised over things that she couldn't say anything. It's not unreasonable.

"And there, that's where {Detect Magic User} and {Telepathy} come in. I don't know if it's alright to call it by chance, or whatnot, but I was able to get my hands on a splendid crystal ball to use as the catalyst. I can already use both of these spells myself. Prepare your resolve, I'm going to use them."

"Eh? Wai..Wait just a minute. That can't be, so suddenly..It's a {God} or a {Demi-God} right? At least let me prepare myself mentally."

She said in a panic interrupting me.

“Prepare yourself mentally? Something like that, always make sure it’s prepared. So you don’t panic when the time comes. I’m starting.”

I said that and started to concentrate on the spell, kneading in the necessary mana. A shining light started to come out from the center of the crystal ball.

Miduchi is looking at the radiant crystal ball as well.

Gradually the radiance from the crystal ball calms down and something like an image of a marble pattern of yellow, or violet, or some limp black appeared and turned into a steady single image..What is this?

Chapter 131: Love

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 28

The image that was shown in the crystal ball in the end was the single color of black. Even though I say that it's not like something like a pitch black piece of paper is showing but rather something like bristle. It might be closest to say it's something like the black fur from the surface of some kind of animal. What is, this? The image of the camera is too close. Once I thought that it's started to slowly zoom out.

Some kind of soft looking surface of skin like velvet and it feels like thick hairs are growing all over the place? Zoom out some more. Even more. The image being transmitted to the crystal ball from the camera (or something like that) is extremely slowly moving backwards from the target as I try to command it to in my head.

"What is it? This?"

Miduchi is raising her voice in doubt but something like that, I want to know.

It's zooming out at such a slow speed that it's irritating and finally the surface of the body which the hairs were growing has started to take shape. The left and right sides of the image were cut. The hairs seemed to have been growing off of something like a rod? The rod like thing with hairs on it..Is this a leg? This, is the leg of some kind of insect.

"Huh? No matter where you look from it's the same image.."

He~ Is that so?

The number of legs increased. Since I don't have anything to compare it to in the image I can't tell the size of it at all. The range that's being projected is gradually stretching out...What was it again, that's right, I guess you could say it's something like a large black spider a {Tarantula}. It has hair growing after all. The large ones can get up to like 30 cm when they stretch their legs out. In the past I saw them on a nature program with my wife. Yeah, it was just like this.

I've started to get it.

Miduchi is looking at the crystal ball with a strange face.

"What is it?"

"Ah, no~ it's nothing. But..Ah..Aah~!"

"Do you have any idea what it is?"

"It's the symbol of my country."

"?"

The camera has considerably backed away so I can tell quite a bit. This is an insect..rather a spider. It's the legs of a spider. It's showing the lower body starting from the legs of a spider. The image in the crystal ball shows four legs on each side and there's something like long white hairs along the hairline so I can't tell for sure...But, this is strange? If I remember correctly the legs of spiders are supposed to grow from it's chest towards the grown and they stretch out at the joints, but it seems this is different. I feel like something is growing directly out of the surface but can't tell for sure. However, rather than something like that for it to have been a spider...

"Is it this thing? This thing used {Report}..."

I've spent countless years living on Orth and for these past two years I've lived as an adventurer I've seen a number of different monsters. I had confidence I wouldn't be surprised by most things but this surprised me. I mean, it's a spider. Are you saying a spider used magic?

Is what I was thinking but as it gradually continued to zoom out I've started to get it.

This thing, it's a spider but not just a normal spider.

I noticed that I was entranced in looking at that appearance. Neither Miduchi nor could utter a single word. Let alone that, before I noticed it Miduchi was prostrating herself towards the image in the crystal ball. Do-geza-r*. There's someone's back growing from the back of the the spider legs!

Then in that case, there's mistake this person is the one who used {Report} on us. Then in that case, I should use {Telepathy} here. I immediately started

kneading the mana. Since it was such a large crystal ball I forgot but this spell {Detect Magic User} is on a time limit. That's why once you use it, until the duration ends it will remain cast, though thanks to that you can use other spells during that time.

Finally I was able to see almost the entire image from the camera. It feels like it's showing the image of a person sitting holding their knees from behind. No, even if I say person it's not a human. That is..a Dark Elf. The long pure white hair growing from their head is covering all over their body because they're facing downwards and the amount of it was enough to cover down to the legs of the tarantula. The length goes down to just above the waist. Since their back is bent over and their posture is facing down right now, if they were to properly stand up and stretch their back out it would probably go down to their butt.

The spider legs are stretching out as if hiding the shape of the body but from the skin that can be seen here and there you can tell there's some curves and you can see the waist line as well. It's easy to tell it's a woman from behind. Since they're hidden by their hair the ears can't be seen but judging from that deep purple skin color close to black there's no way they can't be a Dark Elf. Most likely they're hiding their face in their hands that are crossed in front of their knees, the camera moves irritatingly slow as it moves horizontally but since the face is still hidden I can't see it. Incidentally, since it's not directly showing in my eyes there was no effect from Identify.

Beautiful.

It's become a common expression but I thought they were a beautiful.

I can't tell their face but just those limbs are plenty.

Simultaneously it was like I was hit with an electric currency, it suddenly flashed into my head.

{God}, {Demi-God}...

After all this is, this person is one of them.

It was to the point where I forgot about Miduchi who was still prostrating herself to the ground next to me for a moment but I somehow was able to regain my composure and start fortifying my resolve as I knead mana. My

{Telepathy} spell is finally completed.

“{Telepathy}”

I can tell that a line for talking was opened between myself and the target in my head.

I could see the Dark Elf in the crystal ball flinch in reaction.

.....

I started talking to the Dark Elf woman who's gradually started to raise her face in the crystal ball using {Telepathy}. Obviously it's necessary for me to say the words with my mouth while speaking.

“I'm sorry for suddenly calling out to you. My name is Alan Greed. I would like for you to listen to my conversation for a bit but..”

Do you have time right now? Or is it fine? are things I can't really afford to say. If they were to say “No” then that would be the end of the conversation after all.

“Don't wake # \$, I was sleeping (. I'm still looking at dream = ~ Nn? {Common Language} huh..”

A displeased voice echoed into my head. However, in the next moment, my eyes went wide open and I was at a loss for words.

“Eh? Alan? Alan Greed!?”

The Dark Elf said that and suddenly raised their face.

That face was,

It's certainly that of a goddess,

or rather could be said to that,

from what I could see in their late 20s,

..However,

..There was some Japanese mixed into it,

..Reincarnated person!?

No,

This person is,

This person is,

Rather,

This is,

There's no way I could forget,

Someone I could never forget,

"Miki!!"

I couldn't help but grasp the crystal ball on the sand in front of me with both of my hands.

.....

I guess she noticed from my sudden shout, I noticed Miduchi flinched next to me but I was way beyond that at the moment. My head is filled with chaos. Why, is Miki's face on that Dark Elf with legs like a tarantula? Even if it is Miki she looks more than 10 years older than us. Since she heard my name and reacted to it she should know about me. Since she used the spell {Report} it's certain she must have had some sort of interest in me. Come to think of it with Miduchi I just..I wonder if that's cheating? However, 16 years have already passed. It's to the point where recently I can only remember Miki's face from the time around when we got married when it left the greatest impression on me.

"Alan Greed.. "Takeo-san?" ..{Telepathy} huh.."

While giving off a type of bizarre ambiance that could be called divine, she distorted her posture and fixed the way she was sitting.

I only noticed at that point but it seems that the lower parts of her legs from below the knees have fused together with the stone floor. I somehow thought that the portions below her knees had become something like a strange plant growing from the stone ground.

"Miki..Is it you? It's me!"

I grabbed on to the crystal ball from both sides and while standing on one

knee I couldn't help but raise my voice.

"Dear, is it you? Takeo-san? From where?"

"Face to the left, show me your face better."

After the Dark Elf looked over here, I couldn't help but think I was looking at Miki's face from the front. The mole just below her left eye. And the other mole that's just below her right lip that have changed to a creepy purple color. And three moles that are in a triangle in the center of her chest between her breasts and jaw. Of course just like Miduchi her face isn't exactly the same face as Miki's that I remember. There's some elf mixed in and her face has become more beautiful but her skin is even deeper purple than Miduchi and the eerie color is the same. Her hair is certainly beautiful but it wouldn't be wrong to call it pure white. However, that is, Miki. I was confident of it but after seeing her from the front it changed to strong confidence.

"Eh? Miki you say..Eh? Isn't it "her majesty Lilus"? Eh?"

Miduchi is still prostrating herself while whispering in a daze.

"Wh..y, you..Why.."

While I was getting distracted, the appearance of Miki shown in the crystal ball regained her composure and even smiled while calmly speaking.

"That's amazing. So you noticed it. And, this, you're watching with {Detect Magic User} right? I'm amazed you knew it. You must have given your best."

"A, ah.."

"I want to meet you. But, I can't move from here anymore...And, probably... Rather than that, first I need to tell you right. My name now is Lilus. Lilus.Zugutomore."

"Lilus..Zugutomo~re?"

I repeat the name she just said like an idiot.

"After all! Your majesty Lilus! Al-san, please lower your head!"

After hearing my words Miduchi grabbed on to my arm.

"Ah, Eh? It's fine, it's alright."

“There’s someone else there right?”

Miki said.

“Ah? Yeah, it’s Shiina. Do you remember? She was my subordinate. A number of times together with..”

“..I remember. It’s “Chizumagurol” right? I know her well.”

“Eh? Why?”

“For just a moment, tell Shiina-san to put her hand to her forehead and say “anku”. It will make it so I talk to with her. You directly touch Shiina-san as well.”

“Miduchi, put your hand to your forehead, and say “anku”.”

“Y..Yes.”

After hearing my words Miduchi pulled something out of her pocket in a panic and made a pose like she was praying with it to her forehead.

“Can you hear with this? If you can hear then would you respond?”

Miki said that. These were words aimed at Miduchi I guess.

“Wa, Waha..Is it “Li, Lilus your majesty”? I..Iam..Eh? Japanese? Eh?”

A portion of her words were in the language here but when she was questioned in Japanese, Miduchi was surprised after responding in Japanese and seems to have understood quickly before continuing her words.

“I am the “Rank 1 Warrior class Midu~ritt.Chizmagurol”. “Your majesty”. I’m humbly pleased to be able to greet you. Since my current mission has been completed, I will return to “Erurehei” rig“It’s already fine, Shiina-san. I’m sorry.”

“Eh? Huh? Eh?”

Miki cut in partway through Miduchi’s words and Shiina-Miduchi is confused.

“Shiina-san. I am..Kawasaki Miki. The woman that was, the wife of Kawasaki who is there. I was happy when you were in “Erurehei”..but, I’m sorry. The one who sealed your memories was me. I had a premonition that a reincarnation would occur and I waited countless years. This time for sure...The moment you were born, I immediately peeked into your dreams when your consciousness

was still hazy. There was my husband, when I saw Takeo-san. I couldn't endure it. I unintentionally, looked at everything stealing them. Japan was so nostalgic, the one who sealed everything was me. I'm really sorry. In the distant past, the person I loved...About Takeo-san you too...But, judging off your appearance it seems you've remembered a bit. I know it's strange for me to say, but I'm glad."

".."

Neither Shiina or I could say anything.

"Probably, you don't have much time right? I really do feel sorry but please allow me to leave apologizing at this. I'll tell you as much as I can. Since I don't have any time either."

"Hey! you, what are"Dear, sorry. But for now please listen. If I remember correctly, it was just before I was about to turn 70 years old, so it was around 20 years after Takeo-san had passed away. I went on a trip together with Rentaro-kun and his children and along with the Yuji and Naoko-san couple. When Rentaro-kun's children were about to get into an accident I saved them and died."

Yuji was Miki's younger brother and Rentaro-kun was his son, in other words our nephew. When I died he had just become a middle school student. Since we didn't have any kids we were quite affectionate towards Rentaro. We doted on him so much that Yuji-kun and his wife had to stop us sometimes.

"When I realized it I had been reborn on Orth. Far in the east, in a country of elves called Robans that no longer exists. I think it was around 1,300 years ago from now that I was reborn on Orth. Well since I was an old woman I only thought that it was lucky I was able to be reborn. They've long since died already but I got married and gave birth to children as well."

I see, so she was able to have children..That's great. I felt a bit of tears come to my eyes.

"There were various inconveniences but you could say I was happy. But, when I was out hunting together with the girls of the house next door my village was attacked by the army of a neighboring country. When we returned two days later from hunting it was in a terrible state. My husband and child died at that time. My child had still only just turned two years old."

...

“Those of us who survived swore for revenge. We organized a resistance and opposed the Kingdom of Myurushia that had invaded. I was somehow able to make it through thanks to my Unique Ability but it took me 10 years to destroy Myurushia. Around that point the only one remaining alive from my village was me alone. But, I guess you could call it reparations, or a reward for that, I was no longer a normal person. I was released from the realms of {mortality} and became an {immortal}. Though I say that it’s not like I had become invulnerable. After that I ended up marrying another {immortal} named Zugutomore.”

I’m sure my mouth is hanging wide open.

“I’ll summarize it since it would get long but since I wasn’t able to have a child with Zugutomore, Zugutomore went into a rage and was about to kill me, so I killed Zugutomore first. After that, various things happened and I moved to the west of Oladd and decided to settle down there. After that a considerable amount of time passed..700 years, no, I think it was around 800 years ago. In the form of inheriting the deaths of two {Greater Deities} named Sharaizudan and Neral I turned into a Dark Elf and a {Demi-God}. In other words, I’m the original ancestor for the Dark Elves and Shiina-san could be said to be one of my distant descendants.”

I’m sure that Shiina’s mouth is wide open as well.

“And, even more various things happened and we arrive at the present but starting from here is the main story. Listen well. Though there might be some things you already know. Everyone who is reborn is endowed with a certain amount of disposition. The easiest thing to understand is probably the “Unique Ability”. Also, level up. When the ability level of “Unique Abilities” reach their highest level, MAX their hidden ability is released. Whether you know or don’t know this will become the small deciding difference so make sure you don’t forget it. After that, there’s growth to mana, but it seems you realized it so that should be fine.”

It seems like she knows everything.

“It seems like you know a reasonable amount about these things. After that is the reincarnations from Japan. It happens once every couple hundred years,

people from various eras in Japan are reborn. The only ones I know from modern day Japan is you two and myself though. Did you know? The one who created Rombert Kingdom is Minamoto no Yoshitsune who died in Kinugawa. I've met and talked to him before. It seems that Benkei from the same era was reborn as well but he seems to have died before meeting Yoshitsune."

Wh, what was that?!? Ah, come to think of it Karl said something like Kurojo. I guess that was the Kuro Hogan of Kurojo?

"There was several other people as well. Of the famous ones Yagyu Mitsuyoshi reincarnated as well. Though I killed him directly myself. It seems that occasionally there's times when several dozen people are reborn all at once as well. In that case, it's often that the Unique Abilities are distributed so what I just said might become considerably important. Fundamentally when all of the people who possess Unique Abilities dies and a number of years pass another person is reborn."

You, just now, said something pretty outrageous.

"Then, you, don't have a Unique Ability?"

"I said it at the start right. I have one. It seems I'm not included in the count anymore since I became a {Demi-God}. Up until then the period where there was one or two people was the longest. In any case, it's something important. Don't forget it. If the level of Unique Abilities increases then their hidden abilities are released. Even if your Unique Ability is known, whether you know this or not the superiority is decided, so make sure you definitely don't forget it."

"Yeah."

"It might be about a good time. I'm in Erurehei. But, I think I'm going to die already pretty soon. I'm somehow able to maintain my appearance and youth but my mana is about at it's limit. I probably won't even last another few more days I think."

"Eeh!!?"

Hey! What does that mean!?

"Also, even if I say I'll die that doesn't mean I'll perish. In another several

years, several decades, or depending on how things go even several hundred years I can revive. That's why there's no need to worry about me right now. After all I'm a {Demi-God}. However, it's impossible for a while. I'm looking forward to meeting again. But, right now there's no time, so please listen carefully. Shiina-san, I'm really sorry. Just before I was about to die you were born right below me, so I ended up losing myself. You two had plans to meet up after the accident right? I continued to use the spell {Report} starting from Lail increasing the distance looking for you. I was finally able to find you five years ago. I slowly and gradually aligned to your consciousness. But, I'm sure I caused some trouble for you by causing you to forget various things right? I'm sorry."

Miki said apologetically while lowering her head in a different direction.

"After that, Shiina-san. I'm sorry about peeking into your heart at my own convenience but please look after this person. I'm sure it's not something that can easily be forgiven but, please, please I'm leaving it in your care."

"Such a thing, those words are a waste for someone like me, no, but..Lilus..Miki-san, madam. I, I am.."

It's fine if you don't say it. Though it's also fine if you say it. But, in that case I'll say it.

"Miki, right now Shiina, is my woman. I didn't think you would be in this world after all.."

"Yeah, that's right. When I saw Shiina-san and you a short while ago I thought that might end up the case. If it's between two people who reincarnated then they can have children even across different races. Since I've seen countless people I already know. It's a normal child though. It would be good if you can have a child as well. They're cute...It seems I'm at my limit. Normally {Demi-God}s aren't allowed to concern themselves with {mortals}. It's fine to one-sidedly peek, give orders, or kill them but conversation is no good. Because it ends up providing too much information. I've somehow been trying to make sure that it isn't exposed but it's really about to get bad already."

"Shiina-san. It's a bit of something business related but I'll tell you about it. If you want to pass your opinion with the elders then in front of them say anku and sing the Japanese national anthem. It's just a bit but I think it will be of help

to you. However it's only while in Erurehei. If you say you were called in front of the royal palace and sing there it will be fine. I'll do as much as I can in my remaining time. Lail Kingdom is my child. Since it's my precious, child after all. I'll do something about the royal road construction of paradise plans as well. After that, Takeo-san, when you're meeting with the fairies teleport from below. While you sing the Japanese national anthem. That's the incantation for teleporting. I'm sure that associating with them is difficult but they're fundamentally righteous existences unlike me so I think they'll teach you various things. Think carefully before you reveal your "Unique Ability" to anyone. Particularly the "Identify" type. Even if there's a temporary discord there's a high possibility you'll end up gaining the trust of your allies in the end but in the worst case if the information is exposed they're the first ones who are targeted. Since there's no such thing as a magic to make up for that. If among your enemies someone pays my country a lot of money to assassinate you unless there's a considerable reason they can't turn it down after all. Also, be careful of the reincarnations in Devas Kingdom. One day an obstacle for you"

It seems we ran out of time.

A crack appeared in the crystal ball and just as I thought it had turned to dust even that dust disappeared without a trace.

Miduchi and I couldn't do anything but stare at that spectacle in a daze.

It seems that Miki had already realized my dream several hundred years ago.

I feel both mortified and happy.

I put my arm around Miduchi's shoulder while I'm unable to hold back the smile that naturally came to my face.

It was a nostalgic and warm feeling.

It's true that several memories were sealed.

Miduchi even had almost all of the memories of her life sealed away.

However, while I don't know how Miduchi feels about it, I'm not angry.

My wife had become a God before I realized it and even just a bit tried to help me out.

It's plenty if I understand that much.

Even if it's impossible right now, I won't be able to show a good face if I'm not at least a King by the next time I meet her.

In order for you to feel as proud as your first husband does.

Chapter 132: Surface

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 28

While looking at the remains of the crystal ball that crumbled and scattered I contemplated for a short period before trying to use {Anti-Magic Field} as if I remembered it. On both my head and Miduchi's head the blue spell light continued to shine.

"Well, that is, how do I put it, it's weird for me to say but sorry about that."

I showed my hand with the light still on it while saying.

"..It's fine. Since I'm still alive like this..and I understand the madams feelings as well. She wasn't able to tell us about it in detail but she reincarnated in an era 1,300 years ago...Soon after getting married and having a child an army from a foreign country invaded and I'm sure she lost her family them...After that I don't know what happened..She lived for several hundred years and even made it to a {Demi-God}...And then another countless hundreds of year. It was at that time that I was born right near her, at first she might have just felt like confirming a bit but after peeking inside of my memories you were there. I'm sure, it was nostalgic, and a variety of emotions suddenly overflowed as she indulged in and looked through everything."

That's true but the one who was the direct victim of it was you right...

"It's not like I have the experience of living a life like that so it's not like I'd really know but...But, I think that surely that's the case. Like it's not unreasonable, and can't be helped. If she saw all of my memories then she should have been able to imagine that you reincarnated as well. I think that it was quite difficult."

That is~ not a hard amount of time and work to imagine. And, after spending several years she finally found me I'm sure.

".."

“..”

“Thanks for thinking like that.”

“No..”

Miduchi looked downwards. She might be saying that but I’m sure her feelings are a mess.

I have no right to say anything more though. Even if it wasn’t my intention it’s a partner I was separated from 16 years ago. Furthermore, 1,300 years have passed for Miki, honestly speaking I’m just happy she still remembered and cared about me.

“By the way, Miki..Is Lilus a proper King?”

It’s nothing I particularly need to ask about right now but I wanted to change the topic.

“It’s my first time seeing her majesty’s face. According to the stories I’ve heard the last time the elders..the elders are like the ministers of Lail Kingdom but the last time they met her was far in the past as well. I’ve even heard that the current elders haven’t directly met her.”

So she wasn’t. No, I guess it’s not a problem if the country is still properly being managed even like that.

“Hmn..Let me hear some stories about Lail Kingdom. I’ll tell you all of the things I know about Rombert Kingdom as well..”

.....

I think we probably continued talking for another 2–3 hours. Our stomachs finally started growling so we decided to return to the surface. I guess it’s just after noon right now? I’m sure everyone is worried.

“You’re, returning to your country right? Around how far away is it? When do you think you’ll be able to return?”

“Erurehei..Mount Kinru is 1000Km away from here, so it’s not that much. But it’s still considerably far. I think if the trip on a horse is favorable then it takes around 4 weeks? There’s quite a few mountain paths after all.”

It's quite far. since I was suddenly curious about it I tried asking midway through the conversation.

"Do you have a horse? If you don't the "It's alright. I have a horse. I've left it in the care of my inn right now. I'll dispose of the magic stone I received when I return to my country..retire from my job..confirm the condition of my brother, and if everything is good I would like to return right away but.."

"Do you feel bad for your older brother? Seeing Miki, no the King..and she was going to die wasn't it.."

"I think I would like to return as fast as possible but.."

Miduchi said with a slightly serious face and depressed voice.

"I'll still be here in Baldukk for the time being. We might not even be able to reach this floor in a year or so..not that I know what floor it is though."

".."

"That's why, don't worry about it. It would be good if your older brother gets better."

"..Yes..But, even though we finally met again..be..because of my circumstances.."

Don't make a face like that.

"It's fine. Rather than me right now worry about yor brother..Alright! Let's go!"

I stood up cheerfully to try and remove the slightly depressing atmosphere and stretched my hand out to Miduchi. Miduchi's hand was hard from the sword callouses.

.....

"Return us."

How many times we have teleported up until just now again?
One..Two..Three...

"Nn..Since when was Unit Organization cut? Isn't that strange?"

Since we were dazed out in the process of repeating teleportation to the

upper floors I didn't notice it.

"Huh? Come to think of it.."

By the time we realized the effect of Miduchi's Unit Organization had been cut off.

I guess because Miduchi was spacing out?

"Well, it's fine since we're leaving already though."

"Wa, Yes..But, that..I'll use it once more."

"Nn, we'll it's fine. Let's go, "Return us.""

I think we probably teleported one floor higher. I can recognize this room. I guess that means the teleport room we were just in was the 7th floor?

"This is..I've come here several times. It's the teleport room on the 6th floor..If we teleport using rod then we should be on the 5th floor next."

"..In, other words, I guess that means we fell down to the 14th floor?"

"Probably. If I felt like it I still have the map so I'm sure I could get there again from the 3nd floor but..I'm already sick of mana exhaustion. Though it might not drain your mana if you teleport from the 13th floor. That place is.."

Even if all our members carry enough food and jump in from the {warp hole} in the bottom of the pitfall, I'm sure it would just be the start of an orgy. Putting aside the other guys there's no way I could make Zenom and Ralpa do that. They might end up killing themselves.

"In any case, let's return to the surface right and get something to eat. I'll introduce you to everyone."

Miduchi hung her head down for a bit before opening her mouth.

"..No, let's split up here. I'll rest here for a bit to kill some time and then return to the surface. I'll properly greet everyone once again when I return. Early tomorrow morning I'll leave Baldukk from the road to the East."

...

"I see, got it. In the worst case if it takes time for you to return and I'm no

longer in Baldukk, my older sister is in the first knight group in the capital. Her name is Milhaia. Don't forget. Also, I said it before but I have a company in the capital. If you fight a patrol guard and ask them the location of Greed Company I'm sure they'll tell you where it is. Either way is fine so show this there and use my name and you can rely on them. If I end up leaving here then I'll tell both of them my destination before going. I'll go to the exit of the Eastern road tomorrow morning at dawn. At least let me see you off."

I said that and handed the Marquis Webdos's plate that I always had on me to Miduchi. The date it was issued (Year 7442, Month 4, Day 13) and the Marquis's signature is carved into it. And I gave her my name with the chipped blade. I'm sure the people of Bakuddo know that knife belonged to me. It's not particularly high quality but in the past, it's the name I've been using since before I cut off my own appendix.

After watching her precious put those away in her bag, we kissed lightly once more and I teleported myself.

..So this is the sensation of Unit Organization across floors huh...It's true that the direction and distance suddenly become vague and you can't tell anything but that you're in the same sort of structure.

.....

The time was around 4pm when I left the dungeon. When the guard of the tax official Church-san recognized me he was openly surprised, and I'm sure it was intentional, he raised a loud voice.

"Isn't that Greed-san from the {Slaughterers}? So you were alright!"

Uwa, what's with that publicity?

"Eh? Didn't he die?"

"I heard he was killed by a monster."

"Aaah!! It's true!"

"The path, open up the path!!"

"Isn't he doing fine? Who was it, the guy who said he was heavily injured."

"Master!"

"Shit..He isn't dead after all!"

"{Slaughterers}! Amazing~!"

“We can hold out hope as well right!”

“Hey, what in the world is going on here!?”

Since it wasn't a time when there was a lot of people around it was that much of an uproar but I was surrounded by a reasonable number of people.

“Greed-san, your allies returned early this morning. Everyone, left me a message saying if you return to please come to the inn right away. It seems like it was quite difficult.”

I guess this person extended his shift past noon just to tell me that?

“Church-san, thank you very much. I'll immediately return to my inn.”

I replied while grasping the hand he stretched out to me and politely lowered my head. After raising my head again I saluted him and turned around to start walking the road to the inn. The crowd surrounding me opened up the path.

Zulu and Giberuti were standing at the end of the opened path. Since the path finally opened up they came running to my side.

““Master!””

“It seems I worried you two. Sorry about that. Is everyone safe? Zulu, is your injury already fine?”

I look down at the two kneeling before me while saying.

“Yes, everyone..is safe. It seems that I was healed by Koloil-sama and Ral. I'm already fine.”

I don't know if he's overcome with emotion but Zulu said that while choked up. However, you, really can't be called alright. Since Bel only just learned {Cure Serious} it should take her quite a bit of time to activate it. I'm sure they just covered it up by overlapping {Cure Light} right. Even your HP is only at 92.

“Here..”

I crouched down to Zulu and used {Cure All} on him. Since healing magic had already been used on him his HP recovered to full.

“I'm hungry. Let's go.”

I said that and smiled at the two of them.

Zulu made a face like he was greatly relieved and Giberuti was considerably pleased.

On the way back to the inn I asked the two of them what happened after that. I bought four pork skewers from a stall and I'm putting the meat and fat filled with nourishment into my stomach.

"After master fell into the trap, I ended up taking a powerful hit and was knocked out."

Zulu said apologetically. Then, I wonder how they defeated that Franken? Though in the end I managed to use the spell {Cure All} on Toris at the limit, Toris should have had bone fractures in both his arm and his leg. For a while, at least for half a day he shouldn't have been able to decently move from the pain. Did Gwine finish it off? Or did Bel shoot it with arrows through the door? Thinking that I tried asking Giberuti. Since he was outside of the bars he should have calmly seen it.

"After master fell into the hole Zulu-sama was knocked unconscious. Since Kalstalan-sama had been badly injured he couldn't properly move and there was no effect from magic. Since it was suspicious whether throwing the axe or our remaining weapons were having any effect it was only Koloil-sama's bow. We weren't able to do anything but cheer on Gwine. However, there, Kalstalan-sama let out a war cry of "ooo!!" after picking up master's short spear that was on the ground and attacked the {Flesh Golem} together with Gwine!"

So this guy has talent as an actor as well. He reported it to me one bit at a time with quite a bit of presence and feeling. Quite an amusing fellow. However, of all things. Though in the end I had used healing magic on him, he still should have had a fractured arm and leg. I'm amazed he was able to move even through that pain. Toris's willpower is quite something.

"I guess the {Flesh Golem} was already considerably weakened. When the thrusts from both of them stabbed through back and front and it stopped moving just like that. After that, Kalstalan-sama seemed out of energy because of the pain and couldn't properly move. Zulu still had no consciousness. Gwine stabbed into the golem like crazy and Koloil-sama kept shooting arrows into it half in a rage as well until the bars finally raised up."

So that's how it was?

"Koloil-sama and Ral quickly used healing magic on Zulu-sama to heal him but Zulu-sama didn't regain conscious and stayed just like that."

Fu~mu. Since Zulu was hit twice by it and had suffered major injuries multiple times, I'm sure they weren't able to completely heal him. Though even if they did heal him it's not related to regaining consciousness.

"After that, under the leadership of Zenom-san we gathered rope to try and rescue master. The first one to volunteer among the light women was Maruso so we tied the rope around her waist and lowered her into the pitfall to explore it but..that is..."

Giberuti turned red a bit embarrassed. Waha~n.

"I was unconscious so I didn't see it but it seems that Maruso started acting strange. I heard that Larry soothed her."

Zulu replied instead. It's a safe way of putting it but I can imagine. I'm sure that everyone was able to imagine I was in a pretty bad state after running out of mana as well.

"Giberuti, thanks for your work. Well just think of it as a side benefit."

I grin while saying that and Giberuti was a bit embarrassed but grinned a bit as well.

Due to symptoms of mana exhaustion things turned into an uproar after Angela entered the hole. They quickly pulled her back up but it seems that Giberuti was made to be her partner in a corner of the room. I tease Giberuti who as making a face like he wasn't unsatisfied with it and what was really surprising is they didn't relate that pitfall to running out of mana so they tied to rescue me once more. Though I say that everyone was in a hurry since I had fell into the hole at that time, and there were injured people as well. It would be stranger for them to realize it right away.

"When I was, that is, soothing Maruso they decided on the next person. Gwine the one with the smallest build and weight volunteered but in the worst case if there were any monsters in the hole she wouldn't be able to use her spear so Ral volunteered, and in the end Zenom-san acknowledged that."

After that according to Giberuti's story it seems that Bel volunteered as well. However, Ral used a mysterious logic that she should be lighter because of the difference breast size and forcibly got everyone to agree but after they lowered Ralpa into the pitfall the moment they started hearing a suspicious voice they gave up on rescuing me from the pitfall. After everyone carefully pulled Ralpa back up, Zenom knocked Ralpa unconscious and they tied her up.

After that they waited for Zulu to regain consciousness (it seems it took around 5–6 hours) while waiting for Ralpa and Angela who fell asleep to wake up as well, they carried Toris who couldn't move to the teleport room on the 3rd floor and since it couldn't be helped escaped the dungeon just like that.

"Of course we took the magic stone from the {Flesh Golem}. Right now Zenom-san is holding on to it."

"I see, I caused quite a bit of trouble for you all."

"No, it wasn't much at all for me.."

Giberuti said shyly. I guess that's true. It seems they were finally able to return to the surface at 4 am this morning. After that in two hour shifts they waited for my return. First it was Zenom and Gwine. Next it was Bel and Giberuti. After that was Ralpa and Angela. And after Toris and Zulu, Zulu kept remaining and Angela and Giberuti kept shifting places while waiting it seems.

.....

Along the way, we stopped by "Shuni" where the slaves are staying and picked up Angela. When I called out to Angela who was doing maintenance on her leather armor in her room and she showed a smile I've never seen before as she kneeled before me. I thought she would start shaking her tail but there wasn't even a sign of that, after seeing her tail that didn't move an inc and I thought, "I see it was a meaningless return".

However, I was happy that Angela seemed overjoyed by my return. I thought, so she really had this much emotion and,

"Sorry I caused you to worry."

I said that,

“No, I thought it was pointless to worry when it comes to master. However..however, I’m glad you returned safely..”

and seeing her crumbling expression I felt a bit apologetic.

I was a bit worried if she would be aware of Giberuti but there was no problem on the surface and she acted just as he normally does. It’s not something I can say to people at this point but I was satisfied since I didn’t want my slaves to have some unnecessary discord. Come to think of it, it seems Zulu has a woman as well, and Giberuti and Angela are already adults. At the very least shouldn’t I started providing Angela with condoms? I’m sure she would want to occasionally buy a male prostitute and let loose as well.

Putting that aside, I ordered the three slaves to go ahead and make reservations as a restaurant and I headed towards “Boil Manor”. I need to hurry and let them know and put everyone at ease.

.....

In front of {Boil Manor} the apprentice was doing some evening sweeping. He made a surprised face when he saw me and was about to greet but I stopped him and quietly opened the door. I exchanged glances with the head clerk at the counter in front and put my finger to my mouth, gesturing to be quiet. It seems he understood right away seeing my grin and the clerk smiled lightly while pointing upstairs from the lobby. I guess everyone is in their rooms.

Soft steps. Since I’m still holding Toris’s long sword with no scabbard I feel like a robber sneaking in. I even have my rubber protector helmet on so I’m in all black as well. A smile naturally appears on my face. Should I scare Ralpa first or start with the annoy couple of Bel and Toris. Gwine is a good choice as well. Ah, Gwine might be in the same room as Ralpa.

I quietly walked up to the third floor and walked in front of the door to Gwine’s room. Since it would be like an idiot if she wasn’t in the room I softly put my ear to the door...I can’t hear any sounds at all. If shes not here then Gwine might be in Zenom’s room. I guess I’ll try going to Toris and Bel’s room before returning to the 2nd floor?

I go in front of Toris and Bel’s room while not making any footsteps and was

about to put my ear to the door again. But, wait a minute. If the two of them were doing something right now, wouldn't I just be a voyeur? Since they're always stuck to each other after returning from the dungeon...It's started to feel idiotic, I give up.

It feels somewhat strange returning to the lobby once and getting the key to my room as well. I normally walked down the stairs and after getting to Zenom and Ralph's room I knocked. In the first place Zenom took over command of trying to rescue me and oversaw their return. After all no matter how I think about it I should go to Zenom's place first. I was getting too excited after being able to return safely.

"What is it?"

I hear Zenom's voice. I reached out to open the handle on the door. I heard the sound of someone in the room come running with bang! the door opened. Gwine was standing on the other side of the door.

"Al-san!"

After Gwine saw me she yelled in a loud voice and jumped at me. Even though she's got a small build she was heavier than I imagined. Rather~ I'm holding on to Toris's sword with no cover. That's dangerous!

"I've just returned. Zenom, let's take Al!"

Zenom who was sitting in a chair in the room stood up and yelled after seeing me.

"It seems I caused you to worry. Thank goodness! Really thank goodness! I thought if it was Al-san you be alright! I was so worried!"

Gwine is overcome emotion as she yells looking up from below while still clinging to me. There's tears overflowing from her eyes. I can hear footsteps coming from the upper floor as well. It seems that Bel and Toris noticed. I put my hands on Gwine's shoulders and said "Sorry about causing your to worry. Thanks." and entered Zenom's room.

"Zenom, I heard from Zulu and the others. It seems you went through quite a bit of trouble to try and save me..Thanks and sorry about that."

“Don’t say any thanks. It’s only obvious to try and save our precious employer from a crisis. Rather than, we’re actually quite sorry that we weren’t able to help you. Sorry about that.”

“There’s no need to worry about that either...I think you already know but if you guys had entered the trap just like that things would have gotten pretty bad. It was quite difficult for me as well.”

I laughed while saying that to Zenom and he laughed as well.

“I’ll go and change really quick. I need to return Toris his long sword as well... By the way, where’s Ralpa?”

Right, Ralpa wasn’t in the room.

“Ral is, umm..”

For some reason Gwine is having trouble saying things.

“Ralpa is drinking at “Rabei”. If you heard from Zulu and the others then I’m sure you already know but I hit Ralpa and knocked her out but when she woke up she struggled quite a bit. Right now we’re in the middle of an admirable parent and child fight. Sorry but Ralpa brought along Al’s spear with her. We collected your bag and it’s right here.”

Zenom said that and pointed to my bag in the corner of the room. Oh I see..that is quite something.

““Al-san!””

Toris and Bel appeared from the door that was left open. Just the same as Zenom and the others the two of them have already changed into normal clothes. No, or maybe they just put them on? However, it’s probably impossible to properly put clothes on this well in that short period of time. It’s probably just my unpleasant unjust suspicions and they were originally wearing them. After seeing me the two of them couldn’t hold back the smiles.

“Yo~ It seems I caused you to worry” “I’m glad you were safe! See, I told you he would be alright!”

“Yeah, that really was the case! Are you uninjured?”

Bel and Toris and ran to my side and took my hand while cheerful.

“I’m alright. Ah, that’s right. Toris, here’s your sword. Thanks to it I was saved.”

In the end, I only swung it once against the eyeball bastard after it fell to the ground but it’s true it was useful and it also lightened up how powerless I felt. Soon after I fell, in the pitch darkness I still remember how reliable it felt touching this sword.

“No..Al-san. Not just in regards to Bel, I have a debt I can’t return to you. Al-san saved me life. Really, really thank you very much!”

Toris properly held my hand to the point of it hurting a bit while saying that.

“Don’t worry about it. Rather than I heard from Giberuti and the others, after that you stood up and finished that Franken bastard together with Gwine. That’s amazing. I’m amazed you were able to stand up. It’s quite splendid.”

“No way...I was just desperate at that time. In reality I don’t remember it well.”

“You don’t need to be so modest. It’s fine for you to feel proud. In the end the reason why no one died was thanks to Toris and Gwine right? Rather I’m the one that’s grateful.”

I said that and thanked Toris and Gwine.

“Franken? Somehow it fits perfectly. When we took out the magic stone and looked at it’s status it said {Flesh Golem} so we’ve just been calling it a golem.”

Bel said that and laughed. Only Zenom was making a face like he didn’t get it but he must have realized it was something from our past lives pretty quickly.

“Rather than that Al-san. Please go to Ral’s place. She should be in “Rabei”. Without letting anyone approach she’s been drinking there since lunch..”

Bel said. Toris and Zenom exchanged glances and Gwine was grasping my hand with a complicated expression.

“Please go see her...No matter what I say she just acts annoyed..”

Gwine said while looking up at me. I wanted to shower and change but I guess I can’t do that.

“I’ve made reservations at “Dorureon” so everyone go ahead there. I’ll head there after picking up Ralpa as well.”

I said that and took my helmet off, after getting a bit lighter I started towards “Rabei”.

Along the way my sensation of the direction and distance to Miduchi suddenly returned. It seems she just left the dungeon. I wasn’t worried at all but somehow I felt relieved.

.....

After arriving at “Rebei” and there was a single fool occupying the table in the center of the store hunched over. The waiter quickly came over to me and said “Today, umm, we’re reserved by that customer over there.” It seems this employee doesn’t know my face. They must be a newcomer.

“It’s alright, I’m an acquaintance, I’ll bring her back with me so no need to worry. And is the bill of that customer ready?”

“Eh? I see..”

The waiter heard my words and said it with a relieved expression, and,

“We still haven’t received payment.”

said that.

“Then, please prepare a bill.”

I said that and walked up standing behind the heavy drinker.

She’s pouring some alcohol down her throat while sitting in the center of a table which eight people could comfortably drink at, Ralpa was hugging my bayonet on her lap as she sat. She’s just as sloppy as usual.

“Al..Why..It’s fine..There’s no way he’d die.”

I’m sure she’s worried about me in her own way. However, in that case wait near the entrance plaza like Zulu and the others...Though it’s just like her to do this.

“Hey, “drunk”. You’ll change “Dorureon” into a fish market.”

I said that and put my hand on her shoulder.

The youth alcoholic patient slowly turned around and confirmed my face.

Her face was a mess with tears and snot. If I look closely there's some puke on the left side of the floor(the floor of the restaurant is a dirt floor) as well.

I made a dry smile while sitting on the opposite right side of her.

"A!!!"

What a loud voice.

"What is it?"

While her breath stinks of alcohol and puke, the drunk shifted her right leg to the ground and fixed her posture on the chair so she could face here. Simultaneously she put my bayonet on the table.

"You were..safe right."

She stretched both of her legs across the chair while here yes went wide, this alcohol drinking monkey that speaks human language.

"That's only obvious. Who do you think I am?"

I'm the leader-sama of the {Slaughterers}. Like I would die that easily.

"Idiot."

Shut~up. The idiot is you.

"The bill will be 24,500 Z."

The waiter called out after totaling up the bill. I took out my wallet and handed them 3 silver coins (30,000 Z).

"Use the change for cleaning up."

Putting it frankly a restaurant of this class is stupidly expensive but I guess you could say it was pretty cheap for reserving it to herself.

"Thank you very much."

After the waiter received the payment they quickly retreated to the back.

"Come on, stand up. Let's go."

I put my bayonet over my shoulder, while Ralph looks up at me with clouded

eyes. I'm sorry about causing you to worry. And, thanks.

"I can't stand. Carry me."

Eh~ what a troublesome fellow. However, I can't just ignore her. Even I'm tired just returning from the dungeon though. It can't be helped.

"Che..Here."

I said that and crouched down with my back facing Ralpa. Even though she's a woman a single person is extremely heavy. However, don't understand my 29 Strength. Painful things are still painful but I can still walk while carrying a drunk Ralpa. My Endurance is 29 as well.

About ten steps from the restaurant and I felt lukewarm alcohol smelling liquid flow down from my neck to my back. I should have at least taken off my rubber protectors...She threw it all up on the inside, aren't I the only one who has to deal with this disgusting feeling. Rather I should have just used {Neutralize Poison} without feeling like it was too troublesome. It seems that not using it when drinking too much in order to keep that from becoming a habit has ended up turning against me. Things like Strength or Endurance didn't matter at all.

After that, I quickly used {Neutralize Poison} on Ralpa and since it couldn't be helped I returned to "Boil Manor" once to take a shower and change.

Along with an apologetic and depressed Ralpa by the time we arrived at "Dorureon" everyone was already getting served. Obviously I forbid Ralpa from anymore alcohol tonight and I enjoyed some delicious food and alcohol. I remembered while drinking and talking with everyone but it seems that the day after tomorrow is judgement day. Come to think of it, I had completely forgot it was the judgement day of Bikkens the survivor of {Bright Blade}. Well, I'm sure it'll be execution.

I talked about how the trap I fell in lead to the 14th floor.

"14th floor.."

Everyone was at a loss for words after hearing what I said. Everyone excluding Ralpa was drunk from the alcohol and showed expressions of admiration. It remained in my impression how Ralpa alone closed her lips trying to match

with everyone else. Hey, don't look at me with a strange expression. I decided to talk about the fine details tomorrow once again after the alcohol is gone.

.....

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 29

We drank until midnight but thanks to {Neutralize Poison} and the alarm clock {Cantrip} I was able to open my hours by 4 in the morning. I headed towards the Eastern road from Baldukk with just my bayonet.

There's one horse under the moonlight and a single silhouette holding the reins.

It's Miduchi.

After recognizing me Miduchi got off her horse, hugged me, and we said our farewells.

"I want to return as fast as I can."

"Yeah."

"You pleased give it your best as well."

"Yeah."

I somehow can't reply with anything but these half-assed responses.

"Ah, that's right. About Unit Organization."

"Yes?"

"You still haven't cut it off right?"

Thanks to I was able to tell when Miduchi left the dungeon after we split up. It's true a short while after I left the dungeon I felt relieved because I was suddenly able to tell the distance and direction to Miduchi.

"Eh..Is it no good unless I turn it off?"

Don't make such a worried face.

"Just leave it right like it is. Extend the duration on it every day and in the worst case if something happens let me know. Right away..I guess wouldn't work but I'll come running. In the worst case, if in relation to anything you need

to include someone else send me the order “addition”, and cut off their awareness of me before you add them.”

“Yes!”

With this, at the very least we can both feel that we’re still safe at anytime.

“Go on your way and come back. I’m waiting.”

“Then..”

Around the time Miduchi finished climbing the outer rim of the crater, the sun had started shining down into the shadow.

It looked like she turned around once but I quickly was unable to see her any longer.

Chapter 133: 14th Floor?

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 29

After seeing off Miduchi I returned to “Boil Manor” again to leave my bayonet, changed into my under-armor, and put my rubber protectors on. I went through that sort of thing. I do have the feeling that I can afford to rest from my training for today at least but I can’t let my greatest asset my value get weak. I’m considerably mentally exhausted but if you were to ask if I’m physically exhausted that isn’t the case. I walked countless Km inside of the dungeon but my body has already reached the point where something like that isn’t much at this point.

Since it seems my training time was a bit later than usual Angela came to get me from “Shuni”. Angela was waiting while looking tired in front of “Boil Manor”.

“Morning, is the alcohol all out?”

“Yes, I’m alright.”

After exchanging greetings in order to warm up a bit we slowly ran towards the outer crater. Once we entered the summit {training road} (the name I’m calling it) we raise our speed to the usual but for today I’ll maintain this pace for a short while. I wanted to talk with Angela a bit.

“Hey~ Angela.”

“Yes, what is it?”

“How, are you in regards to Giberuti?”

“..What do you mean by how?”

Her face is a bit red. Either she’s embarrassed or it’s simply from the running?

“No, when you tried to rescue me, you guys did it right?”

“Well, we’re the same race after all, I wasn’t against it. If that wasn’t the case

then even if it was me I wouldn't so easily..”

“Hm~n.”

You say that but when you're out of mana you feel like anyone is fine as the partner. Anything that can be eaten, or anything that seems like it could be eaten you'll feel like trying to put into your mouth after all. Since she might have had a bit of reason remaining she probably avoided Zenom, Toris couldn't move from the pain of the bone fractures. Zulu was unconscious and couldn't move either. Since the only one remaining was Giberuti, I'm sure there wasn't any room for choosing.

Honestly speaking, I'm not such an ogre that I'd talk about the morals within the party when it comes to mana exhaustion. Even when it comes to me if the partner is a goat if it's biologically female when I'm out of mana I might feel they're fine to do it with. If there's someone who can unconditionally endure that I would respect them. However, you can properly remember the memories from that time and you can completely remember your actions and the things you felt at that time. What I'm worried about is whether or not you'll end up regretting doing it with a partner you didn't want to.

“Then I guess that's fine, sorry about asking something boring, forgive me... Let's go.”

I said that and raised my speed.

We did one lap around the outer summit and then returned to Baldukk descending the road along the riverside. Roughly 25Km in just around two hours. Right now even if I'm fully equipped I can run mountain roads at this speed. Putting aside Zulu and though Angela isn't wearing any armor I'm amazed she can keep up with me. After we returned to “Boil Manor” I said to Angela,

“Wait just a minute.”

and returned to my room before getting a rubber bag and returning.

“This is something that works as a substitute for a pig's bowels, there's 10 of them inside. You know about pig's bowels right?”

When I said that with a flat voice and no emotion and her face suddenly

turned red,

“Eh? Ah..Ha.. I know but..that is...I, I haven't used them, very much.”

She said it while quite embarrassed. What's with her, did she always have this sort of face?

“Nn? You don't know how to use it? Then hand it to your partner. Once you cut the seal use them all right away. The water inside is fine to lick but it rots easily. If it's during the season right now it would probably hold out about two days. Make sure you save the remaining ones. And throw them out. Also, the only one I'm providing these with is you. Don't tell the others about this.”

“..Yes.”

I handed Angela the rubber bag while her face was red and,

“Well, that is, how do I put it. I'm sure there are times when you want to let loose as well. Be careful not to get pregnant. It's not definitely safe with this but it's incomparable to not using them after all.”

I said that and without properly listening to her response turned around and walked off. I'm sure it's my obligation as their owner to manage the slave's condition as well. But, I saw it, so you make that sort of face when embarrassed.

.....

That day after breakfast was over and everyone was relaxing and drinking some tea, I opened my mouth.

“Ah, that's right, Giberuti. You should go to Greed Company in the capital right now. The locations is here.”

I said that while handing him a memo.

“Go to the capital and find a random patrol soldier..if possible someone who seems to have a decently high social standing and can read and hand them that memo while asking the location of the place and I'm sure they'll tell you. There's rubber products left inside of the store so you should be able to tell it right away. Tell the people in the store that you're my new slave and greet them before coming back. In addition buy some boots for yourself. The money

is..fine I guess. No, take some. Here.”

I said that and handed him one golden Shu (250,000 Z).

“Buy about 5m of rubber cloth with the change and bring it back. Also, it’s fine for you to eat lunch today using it as well. Come back before dinner.”

Giberuti consented and left the restaurant.

“Now then, let’s have a different conversation. The story about after I got caught in the trap. Let’s change locations. We’ll head to “Boil Manor”. Zulu and Angela you two come as well.”

I said that and started walking towards “Boil Manor”. Along the way I bought sandwiches for lunch for everyone as well.

.....

As expected if eight people enter my room it feels quite crowded. It feels a bit cramped but it can’t be helped. I move further into my room and sit on a chair, Ralpa, Gwine, and Bel sit on my bed. Of course it’s a straw bed so even if I’ve made them take their shoes off I don’t want to let the guys sit down on it. On the other side of me Zenom sits down on the remaining guest chair and next to Zenom Toris, Zulu, Angela are sitting on chairs brought from a different room.

“It’s going to be a slightly long story so get comfortable.”

Everyone is focused on me. I can’t even hear a single cough. They must have wanted to hear about it quite a bit.

However...

“As a matter of fact, there’s two types of people in here..”

Everyone is looking at me. Huh? Well I guess it’s fine.

“People born with memories of their previous life, and people that were not..Zulu, Angela. I didn’t tell you two about it until now but other than Zenom, us five..Ralpa, Gwine, Toris, and Bel all remember things from before we were born.”

Huh? Huhuh?

“Why aren’t you surprised at that?”

It's particularly strange that Angela and Zulu aren't surprised at all. Do they think I'm saying some kind of boring joke?

"We heard about it yesterday."

Zulu calmly responded.

"Eh?"

"After we left master in the dungeon, everyone carried the peevish Ral to this inn. Since it was together with Kalstalan-sama who couldn't move it was quite difficult."

Angela said. What about that? Angela continues opening her mouth.

"After we carried Ral into the room, she and Zenom got into an argument."

I looked at Ralpa and Zenom surprised. And then I looked around at Toris sitting next to him and Bel, Gwine, and finally Ralpa on the bed.

"I mean.."

Ralpa said with a sulky expression.

"Eh?"

Really what does that mean?

"I mean, it's because we abandoned you and left the dungeon, so I said to Zenom. "Because he's a reincarnated person, because he's not a person of Orth did you abandon him, he's an ally right, if it was Al then he definitely wouldn't abandon us.""

Eh? What's that? What, are you saying? I'm sure my mouth is definitely wide open right now.

"I couldn't help, but say something I shouldn't have..Sorry..I'm sorry."

Ralpa lowered her head to me looking down.

".."

This girl...

"Ralpa. What was it that you weren't supposed to say?"

"Eh? That is, the fact that we're reincarn" "That's wrong.""

I think I said it with a considerably strong tone of voice.

“That’s, the wrong answer. It’s fine if you said something like that. It’s the individual’s choice if the ones who hear it believe it or not after all...Of course for the time being there’s more harm in saying it so not mentioning it is the better choice. But, just as I was about to say I thought it was a good time to tell Zulu and Angela about it. After all we’ve already been together with these two for close to two years. I’ve understood their personalities and above all else I don’t think they would betray us. However, you, so you said something like that to Zenom, you retard! You, step down from there! Spend the rest of today in “seiza” on the floor while listening, you idiot!”

In a rage I stood up and pointed to the floor in front of Ralpa while yelling. I glared at Ralpa while breathing with my shoulders.

“Before that apologize to Zenom! You, do you know what kind of feelings zenom..Shit! Bel! Toris! You two as well! you two..even though you’re adults don’t overlook this..”

It’s completely collateral damage to Bel and Toris but I couldn’t hold back. Gwine couldn’t hide her fear of my sudden threatening attitude. It seems that Ralpa finally realized from being yelled at by me and,

“Zenon..Uh..Father..I’m sorry.”

said that while lowering her head to Zenom. Her face was half-crying but who cares. Reflect on things. Zenom made a bitter smile seeing that and nodded. I sat back down on my chair and looked at Toris while saying.

“Does Giberuti know?”

“No, I don’t think he knows. Zulu, Maruso, about yesterday did you mention it to Larry?”

Toris turned to Zulu and Angela while asking.

““I haven’t said anything.”

I put my left elbow on my desk and put my forehead against my left hand while listening to the reply.

“Then, the two of you already know right..”

I confirmed with Zulu and Angela.

“I think we have inquired about the outline of things.”

Zulu acted for both of them and replied.

“..Got it. Is there anyone other than us that has heard about it?”

“I don’t think anyone did. Soon after we left the dungeon I asked Larry to go and buy some medicine for pain relief and soon after that Gwine and I jumped out and check the pedestrian traffic. We properly confirmed that no one else was in the guest room at that time as well. It was a time when almost no one was in the inn and it was soon after we had returned and given the head clerk money to go and call a healer for us just in case.”

Bel replied. If I remember right these guys returned early morning. The night must have ended as they returned to the inn somehow or other. Was it after the guests for the inn went to get breakfast?

“I see..then that’s fine. If Bel confirmed it then it’s probably alright...Then, I’ll skip over things in regards to us..Continuing off. I’ll return to the conversation. First I’ll start with an outline.”

I look around at everyone before opening my mouth.

“That trap was a special trap. The moment you get caught in it your mana starts getting absorbed it seems. Since the inside was slippery and slope with almost no footholds so once you’ve gotten caught there’s almost no chance of climbing back out. Let alone that it’s probably best to think that it’s impossible to stay still inside of it. And then, once you’ve started falling down the slope for a short while you’ll be teleported even though there’s no crystal.”

I took a sip of water.

“The destination of the teleport is almost definitely the 14th floor. Though I just determined that based on the number of times I teleported while returning so I don’t know if it’s the 14th floor in the true meaning of it. However, for convenience sake I’ll be calling it that. And, I was teleported to somewhere on the 14th floor. I think you can imagine but I writhed around from the mana exhaustion and somehow managed to rest for three hours.”

I run my fingers through my hair lifting it up. Since I properly have Bel periodically cut it for me it's not sloppily growing out.

"And, when I was resting one more person came falling down from the trap on top of me."

I heard the sound of everyone swallowing.

"..That person was..a Dark Elf" "Ho~ a Dyurou huh? That's unusual!?"

Zenom said.

"Zenom, there's still a continuation. Just listen. Their name was Chizumagurol but..their real name is Shiina. And they were a subordinate of mine in the past."

Everyone was surprised as if lightning had struck through the room.

"Ho~"

"Al-san..that means..does that mean?"

"The same as us."

"Japanese!"

"A reincarnated person huh?"

"Hm~n.."

"Yeah, that's right. She always used to give her best at her job but it seemed like she had trained quite a bit even now. She was wearing clothes like a "ninja" though. Well, it's only obvious but her mana had run out and it was troublesome, I used something the cloth from her hood and tired up before letting her rest."

Somehow I feel like Ralpa and Gwine's expression got a bit softer while they were glaring at me.

I wonder if it would be best to tell these two that I'm dating her?

"After that..from here on is the story I wanted to let everyone hear today as well. The 14th floor was largely different from all of the floors we've seen until now. First, there was no walls throughout most of the floor. You can think of the entire floor being one large spherical room. And the floor didn't give off light. That's why it was pitch darkness. I don't think even Zulu's {Night Vision} would be able to see. The only thing that probably would have been effective is Infrared Vision.

After that, in the center of the floor there was something like a 100m or so “doughnut” no, something like a ring that was like the boss rooms up until now, and that ring was where the teleport crystal room was. There were no teleport incantation on the crystal in there. That’s why I think there’s a high probability that was the lowest floor but it might have simply been a branch floor or dead end.

I walked around quite a bit after falling there but other than the monster in the boss room in the center of the floor I didn’t encounter any monsters. There were several corpses of victims from that trap in the past but they all starved to death. Since there corpses weren’t laid waste to all so normally..Right, I don’t think monsters that appear in the halls appear there.”

I took another sip of water.

“During the time right after I fell down since I had no mana I wasn’t able to create even a single bit of light. It was to the point where I thought my eyes had been crushed at first. And, it was during such a time that a dark elf suddenly fell down on my from above that’s why at first I thought it as a monster attack. Since I had gotten a bit of rest by then I had some mana and was able to make some light and confirm their face right away. Since they had run out of mana as well I tied them up pretty soon and I went back to sleep so I could completely recover my mana as well. After that when we safely recovered our mana, the two of us cooperated to escape and searched around finally finding the room in the center.”

I cross my legs while sitting.

“It was a considerably powerful monster but we somehow managed to defeat it and escape. That Dark Elf my previous subordinate had something remaining she had to take care of in her hometown so we separated ways for once. It might take several monsters or maybe even a year but she intends to group up with us eventually. Since everyone doesn’t know her I won’t say to trust her right away. But, because of a certain reason I completely trust her from the top of her head to the ends of her nails. She’s definitely my ally.”

I leaned forward putting my jaw on my crossed arms.

“What I want you to remember from here is that after this accident, in the

worst case the same, no, in the case you get caught in a similar trap. Listen well, by no means should you move around. Monsters won't come out. In the case you run out of mana..I'm sure various things will be difficult but curl up your body and go to sleep. Also, absolutely do not try to defeat the boss monsters in the center room by yourself. I'll definitely go to rescue you so just wait until then. Think that the boss there probably can't be beaten unless I join you. Also, if there's too many people there will be victims as well. It's difficult if including me there's not at most 2-3 people. Make absolutely sure you don't forget this."

Since the rescue group that comes afterwards will definitely run out of mana it would be perfect to carry around two 1m or so ropes to tie them up. After that is a lighter magic tool I guess. Since things like that we could gather together into a pack smaller than a flask if I prepare an exclusive pouch for them it should be fine.

And, I finished with the concluding words.

"This time, various things happened but the reason I was able to somehow return was largely thanks to the fact that I was able to recover my lost mana. And the fact that I had one other person with me who could use magic as well. Well, it's still harsh even if you can just use magic. It's not guaranteed that the same boss would be there next time as well but in the off chance that the same boss appears, then me and..I guess so, at the very least someone who can use magic a bit better than Bel is required otherwise we can't win. I'll talk about the details of this boss later but honestly speaking if I was alone it would have been difficult without a spear. I think it would have been seriously dangerous with just a sword. Even if I had won it's very possible I would have been heavily injured. It's repeating but I'll say it again, if you get caught in that trap make sure you don't move as much as possible and just rest and try to calmly wait for help to come. I'll definitely go."

After hearing this story everyone's bodies shook from the terror.

"However, as I said just now, if there's someone who can use magic then it's fine but I think if it was a master archer like Bel and they have plenty of armor that might work as well."

After this I talk about it in even more details and take questions while

responding. For example, like this.

“About that boss but I understand that if Al-san and I are there we can defeat it but why is it bad if there are other people?”

“Yeah, about that. It’s main body is a large..slightly over 2m in diameter sphere. And, it floats with a large mouth and fangs, and a single large eye. There were several tentacles growing from the top of the spherical body and it fires off magic in rapid succession from there. If you can deploy an {Anti-Magic Field} I think that a party from a knight group would have easily been wiped out.”

“No way~!”

“I’m sure I just had good luck this time. Since it came down to a test of endurance and in the end my mana exceeded that eyeball bastard so I was able to hold out until it couldn’t use magic anymore. Ah, it’s name was Death=Tyrant.Kin. Since it was undead it smelled bad. I think I was largely able to win because even it’s brain had rotted and all of it’s actions were pretty idiotic.”

For example,

“Hey, that Dark Elf person is Al’s acquaintance right? Even if they have something to take care of in their home town, is it no good to put that off? I wanted to try meeting them..Speaking of Dark Elf, when we were searching for Toris and Gwine I caught sight of one but I haven’t talked to any.”

“It seems her older brother has a severe illness. She came to Baldukk to earn money for the medicine and got caught in the trap. Since the magic stone we got from the Death=Tyrant.Kin this time was pretty heavy I gave it to her to pay for medicine.”

“Hmmn..But, I see. If it’s something like that then it can’t be helped~”

“You’ll be able to meet her eventually. When that time comes get along well with her.”

Or,

“Al-san, that is..It’s extremely difficult to ask but..even if it’s Al-san’s guess it’s fine but for example, I mean for example. About that trap but if Bel and I were

to fall together it would be fine. And if Bel and Al-san or Bel and Zenom-san, when opposite genders fall I can imagine what happens but if two men or two women were to fall..that is, what would happen? How did things go with the dark elf?"

Huh? Did I say that Miduchi was a man? Well it's fine. I'm sure he'll be surprised when he sees the real person.

"Toris, you..Don't ask such creepy things..Miduchi..ah, this is something like a nickname of the dark elf but I immediately tied them up and rolled them around so I didn't bother listening to everything. Since I've experienced I think you can somehow imagine it. Ralph and Angela can probably imagine it as well? Though I don't think the type of thing you're worrying about would happen. Some maddening level of extreme desires come in waves but it's not like you completely lose your sense of reason either. Though you become quite loose in general, as expected I don't think it goes that far."

"I think it's just the same as master says as well.."

"Me too, as expected.."

"Even if Toris is a good looking guy, he doesn't look like a woman after all..So just accept that as being the case."

"Please excuse me.."

Or,

"For it to be a single floor made into one large room..I feel like even I would get lost. What do you think?"

"No, there's no way I could know something like that. Sorry."

"I guess that's true.."

Or,

"Hey~ Al. What floor did that Dyurou get caught in the trap on?"

"Supposedly the 2nd floor. Somehow I feel like there's one on the 4th, 5th, and 6th floors as well though..That's why I talked about it today."

"After all huh..I guess we need to be careful of the walls in the rooms as

well..Or is it fine as long as we don't lean on them..”

“Yeah, also we need to make sure we aren't thrown or knocked back like me. It's of great attention to make sure you're not sent flying by the boss {Cave Great Boar} on the 6th floor from now on as well.”

Or,

“However, master. For there be such a terrifying trap as that..We need to take a second look at our individual equipment and make sure that even during combat we don't remove the bare minimum.”

“Yeah, for sure. It would be best to make something like an exclusive pouch. At the very least one days worth of preserved food and if possible a flask, lighter magic tool, and a rope of some length I guess.”

“It doesn't seem like very much at all.”

“Yeah, Zulu, afterwards I'll give oyu come money so go with Angela and pick out a good pouch for everyone.”

“I understand.”

Or,

“Master, I've never seen a Dark Elf before but is their skin color really different from everyone else?”

“Yeah, it seems that normally it's deep~ purple and most of them are close to black. Their hair color is often white or very low pigment colors. Since this time the one I met has the same blood mixed in as us their hair color was black and their skin felt more of a light purple though.”

“He~ so their skin color really is that different. That's unexpected.”

“Since I lived in the capital I've seen them a number of times but it was more surprising to me that there were people with large ears and tails. People of the dog-people and wolf-people races even have four breasts after all..”

“People with a lot of them even have up to six.”

Or things like that.

Along the way, we had some lunch and continued talking into 3 in the

afternoon. Around evening, Larry safely returned and we all had dinner together. Larry brought along 249,520 Z in change. They gave him the rubber sole boots and rubber cloth for free it seems. Well older brother still hasn't returned so I haven't decided on a sale price yet. But this change, I guess he didn't pocket it...Hm~n.

.....

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 30

Today is the judgement day in Baldukk. I'm sure {Bright Blade} will be completely wiped out with this. It ends up like this because you tried ambushing me in the dungeon. It doesn't particularly matter how much you attack people but we aren't such nice people to just take that quietly. In the first place, even the representative of nice the sister from {Black Topaz} was pleased that their portion will increase thanks to the decrease in rivals. Sister-Anderson isn't a saint. After that when I ran into her in a bar she was in a good mood drinking and causing an uproar with her party members.

Since it's necessary for me to stand as a witness I put on some nice clothes and put my sword at my waist before going to the plaza in front of the government office. Of course I haven't repaired my protectors and helmet which are evidence. Toris and Bel split up the evidence and brought it along. It's been close to two years since the execution of Derenola who attacked Bel, I've gone out for greetings during the judgement days but as usual there's an amazing number of people.

It seems that judging from the emblem this time the second knight group is in charge of security. It's not guaranteed that the commander is here but since I'm sure they'll become a customer in the near future I should probably greet the one in charge.

Though no matter what I do I need to greet his majesty the King first.

I told the knight group soldiers guarding the entrance to the government office that the head of Greed Company has come and would like to greet his majesty and had them confirm my status.

Chapter 134: Grasping the Chance

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 30

I went to greet the King and also greet the commander of the second knight group. The King,

“Yo~ Greed. It’s been since the start of the new year. I wasn’t in the castle when you came last month...Molin and the other’s said to say Hi. By the way, it seems you’re involved in this incident again. I heard a bit of it the last time I came to Baldukk for a report. What was it again, the {Murderers}? Ah, right the {Slaughterers}. If it’s the {Murderers} then they’re the one’s being judged right. In any case you’ve gotten quite the dangerous nickname. It seems that there aren’t many who can make it to the top ranks in the dungeon in this short of a time right. I guess it means Greed has become quite a famous. It’s only obvious some people will be envious I’m sure.”

is what he was saying while grinning. You, intentionally said it wrong didn’t you.

“Leaving the jokes to about there, I’m glad you were fine. {Bright Blade} were one of the top adventurers in Baldukk right? Even I had heard the name before. Though I forgot until I received the report this time. What? Could it be, you’re actually quite strong? Well, you know I, even then was quite relieved you didn’t die. Since you, sell us such a good thing, and you’re quite the amusing fellow after all.”

“Ha, thank you very much for your kindness, I’m greatly obliged.”

While I was lowering my head it seems the commander of the second knight group whispered something in the King’s ear.

I’ve only seen the face of this commander before.

“It’s fine, it’s like I have my balls being grasped by this guy after all. There’s no need for being so stiff at this point...Eh? Ah, is that so? So you’ve fought against Logan huh? You even won against Bittwaz? I guess that’s not just quite but

considerably strong. Ah, if I remember right your older sister is in the first knight group and you were pulled out by your older brother as well? Then, it makes sense that you can reach the top magic stone earner at that young age. If you find any sort of amazing~ magic tool then bring it to me. I'll let you have a reward. If it's something good then like with Viscount Grimson in the past it's fine if I let you become governor of one of my territories as well."

It seems I had a grasp on the King's balls at some point. I guess that's technically true though.

"Wa ha."

I humble myself with my head still lowered.

"Come to think of it, it seems you placed the headquarters of your Greed Company in Rombertia. Logan was so pleased he was doing some sort of crazy dance. Make sure you sell some armor to the other knight groups and not just the first knight group. Right~ Valmort. You think so too right?"

After the King said that he looked at the commander of the second knight group who is guarding him. This person as far as I can tell is a slightly thin middle-aged Tiger-man a bit past his 40s. As expected I can't use Identify because my sight will wander in a strange direction.

"Yeah, I would definitely like to make use of that armor in our group as well. Greed-san, it's fine if it's only a bit but please send some our way. I used to be in the first knight group as well after all, isn't fine?"

Viscount Valmort said that and smiled at me.

"Ha~ I guess so, I'll think about it.."

Hmn, it's not completely impossible. If it's one or two suits then I guess it's fine~

"Also, "Saya" was it? Sell that to us as well. When I went to "Emerald Duke Crab Reception Hall" the other day, I was surprised. That one with the emblem of the royal family on it, that's nice isn't it."

"Right!? That's the greatest isn't it! Greed's place really made something good. Greed, you know, I'll say it a number of times but I'll make you into at

least a sub-Baron or something so quickly quit being an adventurer and make more “Saya”. I’m sure everyone would be pleased to buy them so you could live your entire life off that.”

“With all due respect your majesty, I have something I would like to do. Though I am terribly sorry to decline so many times..”

“Ho~?”

Viscount Valmolt made a voice like he was interested.

“I’m sure it’s just nothing special right? Or is it that? You want to earn big as an adventurer? If it’s not that then are you like the idiots around there who admire Rogmokku.The.Pitviper or his majesty George?”

The King threw down his legs shifted his ass with one of his elbows on the armrest of the chair sitting sloppily back while saying it.

“..”

I couldn’t do anything but face downwards and make a bitter smile. It seems my dream is an idiotic dream. Though it hurts that I can’t deny that.

“Your majesty, for you to bring up admiration for his majesty George. In the first place, everyone young man dreams of one day becoming like his majesty George, Rogmokku.The.Pitviper, or Kolakt King {Wizard.King}. Saying that I was one such young man who seriously admired them when I was in my teens as well.”

I don’t know if it was a follow or something Viscount Valmolt mentioned the general debate. In the first place, I still haven’t responded yet. After the King looked at Viscount Valmolt he opened his mouth as if to make fun of it.

“What’s with you, could it be you’re saying that seriously? I won’t say it’s completely and utterly undoubtedly impossible though you know, but no matter how you think about it isn’t it unrealistic?”

Well, that’s what’s normal right.
The King further,

“Even that Viscount Grimson when he presented my grandfather the previous King with the wand that let’s anyone use {Fire Ball} there was talk of giving him a territory but in the end he chose to become the governor you know? Well the territory was in the Dirt Plains. I’m sure that intelligent Viscount Grimson looked up to his majesty George in the past as well. But you know, the territory we’d be giving you is either the Dirt Plains or somewhere in the north, that we cut off from another place in the past. If you try making a country in a place like that there’s no way Guranan or Devas would remain quiet about it right. Of course, since we have to show face as the ones who gave you the territory, unlike them we wouldn’t lay a hand on you but if they attack you we wouldn’t come to your rescue either. If your territory ends up captured by Guranan or Devas we’d take it back with full force but if it comes to that then it’s ours again. Though since old man Grimson isn’t an idiot he already knew something like that.”

and said that. That’s only obvious. If a small independent country like that were to stand on the verge of collapse it would desperately resist, and I’m sure the invading force wouldn’t be unharmed either. After it’s been weakened the army of Rombert Kingdom would invade and then it would just return back to original. The King returns his sight back to me and,

“That’s why Greed. I won’t say anything bad so make Greed Company even bigger. And sell even more “Saya”. Right, isn’t that better?”

and said that. After hearing that Viscount Valmort,

“Your majesty, it’s not as if Greed-san said he wanted to create a country..”

and calmed down the forwardness.

“Eh? Ah, that’s right. But what about it Greed? In reality, aren’t you looking up to his majesty George and Rogmokku King, Rogmokku.The.Pitviper?”

and the King said. Commander, you don’t really have any room to talk.

“Ha..That is..”

While I was still humbling myself I was about to respond that I looked up to them. But I stopped myself.

“Eh? What? Are you serious? I’ll teach a brat like you though. It’s true that if it’s a high ranking noble over a Viscount then it’s fine for them to go

independent. The surroundings might not recognize them but as a result they'll end up having to recognize it after all. But from that point on it's the same as being a foreign country. You might end up being attacked by your original country and if it's connected to a different country that one might invade you as well. And no one will come to save you at that time. If a freshly made small country can single-handedly repel the armies of the country it belonged to until then and other foreign countries than it's a splendid independent country though. But, that's just a matter of, IF they can manage it."

The King said that while drinking a sip of the tea he had at the side of his chair.

"There were countless cases of that even up until now. Even if you don't go independent it's a pretty common story of entire territories switching sides to a different country as well. It's annoying but Marquis Junkel's territory is one example of those."

Just now, the King said Marquis Junkel but to be more accurate they're a Count. In the North of Rombert Kingdom there was a territory and right now it's switched sides to Granan Empire. Originally the territory around there was something that Rombert Kingdom waged a war against Granan Empire invaded and captured. During that time, the one who ruled that territory was a person called Count Junkel. Midway through the invading war Count Junkel abandoned Granan Empire and switched sides to Rombert Kingdom having them recognize the territory as his own and they were conferred the rank of Marquis from Rombert Kingdom. That person ended up switching sides again returning to being a Count of Granan Empire. During the last hundred years or so that's happened a total of five times it seems. In some meanings you might even call it Junkel Dukedom or Count-dom. Since it's become like a vassal country of Rombert and Granan back and forth, it's even possible that they aren't even properly paying the taxes.

It seems that there's a few large and small territories like that along the large border of the country.

I think I talked about it before but along the border with Devas Kingdom in the south there's a number of hidden pioneering villages so there's probably quite a few places that aren't properly paying taxes to either side.

“If you’re interested then, if it’s a village under direct control of the royal family along the Dirt Plains then I’d be fine with selling it to you for 10,000,000,000 Z.”

Of course I’m sure that’s just a joke though. A single stingy village along the remote regions of a place like that where there’s often conflicts going on for 10,000,000,000 Z is way beyond making a killing...However...

“10,000,000,000 Z is it, as expected that’s quite expensive..”

I made a dry smile while looking up at the King.

“Hahhawwa. No, if you really pay 10,000,000,000 Z then it would be fine to get you an adequate territory along with it. If it’s a country that can oppose Devas for several years after that then it’s entirely good for me after all...Oh? Isn’t that a good thinking? I wonder if some fool won’t buy one from me?”

“Your majesty..I really can’t imagine there’s actually such a person as that though..”

Viscount Valmort grumbled while shaking his head.

Originally I intended to found my country to the East rather than the South being exposed to the threat of Devas. Unlike the Dirt Plains it seems it’s true that the territory is considerably barren though so there’s been no conflicts between Rombert Kingdom and Bakuruni Kingdom or Kanbitt Kingdom to the East in the past couple of decades. Even the last conflict I heard about was on a smaller scale than the conflicts always occurring with Devas. I thought that if it’s the area where these three countries are bordering then it’s surrounded by mountains so it would be even less likely to get involved in conflicts.

Since the areas around there are ruled by County Rinflait who isn’t very wealthy, I was thinking of paying some money and as insurance get married to an appropriate woman to create a relationship in the area and buy a territory around there. Even then if you pay 10,000,000,000 Z then I think you should at least get a single mountain and an area the size of Kanagawa prefecture with some change. After all it seems that just the area of Count Rinflait’s territory is considerably vast. With the change it would be fine if I buy some slaves and if I make the first 10 years or so tax-free then I’m sure some second sons and daughters of commoners would move in as well.

Putting aside rubber, if there's a mountain then I'm sure I could found a country by manufacturing and creating an industry around metals somehow. I'm sure I could even do agriculture as well. I just have to have the serfs make terraced fields. Normally it seems to be impossible due to the flow of water but I can create it with water magic after all. If you give me a month I'm sure I could make Lake Biwa. Though there's no level ground that wide in area. If we pull some water from the river we can make a reservoir. If it's just providing the water during the period of that construction, it's not impossible.

However, Dirt Plains huh? Up until now I've had Devas in my head as a threat so I didn't take it into consideration but it seems it's considerably fertile and if we can endure things for two years or so I might be able to make it work. Ah, come to think of Miki, No, Lilus said, "Be careful of the reincarnations in Devas Kingdom. One day they'll become an obstacle for you." or something like that...I guess this means, even if I try to found my country in the East eventually they'll become a hindrance? Otherwise regardless of whether I found a country they'll try to lay some kind of hand on me? It's probably the latter.

While I was in the middle of thinking a bit, Viscount Valmort and the King continued talking about trying to profit by selling the Dirt Plains to a noble inside of the country and how no one would buy it. The moment their conversation stopped, I looked for the timing and interrupted.

"Your majesty, I'm very sorry while you're in the middle of your conversation but I still have yet to earn such a large amount of money as 10,000,000,000 Z, nor have I found any useful magic tools."

"That's only obvious. Eh? What? You haven't seriously gotten interested have you?"

Then don't make such an amused face.

"Yeah, not yet at this time.."

"Ho~?"

After hearing my response the King's atmosphere suddenly changed to something strict and he lowered his tone of voice.

"Since you're saying not yet at this time, then that means from here on out

you intend to do something like that?”

“Yes.”

I looked up at the King and properly pronounced it so there was no mistakes in hearing.

The King fixed his posture in the chair and leaned forward a bit.

“Just in case, I’ll say it once for you. Greed, you know, it’s true that I intend to stand by the things I’ve said. Since a King just becomes a joke if they go back on their word even once. However, while it seems you’re earning quite a bit right now but if you mention 10,000,000,000 Z then it’s a truly large amount of money. It’s true that the Dirt Plains is a good plot of land but there’s skirmishes going on between Devas there all the time, and you know that if your territory ends up being occupied once my army takes it back it returns back to belonging to my Rombert again right? Even if you make some clatter after that I won’t pay any attention to it.”

“Ha..Of course.”

“It’s fine if you understand though. You, I thought you were someone who could see a bit further ahead...If I remember correctly, your company has a red license right? Wouldn’t it be a good idea to leave it your older brother who’s rumored to be superior while you still can? I’m fine as long as I can buy “Saya”. Though you still had some room to grow, I guess in the end you’re just a brat huh? I’ve lost interest. It’s already fine so leave.”

“Ha...Please excuse me.”

I guess I disappointed the King, Thomas Rombert the Third, he’s just waving his hand urging me to leave the room so I honestly left. However, I took his word.

“..Hey, Greed.”

The King called out to me after I had turned my back. I turned around and took the pose of a retainer before replying.

“Ha.”

The King made a slightly strict face.

“Just now, I made a fool of you. For the time being you can’t turn around my assessment of you. If you’re mortified over it then either find a useful magic tool or get 10,000,000,000 Z and hand them over to me. In that case..if you can do that then I’ll take a better look at you again, I’ll even take back that I made fun of you and apologize.”

“Wa ha.”

“At best strain yourself on it.”

And I withdrew from the audience room of the government office in Baldukk. Holding my chest held high.

.....

The judgements were held starting noon but just as expected Bikkens from {Bright Blade} was executed. The equipment of theirs that was confiscated by the knight group of Baldukk who has the right to police was returned to the rightful owner who turned the tables on them (in other words, me).

Just as the curtain of night started to fall, the enforcement of all punishments had ended (after my portion of seeing through the enforcement against Bikkens ended I was wondering around checking out stalls but I returned to the inn to change into normal clothes), and a messenger came from Viscount Valmort calling me out. It’s simple to find “Boil Manor” where the {Slaughterers} stay in this town after all.

When I arrived at the highest quality inn in this Baldukk “Elm Tree Manor” and the one in charge of guarding the King, viscount Valmort was waiting for me. Ushered in by him I saw down on the edge of a sofa in the lobby. So there’s even sofas in “Elm Tree Manor”. Though it’s not like there’s springs so it’s just filled with feathers or straw and is just a bit better than a wooden chair in terms of comfort.

“Greed-san, in regards to the matter of selling armor to the second knight group, I’m depending on you for that.”

Viscount Valmort politely started talking.

“Viscount Valmort, I’m a sub-noble and just as you can see I’m young as well. Since it’s not like we’re before his majesty there’s no need to, speak so

politely..”

“That’s certainly true but you’re the head of Greed Company. And Greed Company is an importance company for our country which sells armor to the first knight group. Since from here on out we the second knight group want to have do business dealings with you as well, this much is only obvious.”

Eh? I don’t remember promising to make any deliveries to the second knight group.

“However..there’s a limit on the quantity of armors we can produce..I don’t know if we can provide a quantity that satisfies you..”

While I’m holding back on my words and,

“That~ I understand that much. It’s fine even if it’s only one suit at once. For starters wouldn’t you take orders from the sub-commander classes who are in the field? Please do.”

Viscount Valmort said that and politely lowered his head to someone who could be the same age as their own child.

“..”

“I was convinced of it after hearing about the matter during the judgement today. I took a look at the rubber armor presented as evidence. Even though it’s that light it has enough defensive capability to deflect arrows. It’s something that’s definitely necessary for the second knight group which sees a lot of live combat.”

The second knight group is different from the first knight group in that they’re in possession of a formal infantry unit so they have an organization where there’s a mixed regiment with units from all of the knight groups from the second to the fourth that take part in combat. Well if you normally speak of an army then this is how it would be.

Since the first knight group are the elites there’s no many chances for them to directly enter the battle field and take command or cross spears. Of course, if it’s necessary they’ll stand at the front and fight. They’re strong after all. In comparison the second knight group is the main combat force in the conflicts with Devas. The command of the entire battlefield itself is usually done by a

knight from the first knight group but about 1/4th of the members of the second knight group are constantly included in patrol groups that protect the Dirt Plains. Obviously it's not as if there aren't the armies of the nobles included in patrolling the borders but they aren't normally stationed out there. After all, there's more cases for direct combat for the members at the ends than the first knight group.

"..I understand. However, the limit is one suit every three months. In regards to the price, delivery date, and measurements I'll get into contact with the knight group at a later time."

After I said that and Viscount Valmort made an openly relieved face.

"Thank you very much. It's really a big help...And, in regards to the matter this morning but don't take it too to mind. His majesty was pleased with Greed-san. His majesty wouldn't say something like that to someone who he was really disappointed in. Either he would just remove them from their position without saying anything or if it's far unusual and they buy his anger..he'll have one arm cut off. He won't kill them though. I've only heard stories about it and haven't actually seen it though."

"..Is that so."

"After that, his majesty was saying it. If it's you then you might be able to obtain an amazing magic tool like Viscount Grimson or a large sum of money. And he also said this. You're the only person that his majesty can freely talk with. One of the few men who know of his majesty's size through "Saya"."

Viscount Valmort cheerfully said while laughing. It's true that around the summer of last year since his majesty isn't an L size but is still larger than an M size it was necessary to make a custom condom exclusively for the King. I was forced to make the model in front of the King. The requests were extremely annoying and fussy like just a bit bigger, or smaller and such. Though he was extremely pleased that I made it ribbed. I'm sure there's a difficult smile on my face.

"He also said he won't lend you a hand but he said to make sure nothing becomes a hindrance like the incident this time. I wonder how in the world we're supposed to make that happen?"

Viscount Valmort said while laughing quite amused at it. Certainly that's unreasonable. Pulled along by his laugh I couldn't help but laugh as well.

"I see..then I need to put fighting spirit into it. I'm sure it would be quite thrilling to have his majesty apologize to me after all."

I said that had a short chat with Viscount Valmort.

During the time Viscount Valmort and I were talking in the lobby it seems that the King was watching a bit from the upper floor. Since it was from behind me I didn't notice.

Chapter 135: First Wife

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 30

After we all finished dinner, I told the slaves to go and receive the equipment of {Bright Blade} that is supposed to be returned to us tomorrow. If there's anything of good quality then it would be fine to just use it like that as well. I'm pretty sure there was banded-mail and ring-mail included in the armor as well. In addition to purchasing some new leather armor for the members who's has started to damage it would probably be good to make use of those.

After dinner, I paid the slaves their wages for this month and after they separated from us, I pulled along Ralph and Gwine who wanted to go drinking and we returned to "Boil Manor". And then, once again we all gathered in my room.

"I thought we should talk a bit more about things with only the people who know the details a bit deeper. It's about Unique Abilities."

I sip at some bean tea while switching the topic to Unique Abilities and everyone in the room that was pointlessly chatting until then quieted down and looked at me.

"Nn~ this is extremely difficult to talk about...Well just listen."

I guess there was something that they didn't get with my way of putting it, everyone was making slightly mysterious faces.

"Including organizing it, I guess I'll talk about it once more...We were all born on the same day, in the year 7428. It's the same day we died as well. It was an accident and if we died instantly then it's only obvious. Though there might be people who didn't die instantly as well but I can't say anything in that regards. I can't imagine that every one of the victims in that accident died instantly after all. It wouldn't be strange for some of the people to have died in the hospital...It could be possible that only the people who died instantly were reincarnated to this Orth, though that might not be the case either."

“Haven’t we already talked about that quite a bit already?”

Ralpa said that. Certainly it’s quite late to be mentioning it.

“That’s true. However..It seems that the only ones who reincarnated to Orth isn’t just those of us who became victims in that accident.”

After I said that and Ralpa opened her mouth shocked while looking at me. Everyone else is in a pretty similar state.

“Obviously I think you’ll find it strange right. Why I know something like that.”

I continue my words after seeing everyone slowly nod.

“We talked about it a bit yesterday night but..Obviously that’s not all of the story. First, I guess I should start talking about it in sequence based on the dates...However, listen well, there’s no guarantee the things I’m about to talk about are correct. Even the things I heard could be fake. But, for the most part I think there’s conformity in the things I heard. First, things started 1,300 years ago. It might have started even further back than that or might have really been 1,300 years ago. I personally think it’s just one story in a history of things that’s continued since even further in the past.”

I looked around at everyone before opening my mouth.

“1,300 years ago a single Japanese person reincarnated to Orth. However, they weren’t a Japanese person from 1,300 years ago. They were a person who lived in the same era as us. They were a woman named Lilus and an Elf. She was born in a place far to the East of here, a country of Elves that no longer exists. I’m sure that woman had the same sort of confusion and conflicts as all of us but somehow or other she was able to adapt and she probably had a considerably amount of luck as well. She was safely able to become an adult, get married, and have a child. The child grew up a bit..around the time it turned two years old she was out hunting together with the girls of the village. Several days later, when Lilus returned to her village from hunting the scene she saw was her village trampled by an invading army of a nearby country and all of the villagers killed including her family.”

Gwine’s eyes went wide while she’s holding her mouth.

“She pledged to get revenge and centered around the survivors of the village

organized a resistance. I don't know the specific details but I think things would have been pretty difficult. It seems that she spent countless years and finally was able to destroy the country that invaded."

Zenom has his arms crossed and his eyes closed as he patiently listens to the story.

"Around that time the only survivor from her village was just Lilus. I'm sure all the other people must have lost their lives in the fights up until then. And, I don't know how, or why but it seems that either as reparations or as a reward for that she gained eternal youth. Supposedly she wasn't immortal...Hey, don't look at me with such suspicious eyes. I still haven't finished."

Ralpa took a pose exactly like Zenom and was looking at me with a questionable expression.

"And then, it seems she ended up marrying a different man who was also eternally young. I don't really know when this happened. And, it seems that the partner she married wanted a child but she wasn't able to have a child. It seems that husband even tried to kill Lilus in a maddened rage...Yeah, that's right, he's an insane bastard. However, since she felt that she was in danger she ended up turning the tables on and killing him."

Bel is nodding with a serious face. For her breasts to ride on her crossed arms..as expected. It might have just been my imagination but Toris seemed uncomfortable. You, could it be you said something to Bel?

"Just like I explained at the start, Lilus was on the Eastern side of the Oladd continent but it seems after that she moved to the West. And then we skip ahead a bit in time. It was about 700–800 years ago from now, so I guess around 400–500 years after she was born..It seems that some Gods with power named Sharaizudan and Nelal died. Eh? I don't know why they died. In any case, it seems that it took the shape of her inheriting the deaths of those two Gods and she turned into a {Demi-God}. That time, she supposedly turned into a Dark Elf..This is nothing more than my imagination but I think that maybe Lilus killed those two Gods."

Zenom suddenly opened his eyes and then closed them again.

"In other words, it seems she's the founder of all Dark Elves."

I said that and took another sip of bean tea.

“After that, Lilus gave birth and increases the Dark Elves creating a country I’m sure. Though I don’t really know. She called herself the Queen, and gave out several specific jobs while countless years passed. Just like that time passed by... Even though she was a {Demi-God} since she had still become a God she noticed that occasionally there were reincarnated people like us being reborn on Orth.

It seems that reincarnated people are born several years after the previous reincarnated people, basically the generation that is in possession of Unique Abilities end up dying. Supposedly only after that are new reincarnated people born. When they’re born it seems there’s cases of just one being reincarnated or cases like us with a number of people. However, I’m sure there’s most likely multiple. Since there’s probably some who died while children or who she never ended up meeting in their whole life so she probably just didn’t notice them. In her case, since she had become a {Demi-God} it seems she was separated from the frame of normal reincarnated people even though she had a Unique Ability. What can be imagined from this is that from the time Lilus was born until she turned into a {Demi-God} several hundred years later no reincarnated people were born.”

I change the way my legs are crossed and shift my posture a bit.

“And then, once upon a time..I think it was probably a bit over 500 years ago from now, Lilus met a young human man. The young mans name was George Rombert. Right, the founder of Rombert Kingdom, Rombert the First himself.”

Zenom opened his eyes in surprise.

“I’m sure, Lilus recognized it right away. That he’s a reincarnated person as well. It seems she talked with him a bit. I don’t know if she only met him once or more often after that though. However, I think she might have given him various advice so it would be unnatural if she only met him just once and probably talked to him a number of times. It could be possible they had some sort of point of contact even. Rombert Kingdom has a lot of aspects in it’s systems of management of the country that are different from other countries. For example the military organization. I’m sure that the fact that the nobility and soldiers are a different set of rankings is related to the advice Lilus gave. I

think there's various other things as well. The qualifications for companies and the shape of politics. Fundamentally the nobles are ministers who are appointed by the King and roughly governing over things but the rankings of the officials at the end are already decided and even commoners and free people can get promoted pretty high on that end. I think that's something pretty abnormal for Orth. ”

“Certainly, I've heard that there's various things that are different in Rombert Kingdom from other countries..”

Zenom said seriously with his eyes opened. I nod at him and then continued my words.

“I think that George Rombert was wise. I'm sure he was originally blessed with military talent but without getting arrogant from that, he accepted Lilus's advice, and just like this he made Rombert Kingdom a large country that's lasted 500 years. Listen and be surprised at his name before he was reborn, he supposedly said it was Minamoto no Yoshitsune.”

Toris, Bel, Ralpa, and Gwine suddenly got noisy. I'm sure just Zenom has no clue but that can't be helped. Ralpa is explaining to Zenom that it was a famous military commander in our past lives. I waited until everyone quieted down.

“Is it already fine? Ah? It seems that Musashibo Benkei died without meeting Yoshitsune. Yeah. The continuation. It seems that after Lilus became a {Demi-God} she was able to sense the signs when reincarnated people are going to be born. And even more time passes..500 years. It seems that Lilus senses a single reincarnated person born below her feet. That was, Chizumagurol. My subordinate from the past that I met in the dungeon the other day. It seems that Lilus was surprised when Chizumagurol was born. Up until then she had met and seen a number of reincarnated people but it was her first time meeting someone from the same era as her after all..”

Toris, Bel, Ralpa, and Gwine the four of them are closing their eyes or looking into the distance while trying get a feel for Lilus's feelings.

“I'm sure she was happy. It seems that soon after she was born she used magic to peek in on her memories and see what kind of person she was. That

magic is called {Report} and it's spell that's already been lost now and uses a tremendous amount of mana. When the spell is used on the target while they're sleeping or the level of their consciousness is low, it forcefully displays memories that strongly remained in their impression. And then, as compensation for that the target's memory is sealed. Eh? I don't know if the memory that was looked at itself gets sealed. In the first place, it seems that even I don't have enough mana to use that spell {Report} at all so I can't use it. Lilus obviously knew about that. But, since it was nostalgic and heartrending she couldn't help but continue to use a powerful {Report} to indulge in them. Since Chizumagurol was still a baby that had just reincarnated into Orth, there was no way she had any memories of a life on Orth. It went to the point where finally Chizumagurol had all of her memories of her past life excluding her knowledge sealed away. In other words, during the time she was a baby she forgot most of the memories she had lived in her life up until then..”

Gwine's eyes went wide while she's holding her hand over her mouth again.

“But..But, I understand her feelings.”

“Yeah, I understand that person's feeling as well. I'm sure she wasn't able to hold it back..”

Bel and Toris are supporting my wife Lilus.

“Certainly, that's true but..forgetting your life because of that..is painful I'm sure..”

Ralpa whispered.

“Well, forgetting is a faulty way of putting it. Just like I said in the start, the memories are just sealed and not completely forgotten. In reality, when Chizumagurol met me she remembered the considerable portion of her memories. I'm continuing..after looking through the memories of Chizumagurol's past life Lilus noticed something. The fact that Chizumagurol didn't reincarnate alone.”

I took a glance around at everyone's state. There was no one making strange faces. I was a bit worried someone would interject. I'm saved.

“A certain person was in the memories of Chizumagurol. That person was someone Lilus was intimate with during her time on Earth. Since that person

was in Chizumagurol's memories even if she knew it was no good Lilus couldn't stop looking at Chizumagurol's memories. That person was, Lilus's husband in Japan."

"Ah..that is..might not be..impossible."

"Yeah..I can't criticize her..but.."

Gwine and Ralpa said.

"Th..That is.."

"No way~!"

It seems that Bel and Toris might have realized.

".."

Zenom still has his arms crossed and is making a difficult face with his eyebrows raised.

"..Lilus noticed the possibility that the man who was her husband could have reincarnated on Orth as a baby. However, her body was already in a state where she couldn't move freely. Quite literally, her legs were rooted to the ground. Since it couldn't be helped she made use of that spell {Report} and used it blindly one at a time..from one person on Orth after another..she slowly looked into the memories of various people while searching...

I didn't say it just now but this spell {Report} is easier to cast the closer the target is to the caster in terms of physical distance and it also has relation to how deep into and the number of memories they can see but..just like that the memories get sealed as well. The further distance away they are the more difficult it is and it uses massive amounts of mana for a weak effect. I'm sure it was an exhausting amount of work...

After 10 years she was finally able to find them..after looking into their memories and finally being able to specify her husband I think she was quite happy. Even if she's a {Demi-God} she's not omnipotent. In order to meet him she would have needed her husband to come to her place. There was no other way to talk than that...She had already reached her limits in mana and while it was temporary she was about to die as well. It seems she overdid it quite a bit somehow aligning her mentality just to say "I'm here, come and meet me.""

Everyone has quieted down tilting their ears to the story.

“Now then, the story changed a bit from here. I was able to notice it vaguely but I had some memories that were disappearing. The first time I noticed it was shortly after we came to Baldukk. And then, in a strange place I noticed that I had a powerful spell, one to the level that even I couldn’t remove cast on my hand. After that..I gathered information from various places..and there’s some coincidences here as well but if I have another chance I’ll mention it..In any case, I realized I was under the effects of a powerful spell that I couldn’t release myself so I thought the only option was negotiate directly with the caster. In order to negotiate a conversation was necessary. I decided to use a spell called {Telepathy} to talk to them but it’s necessary to be able to see the target in order to use the spell {Telepathy}. In order to do that I needed to use a spell called {Detect Magic User} to look at the caster.”

I took a sip of bean tea to wet my lips.

“This {Detect Magic User} isn’t so easy to use. It requires a crystallized mineral that’s as transparent as possible in the shape of a sphere to use as a catalyst. Honestly speaking, that’s the reason I had been frantically looking for crystals or diamonds recently...When I fell to the 14th floor, I defeated a monster eyeball called Death=Tyrant.Kin but the insides of that eyeball had crystallized. Of course I took it. On the way back..I think it was probably the teleport room on the 13th floor I immediately made use of the crystal ball to use the spell {Detect Magic User} and I saw the face of the caster in the crystal ball..”

I want some cigarettes...

“I’m sure you already get it right? Miki, my wife appeared...I talked to her using {Telepathy}. Almost everything I just talked about now was from my wife..things I heard from Lilus herself.”

Silence took over the room. You can only hear the sound of slow breathing.

Zenom is still crossing his arms and it seems Toris is following after him with his arms crossed and eyes closed. Bel and Gwine have their eyes cast downwards but their eyes are red with tears in them. Ralpa is just staring vaguely into the mid-air.

I put a bit of a gap between it and opened my mouth again. Up until here is just the preface after all.

“Even with a crystal ball this large I wasn’t able to talk to her for very long. That’s why, what I just sopped about now is almost all of it. For starters I’ll say it, but I, won’t go and meet my wife now. It seems that even if I do go I wouldn’t be able to meet her after all. Since she’s far away I wouldn’t make it in time. However, {Demi-Gods} are different from normal people they’re still Gods. It seems she’ll revive again in another several years or decades. It’s fine since if I’m still alive at that time I can meet her. That’s why..don’t worry about it.”

After I said that everyone looked at me with painful faces. So you all cared about me that much. I’m grateful.

“And, this is some new information that I had gained but this is finally the main part. It’s about Unique Abilities. When Unique Abilities reach the max level..it seems you can use a hidden ability for them when they reach level 9. Is there anyone who’s noticed it? I had noticed it. The hidden ability of Magic Acquisition that I noticed when it reached the max level is..I’ll mention it later.”

There was a feel like things tripped for a bit but that’s only obvious. After seeing everyone’s reactions I thought to change the details of what I was going to say. And, I thought that Bel would raise her hand as well.

“Bel. Is there anything that you’ve noticed?”

“..Yes. As a matter of fact I’ve had that sort of feeling since a short while ago. When I’m using Shooting Intuition, if I concentrate even further while using it I feel like the hitting rate gets even higher.”

Ho~? The last time I Identified Bel..when was it again? However, I guess the time I read the details of her Unique Ability was around the time we met...I’ll shift my sight a bit so it doesn’t feel unnatural and try Identifying her.

“He~? Toris, Gwine what about you two?”

【Unique Ability: Shooting Intuition; an ability which makes the intuition of the user sharper and raises their accuracy when shooting. At level 0 it gives a correction of 5% to their normal shooting capability.....has no effect on the abilities of the device used to shoot or the distance or force of the projectile fired with it.The expanded ability at MAX level is that by consuming another additional 1 MP there’s an additional 50% correction added to the shooting ability of the user.】

I see.

Also, the only ones who's Unique Abilities are at MAX level are Toris and Gwine. Ralpa is close to level 8 but it's still level 7.

Toris is twisting his head. I tried Identifying him but there was nothing that had particularly changed. I wonder if the expansion ability only blooms if you continue using your ability even after it reaches MAX level? It feels like Gwine is somehow hesitating on it. I wonder if maybe she's noticed it as well?

【Unique Ability: Geographical Memory {Mapping}; The details of all terrain seen while using this ability can be stored in memory. Also, during use of this ability you can understand when you've entered a terrain that you've previously stored.....visual information is falsified, the falsified information will be stored in memory. The expanded ability at MAX level is while viewing a terrain already stored in memory(this works even in the case the ability is already in use), if the the user is currently inside of that terrain they can comprehend their current location in both first-person and bird's eye view.】

Hohou. In Gwine's case, it doesn't require any additional MP.

“Umm, it's just somehow but recently I feel like I have..noticed something as well. During the time I'm imagining the map in my head, I can understand where my current location is on that map.”

Umu...However, since Bel and Gwine honestly reported theirs I have no choice other than to say mine as well. Out of the options I had already prepared in advance I pick the one that is most suitable. Honestly speaking, putting aside Bel or Gwine I didn't think they had noticed it. Even I wouldn't have realized that I was earning experience points towards my magic skills if I didn't observe it using Identify. I still don't know what kind of expanded ability Identify has after all. That's why, I thought to go with the maximum amount of compromise on this end as well.

“So Toris hasn't noticed anything? I see. In my case, it's become even easier for me to learn new spells. This is a bit different from up until now. It's true that up until now I was able to learn new spells. If that wasn't the case then I wouldn't be able to make use of as many different types of spells as as I do.”

I took another sip of bean tea before opening my mouth again.

“For example, if there’s a spell A here that I don’t know. The easiest method for me to acquire this spell A is to have it actually used in front of me and then directly coach me on how to use it. This is the same as everyone right? The next easiest way is to just have someone use it and not receive any coaching. The next method is to only be told the details and effects of the spells. However, it’s only obvious but in all of those cases there’s the prerequisite of how much mana each of those spells use. I think you can understand that including me this is the same for everyone.”

Everyone is nodding.

“But, particularly in the case of the last method, if it’s just that it’s quite difficult. Even when I have Magic Acquisition it’s considerably difficult to do. My mother was my teacher in magic. She was only able to use the elemental magic fire and water. My mother had no method of coaching me on using spells that require earth or wind magic. However, in my case, just as everyone knows, since I have a lot of mana the number of times I could do trial and error was extremely high. I repeated trial and error countless times and slowly made them my own.

I’m sure that after everyone started training with magic there’s countless things you could have noticed but using a new spell itself isn’t all that difficult.

However, that’s only in the case that spell actually exists and you’ve seen it used in front of your eyes. Using the example from just now even if there’s a spell called A that you know the name of, if you’ve never actually seen it then in most cases you’re still doubting it’s existence somewhere in your mind. Even though I just mentioned the spells named {Report}, {Detect Magic User}, and {Telepathy} I don’t think you’ll be able to use them with just that.”

I shifted my position on the chair again before continuing.

“However, my Magic Acquisition ability let’s me reasonably become able to use a spell just by learning the name and effect of it in a short amount of time. And then, the hidden ability that was released by reaching the highest level, it’s just somewhat but it makes it easier for me to develop my own spells. I haven’t put any effort into it yet but I think I’m going to make a new spell using this.”

I grin while looking around at everyone.

“It will be an expansion of {Status Open}. I think it would be good if I can see peoples {Status} without touching them directly. Particularly, if I can see things that only the person them self could see until now like Unique Abilities, special skills..and if I could see the levels of magic it would be the best. It would be an advantage in searching for reincarnated people, and from here on out, I think it would be helpful in finding talents to make my country.”

Gwine seemed like she had something she wanted to say.

“Gwine, is there something you want to say? What is it?”

“..Wun, I was just wondering how that would be useful?”

“Gwine, think carefully about it. I think it would be extremely useful. For example, if you caught a glimpse of someone that seemed to be Japanese in the town. If Al-san can use the spell he just mentioned there then he can tell if they’re a reincarnated person without even being noticed by them. This advantage is big. It’s an unpleasant way of putting it and I don’t want you to take it the wrong way but before the other side even notices you could grasp their weakness if possible and start surrounding them before they know it. If you can do that then even if they refuse negotiations it’s possible they’d be forced to become allies. After all there’s no guarantee everyone will sympathize with Al-san, I’m sure there’s cases where people normally want to do their jobs or live with their families as well. It would be big if we could make people like those into allies.”

Toris said. And then, Bel continues to open her mouth.

“Since the two of us have already made our decisions, it’s a bit late to be saying anything at this point but rather than grasping the other persons weaknesses, I’m sure we can find things that would be of merit to them and get them to become our allies. It’s big that we can find merits that are tailored closer to the interests of the other person as well. Of course, even if the other person isn’t a reincarnated person it’s big that we can find out their name and family ahead of time as well.”

Next, even Ralpa added on as well.

“If you can see monsters as well then it could be convenient..like special skills. Since magic didn’t work on that {golem} from the other day..”

Zenom says while his arms are still crossed.

“..However, even if you can make a spell like that, we can’t tell anyone about it. I’m sure anyone would dislike knowing you can use {Status Open} freely on anyone at anytime. Just thinking about it is creepy.”

“That’s true.”

I make a bitter smile while replying.

“However, please rest easy, Zenom. I don’t think it would be so easy to use right and left. It’s just my guess but I feel like it would use a considerably amount of mana. Even if I can do it I don’t think it’s something I could use a number of times. It feels like it would be more of a decisive technique. When it comes to using it on monsters in the dungeon unless it’s a considerably powerful enemy it would just be a pointless waste of mana. It might not be all that useful in combat.”

And then,

“I don’t know how much time it will take for me to complete it as well.”

By explaining it not as the Unique Ability, Identify, but rather just a type of spell then I should be able to decrease the amount of evasive feelings they get in regards to it. Furthermore, if I make it so that it uses a considerable amount of mana then even if they ask me to teach it to them they won’t be able to use it. Almost like the spell {Report} to me.

“Sorry but that’s about all of the information I heard from my wife. It would be good if Toris can notice the expansion ability to his Scales.”

I said that and finished things up.

“Now then, the next thing. This morning, I talked with the King. Putting it frankly, there’s a reasonably good story and one that’s not very good at all. I guess I’ll start from the reasonably good story.”

Everyone is focused on me again.

“It seems that fundamentally, it’s {OK} for me to create my own independent country at my own convenience. And, buying a portion of the royal territory..is a weird way of expressing it, but I guess that’s fine, if I can buy some , then

fundamentally Rombert Kingdom itself won't attack us if we don't take any hostile actions towards them first. Though they won't save us even if we're attacked by countries other than Rombert."

Ho~ and I heard sighs of relief from everyone.

"That's wonderful isn't it. It's big that one large points of grief has disappeared!"

Toris said. That's certainly true.

"Ah, that's right. However..I was beaten, after all that old man King isn't an ordinary guy."

After I said that and everyone leaned forward a bit.

"From here on is the news that isn't very good. Like I just said, buying some of the royal territory from the King is fine itself. Though it might be considerably smaller than the edge of the East like Count Rinflait's territory but it's not a territory as barren as there. Or rather, it would be fine to say the land itself is quite fertile. However, there's several large problems. For starters, the problem of money..It's 10,000,000,000 Z. Otherwise handing over a useful magic tool that rivals that amount."

".."

I'm sure they had somewhat predicted it. It's for that reason that we're still tirelessly exploring the dungeon.

"The next problem is the fact that it's a territory in the Dirt Plains."

""Eeehh!!?"""

That's only obvious.

"That's right. It's common knowledge but there's conflicts with Devas Kingdom there all the time. It seems fine if we don't take into consideration attacks from the Rombert side but I'm sure things won't go that way with Devas. And then, the problem that is inclusive of that. Bel and Zulu were born in Devas. Zulu is fine, but Bel, it might be possible you would have to cross swords with people from your own country. Or rather, I'm definitely sure Devas would try to lay a hand on us so it's not just a matter of possibility. If it comes to that

Bel, can you fight? It will be a death match to protect our land. Depending on the case since the Koloil family is a Sub-Baron they might participate in the attack.”

I said while making a sour face, and everyone, was looking at Bel’s face. Gwine is looking at Bel quite worried. However, only Toris isn’t looking at Bel and is standing together with her looking at me.

“Al-san. When I turn 20 years old I intend to marry Toris. If it comes to that then I won’t be Bernadette.Koloil but Bernadette.Karlstalan. And I won’t be the second daughter of a sub-Baron but I will be the first wife of Count Kalstalan in the country that Al-san makes. No, the Kalstalan family that Toris leads in our new kingdom will aim to be a Marquis, so I’ll become the first wife of Marquis Kalstalan. If the Sub-Baron Koloil of Devas Kingdom offers their allegiance to us then I’d like to accept them but if that’s not the case then that would make them invaders. What is there to worry about a Marquis of the Kingdom fighting against some invaders?”

I was worrying about whether you could separate things inside of you. First wife (candidate).

However, you sure are intense. Somehow I’m a bit worried about Toris, but Toris is standing composed next to Bel.

After hearing Bel’s declaration starting with Zenom, Ralpa and Gwine were all dumbfounded.

However, I’ve certainly been shown the resolve of you, you two. Someday prove it to me.

“..That is..excuse me on that. Sorry..forgive me.”

I’ll definitely offer you some good conditions.

“..Fu~ Since Bel and Toris are saying that then I guess there’s no grief on that end. However, it’s very possible that it will come down to some serious conflicts. Honestly speaking..I have to question whether the Dirt Plains is really a good choice..It’s not like I’ve actually seen it after all.”

By the way, since you’re saying first wife does that mean you’re resolved for second or third wives? you. You’re seriously intense.

Ah, I see. I forgot to mention it. Maybe because there was this, she gave up and was saying things like first wife?

“And then, sorry, I forgot to mention it. It seems that when it’s between reincarnated people even if they’re different races they can have children easier than normally. My wife..Lilus mentioned it. It seems she saw several pairs of them as well.”

Bel and Toris made surprised expressions while exchanging glances and smiled.

I need to make sure to properly mention it later. Don’t forget to use condoms...

After that, we all got into a debate about whether the Dirt Plains were better, or the East is better as our conversation continued late into the night.

Chapter 136: Bracelet

Year 7444, Month 6, Day 1

The emergency use pouches that Zulu purchased were the type of you put on your waist in other words {Waist Pouches}. If you swing the pocket of the pouch around to your back then while you won't be able to put much into it, I'm sure it won't get in the way either. From now on whenever we're training we'll make sure to keep this pouch on as well.

And, it's an important point but we were all greatly reflecting on things in regards to the incident this time.

That is the importance of a shield.

If we had a shield even if taking on the attacks of that Franken were impossible, we might have been able to deflect them. Up until now since I've always taken into consideration the usage of weapons I didn't take shields into consideration much. One of the causes for that is because I just end up freezing the lower bodies of most monsters in ice.

Since we've come across such a high-quality large round shield in good condition we took from {Bright Blade}. The largest one took a direct hit from my {Chain Lightning} and it was fused to the left hand gauntlet of the guy holding it so we had to throw it away so the only one remaining was this 50 cm in diameter round shield. I'm sure we should make good use of this.

And, while I say that even the shield requires a considerable amount of training to use.

Among our current members the only ones who have received any sort of real combat training is me, Zenom, Toris, Bel, and Zulu.

In regards to usage of the shield we've all learned a little bit but as a result of our practice matches the one who was able to make the most technical use of it was Bel.

Thanks to how high my physical abilities are I was able to use it somewhat but it hurts being unable to use my bayonet and even if I switched it to the long sword since both of my hands are sealed the neck is that I can't use magic

anymore.

It's not particularly that I definitely can't use magic without my hands open but if I point the palm of my hand or tip of my finger I can use it with far less concentration requires, so I want to make it so I can open up one of my hands easily when needed. It was more or less similar for the other three as well but among them Toris was the one who was comparatively decent.

Bel's main weapon is the bow so she's out the question.

Even Toris is a comparatively decent possibility is just comparatively decent. Since Zenom and Zulu rely heavily on their physiques and strength, in some meanings it felt like they were several levels inferior.

In the first place Zulu uses the two-handed sword and while Zenom uses a one-handed axe, he often swings it with both hands to land powerful blows. Even if I look around at the other members the only one who is completely using a one-handed weapon is Angela.

And if we mention that Angela, she's never tried using the shield up until now.

As a result of discussing it with Zenom and we came to the conclusion that it would be faster to purchase a combat slave who can use the shield.

However, I wonder if there's a combat slave who's learned how to use the shield?

If it was a former soldier like Zulu then I guess it's not impossible...

While I've told "Slave Store, Ronlail" to get into contact with me at anytime if they get their hands on slaves who were taken prison during war, up until whenever she's gotten stock of them, it's always been at a timing we were in the dungeon so I wasn't able to purchase them. I thought of the possibility of reserving one but when it comes to reservations it would be bad if I don't buy them regardless of what kind of person it is. If I'm going to buy one then I want to choose and see their skill first.

Hmn, I wonder what we should do about this...

However, I want person capable of using the shield. If we had someone who was completely devoted to defense then we could make even better use of our formations. If we at least had a person who can last against that Franken for a couple dozen seconds, without taking any major injuries...

Evading all of it's attacks is a considerably unreasonable demand. Even I who specializes at evading the opponents attacks can't continue to dodge them for very long while standing right front of it. There's no helping taking large steps back or jumping to the side. There's no way to fit cooperation with others into that.

It had enough physical strength to send even Zuulu flying. Even if it's impossible to receive they might be able to endure it by deflecting them. If it was a large shield then either taking it while the arm is still drawn back before it reaches it's maximum power or deflecting are the only ways I can think of, so it's probably unreasonable to try and stop it in one position without letting it move very much.

.....

Year 7444, Month 6, Day 2

For the time being, I stated my wishes of a war combat slave who can make use of a large shield to the madam of "Slave Store, Ronslail". After hearing that the madam said "You make difficult requests as usual.." with a troubled smile but I can't compromise on that end.

I said it would be fine even if they were a bit expensive while leaving, "Slave Store, Ronslail".

We don't have anyone who can use the shield but just because that's the case we can't neglect exploring the dungeon.

We made orders to have the metal portions of the two suits of banded-mail we got from {Bright Blade} and have those reattached to the leather armor of Toris and Zulu, I also had them use some of the metal rings to change Zenom's leather armor into ring-mail as well. Due to problems in terms of physique if we were to have the other members armor modified as well it would require some major modifications so they couldn't be helped. The leather ring-mail would have been fine for Gwine as well but since there was also the problem of stamina and she disliked the idea of heavy armor as well.

In regards to weapons the high-quality long sword went to Toris and the high-quality short sword believed to have been used by the leader Demitoridas went to Bel.

There was also what seemed to be a pretty high-quality spear as well but it was a bit too long for Gwine to use. Since it couldn't be helped we decided to cut the handle of the spear a bit shorter. Angela used one of the broad swords. Furthermore, there were four high-quality bows but since Bel preferred the one she was used to we decided to sell all of those. She gratefully accepted the arrows though.

We don't have much to do during the week until the armor is complete. Since we can't afford to just play around during that period we were massacring monsters on the 1st floor everyday.

.....

Year 7444, Month 6, Day 30

It's almost summer. It's been about a month since Miduchi and I split up.

I wonder if she's already reached her home town?

I can always feel her existence in a direction to the Southeast.

No news is the proof of good news.

Come to think of it we found our first magic tool when we were in the dungeon the other day.

It was something like a large-scale stove that a ramen or Chinese restaurant might use in my previous life.

However, it only ended up selling for 3,000,000 Z.

It seems that the one who bought it was the ultra high-class restaurant in the capital "Rokiddo". It's certainly a good price for a magic tool. I don't want just a simple magic tool but an article of magic {Magic Item}.

.....

Year 7444, Month 7, Day 18

Today, finally we found a magic tool with a decently high value.

In an altar room on the 5th floor we killed off the {Gargoyles} same as usual including the summoned boss 13 {Orkish Ghouls} and got our hands on it. It was just the right item for being in the middle of summer right now. The {Refrigerator} we discovered was just like the two-door type that can hold

about 100 liters from our past life. Obviously the doors is just an expression and there was no {Freezer} included in it. There area on the top where the {Freezer} normally would be was a place to put magic stones inside.

【Refrigerator】
【Beech Wood.Iron】
【State: Good】
【Manufacture Date: 18/7/7444】
【Value: 12800000】
【Endurance: 492】
【Ability: Internal Temperature 4 Degrees;1489 value/1 day】
【Effect: Able to refrigerate goods stored inside for preservation. No humidity control function.】

Oou! 【Value: 12800000】!
It's even a bit higher in value than the magic stone of that eyeball bastard. I wonder how much it will sell for? I brought it into a major company(Since it's a company managed by Duke Sandak, I can relax a bit since it's from my mother's family) in the capital right away. I doubt I can sell it through Greed Company. After all I don't have any customers.

Surprisingly there was a buyer for it the next day. The sale price was 150,000,000 Z. Just as we decided from the start, even taking away the companies 15% margin for acting as the middleman that's 127,500,000 Z. Even if we take off the luxury tax of 10% it's revenue of 115,000,000 Z. If I also splurge on the bonuses for the members close to 100,000,000 Z remains.

I couldn't help but think of doing some partying at the "Emerald Duke Club Reception Hall" but since I remembered Miduchi I stopped with it. However, there's some idiots in the world. They paid more than the value in money for it. Well, right now it's summer after all, since there's nothing like a balance between supply and demand so I guess it's not all that strange?

However, in order to continue using this {Refrigerator} it costs 15,000 Z or so per day in magic stones?

I wonder what in the world kind of rich person bought it?

I'm sure it's a high ranking noble, but as expected they're amazing.

.....

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 10

After killing the {Cave Great Boar} that was summoned in an altar room on the 6th floor and this time what came out was a {Freezer}. I think our luck is improving recently.

【Freezer】

【Beech Wood.Iron】

【State: Good】

【Manufacture Date: 10/8/7444】

【Value: 16000000】

【Endurance: 391】

【Ability: Internal Temperature Minus 12 Degrees;2630 value/1 day】

【Effect: Able to freeze goods stored inside for preservation. No humidity control function.】

Come to think of it the {Refrigerator} we obtained the other day had a manufacture date on the same date we found it as well. I wonder what in the world that means. I thought about it, but I can't help but think that the dungeon is making them. It doesn't particularly matter though.

This time just like last time I brought it into the major company managed by Duke Sandak. And then, just like last time I received notice the next day that it was sold. It seems it sold for 200,000,000 Z. Even though it eats more magic stones than the {Refrigerator}, the places that have money really have it. Even after paying taxes I still have over 150,000,000 Z. It's revenue that largely exceeds 130,000,000 Z even after paying out bonuses.

Miduchi still hasn't come back yet.

I can still feel her presence from the Southeast so I know she's doing well. Since it should take close to one month for a one-way trip, it's very possible she isn't using a horse on the trip back as well. I'm sure it'll take at least one more month and there's probably quite a few things she needs to do in her home town as well. Particularly there's the condition her older brother is in. It might be best to look at it as taking a year or so.

.....

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 15

Today is O-Bon and the anniversary of the end of the war. It's only obvious but no one is paying any mind to it.

I forgot about it as well until I was talking with Toris while we were camping in the teleport room on the 3rd floor the dungeon and he mentioned it.

Incidentally, we still haven't cleared through the 6th floor of the dungeon. However, I think we've explored about 60% of the whole?

Recently when I talk together with Toris just the two of us, it's often complaints about Bel(When I talk to Bel with just the two of us she complains about Toris. I'm not the parents of you two though).

Since it was almost entirely close to speaking fondly about Bel my stomach was full but it's good that it seems things are going pretty well between the two of them. While they say quite a bit the relationship between them is extremely good. Even though I say that since they still look 16, in my eyes it still just appears pleasant.

Rather than that what I'm troubled over is Gwine. It seems she gets distracted extremely easily and she's always wandering from here and there. I don't know if it's because she's originally Japanese but she doesn't seem to pay too much mind to the race of the other person either. Dwarves, Humans, Elves, Laios, Tiger-man, Wolf-people, her range of interest is extremely wide. If you were to ask it seems she particularly likes men with large builds. As expected it seems she's showing some restraint in regards to Toris and Zulu but the moment she sees an adventurer from a different party that's a bit good looking she starts squealing over them.

It seems that she's worried over her beard that's been growing but either she's completely gotten used to it or given up on it, recently she doesn't pay any mind to it. Since she was discussing with Zenom about methods of trimming her beard and tools for it, she even seems to be interested. Zenom didn't seem all that dissatisfied in teaching her either so he discussed quite a bit with her it seems.

According to Zenom, it was late for Gwine's beard to start growing and she looks young compared to the average female dwarf. Furthermore, invitations

from the top team organized entirely of dwarves {Gehenna Flare} are considerably intense, she's completely refusing them but she's seen as an idol for the members of {Gehenna Flare} and occasionally goes drinking on their wallets. Incidentally, it seems her recent favorite is one of the dwarves who's close to 30 from {Gehenna Flare} that has a build larger than the average dwarf.

I thought there might be some developments between Angela and Giberuti after that but it somehow seems she doesn't have any interest. She's indifferently spending her daily life. However, she occasionally comes to receive condoms so it seems she's getting a decent amount of release.

Giberuti is as cheerful as usual and now he's completely taken up the position as the mood maker of the party. The food he makes is popular with everyone and even though he's boiling, baking, and frying the food for everyone in the same pots and pans, it seems he's changing the seasonings vaguely to match each of our tastes.

It appears that he doesn't have the traits of wastefully spending his wages much as well so I can see him preparing seasonings on his own quite a bit as well. Also, his skill at massages has increased and he's finally reached Zulu's previous skill. It's true he's not useful in terms of combat but while it's only been about four months since he joined us he's already becoming an indispensable member.

It seems things are going reasonably well between Zulu and the crimson haired Laios waitress at "Murowa".

Around noon on a day off the other day, I saw the two of them flirting under a tree in a vacant lot while I was walking around Baldukk. If he says he wants to marry her then I wonder if I'll have to buy that sister? Well, I'm sure she's cheap so it's fine though.

Ralpa is..Well I guess it doesn't matter.
She's the same as usual.

She sticks with Gwine and goes drinking with {Gehenna Flare} on their wallet, goes drinking with Angela, goes drinking with Zenom, drinking with Toris, drinking with Bel, Drinking with Giberuti, drinking with me, cheerfully drinking with random strangers, she's really always drinking.

I don't know if this is one of her talents but I've almost never seen her paying

money for her own drinks. Only Zulu since it seems he doesn't drink. However, this girl, I don't think the amount itself is all that much. Whenever she drinks she's always drinking beer or things with a low alcohol level and almost never drinks things like vodka. At the very least she doesn't make it to the point of drunkenness where she throws up. The only time she drinks that is when she's with me. It's probably because I can use {Neutralize Poison}.

Furthermore, excluding Zenom and Giberuti before I realized it everyone has started running together with me.

Zulu and Angela used to do it in shifts of one day each but now they both do it everyday as well.

Even yesterday we were all running around the outer crater of Baldukk. By the way this summer, my Endurance increased by 1.

.....

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 18

We clear through the 4th and 5th floors and setup camp in the teleport room of the 5th floor. Even now the only ones who are using this room on a frequent basis is us {Slaughterers}. Very rarely some of the top teams show their faces but according to Giberuti who's watching our bags they immediately teleport to the surface.

Since we're getting our hands on some decent magic tools and camping in the teleport room on the 5th floor, it's already known throughout Baldukk's adventurers that we're challenging the 6th floor. In both name and reality we're considered a top team. If we can find a proper {Magic Item} then I'm sure the people complaining would disappear as well. Though no one has ever complained to me.

In preparation for exploration of the 6th floor tomorrow, we passed through the 4th and 5th floors today and in order to relax we ate some meals and got a massage to ease our muscles. Just in case we still keep lookout in shifts the same as usual to remain cautious. Today, I'm on shift together with Gwine.

"Gwine, recently it seems you're quite fond of your beard."

"Eh? Yeah, somehow at first I hated it but recently I know it already can't be

helped and I've started to think that it isn't half bad like this either. Just, since it still hasn't properly grown out it's a weakness that it's difficult to play with."

Gwine laughed while saying that. It's only obvious that female dwarves grow beards but I still feel something is a bit off about a Japanese girl growing a beard on her face.

"Hmn, what kind of shape of beard do you want to make it?"

"I guess, recently what's been popular is the fork. I want to try making the fork as well."

The fork is fundamentally where they don't shave from the bottom of the chin and let it grow, and when it gotten to a decent length you split it up with some sticks. It seems it's fine to have or not have sideburns and a mustache as well. The major one is where it's split in two in the center of the jaw but there's quite a few people using even more sticks as well. But, if it doesn't at least have a length of 10 cm or so it's not very cool. Since currently Gwine has only just reached a length of about 5 cm the fork is too early for her.

"Yeah, that huh? The mistress of the leather artisan was doing? Hers was split into four."

"Yeah, that's right. If it grows out to that length then I could play with it everyday."

Eh? Since beards are stiff compared to hair I thought it was almost fixed in the form. Is that incorrect?

It seems she noticed my strange expression, Gwine,

"Ah, it's true that the beard is stiffer than hair itself but there's some medicine to make it softer. Among dwarves it's often used to change the form of our beards. I had Zenom-san teach me a good store as well."

said that and caressed her beard. Come to think of it Zenom changed the shape of his beard this winter. Up until now he's just left it growing without shaving it at all but now he's shaving above and to the sides of his mouth. Though the length below the jaw itself hasn't changed at all but it seems to have a bit of waves like a perm. I thought it was a considerably cool looking beard that suits Zenom.

“Hey~ is it fine if I touch it a bit?”

“Eh? It’s fine, please do.”

I tried touching the beard growing out of Gwine’s jaw. It’s certainly stiff but even then it’s the beard of a woman. It feels a bit softer. Hohou~ It’s still straight hair but it’s true that you could play with this in various fashions once it gets longer. Maybe I’ll grow one out when I get a bit older as well. I used my other hand to touch my own jaw and simultaneously confirmed that it still hasn’t grown at all.

.....

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 19

Starting today we’re stepping foot in order to explore the remaining areas on the 6th floor. Just as usual, it takes quite a bit of time but we carefully advance forward. We pass through several rooms, just as I started to feel disappointed there was no altar room again today, just as I hoped we arrived at an altar room. It might just be my imagination but it feels larger than the usual boss rooms.

I can confirm some gargoyle statues on the other side of the altar in the center of the room. I instruct Angela and Zulu who was wearing his banded-mail charge in at the front, the remaining members will split up the formation to fight the summoned boss.

On the right flank there’s Zulu and Angela and the left flank there’s Zenom, Toris and Ralpa in front, Gwine protecting the middle. Bel and I are watching over and supporting with spells from the back.

In order to be extra careful I bury the gargoyles up to their heads in dirt. A portion of it I make into stairs for Zulu and Angela to charge in easier. And, I make sure that I can freeze things at any time.

Now then, it’s finally time to start combat.

Zulu and Angela energetically take off running in order to mow down the heads of the gargoyles. And Zenom, Toris, and Ralpa run towards the altar trying not to be left behind. Just a bit later than them Gwine takes off with her spear. I immediately used water magic to create some water while stretching it

out so it's not in the way, after it arrives at the altar I start kneading in some fire magic mana to change it to ice and..What is that?

Suddenly something like a stalagmite was summoned in front of the altar. I don't think it can move but in any case to prevent it from moving I froze about 1m or so of it in ice.

It looks like a stalagmite in the shape of a bullet with a thickness of about 1m and height of about 2.5m. And, it was quickly established that it's not just a normal stalagmite. The white eye looking portion about 2m up on it suddenly opened a single large eye and glared at us. And about 70–80 cm below that around the border of where the ice was a large mouth appeared.

In any case it's an opponent we've seen for the first time.

“Don't let your guards down!”

And I call out to everyone before using Identify.

【

【Asexual/1/6/7328.Yellow Hand Roper】

【State: Good】

【Age: 116 Years Old】

【Level: 16】

【HP: 264 MP: 32(32)】

【Strength: 35】

【Speed: 1】

【Dexterity: 84】

【Endurance: 39】

【Special Skill: Drain: Strength】

【Special Skill: Entangle】

【Special Skill: Paralyze】

【Special Skill: Immune.Electricity】

【Special Skill: Half-Damage.From.Temperature】

Uho. This one is the dangerous type as well. And, shortly after I thought that, unexpectedly the stalagmite stretched out eight tentacle like things like thin ropes out from the middle of it's body of which four each mowed down Zenom and Toris. If it's something as thin as that then I doubt it will do much damage.

However, the two of them who were whipped let out something like groaning voices of “Uo!!?” “Gumu!!?” and fainted on the spot.

Is it paralysis!?

“Toris!”

I can hear Bel’s scream. And immediately to my side the sound of a bowstring ringing.

However, of all things! The arrow was slapped down by the tentacles flying midway towards the stalagmite.

It seems like Ralpa was somehow able to dodge the tentacles and..No, she didn’t just skillfully dodge the tentacle but she even succeeded in smashing her {tomahawk} into it. “Gao~n!” a scream like that came from the mouth of the stalagmite. Ralpa immediately rolled to try and make some distance.

Following that Gwine stabbed into the center of the stalagmite with her spear.

I’ll finish things my specialty {Lightning Bolt} as we...【Special Skill: Immune.Electricity】?!? Shit! I cancel the spell and send five {Stone Javelin} flying. Bel’s already pulled a new arrow out of her quiver and is preparing to fire it.

“Bel! Switch to magic!”

I said that without enough leeway to look in Zulu and Angela’s direct while firing off some stone javelins.

If I look closely the base of the tentacles that is the bullet shaped stalagmite were originally all over the place but now they’ve moved across the surface and all eight of them are facing over here.

With a number of thuds my stone javelins stab into the stalagmite. It’s HP cut past half. However,

“aaa!!”

While making a voice like that the tentacles captured Gwine! This is bad. It would be extremely troublesome if she was used as a shield.

““Gwine!””

Ralpa and Bel yelled at the same time.

I prepare my bayonet while running towards Gwine at full speed.

In any case I need to cut off the tentacles and free Gwine.

Simultaneously I made five more {Stone Javelins} and sent them flying.

Just to my side a {Flame Arrow} that Bel seems to have fired passed by me.

Wha!?

Another new eight tentacles stretched out from the stalagmite and seemed to have cooperated with the original eight tentacles to smack down all of the stone javelins.

However, the {Flame Arrow} luckily managed to stab into it's body.

"Uaaa!!"

I heard Ralpa's voice. It can't be, you better not have been caught as well right!?

I finish cutting off the two tentacles that were restricting Gwine while yelling "Fall back!" and this time I start using fire magic to freeze the stalagmite.

Bakin! with a sound like that it seems I succeeded in freezing the entirety of the stalagmite.

However, I was only able to relax for a moment,

"No~!!!"

The sound of Ralpa's screams echoed out. It seems it can still freely move the tentacles sticking out of the ice.

In the corner of my sight the tentacles have wrapped around Ralpa's right leg and lifted her upside down.

Shit!

I run towards Ralpa while cutting down two tentacles outside of the ice. Simultaneously I used {Wind Cutter} cut off a different one. There's still another 10 more?

"Ral!"

I heard Angela's voice. In other words they must have finished things with the gargoyles.

"Oaahh~!!"

I cut down another two tentacles while yelling and continue running towards Ralpa.

I guess Ralpa still hasn't been paralyzed, she has four tentacles wrapped around both arms and legs and she's flipped upside down but she's struggling. She's got an expression of terror on her face and is letting out a loud voice with no meaning.

Angela and Zulu are cutting their way towards Ralpa in a different direction from me.

However, it seems that Zulu wasn't able to evade an attack from the tentacles so he took it to the face and appears to have been paralyzed as he fell to the ground.

"Maruso! Behind you!"

Bel's shout ends up futile, Angela was paralyzed as well by the same tentacle that paralyzed Zulu as she collapses. However, during that period Angela cut down tentacle as well.

It seems that the tentacles that can paralyze are already decided.

"Al-san!"

I heard Gwine's voice. Simultaneously a tentacle wrapped around my left leg. I somehow managed to succeed in cutting it off just before being pulled away. Since my posture had collapsed I fell just like that and while rolling on the ground I used {Wind Cutter Missile} to cut down one more.

I quickly jumped back up and started running towards Ralpa again. Other than the four restraining Ralpa there should be two more tentacles freely moving around..another tentacle came flying at me from the flank after I got up. I somehow managed to evade it but I wasn't able to cut it off. My posture ended up collapsing and I ended up having to roll across the ground again.

Bel ran past my side.

It was in that moment, I suddenly noticed I could hear a strange noise, so I looked over there and was shocked.

The stalagmite had grown new tentacles inside of the ice and seemed to be shaving away at the ice from the inside of it. There's not a single bubble, it's supposed to be highly transparency ice but around midway through where the tentacles grew it's turned white and muddy. It seems even be using the mouth-like thing.

This thing, is shaving away at and eating the ice from the inside!

I need to hurry!

After I stood up I saw Bel get paralyzed and fall in front of me. There's a tentacle wrapped around Bel's neck and it seems a bit of the tip of that had entered her mouth. In a panic I cut it off and pulled the tentacle out.

Since her eyes are moving it seems she really is just paralyzed. Ah, it would have been best if I made everyone wear helmets. Whether it be the shield or the helmet, defense is important. The only place on my body where bare skin is visible is my face. I'm sure unless I take a hit from the tentacles here it can't paralyze me.

"nn!!"

I heard Ralph's voice. And I saw her body go flaccid. Shit, even she was paralyzed.

It seems that Ralph was paralyzed by the tentacle that entered from the side of her leather armor and below her clothes.

However, your tentacles are just the four that you had wrapped around Ralph and the one you used to paralyze her.

Once again I use {Wind Cutter Missile} to make five war heads and run off. Ralph was released and dropped. If it was just like that she would have fallen on the ground head first but I somehow managed to catch her in the last moment. There's a warm liquid coming from Ralph's crotch. I'm sure it was terrifying.

Seeing Ralph I lost control of my {Wind Cutter Missiles} and they fly off

somewhere but this should already be fine. The tentacle that paralyzed Ralpa and aimed for my face when I was rolling on the ground came flying towards me. It sure is an idiot. I used Ralpa's body that I was holding as a shield to block the attack from the paralyzing tentacle and used {Wind Cutter Missile} once more to cut down the remaining five tentacles.

"Gwine! Move everyone far away!"

I said that and used {Remove Paralyze} on Zulu. In a few seconds the magic activated and after Zulu woke up I told him the same thing.

I splashed some water over Ralpa with water magic and used the same {Remove Paralyze} on her, and next I used the spell on Bel and then Angela as well. Since Toris and Zenom are far I'll put them off.

Now then, I put my bayonet on my shoulder and turned around to face the stalagmite that's trying to eat it's way out of the ice from the inside and then pointed both of my hands at it. The moment it opens a hole I should be able to finish it off by using spells consecutively there.

.....

After finishing off the stalagmite, I used the spell {Remove Paralyze} on Zenom and Toris as well and then I looked up at the small shrine on the altar. There's something inside of it. I immediately reached out and grabbed that while using 【Identify】. Ah, for the time being I've already finished identifying all of the stalagmites special skills. 【Special Skill: Drain: Strength】 seems to cut the victims Strength in half for a period of time equal to the users level. 【Special Skill: Half-Damage.From.Temperature】 seems to be an ability that halves the damage from ice and fire. I thought that the attacks from the ground other than the paralyze were particularly dangerous because of Drain: Strength but it seems they'll somehow recover in less than a day.

【Bracelet.Of.Dead.Body.To.Water】
【Gold】
【Condition: Good】
【Manufacture Date: 19/8/7444】
【Value: 800000】
【Endurance: 20】

【A bracelet with water and void magic mana infused in it.】

【Once a day the magic water conversion can be used. However the target is limited to corpses of living creatures. There's no limit to the quantity that can be decomposed at once but the volume is limited to a total of 10m^3 .】

On the surface of the bracelet “nuhireki” is written in the {Common Language}. And it has an incredibly delicate relief carved into it. The relief has a person standing, a person laying on the ground, and next to that there's the bracelet with a pitcher overflowing with water lined up.

Eh? This is..I know this.

..I guess the difference is there's no restrictions on it huh? Also, the speed it refills with mana is 10 times faster.

“Al, what is that?”

Zenom asks.

“This, is something I already know about. It's a {Magic Item} that lets you change corpses to water.”

“Ho~? So it's a {Magic Item}! Isn't that good!”

The words {Magic Item} ran through the party. However, it doesn't have a very high value at all right. It's value is only about 8,000,000 Z (8 gold coins)... No, it's certainly a lot of money though.

While we were dissecting the stalagmite in order to find the magic stones from an organ like the gizzard two rubies the size of thumbs and three agates rolled out. All five of them were spheres.

I thought of using the mana in the bracelet to change the remaining corpse to water and called it an experiment. Rather than me using it someone who can't use magic is more suitable. I handed the bracelet to Zenom, had him put it on his arm, and touch the corpse while saying “nuhireki”. In the blink of an eye the corpse turned to water. Though I have no intention of drinking it.

This, I wonder how much it will sell for?

Author's note: Status.

【Bernadette.Koloil/4/4/7429 】

【Female/14/2/7428 ▪ Rabbit-People ▪ Sub-Baron Koloil Family Second Daughter】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 16 Years Old】

【Level: 13】

【HP: 126(126) MP: 84(84)】

【Strength: 18】

【Speed: 27】

【Dexterity: 19】

【Endurance: 18】

【Unique Ability: Shooting Intuition(MAX)】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic(Lv.3)】

【Special Ability: Water Magic(Lv.3)】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic(Lv.3)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.4)】

【Experience: 338942(350000)】

【Gulinel.Akdam/2/7/7429 】

【Female/14/2/7428 ▪ Dwarf ▪ Rombert Kingdom Duke Rombert Territory Registered Free Person】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 16 Years Old】

【Level: 12】

【HP: 132(132) MP: 28(28)】

【Strength: 23】

【Speed: 15】

【Dexterity: 27】

【Endurance: 22】

【Unique Ability Mapping (MAX)】

【Special Ability: WInd Magic(Lv.2)】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic(Lv.2)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.3)】

【Special Ability: Infrared Vision】

【Experience: 266235(270000)】

【Torkelis.Kalstalan/13/5/7429 】

【Male/14/2/7428 · Elf · Viscount Kalstalan Family Third Son】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 16 Years Old】

【Level: 13】

【HP: 130(130) MP: 43(43)】

【Strength: 19】

【Speed: 25】

【Dexterity: 22】

【Endurance: 20】

【Unique Ability: Scale (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic(Lv.2)】

【Special Ability: Water Magic(Lv.2)】

【Special Ability: Wind Magic(Lv.2)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.3)】

【Special Ability: Infrared Vision】

【Experience: 278194(350000)】

【Ralpha.Firefreed/25/12/7429】

【Female/14/2/7428 · Human · Firefreed Family Eldest Daughter】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 16 Years Old】

【Level: 14】

【HP: 139(139) MP: 21(21)】

【Strength: 20】

【Speed: 25】

【Dexterity: 23】

【Endurance: 22】

【Unique Ability: Spatial Understanding (Lv.8)】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic (Lv. 3)】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic (Lv. 3)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic (Lv. 4)】

【Experience: 367256(450000)】

【Zenom.Firefreed/5/4/7416】

【Male/19/1/7402 · Dwarf · Firefreed Family Head】

【Condition: Good】

【Age: 42 Years Old】

【Level: 18】

【HP: 125(125) MP: 9(9)】

【Strength: 25】

【Agility: 10】

【Dexterity: 28】

【Endurance: 22】

【Special Skill: Infrared Eyesight】

【Special skill: Small Magic】

【Experience: 820269(950000)】

*Some decreases due to aging

【Dadino.Zulu/3/6/7442 Dadino.Zulu/20/7/7422 】

【Male/24/5/7421 ▪ Lion-People Race ▪ Viscount Greed Family Owned Slave】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 24 Years Old】

【Level: 14】

【HP: 148(148) MP: 5(5)】

【Strength: 26】

【Speed: 25】

【Dexterity: 14】

【Endurance: 24】

【Special Ability: Small Magic】

【Special Ability: Instant Speed】

【Special Ability: Night Vision】

【Experience: 361099(450000)】

*Some increases due to age

【Maruso.Angela/15/8/7442 Maruso.Angela/12/8/7422 】

【Female/14/9/7422 ▪ Dog-People Race ▪ Viscount Greed Family Owned Slave】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 23 Years Old】

【Level: 13】

【HP: 120(120) MP: 5(5)】

【Strength: 17】

【Speed: 25】

【Dexterity: 13】

【Endurance: 19】

【Special Ability: Small Magic】

【Special Ability: Super Sense of Smell】

【Experience: 329231(350000)】

【Alan.Greed/5/3/7429】

【Male/14/2/7428 ▪ Human ▪ Viscount Greed Family Second Son】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 16 Years Old】

【Level: 21】

【HP: 180(180) MP: 7442(7442)】

【Strength: 29】

【Speed: 39】

【Dexterity: 27】

【Endurance: 30】

【Unique Ability: Identify (MAX)】

【Unique Ability: Gift of Natural Talent (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Water Magic (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic (Lv. 8)】

【Special Ability: Wind Magic (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic (MAX)】

【Experience: 1419825(1430000)】

【Lorence.Giberuti/5/5/7444 Lorence.Giberuti/23/10/7419】

【Male/1/9/7418 ▪ Dog-People Race ▪ Viscount Greed Family Owned Slave】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 26 Years Old】

【Level: 4】

【HP: 104(104) MP: 6(6)】

【Strength: 15】

【Speed: 18】

【Dexterity: 10】

【Endurance: 15】

【Special Ability: Small Magic】

【Special Ability: Super Sense of Smell】

【Experience: 16246(18000)】

Side Story 22: In the Case of Hikami Kyouji (Age 29 at time of accident)

That day, Hikami was sitting in a seat on the train dazing out the window with his right hand on top of his camera bag left in the seat beside him. Since it was an outgoing train just after noon it wasn't all that crowded and since he was in the front seats the vacancies stood out so his camera bag wasn't in the way. Today after this there's a boring photography job for a supermarket brochure in a studio in the center of the city.

It was good that he managed to find a job as a cameraman of a tiny studio but the exhausting work continued to the point where he didn't even have time to sleep, he finally started to realize that if he doesn't change his occupation it will be difficult to marry the woman he was living with but..that was already five, no six years ago. However, his hobby from the time he was a child intensified, and the pride that he was able to graduate from a specialty school for photography made it difficult to step foot on the adventurer of looking for a new job and occupation. The woman he was living with separated from him soon after that.

Another train passed by in a different direction. The windows shake from the wind pressure and awaken the consciousness that was nodding off, Hikami thought (ah~ even though I'm tired~) and looked around in the car of the train. It's the usual scenery of inside a train. Come to think of it I bought a magazine. It's a monthly camera magazine. I should have put it inside of my camera bag. I open the zipper on the bag and after taking the magazine out and after turning it over I notice an advertisement page. It's a high-class digital camera that was just released last month by a major manufacturer. It seems the lens are compatible with the ones I'm using right now.

(Wun, I want it~ During times like these, if it was the studio of a major company I wonder if they would buy it as a company expense~)

While thinking those sorts of pointless things I try my eyes down on to the advertisement.

And, it was just then that the train seemed to hit the emergency breaks. There was too much inertia against the breaking, Hikami grabbed his precious camera bag right away and ended up plunging into the person who was sitting in the seat next to him. And then, unable to endure the impact he was thrown out of the seat and to the front of the train and...

.....

For a short while after that, Hikami was confused. What in the world happened?

He was able to imagine that something probably ran into the train he was on at that time and it caused an accident but there's no method for him to confirm it. I think this is probably a hospital or something but I can't really tell. The words I can hear from my surroundings is mostly a foreign language and I can't grasp the meaning. While the feelings start to gush forward, he quickly raised a crying voice like a baby.

Once it reaches this point it's difficult to even calm the feelings down. However, soon after raising a crying voice and woman who seems to be a nurse soon came and caressed his head and body while saying something. What was even more unexpected was she picked him up a number of times. Hikami's eyes still couldn't see very well so he was terrified that it was a huge woman with a lot of power.

Soon after he was finally able to realize that he had become a baby and comprehended(not that he was a baby but the fact that a woman was lifting him up) it but he wasn't able to understand at all why in the world he had become a baby and furthermore was surrounded by foreigners.

After that when Hikami was able to come to a bit more of a decision he finally ended up sucking on the breasts of the woman who appeared to be his mother. They were largely swollen breasts but not much milk was coming from them. After sucking one dry he was quickly moved to the next one. After he finished that one he was moved to one more slightly smaller pair of breasts. After drinking from all four of them his stomach was full so he fell asleep right away.

(I wonder why this woman has four breasts?)

Hikami thought that but thanks to that he was able to be raised without

starving. There's no reason to complain about it. Though rather than a complaint he just felt it was strange. Come to think of it, I wonder when it was again, in the past there were humans had the remains of multiple breasts, I remembered I had heard that, (so I guess this is that?), and accepted it just like that.

Furthermore, he was able to learn some words that seemed to be his own name. Mamin or Marumin.

.....

There's no glass windows or television. Of course, no electricity as well, the lifestyle with not even any light brought back energy and leeway to Marumin's heart. With no need to be chased around by the boring jobs of the day, how many months did it take for him to realize he had stepped foot into his new life. He was able to understand that and simultaneously he understood that he was reborn in a place that wasn't Earth.

While the people of his family look like humans from a glance, on both sides of the head where there should normally be ears, a bit above that, right, there's ears dropping down almost like those of a Saint Bernard or Retriever and they even have a tail with long thick looking fur. After nervously confirming there was even a similar pair of small ears on his head and something like a tail had even grown out. If he concentrates on his ass a bit and he was able to make it shake a bit as well.

(It's aliens)

His family was a person who seems to be his father and a woman who seems to be his mother, both of their faces appear Western but their ages only seem to be about 20 years old or maybe a bit above that. He also had an older brother and sister who weren't all that distant in age. They're probably children born within a year of another. I guess that means it's a family of five including me. The mother seemed to have a difficult time taking care of three young children but she always makes a happy expression.

It seems the father goes out early in the morning for work and his face can't be seen very often in the afternoon. He comes home late in the evening and after taking dinner, the entire family goes to sleep early. There's almost no

amusement, a lifestyle that just barely gets by could be imagine but that might not be all that incorrect.

(Ah, these sorts of things, didn't they call them {slow life}. A lifestyle like this might not be half bad either.)

Of course Marumin's recognition is mistaken (these sorts of things aren't called a slow life) but to Marumin living in a remote region taking part in a daily job of agriculture or fishing is what he thinks is a slow life.

.....

Once the heart gains some leisure then along with that curiosity starts to expand. Marumin though (I wonder how far this planet is from the Earth), or (I wonder if there's any constellations(Though I haven't gone out at night even once so I don't know if there's constellations in the first place) in the sky that I know) these sorts of things. However, rather than those sorts of unimportant questions, he thought he should start with the more pressing questions as well.

I wonder what the people who leave in this area are doing to make a living. Even when I occasionally go outside of the house, I can't see any houses around. It's just densely growing trees. Although, once every couple of days it seems there's a visitor so there should be more houses somewhere nearby. We siblings are brought along naked and left alone inside of the fenced yard, it's not unusual for our mother to leave the house as well. Since the area inside of the fence is about six tatami mats it's plenty for three children to play around.

About one year has passed since Marumin was born. He's figured out his father's job already. It's a lumberjack. He cuts down trees in the forest, removes the branches, and then it seems he sends them down the river as lumber. In addition to cutting down trees it seems there's also materials for fragrant wood so he occasionally searches for high value branches as well. I guess this is something like a large bonus? He's also figured out that a village isn't too far away. When his mother is in a hurry taking into consideration the round trip time and it's at best 2 Km away. It's like there's something like paved roads so it might be even closer though.

Since there's not many chances to hear conversation he isn't making much progress with learning the language but he's started to understand over half of

the details of the conversations of his father and mother.

Once day, a horse pulling a carriage came along. The horse always comes within the fence that the children are left in and packs something into the carriage. It seems it's the tree branches. I guess those are the ones that are worth money, after finishing packing the load into it the man who seems to be the owner of the carriage pays his father. So I guess this is aromatic wood.

And then, another month or so passed since then. His mother's stomach started to expand again. Marumin showed admiration (as expected of a dog they create children quite easily~).

.....

Marumin has already long since finished weaning and it was when his mother was feeding him something like wheat rice gruel. Marumin notices there was some abnormality with his body. A strange amount of force entered his jaw and it was difficult to open his mouth.

.....

Marumin thought the incident the other day was just his imagination but even after one day had passed the symptoms didn't get any better. Let alone that even the voices of his older brother and sister irritated him and he got upset. Up until now since his older brother and sister were still young, he mostly looked at it with broad-minded eyes but for some reason today it echoes through his head and is unpleasant.

He ate a bit of food and then slept out of spite.

.....

Morning, his mother woke up before dawn to prepare breakfast. While looking at that from the side Marumin clearly felt a strong sense of fatigue, he could feel a stiffness in his face. A winter morning, since he didn't feel any appetite at all he thought of drinking some cold water to get refreshed but somehow it's difficult to open his mouth, he managed to drink a small amount of water but still didn't feel any better.

Unlike his older brother and sister, since Marumin wasn't difficult from the moment he was born, his parents were surprised at his change but they didn't

pay much mind to it then.

.....

Noon of that day, since the weather was good his mother opened the window, brightened by the light, she couldn't hide her surprise as seeing Marumin with a stiff expression clenching his mouth. At the same time a certain word floated into his mother's head.

“Tetanus”

It's nothing particularly strange on Orth. A common disease. However, the rate of infection and fatalities are extremely high, especially for infants it exceeds 80% and even ends up killing close to 90% of them. It's a disease where even if they recover they end up blind. Furthermore, tetanus is a disease that even kills 50% of adults who contract it, an extremely frightening disease. The cause is unknown but it's comparatively common for children who plain the mountains or dirt, farmer families, and newborn babies to contract.

The only salvation is that if the healing spell {Cure} is used early on in the stages then the rate of survival is considerably higher.

His mother ran while holding Marumin the village healer 1 Km away.

There was no time left to delay.

How many days has it been since Marumin started showing symptoms. She ran through the mountains as fast she could while being careful of swelling stomach.

By the time she finally was able to knock on the door of the healer, his mother was covered in sweat. After his mother jumped through the door, she explained the situation and handed over as much compensation as she could, and then the spell {Cure} was used on Marumin.

It seems the symptoms were improved just a bit and it might just have been her imagination but Marumin's expression seemed softer as well. Marumin was grateful that his body had stopped hurting a bit and couldn't hide his surprise. After all, it's the first time he saw magic since he was reborn.

Up until now he had only thought of something like magic as unscientific.

When he was brought into the healer's place he thought he was being brought to a doctor.

Though that thinking was largely mistaken but when he heard his mother explaining the symptoms to the doctor he heard the words, "magic" and "Cure" often and thought (magic..magic, magic!?).

He watched the hand of the doctor that was held up to him in a daze and a blue light was given off before a warm feeling flowed through his body, simultaneously he felt his body get a bit more comfortable. He managed to fall asleep from the relief.

.....

Evening, the doctor used magic on Marumin once more. He felt like his body got a bit more comfortable again. (Ah, thank god. It seems like it was a disease but with this I'll be saved right?) he thought like that.

However, while he returned to a temporary lull state, could he be relived over this?

Otherwise, is it the same as magic in the children's book he read in Japan where everything is fine now? Marumin couldn't decide.

.....

The next day, his family came to healer's house and watched over him. It seems that I'm hospitalized and Marumin finally realized. The healer used magic once an hour while drawing a cold sweat on their forehead. Each time his body felt a bit of relief but the symptoms aren't improving but rather getting worse.

(Isn't this doctor a fake? Even a curse is fine so just use some kind of medicine..)

Since his consciousness still remains clear, Marumin thought that but he couldn't put it into words. The muscles in his jaw got stiff and no matter how he tries he can't talk. In the first place he couldn't properly talk but since his mouth is stuck shut and he can't move it freely it's even more so.

.....

The doctor looked after him without sleeping (just using magic periodically though) but in the first place the disease had progressed too far, otherwise the

power of magic wasn't enough is unknown but Marumin's disease got one stage heavier. All of the muscles in his body, particularly from his neck to his back are stiff.

He's still a one year old infant but it's not like he has no muscles as well. He can feel his body bend in an arc. (it..it's pain..it hurts..)Marumin thought but even conveying that was difficult. Shortly after magic is used it temporarily gets comfortable but in order to overcome the disease plenty of nutrition is necessary. It would be best to eat something when he can move his mouth. Thinking that, during the few minutes his body got comfortable he tried to eat and drink things. Even if he can convey how much it hurts it probably wouldn't be improve the situation. Marumin though (there's no other choice than to do what can be done). The only thing he can do is to intake nutrients without missing the chance. Thinking that he ate as much as he could and drink as well. The amount of both was pretty small but it should be better than not absorbing anything.

.....

The next day, the symptoms advanced even further, Marumin is in a condition where he can't breath. His mouth is swollen shut, since Marumin's body is curving into an arc he probably won't be saved anymore. An expression of sadness can be seen on his parent's face as they hold him, the healing spells the healer provides shift to just providing relief.

(What in the world is this!? Is this really serious!?)

Marumin thinks.

The irrationality of this world, he cursed all of fate for being reborn just to experience this agony.

(I haven't done anything bad enough to experience this much suffering!)

Since his consciousness was clear, it was that much more cruel.

Since his mouth is swollen shut it's like his expression is stuck in a bitter smile, and the muscles from his face to the tips of his toes are curdling.

It hurts.

All of the muscles from the back of his head to his waist are convulsing and stiffening up.

It hurts a lot.

All of the muscles stiffen up leaving him in the posture of an arch.

It's already..no good..please just kill me.

And then, Marumin "finally" succeeded in letting go of his consciousness from the severe pain.

Side Story 23: In the Case of Futami Daisuke (Age 30 at time of accident)

(Ha~ I don't want to go back..I just want to go home like this..)

Futami Daisuke thought while sitting in his seat on the train. The one sitting next to him was Mitsuse Kenji who's one year younger than him. On the other side of Mitsuse Kenji is his older brother Mitsuse Ryouichi. Since they say there's a five year difference between them he should be four years older than Daisuke.

Early yesterday morning, the section chief of a company that Daisuke's company does business with passed away. Starting from noon today he attended that section chief's funeral together with Kenji and they just happened to run into Kenji's older brother at that funeral. As expected they couldn't cheerfully exchange business cards at the location of a funeral so after some greetings the three of them attended the funeral and then after they offered the gifts of condolence from the company, the three of them got some lunch together and then got on the high speed train to Shinjuku. They finished up exchanging business cards and greetings during lunch. All three of them took off their black neckties then and had already switched to normal neckties. Since he's from a completely different company and industry and there's no connection points, honestly speaking he didn't want to be with him.

Daisuke doesn't have much of a disposition for getting along with people for the first time. However, when he can at least explain it as sales talk he has the bare minimum skills and can do proper greetings and talk reasonably as well. It doesn't quite go to subordinate, but he also understood the necessity of showing his face in the funeral for his junior Kenji who just took over business with the other company last month.

In the first place, the section chief who passed away had a far longer relationship with himself and since he was already in the hospital when Kenji took over, Kenji himself didn't have any familiarity with him. When he met him before he was hospitalized you wouldn't even think he was

sick.

(Cancer is terrifying. In just a few months it can kill a person I guess..)

Yesterday, it was the first thing Futami thought after being notified that the section chief had passed away. If I remember correctly, he was in his 40s and it's too soon to die. I need to make sure to keep an eye on my health, and thought it would be a good chance to take another look at his normally indulgent lifestyle. Though he just thought it.

In any case, I knew that today I would have over half a day crushed by the funeral so I managed to complete my work tomorrow but once I return to the company there's a lot of things remaining I need to do. I feel like I just want to give up go home and lay around before working hard at my work starting tomorrow. However, I already know that won't work. There's several estimations and documents on products that I need to submit today.

While his arms were crossed and eyes were closed Daisuki tried not to think about anything troublesome. Next to him the Mitsuse siblings were having a family conversation. Daisuke doesn't really like Mitsuse Kenji that much. Or to be accurate he's stopped liking him. When he finally reached his second year at the company, Mitsuse was a junior who just joined, he goes a bit diagonal at times but he's easy to talk to and similar himself seems like the type that "does their job in the best way while not letting it known they're cutting corners".

He arrives at work as close to the work time as possible and leaves the same way. His business estimation is barely along the lines of "bad" but it's not to the point of being fired. He's accepted his job as just a method to provide for enjoying his days off in places away from the company. Of course, there's people who give their best at their jobs as well but what point is there in getting promoted. If you enter the management above a section chief then overtime pay disappears. It's not particularly that he hates overtime but he just feels life is better spent enjoying oneself during that time. Since he's satisfied with his current income he doesn't see a need to greedily earn overtime.

When he first joined the company, Mitsuse Kenji showed a similar way of thinking. It's not like he was particularly close with him but they were just two people one year apart in the same duty. Since they both had somewhat similar

ways of thinking he felt some empathy towards him.

However, 3–4 years ago Kenji changed. He suddenly started to do his job vigorously, communicating within the company, and joining his superiors for golf on the holidays. At first it was just at the level of showing his face in the golf competition the section chief and other managers held. He only thought, “Ah, he must like golf~” at that time. A short while after that he started seriously do his jobs and became independent in sales, he had become a splendid core employee.

At Daisuke’s company the employees automatically become senior staff at 30 years old and four years after that they become section chiefs. After that it’s necessary to grab their promotion with their own abilities. It’s a system of mainstream companies that’s been used since the past and their company is one place it unusually still works today. He thought Kenji was aiming for something above section chief but it seems he got married and had a child so it was his sense of responsibility towards his family that brought it about. Since Daisuke himself didn’t have a girlfriend let alone a wife, his thinking didn’t reach that far.

He skillfully conversed with his superiors and was well received among the female employees as well. Since Kenji’s face was originally pretty good he quickly became a central person in the department. Any time he scheduled going camping or skiing people would rush to join. The female employees all would say, “If Mitsuse-san is going I’ll go as well”.

He had somehow become a {super salary man}. Mitsuse’s older brother he just met today also gave off the scent of a {super salary man} as well. During the funeral itself of course he didn’t speak much but going off the conversations and greetings during lunch, it felt like it stabbed Daisuke’s in an uncomfortable place of his heart.

(Recently, I haven’t been really good at dealing with Mitsuse but this older brother is considerably as well. I can’t help but think they’re living in a different world from me.)

Thinking that, he thought it’s not like he’ll be interacting with him from here on out so just tried to kill time by pretending to be asleep on the train. Even if

really falls asleep that wouldn't be a problem either.

He was thinking about things like this 20 minutes before he really ended up losing consciousness.

.....

When was it that I finally felt like I was able to make it in this world? Around the time I was 5 years old? Or even earlier? Futami Daisuke, otherwise known as Varudemaru. Nabasukasu swings the hoe down into the dirt as he uses the towel wrapped around his neck to wipe the sweat from his forehead. Right now, he's just passed 8 years old.

During the night of the other day, after finishing his job in the fields, he ate some dinner and then saw a strange dream after falling asleep. In his dream an existence calling itself God talked to him. Up until then he had started to think his previous life was just a dream but he found out it really happened and he understood that he was reborn in this world after an accident. The only thing he had that made him think he was different from other people was that ability to think and those memories were actually something real. About the Unique Ability that even when he tried discussing them with people they said he was lying. He found out that those things really his own and that his growth rate exceeded other people in that world.

Varu remembered back to his life since he was reborn. Soon after being reborn he had no idea what was going on. After a short while he finally accepted that he was reborn and found he was the child of a serf, and then for a period of time shocked. He particularly found the fact that his family including himself had only four fingers shocking but since it seemed like he as just born as that sort of race and not a cripple he was relieved. Nevertheless, as he actually came to know his life from here on out, he started to think that this wasn't too bad itself.

Certainly farm work is heavy labor but there's a large number of people among the slave standing and his treatment wasn't as bad as what is commonly imaged of it. If it anything it was closer to exactly like the lifestyle of farmers and peasants in Japan in the past. There is the unfortunate aspect of being a target for being bought or sold but as a matter of fact that sort of stuff almost

never happens is something he realized soon after. It doesn't seem all that difficult to completely normally live, work, get married, and have kids. If it comes to the second or third sons then it might get a bit more difficult but he was born as the eldest son of this family.

He luckily was able to grow up without a single illness, and while his meals weren't very high quality particularly when compared to Japan from his past but he was provided enough calories to get keep up with his labor. The commoner squire family that owns his family aren't bad people as well. There's also no sign that the lord of the village Viscount Bofitto rules severely or taxes them heavily.

Varu was reasonably satisfied with his current circumstances and the rewards he will earn from here on out. Certainly he has almost no days off but since he's doing farm work in a world with this low of a civilization level so that can't be helped. And when he actually tried doing it agriculture was interesting in some ways as well. They properly grow for the amount of work you've put into them and when the season comes they bloom and return as crops. In that sort of meaning he can feel a bit of worth in doing it.

It's unfortunate that he had no sort of knowledge related to agriculture at all. Of course, he has almost zero knowledge relating to fishing, foresting, and hunting as well. During his infancy he looked down at everyone as barbarians while feeling good about himself. However, in the end for him to go on living in this world, he was more than made aware of the fact that he doesn't even reach the feet of those barbarians in terms of knowledge and way of thinking so in the end he accepted it and the fact that he devoted himself to accepting it ended up helping him succeed.

Right now he's just believed to be the completely normal child of a serf who's a bit smart. As a matter of fact he's thought he wanted to challenge suggesting new types of farming equipment various times but in the first place since the only ones he knew of were the hoe, the plow, and the sickle he was shocked. Other than that the only things he knew were tractors and harvester machines and scarecrows or other things to keep harmful vermin away.

Since there were originally scarecrows in this world there was nothing left he could do. Though the tools seemed to be made of metals different from the ones he knew, since there's no proper blacksmith in the village, there was

nothing he could do about it. In regards to livestock he found it strange that they weren't being used for farm work but when he heard they were too expensive it made sense.

And when he reached 4–5 years he found out about “Status open” for the first time. After his younger brother received the naming ceremony he noticed it when his mother confirmed it with “status open”. Varu knew there were various English words mixed into the language of this world but even then he was surprised at “Status open”. At the same time he held interest in it and tried mimicking his mother and said “status open” while touching his little brother.

【Mitchell.Nabasukasu/25/3/7433】
【Male/19/12/7431】
【Gnome.Rabbu Family Owned Slave】
【Special Skill: Inclination Sensing】

Varu's eyes went wide in surprise seeing the blue window that floated up. In addition he tried using it on himself.

【Varudemaru.Nabasukasu/3/4/7429】
【Male/14/2/7428】
【Gnome.Rabbu Family Owned Slave】
【Special Skill: Inclination Sensing】
【Unique Ability: Resistance(Corrosion.Energy Drain)】

It's only obvious but his own information appeared. However, at the very bottom there was something added in red characters. He had heard the words skill before. He felt like he had heard the words Inclination Sensing before as well. However, what in the world is this Unique Ability? After thinking about it for a bit Varu tried asking his mother.

“Hey, mother. What's a special skill?”

When she was asked my Varu his mother smiled while rocking her baby and,

“Oh? Didn't I tell you before? It's a skill that we Gnomes are born with. No matter where it is or what the situation we can tell if things are tilted or how much they're tilted. If you think strongly about Inclination Sensing in your head then you'll understand. Though since Varu is still a child you probably won't be able to tell for very long, you should try it on a hil later.”

and said that before soothing Mike who just finished his naming ceremony.

“Then, what about Unique Ability?”

Varu asked once more.

“Unique Ability? What’s that?”

His mother found it strange and tilted her head after hearing it.

“When I used status open there’s both the 【Special Skill: Inclination Sensing】 and 【Unique Ability: Resistance(Corrosion.Energy Drain)】 listed.”

After his mother heard Varu’s response,

“Eee..let me see..status open..What is this child saying, there’s nothing like that. There’s only Inclination Sensing.”

and said with an amazed face. And then,

“Really, I need to change Mike’s diapers..Varu, go and make some rope.”

and said that before ending the conversation. However, it certainly says 【Unique Ability: Resistance(Corrosion.Energy Drain)】 at the bottom. He tried pestering her but she wouldn’t listen. That night he tried asking his father as well but after confirming the same response in the end he was just scolded with, “Don’t lie.”

After that he tried asking about it from various people but in the end no one could see the 【Unique Ability: Resistance(Corrosion.Energy Drain)】 at the bottom of his “status open” so he couldn’t find an answer to it.

Several years after that while Varu thought it was strange that “even though I can definitely see it” before he noticed the Unique Ability was brushed away to gather dust in the corner of his mind.

His parents didn’t think Varu would lie about it but they’ve heard of something like a Unique Ability and even if you mention Resistance(Corrosion.Energy Drain) they had no idea what it is so even if it wasn’t a lie they just thought their child was saying something stupid. In the first place, lies are something that’s said with some sort of objective and Varu has no benefit from saying such a lie, nor was anyone at a loss from it. They thought it would be plenty to just tell him not to lie anymore.

Since Varu himself wasn't an idiot he knew there wasn't anymore point in bringing it up as well. In the first place, he couldn't understand any meaning in being resistant to corrosion or energy drain so it's certainly nothing to insist on to the point of being called a liar and just decided to remain quiet about it.

And then we return to the beginning, when he met God he tried asking about it. And then, certainly Unique Abilities exist and furthermore the unique ability Resistance(Corrosion.Energy Drain) is something special that only he has. He also heard that the usage itself is something that automatically activates when he takes that sort of attack that would harm him. Also, when he tried asking if there was any sort of compensation to using it and he also heard it uses every time it activates.

It was regretful that he ran out of question time while asking about mana but he found out that by training you can increase your mana amount. This information matched up with all the information he had obtained until now. In other words, mana increases with the increase to levels of magic special skills.

At the same time Varu was both satisfied and discontent. Since it seems that he'll only meet God that one time. He thought it was good luck that he didn't meet it right after or within a few years of being reborn but he also found it unlucky that he couldn't predict it and wasn't able to properly gather the questions he wanted to ask.

If you were to meet it soon after being reborn there's no way to ask about Unique Abilities after all. You would end up running out of time asking where you are and why you're there, or how to return to the previous world. Of course, that sort of stuff was explained at the start but there's no way to resist asking and it's even likely they might end up asking the same question multiple times.

In comparison to that, he thought it was good luck to meet at 8 years old when he didn't have much lingering attachments towards the previous world. He was able to ask about things relative to his "current" and "future" lifestyle. If he didn't think of this as good luck and be satisfied with it then that itself is a punishment. However, if he knew about it ahead of time he could have prepared the details of the questions more carefully and gained more information. This is unlucky if you think about it but there's no way he could

have seen the future so hoping that far is just a luxury.

Honestly speaking, the first thing he should have asked is the definite method to obtain the magic special skill. If Varu definitely didn't have any talent with magic and can't gain the skill, then that sort of response would be OK as well. In that case he could have made questions that were an advantage to his life from here on out. In that sort of meaning things regarding his Unique Ability were low priority. It would have been equally important to ask things like the sale price of crops next year, or the tools used by the village, or the locations of seeds for crops he knew of from Japan.

In the end he wasn't able to hear information about anything that would be useful to his lifestyle from here on out. The only bit of information he was able to gain was that there seem to be monsters that use an attack where his Unique Ability Resistance(Corrosion.Energy Drain) would be useful. That sort of information is almost useless to just go on living. So what about it? Even if there's a monster like that it's just a matter of not going near them. In the first place, since Varu is a serf he doesn't go to war and something like fighting monsters is for the ruffian adventurers and he'll never take part in it from here on out.

The only things that could be called a harvest for Varu from that time was that he found out that similar to himself other victims from that accident were reborn in places far away and that during level up there's a slightly larger bonus compared to normal people.

.....

Several days after he reached his 17th birthday, Varu got married. The partner was the third daughter of the squire family that owned Varu a gnome girl who was 1 year younger than him. For serfs getting married and having children is in some meanings an obligation. Since it directly relates to increasing the fortune of their owners after all. The population of this Namin village is close to 1,000 people. It might already be plenty to call it a town. It's said to be along the southern edge of the Dirt Plains and it's an abundant village blessed with fertile land. Without being troubled in things to eat and since it's still barely on the Rombert Kingdom side of the conflict area, it's a village that's been able to

smoothly develop.

Up until now a number of families have moved to the pioneering village in the North. Most of them are the second sons or later of serfs and their families. Though they're serfs, since Varu is the eldest son of the family it's unlikely he'll end up having to move. That's precisely why even though his owner knew that their daughter would drop to the serf standing they still let her marry Varu. The girl who became his bride Mimensu was a lovely girl who never stopped smiling.

Soon after marrying Mime she got pregnant and gave birth to the eldest daughter. If she grows up smoothly then this daughter will some day take a husband that inherits the Nabasukasu family I'm sure. Since they're serfs there's nothing that is shown in their status though. Soon after she got pregnant with the eldest son but unfortunately that eldest son died soon after birth. He thought that one of the causes for it was that they were allowed helpers during the birth but even if he complains it won't change anything at all. In the first place, both Varu and Mime are still young and in their teens. He thought they could still make plenty of children from here on out.

Varu had adjusted to the lifestyle of a serf to the point where he was able to think that. One of Varu's siblings had died soon after birth as well. In the first place when it comes to living in this Namin village it's unusual to be lacking in food so as long as the child is properly born their chances of dying are less than average on Orth. It's fine to exclude death by starvation. If they just remain cautious of disease and can smoothly grow up to 6–7 years old then it's safe to think they'll grow to adulthood.

And then, his second daughter was born. After that, the eldest son was born as well. Surrounded by three children and a cheerful wife, while he still has siblings that live with them, Varu was considerably happy with his life.

Up until that moment.

Chapter 137: Watching The Match

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 19

Since we managed to get our hands on a {Magic Item}, I decided to cut our plans short and return to the surface. Honestly speaking, I just want to get rid of this {Bracelet.Of.Dead.Body.To.Water} as soon as possible. Either way I already know it's effects using Identify so it's the point where I don't even care to investigate the small details. I don't want for there to be anything even small that makes me like it or think it's useful, is my strongest feeling. I don't want to be in possession of it.

We returned back to the teleport crystal on the 6th floor and teleported into the teleport room on the 5th floor. After telling Giberuti who was waiting for our return, about the item we found this time and he was happy and cheerfully started cleaning up the camp.

While glancing at that from the side I started discussing with Zenom and Toris. The details of the discussion are only obvious. What to do with the {Bracelet.Of.Dead.Body.To.Water}, the treasure we found on our exploration of the dungeon this time. Zenom and I had the opinion of selling it off but Toris said we should wait to sell it. I already know what Toris is trying to say. I understand but you know...

It's certainly a bracelet that can be pretty useful but honestly speaking I don't want to think that it will be useful at all. I already know about it's effects thanks to Identify. It doesn't have any ability other than to change a certain amount of corpses to water. In the past, I've actually used after all. Even as a final method to obtain water it's almost completely useless because there's my water magic. I'm sure it's certainly useful in situations like a couple months prior when I had my mana absorbed or scattered from the trap but even if you held this bracelet and jumped into that trap I feel like it would absorb the mana from the bracelet as well and either way you'd end up having to wait a full day.

In the past I thought a variety of methods that it could come in handy. Though the most conspicuous of those wouldn't be of much use until after my country is made. For example, cleaning up after a war. Before the dead enemy soldiers end up becoming the source for disease you can completely clean them up without a trace. Though if it's once in 10 days then it's not a very large number but even then it will reduce the amount of work needed to do be done burying them. It's not something that's very necessary to me right now but I'm sure it's one effective method of using it.

If they were a spy or assassin then there's also the merit of leaving almost no evidence from a corpse but I don't think this one is very necessary to me right now as well. There is the method of handing it to Miduchi when she returns and having her assassinate someone, but it would be fine if I just conduct myself so something like that isn't necessary. She isn't suited to being an assassin. Probably if I were to tell her to do it, she'd give me an immediate reply. However, regardless of what her own thoughts are on it, I don't like it.

If I have something like this on hand, then I might end up feeling like relying on Miduchi. In that case it's best if it's not around in the first place. I'm sure I feel like that somewhere in my heart and that's why I want to sell it.

"In any case, we should hold on to it for a short while and properly confirm it's abilities. Al-san you said you saw the same {Magic Item} in the past but do you already know to what degree and frequency that would could be used? Also, even if you do know that there's no guarantee this {Magic Item} has the same level of abilities."

The things Toris said were just as I imagined, a completely reasonable opinion. Even the abilities are considerably powerful on this compared to the one that Myun had. It doesn't restrict the user and it can be used more frequently. I think that the amount it can convert to water was the same though. It can't be helped...

"..That's right, it's just as Toris says. It would probably be good to experiment with it a bit to raise the price up...And..I think it's important to know the limits of the abilities of a {Magic Item}. For starters, I'll talk about the similar {Magic Item} that I know about."

“Fumu, if you’re going to say that then I’m sure that’s true. Certainly there’s no need to hurry.”

While I was hesitating a bit as I responded, Zenom showed admiration and changed his opinion after hearing what Toris said and found it strange how I was glaring a bit.

“..First off, the bracelet I know could only be used once in 10 days...And then..it doesn’t matter if there’s magic stones included in the corpses or not. If you don’t take the magic stone out then that gets converted as well..That’s why, it shouldn’t be useful to omit the need for disassembling them..”

The tone of my voice dropped a bit. Suddenly, I remembered Balk the adventurer who came to Bakuddo in the past to get into contact with Myun. As expected Toris noticed that my state was different from usual. He was looking strangely at me. I just continued pretending not to notice that. In addition, I though it wasn’t necessary to say that it was restricted on who could use it and didn’t require a command word to activate.

“The amount that could be converted at once was limited. Just going off my intuition and it was an amount equal to about 10 times the amount you can make with level 4 elemental magic..about 1/3 of the amount of level 5..and, I guess that’s difficult to understand. An amount equal to the normal size of..I guess so, it can change about 100 people the same size as me into water. If all of the corpses are in contact it should regard them as one large corpse...I said it just now but the only thing that is converted to water is just the corpses. The clothes and armor that the corpses are wearing remain just like that..the definition for a corpse is whether it’s listed as a corpse on {Status Open}..that’s why, it probably can’t be used to kill undead. It has no relation to the degree of damage to the corpse...it can be used while the individual’s name is still appearing or even after it changes to just their race it still has effect.”

Well, there’s no way I’d feel guilty over Balk at this point but he was still the opponent of my first time. I probably won’t forget him for the rest of my life.

“..”

Zenom and Toris exchanged glances while listening to my dry speech. They’re reaching to the part about the individual name. It seems I caused a bit of a

misunderstanding. Though that's fine as well.

"The items that we can to confirm are, I guess, the frequency of use and the amount it can convert. It's fine to test if it can be used against undead as well but since I don't want to touch ones still moving, you do it since your the one who suggested it Toris."

I laughed while saying.

After cleaning up the camp and returning to the surface it was past 4 and getting close to 5 in the afternoon.

.....

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 20

Just in case, we went to the 1st floor and tested the bracelet out. The bracelet of Myun I mentioned could be used with a frequency of once in every 10 days but since it was worth trying we tried waiting one day and entered the dungeon soon after eating. Since I just want to finish this and sell it off right away, and I already know it will be possible to use it again by this evening, I said we should confirm it's abilities right away. Since there's no real enemy for us on the 1st floor the members were me, Zenom, Toris, and Zulu, just the four of us.

I gave the women the day off today. Use times like this to conveniently all have your periods. Since we didn't have the special skill Super Sense of Smell we couldn't find monsters at all.

I used the spell {Audible Clamor} and lured over monsters. After repeating that 10 times, we had monsters gathered up like a small hill. If we're going to do it, it's more efficient to investigate the limits on how much can be converted as well.

Goblins, Gnolls, Orks, Hobgoblins we piled up over 100 of these stinky corpses, and managed to gather an amount that I think probably won't completely be converted and have some left over. I can handed Zulu the bracelet and had him use the magic infused in it. Obviously, since we don't want to become like wet rats, we're watching over from quite a distance away. Zulu came along knowing he'd get wet so he isn't wearing his armor from the start. Zulu looks considerably foolish with only the lower party of his body in

under armor.

Of course, since we had the time we made sure to take the magic stones from all the corpses we placed together other than the goblins. Well, there were Orks as well, so we needed to at least gather enough money to pay for the entry tax for today.

Zulu raised his hand and gave the sign.

Nothing is happening.

I pulled out my clock magic tool and the time was just before 3 pm in the afternoon. We're going to test it every 30 minutes after this. Yesterday, I think it was around 3 pm in the afternoon when we changed the Roper to water. We should probably be able to use it again pretty soon. I almost want to put it inside of a lamp or something that tells if it's finish charging.

30 minutes, just as I had identified we were able to confirm that the majority of the corpses were converted to water. Even the ones we didn't take the magic stones from had properly become water as well.

Just in case, after Zulu tried touching the remaining corpses that didn't change to water and said "nuhireki" once again I collected the bracelet and that was the end of today's experiment. When I was collecting it and saw the soaking wet Zulu I thought.

(He..He's huge...)

Since it somehow pissed me off I immediately used the spell drying to dried him off. It's a good thing we didn't bring along the women. Somehow I don't want to show it to them. It's bad for their education..or I guess it's fine. They're already adults. But, it would have been the best to let Bel do something like this. It's extremely unfortunate there's no artificial fibers or cottons that are soft, durable, and thin like a T-shirt.

.....

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 21

In order to test it against undead we had to descend to the 3rd floor. It's annoying but it can't be helped. We started towards the 3rd floor with just us

men again. Around the time we passed through the 1st floor,

(Huh? Wouldn't it have been fine if we had all entered the dungeon together?
Since it would have been fine to test as a side while exploring)

and I noticed that. Since it's just a matter of changing one zombie to water
there's no getting wet either.

Well, it's too troublesome at this point so I guess it's fine.

Just as I had guessed, moving zombies couldn't be changed to water. It was
necessary to definitely stop their movement and have it showing {Corpse of}
and {Corpse of Goblin Zombie} on it, that sort of bizarre expression displayed
before we confirmed that it could be changed to water. Incidentally, when I
Identify them at first their condition is Death (while they're active as undead
monsters, their condition is Good when HP isn't being reduced) and other than
that the contents of the Identify are normal, afterwards, when I identify them
as an object and they become {Corpse(Goblin)} as the name, the condition
changes to damage(since they're zombies it's not good condition like a normal
goblin corpse), and the creation date(probably the date they turned into a
zombie), and value is also displayed.

It should already be fine.

We're returning to the surface right away but Zenom and Toris are whispering
about something with a difficult face.

.....

That night after everyone finished eating dinner opened his mouth.

"Al-san. After we try using that bracelet another couple of times do you
intend to sell it after really confirming if the frequency of use is once per day?"

"Hn? Yeah, I was thinking of that though.."

"Isn't it fine not to hurry and get rid of it right now? I think it's considerably
useful. Certainly it's limited in use in the dungeon but I think it will definitely
come in handy in the future. Isn't it best to hang on to it?"

Yeah. I already know that. But you know...

"I think so as well. Al, is there some kind of reason why you don't like that

bracelet?”

Zenom participated in the conversation.

“No, not particularly..”

“Then there’s no need to hurry and sell it. Isn’t it fine to only sell it if we really need money or we can find something better? We’re really not troubled in regards to money so there’s no need to hurry on the bonuses.”

Zenom said it kindly. It’s not that sort of problem though..I guess it’s fine.

“N..I see, got it. Then we’ll hold on to that bracelet without selling it.”

“Yeah, that’s good.”

“That’s right.”

Zenom and Toris said at the same time. Certainly, there’s no need to force myself to sell it right now.

Though I already knew that.

.....

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 24

Starting yesterday we entered the dungeon again and are just about to break into what’s probably the last room on the 5th floor. It’s that one room with an altar. I went and took a look at the room before returning, and I started giving out orders for the usual formation of Zulu and Angela taking care of the gargoyles while the rest of the members attack the altar. Bel and I are support.

Since it’s already something we’re used to, I thought of starting off with just the gargoyles heads outside of the dirt and told them that. And, I also instructed the altar team to take their time a bit on charging in. I was thinking of sealing it in ice at the same time as it’s summoned. That’s why, this time I’ll have Bel start on helping with the gargoyles and once a monster is summoned by the altar I’ll freeze it.

After confirming things once again and just as we were about to slowly turn around to head towards the room.

We could hear the sounds of shouts and combat from the room.

Including me, everyone was surprised and exchanged glances but immediately realized.

Another party of adventurers charged in first.

“A~~a, we were beaten to it.”

Ralpa said disappointed. Certainly that’s true.

“How unfortunate..”

Toris whispered regretfully while putting his long sword back into it’s scabbard. I am too.

“Wun, even though I thought about buying some clothes if we found something good...”

Gwine sharpened her lips. Even with her beard growing it’s somehow a charming gesture with that small body.

“It can’t be helped..”

Bel said while returning the arrow to her quiver. It can’t be helped indeed.

“Hmph, it’s unfortunate but the first one to it is the winner so it can’t be helped. Since we have the chance how about we frankly just go and watch the battle?”

Zenom said carrying his axe on his shoulder while rubbing his pink jaw beard.

“Yeah, I agree. If it seems like it’ll draw out then we could eat something like as well. Hey, Giberuti, is there something simple we can eat?”

“If you’re fine with some simple sandwiches then I can prepare them right away in 5 minutes.”

It’s quite strange to start eating while watching the desperate struggles of a different party from a safe place. It was often done to us on the 2nd and 3rd floors when we charged into rooms first after all. Or rather, unless they request for assistance, it could cause misunderstandings so it’s basically an unwritten rule of Baldukk not to do anything until then.

Particularly, this is the 5th floor. Even if we mention other parties there should only be the top teams here. Since there’s no way they could be slacking off

against a room boss on the 5th floor we should be able to see them fighting at full. It's a good chance to find out their skill.

We all started chatting while looking in at things from the entrance. As expected we won't go to the point of sitting down. We're remaining standing. Since the width of the passage is about 8m there's still room even if all 9 of us line up side by side.

Now then, I wonder who stole our prey that was dangling right before our noses?

Oh?

Oh?

If it isn't sis Anderson.

"Huh, Black Topaz?"

"That seems to be the case."

"Oh~ That's the {Frost Lizard}. I wonder what they'll do? Are they going to run?"

"Aren't they going to run? In that case, we might still have a chance at it."

"It seems they've noticed us."

"For the time being it might be good to prepare for combat. Giberuti, after all never mind on the food."

"Yes, I understand."

"They aren't running.."

"How unexpected, so they're going to fight.."

Since we thought Black Topaz might run we remained ready for combat just in case. However, please stop with running away before doing anything at all. It's dangerous for even us to fight without taking the initiative. And just as I was thinking that, unexpectedly it seems that Black Topaz chose to fight.

Anderson glanced over here for a moment but immediately went back to concentrating on the combat and her allies while using magic.

It's {Flame Javelin}.

Without missing it's mark it hit the ice monster, AKA, {Frost Lizard} in the flank. Her subordinates are boldly fighting against the gargoyles one on one and the remaining three are charging at the {Frost Lizard}.

Ah.

One was sent flying by the tail. However, of the remaining two one has a kite shield and long sword on the front and the other is in the back with a spear facing off against the {Frost Lizard}.

The one who was blown away somehow managed to stand up.

Oh? That is...

Anderson lifted a crossbow from her feet. She went into a stance on one knee and immediately fired it. The bolt once again hit it's target without missing and didn't just stab into the flank of the {Frost Lizard} but embedded in close to the base of it. After all projectile weapons are strong.

"He~ A crossbow huh.."

Bel whispered in admiration. What? After all are you interested?

She threw down the crossbow after firing a bolt and lifted up one more crossbow she had sitting at her feet, and once again entered the posture to shoot. Once again, the bolt was embedded close to base in the flank of the {Frost Lizard}.

"It's no good just ending it at once shot. And, they need to start from crushing the eyes."

Zenom said while forsaking her. Isn't that a bit harsh? Since they're still doing some proper damage to the enemy from the start, that should be plenty. Don't use Bel as the standard. In the first place are you the one saying that? Toris and I were exchanging glances and bitter smile from above Zenom's head.

However, as expected it has quite the amazing power to pierce in close to the base. But, even with that the {Frost Lizards} HP is still only at half. Since there's no more crossbows, I wonder what sis Anderson will do? Does she still have MP remaining? Thinking that I took my eyes off the {Frost Lizard} and went to Identify Anderson.

Oh? That guy sure is amazing~ He was a Laios the same as Zulu and wearing splint-mail, a bro just before his 30s wit ha huge battle-axe was taking on the gargoyles and managed to sink his axe midway into the head of one of them, he took out a gargoyle in just one hit.

““Ah!””

”“Oh!””

A voice was raised from my party the {Slaughterers}. It wasn't in regards to the guy who splendid took out a gargoyle. It was because the {Frost Lizard} used it's ice breath. The human with the kite shield in a defensive role in front of the {Frost Lizard} gradually started to freeze as I returned my sights to him and was rendered unable to fight.

“Oh my~”

I couldn't help but let my voice out as well.

“Guoo~!!!!”

The Laios who was swinging his battle axe to finish a gargoyle just now turned around and let out a battle cry while going to help the Wolf-people sister using a spear and they finished off another gargoyle in no time at all. After that they quickly turned around and went running to help out the human who was rendered unable to fight with the {Frost Lizard}. It seems he used his special skill Instant Speed. But, it's already about to end. I think it would be smarter to finish off one more gargoyle before it ends.

Sis Anderson seems like she's going to use magic against the {Frost Lizard} once more as she faces her hand towards it and is concentrating. A blue light overflows from her right hand and a {Flame Javelin} is sent flying towards the {Frost Lizard}.

It was fired with nice timing but the {Frost Lizard} managed to evade it taking nothing more than a scratch. Sister is still planning to use magic without learning.

The elf man who was blown away by the tail at the start has gone on guard with his long sword and kite shield again and rejoined the battle.

“Hmm”

I can hear Zenom's composed voice. If Zenom is composed then it should be fine.

“Hpmh..they aren't all that much.”

Ralpa crossed her arms and commented on them conceitedly. I couldn't help but make a bitter smile. Well, I thought so as well so it's fine.

"But, Bal-san, he's so cool!"

Gwine said. You, just because he's big and strong you think they're all cool. Ah, Bal is the Laios using the battle axe.

Once again I returned my gaze to the combat. Just now, the three Wolf-people woman, Elf woman, and Dog-people man fighting the remaining two gargoyles gained the advantage in their fight. It seems like one of the remaining gargoyles is considerably weakened so they should be able to finish it off soon.

In regards to the {Frost Lizard}, the Elf man, Laios man, and Human man are taking it on. It feels like the leader Anderson is backing them up with magic. If you can only use fire and water magic then it limits the magic you can use for support so it seems quite difficult.

It doesn't seem like the guy who was frozen in frost has died yet. If it's about 20 minutes then while he might get frostbite it's still possible to take care of it with healing magic.

"Oh!!?"

And just as I was thinking that while watching the battle the {Frost Lizard} used ice breath again. Aa~, it's no good if you don't defeat him before you let him use his ice breath..Look, this time the human using the spear behind the Laios in front was frozen.

"Gioooo~!!!"

However, as expected Anderson is still the leader of one of the top teams. She managed fire a {Flame Javelin} into it's mouth. With this it shouldn't be able to use it's ice breath anymore. If they slowly damage it without letting their guards down they should be able to win.

"Just a bit more! Everyone, give it your best!"

After Anderson used a spell she called out like that to her party and pulled out her short sword before charging at the {Frost Lizard}. She only has 13 MP remaining. Since her maximum MP is 31, it totals up to just the {Flame Javelins}

portion that she used.

“Hn”

Zulu and Angela let their voices out for the first time. It seems that Dog-people man and Elf woman were properly taking on one of the gargoyles while the Wolf-people woman used her spear to finish one off. It's already three versus one. It's defense is already to shit. If it starts getting hit from all sides by the three of them then it's just a matter of time. It seems that the gargoyle is the one struggling.

After Anderson charged up to the {Frost Lizard} she,

“Ya~!!”

put in a yell like that as she cut at one of it's front legs. The elf man on the other side from her didn't miss the chance it was focused on her attack and attacked with his long sword as well.

“It seems they decided it.”

Toris said. Yeah, certainly that attack just now was the deciding hit I'm sure.

A few minutes after that, when they finished off both the {Frost Lizard} and remaining gargoyle the members of Black Topaz were breathing with their shoulders. The only ones unharmed were the leader Anderson and the Wolf-people sis, everyone else has minor and major wounds.

I had everyone wait there and I slowly approached Anderson. While the members of Black Topaz including Anderson remained cautious of me they didn't take any hostile actions. Well, if it's this person's party then it's only obvious.

“I took a look at your fight. Congratulations. If you'd like we can use the healing spell {Cure} on you?”

Anderson opened her eyes in surprise hearing my words and,

“Eeh..that would help. But, is it fine?”

“Of course it is.”

After I said that I called over Bel, Toris, Ralpa, and Gwine and had Ralpa and

Gwine use {Cure} and {Cure Light} once each, and Toris use {Cure Light} four times. I had Bel use {Cure Serious} twice. Me? I used {Cure Serious} the same as Bel, twice. A total of four uses of {Cure Serious}, six uses of {Cure Light}, and two uses of {Cure}. I'm sure we were able to reasonably heal all of their wounds.

It seems that the guys who were frozen that we used {Cure Serious} on were able to recover without any frostbite. Though the pain will remain for a while so that can't be helped. The other people seemed to have their wounds sealed quite a bit thanks to using healing spells over 10 times as well. It seems like all of the members of the {Slaughterers} figured out my intention and they used magic while pretending to take over 10 seconds to activate it. Alright, that's good.

It seems that the members of Black Topaz lost their nerve seeing all 5 young members of the {Slaughterers} using healing spells and including sis Anderson they were all surprised. Particularly the fact that Bel and I used {Cure Serious} so casually, their eyes went wide. At the very least I exposed the fact that the two of us can use at least three types of elemental magic with that after all. As a matter of fact Toris can use three types as well though. Though since his levels aren't high enough he just can't use {Cure Serious} yet.

Well, I doubt there's any loss any selling a favor to the softhearted top team Black Topaz. I'm sure if it's these guys then they'll advertise us all on their like, "The {Slaughterers} are crazy. All five of them can use magic." And then no more idiots like {Bright Blade} will try to put their hands on us again.

"Well then, we'll take our leave here...I'm praying for the good luck of Black Topaz."

"Umm, let us thank you.."

Sis Anderson called out to me saying that but,

"No, this much doesn't require any thanks. If it's this much mana then we should be able to recover it in about 1-2 hours after all. And you showed us a valuable fight against the ice monster.."

And I said that leaving the spot while declining the thanks. Honestly, I wanted to know the contents of the shrine they were going to obtain but as expected going that far.

Now then, if we walk for another hour or so we should be able to arrive at the teleport room on the 5th floor.

Chapter 138: Reserve Strength

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 24

After we arrived at the teleport room of the 5th floor we immediately started making preparations to camp. I used earth magic to make our beds and after we finished dinner preparations, showering and changing, we all licked our lips at the food Giberuti finished making.

“Today was disappointing right. I wonder what came out of the shrine on that altar?”

Ralpa is saying petty things as usual. Isn't it already fine on the 5th floor? We're exploring the 6th floor starting tomorrow after all.

“I'd like to think it wasn't anything special.”

Bel responded. That's right. It's fine if we just think that.

“But, the people of Black Topaz..They struggled quite a bit.”

Gwine changed the topic. Certainly they did~ The spear user in their party was only a bit better than Gwine in their movements. Even the guy who was using a kite shield and long sword on the front, putting aside his shield, his sword wasn't even up to Toris's level. If it's just that then even if I don't use magic I should be able to take on two of them with just a single long sword. If it's fine to use my bayonet then I should be able not just deal with three of them but I might even win.

“That's right. That Laios man who was using the battle axe, while it was quite showy along the way, he's the type who can't do anything but use brute force after all. If you look at their overall abilities I think Zulu is much better.”

Zenom bites into the roast chicken seasoned with sauce using salt as the base. Hey old man, that's your second one. There's only two of these per person you know.

“That's true..it looked that way to me as well. After that, that woman who is

the leader, what was her name again? Ah, Anderson-san. It seemed like her skill with the bow wasn't that great either."

Toris responded to Zenom. Hey now, didn't Anderson do plenty well. Even you're using Bel as the standard like Zenom just now. I'm telling you Bel is just abnormal~ Ha~

"No, Anderson's skill with the bow wasn't that bad right. As proof of that she managed to properly land both of her shots right? If you think about the chance of it missing while trying to aim for vital points then it was doing plenty. Even that Laios, his decision after using Instant Speed wasn't the greatest but there's no need to be that harsh..Zenom and Toris aren't your viewpoints too severe?"

I said that while amazed. Ah, this leg meat is delicious! It's not just salt. It has an even deeper flavor to it. Giberuti..you were a good purchase.

"Hn?"

"Huh?"

Zenom and Toris are exchanging glances. Huh? Did I say something strange? Zenom and Toris are making slightly difficult faces. Ah, so that was it was about.

"Nn~ so it was about that. It seems like I made you two strain yourselves a bit. Thanks. But, it's fine even if you don't worry about it too much for now. And, I don't think I want to make adventurers into my subordinates. Even if I had them they'd only be useful for something like forced reconnaissance or so. And it's not too late to start thinking about stuff like that when it's required. Of course~ if there's a good talent then I would want to scout them out. But, that's still a story for quite a while in the future."

I said that and bit into the leg meat again. It's seriously delicious, this.

"Hmm, certainly, I might have been in a bit too much of a hurry."

"Right."

Toris laughed a bit embarrassingly after being nudged in the side by Bel.

.....

After we finished dinner, we had some relaxing tea while getting massages in order from Giberuti. It's still only been about 2-3 hours since we arrived here.

Around 6 pm I'm sure. Recently it doesn't even take us a full day to clear through the 4th and 5th floors like before. Though as expected no matter how used to them we get there's no way to clear through the 4th to 6th floors in just one day so there's not much meaning even if the speed we clear through gets a bit shorter. Well, it's good that we have more time to relax after we finish the 5th floor so that's fine.

It's a weird way of putting it but we've started to feel like this teleport room on the 5th floor has become an exclusive room of the {Slaughterers}. Since we're spending close to half of each month sleeping in this room it's completely started to feel like our own home and we've even decided where everyone is sleeping ahead of time at this point, we even went a bit overboard and a short while after I bought Giberuti we had him carry some rubber cloth in a couple of times and made a small simple bath for washing our feet.

We can continue relaxing like this until 8 pm or so and after that we can leave things to Giberuti until around midnight while resting. After that we have four shifts in groups of two for 1 hour each to lookout. Around 4 in the morning we all wake up and eat, take a simple shower in order and then departing for the 6th floor just before 6 am is our usual schedule. Tonight I'm on the last shift together with Bel from 3–4 am. Since the amount of time we have to remain awake to keep lookout was halved, and the fact that we can all get at least 4 hours of sleep and completely recover our of mana, just that had plenty of meaning in purchasing Giberuti. Up until then due to the rotations of our shifts there were times when mana hadn't full recovered by 4 am. It might seem like Giberuti's sleeping time is short but he's probably making up for that with afternoon naps.

.....

I was woken up at 3 in the morning by Ralpha and Angela. I guess it's time to change shifts for keeping lookout. I take off my eye mask and crawl out from my blanket. I grab my bayonet while still in my under armor and barefoot and yawn while walking to the area that's become the kitchen. I put some cold water into a wooden cup and drank it all at once. Along with a ringing sensation in my temple that cold water woke me up all at once. Bel is drinking some cold water

the same way next to me. It sure is convenient being able to use water and fire magic right.

After that I used earth magic to create something like a bench where we could sit down and,

“Morning.”

“Good morning.”

we greeted each other before going into a short daze. Since we’re the last in order for night watch, it’s not like we’re going to be sleeping again after this, after this we’ll just take an adequate shower and put on our armor.

“Is it fine to go ahead first?”

“Yeah.”

Bel put in a word with me before going to take her shower first. Since both Bel and I have plenty of MP we can get away with using level 3 water and fire magic and level 4 void magic for a total of 10 MP on our morning shower. It recovers in about 1 hour after all. Thinking about the drainage our shower facility is about 1m higher now. I made a foundation from dirt and stone and then we placed boards on top of that. We tilted several of the boards just a bit. There’s a light slope on the lower ones and it stretches to about 20m outside of the room. The slope sinks in a bit and I cut off a piece of rubber cloth stretched out thin to lay out in it so you could say for the time being it functions plenty as a drain.

I felt a bit like taking a piss but as expected it’s not good for both of us to move away while were on lookout duty. I’m sure Bel’s shower will only take a few minutes so I’ll just wait. Ah, I’m in the faction that it’s no good to do while showering. It still remains in my memory that my parent’s in my past life properly disciplined me to do it in the toilet. It’s already been 16 years since then, I wonder if my parents are still alive? If they are then both of them would long since be..88 years old I guess?

Hn? Come to think of it Miki should still be alive as well. And, she’s in this world too, no, was in this world. So there was two of her existence for at least close to 60 years? I could have sworn that Orth was just a different planet or something somewhere in the vast universe but...No, I have some memory of an

SF that I read in the past. It seems that time isn't uniform throughout the universe. Let alone that if you exceed the speed of light you end up getting younger or something...I guess it doesn't particularly matter though. There's no way I would understand from just thinking about it, and I have no method of investigating it after all...

The sound of the shower behind me stopped. I guess she's done. Ever since I gave her that present, Bel has bought some thick towels with her own money like a lady and properly wipes her body. I often dry her hair with my magic as well. Of course I don't use something like a towel to wipe my body. I just dry my entire body in an instant with magic and it's over.

Shortly after, I can hear the sound of Bel putting on her underwear and clothes and it seems she's come out of the shower room.

"Sorry, before I dry your hair I've got to go to the bathroom."

"Ah, please do."

I go down the passage we've setup as a bathroom and turn down the first corner to the left facing the corner wall as I started to take a piss. And, then I immediately noticed. Someone is approaching. Is it Bel? Wait a bit longer for me to finish up. Even I managed to wait for you to finish your shower.

"Al-san!"

I heard Bel calling out to me from the right side, the direction of the room. Simultaneously I heard the footsteps of Bel running over from the room.

Eh?

"Al-san, someone is coming!"

Bel's voice is coming from my right.

Eh?

I reflexively turned just my head around to the left. After being told I realized that several people were coming closer from further in the hall.

Eh?

I look at my hands. There's a light yellow fluid flowing out that can't be stopped. Ah, the fat is gradually being removed from the Martian*.

Eh?

I look behind to the right. Bel is coming running down the hall.

Eh?

I look behind on the left. The silhouettes that were approaching from further down the hall appear to have stopped.

I felt relieved.

“Al-san!”

I look behind on the right. Bel is already 10m or so away.

Don’t look over here. I can’t stop suddenly.

“Uwa, Bel! Don’t come over here!”

She already has her short sword in her hand. She’s holding it inside of the scabbard and hasn’t drawn it though.

Bel comes to a stop.

The only sound coming from the hall is that of a liquid hitting the ground. What kind of torture is this. But I guess it’s still good luck that at least it wasn’t the large one?

Eventually the pitiful trickling sound came to an end and I was finally able to put it away. I immediately used earth magic to bury and hide it.

I forcefully swallowed the awkward feeling and after looking at Bel nodded and used {Light} on a rock further down the hall. Those guys are...

“{Sun Ray}..”

Bel said in a whisper. Certainly that’s the case. About 40m ahead they’re standing, it’s {Sun Ray}. I looked at them for a few seconds and then went to Bel’s side, just as I was about to put my hand on her shoulder I realized I hadn’t washed my hands yet so I stopped. Instead I called out to her.

“Let’s go back.”

I said that and we returned the teleport room.

.....

After returning to the teleport room and I guess the members of the {Slaughterers} got used to it on the 3rd floor teleport room but they were still boldly covered in their blankets. Since I started to feel a bit like testing it out, with a normal speaking voice I,

“Everyone, wake up.”

tried saying that. Unexpectedly everyone quickly opened their eyes. Ralpa even woke up right away and grabbed the {tomahawk} that was sitting on her side. Even though she should have just fallen asleep..I’m amazing she was able to wake up.

“We have a guest.”

I said that and took a seat on the bench-like seat. I want to wash my feet and put my socks and shoes on...Bel grabbed her bow and arrows and crossed through the room in long steps before taking up a seat in the corner.

Soon after the members of {Sun Ray} entered the room. A total of 8 people huh? They all have a cloth dyed gold on their right arm. I can see the mark of a Torii on the surface of the shield one guy is using as well. The emblem of the party is the Torii mark. Although, the only top team with something like a party emblem is them. After they all entered the room they made surprised faces seeing how comfortable the corner of the room we were in looked but they went to a different corner to start making preparations to camp. Seeing that we were pretty surprised as well.

“So they’ve caught up with us huh..”

Zenom whispered. That’s right. The fact that they aren’t returning the upper floors and are preparing to camp means none other than the fact that they intend to aim for the 6th floor. I wonder if we should quickly clear through the 6th floor already and aim for the 7th floor? Right now, we’ve filled in about 60% of the map of the 6th floor. Honestly speaking, if it was just making it to the 7th floor then it wouldn’t be all that difficult. Since if we teleport from here about 50% of the time we end up on a floor we’ve been to before after all.

However, wait just a minute. They also say, “a beggar in a hurry will receive less”. Up until now we’ve always aimed to complete at least 80% of the map

before heading to the next floor. It can't be helped hurrying over something like this. Other people have their way of doing things and we have our way.

"I'm sure these sorts of things happen. However, we who have Gwine have been exploring the 6th floor for quite a while. Even though they're one of the top teams, we won't be overtaken so easily."

And in the first place, there's quite a few members of {Sun Ray}(if I remember correctly it's about 15–16 in total). Up until about six months ago it seems like they were doing rotations but recently they've started splitting their party into groups as they cleared through. Though there's a groundless rumor that the reason for that is us.

"They've been exploring the 5th floor since before we came to Baldukk. For the past six months they should have been splitting their team up while exploring. It makes sense why their clearing speed is faster than the other top teams. In that sort of meaning you could say that we're far stranger."

I said that and stood up. Since it doesn't particularly seem like they intend to fight with us, in that case then I thought of taking a shower right away.

"Since it seems fine, you can all rest at east until it's time. And, it's fine we depart a bit later today as well. I'm going to take a shower after drying off Bel's hair."

I said that before drying Bel's hair and then after entering the shower room, I took my clothes off. I put my clothes into the basket and hung it on the wall. I quickly took a shower and then used magic to dry my entire body before putting my clothes on. After leaving I put my socks and shoes on as well. I put my rubber protectors on and after confirming that Bel has finished putting her leather armor on, I exchanged glances with Bel and started approaching where {Sun Ray} were preparing to setup camp.

The members of {Sun Ray} noticed I was approaching and faced me so I called out to them after getting a bit closer.

"Just now was...sorry about showing you something quite unsightly...I'm Alan Greed. I'm the leader of the party {Slaughterers}. I recognize you all as {Sun Ray} but who is today's leader?"

There's no decided leader in {Sun Ray}. It seems they take turns among several people.

Of course it's not as if all of them take turns being the leader though.

I guess they heard my words, I heard a voice from behind me.

"I'm the leader. My name is Binsukol.Zemyunel. Do you have some business with us?"

So today it's this guy huh? He's a Dog-people man and his age is around 27–28. If I remember correctly his level was 17. I turn around to him and open my mouth.

"No, it's nothing significant. You might already know but on the 6th floor {Cave Boars} appear. Since their noses are good I suggest you take a shower before going to the 6th floor. If it's alright with you then I don't mind if you use the shower facility that we've prepared. It's made so that as long as you have someone who can use water magic of at least level 3 then you can take a shower with no problem."

After I said that and Zemyunel said while surprised.

"Oh~ is that so. It's our first time on the 6th floor. Thank you for the advice. Also, I'm grateful for letting us use your facilities."

He said that and lowered his head.

"No, it's fine. Ah, if you don't know how to use it then please ask my slave that will be remaining here. Well then."

I said that and returned to the encampment of the {Slaughterers}. What encampment?

After that, when it became time we all ate breakfast and then took showers in order before teleporting to the 6th floor.

It seems like {Sun Ray} only leave one person to keep watch.

Chapter 139: Undesirable Role

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 25

After we teleported to the 6th floor we started exploring the same as usual. We poke the ground with a long stick while remaining cautious of all directions, if there's a teleport trap we follow along the walls of the passage to avoid it as we proceed. And then, after entering the 5th monster room we've found for today, we froze the lower bodies of a group of {Quad-Hand Apes} that appeared before killing them and after unfreezing them it was just as we were gathering the magic stones.

The time was just past 3 in the afternoon or so.

“Al-san! Someone is coming!”

Gwine who was being cautious of the passage shouted a warning.

There's three other passages than the one we used to enter the room but Toris is watching the passage we entered and one other, and then Gwine was watching the remaining two. One person came staggering into the room from one of the passages Gwine was being cautious of. After the intruder saw us surprised yet prepare for combat they threw down their spear and held up both of their arms,

“Thank god! I'm not a monster! I'm Ginger from {Sun Ray}! What in the world is going on with this floor!? Please save me!”

and cried while screaming. Fumu. She has the dyed golden cloth on her right arm.

【Virginia.Newman/15/8/7418】

【Female/24/6/7417 ▪ Human ▪ Newman Family Eldest Daughter】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 27 Years Old】

【Level: 14】

【HP: 92(123) MP: 6(6)】

【Strength: 17】

【Speed: 20】

【Dexterity: 18】

【Endurance: 18】

【Special Ability: Small Magic】

【Experience: 393156(450000)】

At the very least her name doesn't seem to be a lie. And it's true that I saw her face this morning as well.

I watched as Angela carefully approached her and picked up her spear before opening my mouth.

“Certainly, you seem to be a member of {Sun Ray} but..are you alone?”

Zenom stands on my left. Zulu is still gathering the magic stones and while Bel casually went to the corner of the room, Ralph moved around her surrounding her on both sides. Toris and Gwine are each continuing to remain cautious of and observe the passages.

“I got separated from my part..everyone, I wonder what they're doing, I don't know what's going on. We suddenly were attack bed a wild boar monster and when everyone was fighting suddenly the wild boars increased. I moved away a bit to avoid the charge of the wild boar and suddenly I was alone! What's going on? When I realized it after that I was in a strange place..”

Ginger said that while facing the side and after unfastening her helmet and holding it in her left hand, she bit the nail of her right hand. It seems like she's considerably reached her mental limits from that expression and facial color.

“Well, calm down a bit. I'm sure it's difficult though. Right now we're being cautious so it's alright. Ah, if you're fine with water then please have some.”

After I said that and Ginger stopped biting her name and took the flask I gave her before taking two large sips.

“Thank you. I've already calmed down..”

I signal to Angela to return her spear and then started thinking, what should we do. It doesn't particularly matter if we just bring her along like this as well. Even if we lost along the way I think we should be able to arrive at the teleport

room on the 6th floor in about an hour. And after that just like that she can return to the 5th floor or surface.

“What should we do?”

Zenom started talking to me. There’s no question about it, there’s no option other than to bring her along right. We could just abandon her, or steal all of her equipment and leave her unconscious here and no one would ever know but I’m not a robber or a yakuza adventurer like {Bright Blade}.

“It can’t be helped right.”

After I said that and Gwine remained cautious while saying.

“Is it fine?”

She might be able to figure out the methods to find teleport traps, how to avoid them, and a small portion of the path to the teleport room on the 6th floor. Furthermore, in the worst case there’s a monster room ahead of here we would end up having to fight without freezing the monsters. Well, unless it’s a considerably powerful opponent it doesn’t particularly matter though. In the past, I remember the adventurer we saved on the 1st floor from the slimes.

The common sense of Baldukk is normally to just split up a bit of water and food and say “Then, be careful now” before splitting up. Otherwise have her pay a reasonable compensation. It’s said that a reasonable compensation is roughly five times the the compensation paid to a guide. The market price of a guide for one day is 100,000 Z (10 silver coins) on the 1st floor. 200,000 Z on the 2nd floor. Though there’s no people willing to act as guides past that. Well, you could consider it the premium compensation of a limited express guide. If you were to go off that standard then since this is the 6th floor it would be 600,000 Z and then five times that amount for 3,000,000 Z. It’s quite a large sum.

I glanced at Gwine from the side and then returned my gaze to Ginger before opening my mouth.

“If it’s food and water we can split up some with you. We’re about to head towards the teleport room on the 6th floor but if you wish then we’re fine if you come along with us. However..”

I checked Ginger's state after saying that far. She's probably already no good alone. It seems her mentality was pretty close it's limit alone so sooner or later she'll die.

"If you'll bring me together with you to the teleport room then I'll give an expression of my gratitude..how about 500,000 Z?"

Hearing that I was about to burst into laughter but I somehow manage to remain expressionless and cover it up.

However, Zenom who was next to me broke into laughter.

"Bufu..Hey you. What kind of joke is that? This is the 6th floor. Since you're in {Sun Ray} I think you know common sense though. Or did no one in {Sun Ray} teach you any common sense?"

"..I know it's not enough. But, 500,000 Z is my entire fortune that I can pay right now."

Ginger said while biting her lip. Ah, come to think of it there was the rumor that the members from {Sun Ray} donate most of their income to the temple. I guess that was true?

"Ginger-san, do you know the market price?"

Toris said in a flat voice.

"I believe I know it. Since this is the 6th floor...I guess around 4,000,000?"

Ho~ She estimated it even higher than I did. Well, it is a floor that almost no one has stepped on until now so I guess she thought a bonus would be required as well. I,

"It seems that you're 3,500,000 Z short but...What do you intend to do?"

said that and crossed my arms.

"..That is..I'll sell my spear and armor.."

Ginger said that while biting her lip. Yeah, as far as I can tell it does seem to be of a decent quality but even if she sells her leather armor and spear it shouldn't reach 3,500,000 Z. Even a brand new high-quality spear is only about 800,000 Z (if it comes to the level of being considered a special grade then it's

not strange for them to be 5,000,000 — 6,000,000 but no matter how I look at it that spear isn't one) and even brand new leather armor is at most 700,000 Z. When it comes to used goods even if they've been properly maintained, putting aside the spear, since leather armor has to be matched to individual size they're dirt cheap. Even at best it'd be a matter of whether you can get 100,000 Z for it.

I look at Ginger who is lost on words while thinking. There is one more method that technically exists. Selling yourself. You end up becoming a slave but it's possible to earn a decently large sum of money. Particularly in her case, since she was a member of one of the top teams it wouldn't be strange at all for a slave trader to buy her for 10,000,000 Z.

Eh? Why don't I buy and use her? If she could use the shield then I would have done that but the spear is~ We only have room for one more person and won't we be full once we include a shield user? It's not like we can exclude the reincarnated people and Zenom is out of the question. Zulu and Angela have become quite useful and including their personalities and the fact that they know we're reincarnated people I can't exclude them either. Giberuti? Don't be an idiot. If we don't have a {porter} then what are we going to do about supplies?

Furthermore, you never know when Miduchi will come back as well. It might still take another couple of months though. Since we'll have Miduchi's Unit Organization at that time, I think we'll be fine even if it increases for Giberuti's spot. It's fine as long as we can group back up in the teleport rooms on the 5th and 6th floors after all and even if acted independently from the {Slaughterers} party I would probably be fine. And in regards to the {Slaughterers} party even without me as long as they have Miduchi they should be fine as well.

"I understand. Even then that amount is fine. However, it's the price of your life. The portion you're lacking..how about we have you pay it with something different.."

After I said that and Ginger,

"Something different?"

and said as if repeating me. And then Ralpha,

“For example, like your body?”

and said before bursting into laughter. Would you please remain quiet already. I glare at Ralpa and intentionally acted in admiration,

“..That isn’t half bad either. Since she seems to have trained properly and her muscles seem quite flexible.”

and whispered in a loud voice. Ginger flinched.

“Al!”

“Al-san!”

Ralpa and Gwine shouted. Ah, you two are seriously loud~

“Shut up~ you idiots. Stop talking about such pointless crap and remain quiet. Now then, Ginger-san. {Sun Ray} is making a map right? It’s famous that you all bring back quite good ores. Obviously, you’ve filled in the places where you’re gathering them right? Then there’s no problem~ I won’t say to give us your map. It’s fine if you just let us secretly transcribe it when we return.”

and I said that while smiling. After hearing my remarks Ginger,

“So you were aiming for the mining location..I’m sorry. The floor maps are managed by the leaders. A normal member like me can’t even look at them normally let alone borrowing them is even more impossible. And I can’t betray my allies..But, if you’re really fine with my body, then after we return you can embrace me as much as you like.”

and said that after facing downwards. Hmph, it seems their party has a reasonable amount of unity.

“Ah, there’s no need to worry about what that idiot was saying. I don’t have even the slightest bit of that sort of intention. However, in that case we’re quite troubled.”

As a matter of fact I’m really troubled.

Ginger is getting depressed repeating, “..not even the slightest bit..”, but when I already have Miduchi it’s not like I could do something like that right. Even if it was before I met Miduchi, I wouldn’t say something like that.

It’s not particularly that I want chump change like 4,000,000 Z. It seems she’s

got a decent amount of skill but I wouldn't really want her as a combat slave either. I also wouldn't want to do what I please with her body to make up for the remainder either. In the first place, how many times would that even add up to being her partner...Calculating from 3,500,000 Z and if it was going to the average cheap brothel in town that would add up to several hundred times, maybe even a thousand times. If we could at least get our hands on the information about the vein of ores then it would be plenty in return but judging from this it looks impossible. Ah, I guess I could just have her create a debt. But, it's not like something like a bank exists and she probably would only be able to borrow from other members of {Sun Ray}. If they refuse then that's the end of it.

How troubling...It can't be helped~ since this is an unusual case, here I'll... and, Bel who hadn't spoken a word in the corner up until now approached our side.

"There's no end to it..Al-san, please leave this to me."

Bel said that and without waiting for my response walked out front.

"..Ginger-san. If you don't want to become a slave then please pay with your heart. Right here and now the price of your life is 4,000,000 Z. Pay the 500,000 Z and the remaining 3,500,000 Z you should return to us someday in your actions. Right her and now please swear your loyalty to our leader, Greed-san."

Just when I thought she came out from the side Bel started casually saying something outrageous. However, what is she saying..."swear your loyalty" what does that even mean?

While everyone is dumbfounded, Bel continues her words.

"If you can do that then there's no need to pay the money you can't afford. It's fine if you sell your heart here. As compensation for your loyalty, we'll save your life...Ah, of course we don't need something like a contract. It's possible for you to betray us and it's also possible for you to obey here and then pretend not to know later. But, once we realize that or are left with that sort of impression, what happens next I'll leave up to your imagination."

No, you, what are you deciding all on your own...It's fine though you know. While we've frozen up hearing Bel's statement, including Ginger no one could

say a single word. While we were all like that Bel continued even more.

“Please decide on your own if you think this is cheap or expensive. We won’t force it on you. It’s fine if you want to sell yourself as a slave and pay the remaining 3,500,000 Z as well and if you can’t pay that large amount, it’s also fine for us to split up here as well. In that case, if you try to follow after us you’ll become an attack target though. Of course, if you have some method of obtaining the money soon after we return then that’s not a problem either. Please decide right now, whether you’ll pay, or won’t pay, if you will pay will it be with money, or something different.”

After saying that Bel shut her mouth and stared at Ginger. When a beauty makes a cold face and says cold things it really makes you shudder. However..even if you don’t take that sort of method..Well I guess it’s fine. Sorry about that, Bel.

“Bel, don’t drive her so far into the corner. Ginger-san, for today we’ll give you the special bargain of 500,000 Z. Since we would have originally gotten the income of 4,000,000 Z I’ll have to pay the members a bonus. As expected we can’t do it for free. And it will end up teaching you some of the tricks to getting through the 6th floor after all. Ah, I won’t particularly stop you from telling {Sun Ray} about that when you return. If you want to talk about it feel free. There’s nothing special I’ll do about that. That’s why, please relax. We’ll definitely return you to the teleport room on the 6th floor.”

I said that and looked at Zulu who’s still gathering the magic stones. One more huh? I returned my gaze back to Ginger and she’s making an openly relieved expression. I don’t know whether this goes far enough to be considered a favor to her. Well, even if we just abandoned her to her death it would be the source of some bad dreams as well.

While waiting for Zulu to finish gathering the magic stone, we started down the passage which seems most likely to lead to the center of the 6th floor that Toris was watching over. Along the way we were attacked just once by a group of 5 {Vampire Bats} but just as would be expected from one of the weakest monsters on the 6th floor we wiped them out in no time just by stabbing them to death with no magic.

The reason the ceilings of the 6th floor is so high is probably because these {Vampire Bats} are here. When they suddenly come swooping down at you if you calm down and use {Light} in front of their faces you can cause them to flinch and you can tell where they're flying for the next five minutes as well. After that you just need to wait until they come down aiming at someone and stab them with a spear or sword, or Bel can shoot them with her bow.

We ran into several teleport traps along the way but we were able to get past them easily by going through the sides and soon after we arrived at the teleport room on the 6th floor.

“Now then, let's return shall we?”

I said that and grabbed on to the crystal rod. Once I confirmed that everyone had grabbed it including Ginger, we returned to the teleport room on the 5th floor.

.....

After returning to the teleport room on the 5th floor there were only four people excluding Giberuti. Excluding Ginger that means three people weren't able to return. The leader Zenmyunel is among one of the four that returned. Ginger returned along with us and the members of {Sun Ray} including the leader Zemyunel let out a shout of joy after being surprised but the leader Zemyunel immediately came over to me and lowered his head.

“It seems you protected Ginger. I offer you my thanks. Thank you very much.”

“Ah, please don't worry about it. We've already properly received her thanks. There's no problem.”

“Eh? I see.”

Zemyunel said with a slightly confused face. I,

“By the way, I've heard the circumstances from Ginger-san. It seems that three people still haven't returned..”

said that and changed the topic.

“We took quite a bit of damage..It seems that the 6th floor was still too soon

for us.”

I don't know if it was too soon but if the situation I heard about from Ginger is correct then it's not surprising. I'm sure you were surprised over all the firsts right? It seems like you have bad luck as well. However, you brought us quite the useful information. I'm greatly thankful for that. After all it seems that the destinations of the teleport traps on the 6th floor are random. Though if you hold hands while jumping in at the same time you might end up together, we really don't feel up for testing it out.

“I really can't say anything...It would be good if your allies can safely return.”

I couldn't do anything more than say that with an unfortunate face.

“Come to think of it, you just said you've already received thanks from Ginger but I can't imagine she was in possession of that much money though..”

Zemyunel made an expression as if inquiring from us as he said it.

“Yeah, we haven't actually received it yet but we received a promise to accept 500,000 Z from her over the incident this time.”

After hearing me say casually Zemyunel,

“500,000!? For just that much...”

and shouted that. Hearing that the other members of {Sun Ray} were wondering what was going on and looking over here. Ginger explained that “The {Slaughterers} brought me to the teleport room on the 6th floor for just 500,000 Z”. They raised equally surprised voices.

“If she says she can't pay anymore than that then it can't be helped. It doesn't feel very good to just leave someone to die after all.”

and I shrugged my shoulders while replying.

“Umm..As a matter of fact, I know this is very rude, but today when I talked with everyone about going to the 6th floor..”

Zemyunel started to talk hesitantly. About what?

“If one of you were to seek our help on the 6th floor how much would we require to save one person and..”

Hmph. Well anyone talks about things on that level lightly.

“And, as expected since there’s a lot of danger to the 6th floor, we thought it wouldn’t be cheap, and..”

That’s only obvious. Even I thought about 3,000,000 Z at first.

“We came to the conclusion that 4,000,000 Z per person still wouldn’t be worth it..”

So that’s why Ginger said 4,000,000 Z. I get it.

“But, it seems I just heard you saved Ginger for 500,000 Z and..”

It’s about the cost of saving someone on the 1st floor. But it’s fine.

“Really..Thank you very much.”

I waved my hand while turning around as if saying not to worry about it and returned to everyone else.

Bel properly left an impression on her. They say there’s nothing more expensive than free. Ah, I guess it still wasn’t free huh?

Chapter 140: Ideal

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 25

After I returned to where everyone else was I thought to take a shower and feel refreshed but it was right after Gwine had jumped into the shower room. For her to take one before me, what a shameless girl, is what I was thinking but after giving it more thought Gwine was especially careful on the way back not to reveal her Unique Ability to Ginger. Yeah, for today Gwine has earned the right to first shower I guess...Next is, Bel. And after that next would be Toris. I guess I'm fine later. I'm not all that tired either way.

"Bel-san, hot water~"

It seems that after taking off her leather armor and clothes Gwine entered the shower room. Bel says yes-yes~ while putting some hot water into the bucket above the back of the shower room. Zenom still has his armor on as he relaxes a bit sticking his feet in the foot bath. Ralpha and Angela are helping out Toris to remove his banded-mail. They hang the armor that's been taken off on the armor stand against the wall and after that each one of them checks their weapons for damage. Giberuti seems to have lit up the stove magic tool. The vegetables and meat he cut up is sizzling as it echoes through the room.

I feel a bit sorry for {Sun Ray} but it's the peaceful daily life of the {Slaughterers}.

After I went to Giberuti's side and,

"This time we'll return tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, so don't worry about the remaining amount of ingredients and make some for them as well."

said that before pointing at the five members of {Sun Ray} who were whispering about something with my chin.

Giberuti smiled and,

"I understand, master."

said that before adding more vegetables and meat to the frying pan. The large pot on the stove next to it was lit as well.

“About how long will it take before it’s ready to eat?”

and I asked that,

“About 15 minutes.”

the reply came back. I guess about the time Bel finishes her shower. I take off my rubber protectors and after returning to my under armor I said to Bel, “Next, Bel you take yours. Also, thanks for today. Since it was a good chance. I’ll make good use of it.” before starting to check my bayonet. As a matter of fact I didn’t even use it once today but checking it is still necessary. After confirming there’s no problem really quick and I started towards {Sun Ray} on the other side of the room. It was just as they were digging through bags in order to prepare their meals. It was good timing.

Judging from the guy who pulled it out first it seems their meal is something like rock hard soba with some dried meat and a single cucumber. I guess it’s still better than those shitty disgusting cookie-like preserved foods.

“Zemyunel-san, if it’s alright with you, would you all like to join us for a meal? We have something warm. And after your meal, feel free to take a shower as well. You’ll feel refreshed.”

I said that and smiled. Zemyunel,

“No, I’m grateful for the offer but, however, to go that far..”

and started trying to show some reservation but,

“Please don’t hold back. And, the food that we went out of the way to prepare will go to waste.”

and I replied like that while smiling at their other members including Ginger. The members of {Sun Ray} exchanged glances before waiting for Zemyunel’s decision.

“I understand. Please allow us to rely on your kindness. I would definitely like to eat together with you.”

After confirming that Zemyunel replied like that I turned around and went

back.

.....

Zenom and Ralpha, Toris and Bel, Gwine and Angela, Zulu and Giberuti, each of them share their tableware in groups of two, if we take out the one remaining set then that should be good for the five of them to share. Me? Of course I use mine alone. The meal was a stir fry of meat, vegetables with onions, cabbage, pumpkin, carrots, bacon, and then a warm soup made from dried meat as well.

“It’s nothing but please warm yourselves up.”

I said that and started eating. The members of {Sun Ray} started off showing quite a bit of restraint but after all it seems they were hungry and it was their first proper meal in a few days, so they quickly started devouring it.

The food disappeared in no time at all but I think we were able to provide plenty in amount.

“No, Greed-san. You not only took care of one of our members but even a meal..It was delicious. Thank you for very much. It’s been about four days since we had a warm meal so we were all happy.”

Zemyunel said while handing the tableware to Giberuti. Matching up with him the members of {Sun Ray} all said their thanks as well.

“No, please don’t take mind of it...By the way, it’s a slightly rude question but what are you planning to do about the members that still haven’t returned?”

though I said that, it’s nothing more than a social courtesy. There’s no method of searching for them so there’s no other method than for them to return to their teleport crystal or make it to the teleport room on the 6th floor on their own abilities. Even if we blindly try to search the 6th floor the chances of discovering them are pretty minuscule. Zemyunel made a difficult face after hearing my words.

“..It can’t be helped but searching is probably impossible. I intend to camp here for a few days while waiting but we only carry around one day worth preserved food on each of us. Even if they drag out eating it three days is the limit I’m sure..”

Well, that's probably true. I,

"Let's just pray that the three of them didn't end up in different locations. Two people rather than one person, three people rather than two people, the chances of them safely remaining alive will increase."

and I said with a serious face encouraging them.

"That's right.."

and Zemyunel said that facing downwards. It's only obvious but he's probably feeling responsible. That's right, it's almost 100% your responsibility. If you just listen to and investigate even bit of the rumors you can learn that on the 6th floor teleporting occurs even though there's no crystals. Or Rather, it's stranger that an adventurer of this town doesn't know about it. It's unbelievable that just they didn't know about it. Obviously they were probably careful.

While it can be said there's no helping the fact that another monster suddenly intruded during combat, the fact that you couldn't take charge of the members enough to keep them from running away to avoid it in that situation is your problem. I don't know how {Sun Ray} chooses their leaders but if this is the first leader they send to the 6th floor then there's probably no good talents among them. After all they're just adventurers.

"Well, please don't get too depressed. How about taking a shower and feeling refreshed? Koloil-kun prepare some hot water."

It's fine to reflect on mistakes but it can't be helped worrying about it forever. Rather than that, what you need to think about it is the best way to camp here as long as possible waiting for your allies. If I was you, I'd have all of my allies give me their food and the rest of them return to the surface ahead of time to hold out even just a bit longer. Otherwise if you have the leeway, start negotiations for us to sell you some food.

Obviously we already have preparations made in the case that one of our members gets caught and separated from a teleport trap. Including the slaves everyone is already holding a copy of the portions of the map we've already made and if possible they're supposed to leave signs on the ground while heading towards the center, if they end up feeling in danger then they should

focus on protecting themselves and move to a place they think is safe, and then they should remain there without moving waiting for help as long as possible. Particularly before we had finished more than 50% of the map we paid extra care that we definitely wouldn't end up splitting up. That's the biggest reason our exploration speed was slow. Though I think that Gwine could return all on her own.

If the one who gets separated is me then I told them to not worry and just wait either on this 5th floor or leave Giberuti and wait on the surface or if it's someone other me, then we'll leave just me and Giberuti and the rest will all return to the surface once and try to hire a porter to carry as much food as possible and somehow make it back to here. It's more efficient for me to search alone and even in the chance that they manage to return here while I'm searching since Giberuti is here I can relax and focus on it.

That's why, when we returned bringing along Ginger I found it so strange there were four people there. I don't think that Dog-people race only have as much intelligence as a dog but is this guy an idiot? is what I thought. If I hadn't called out to them first, they were all about to eat together just now.

After I mentioned it, after all they must have wanted to change the mood so Zemyunel decided to take a shower. Since she was instructed by me Bel stood up and headed towards the shower. I offer tea to the remaining members as we try to talk about cheerful things.

"He's a good leader right. It seems he's truly worried about the members who were separated."

I said that while in the top of my mind Miduchi's words, "it seems that people who can casually tell lies are paranoia" floated up. I guess paranoia is an exaggeration. A psychopath huh? Either way is fine. I don't really get it and going off my feeling they're both the same madmen so there's not much difference.

"Yeah, even though Ben is young he's quite the leader. His command in combat is accurate as well. Well he's a rising member and a trump card of us Sun Ray."

The 30 year old human male replied. However, even though you're already at

30 and you're still at that level huh?

If I remember correctly he uses a round shield and battle mace. I don't remember his name but I think his level 16...Ah, Harukein.Fumiz, level 17 huh? If this guy had been the one who had gotten separated instead of Ginger then I would have gladly made him fall to slavery since he can use the shield.

"But, Greed-san you're quite the person as well. Even though you're this young, you saved me for an amount that is almost free."

Ginger said while showing some reservations towards Bel. Bel is making hot water and putting it into the bucket with an unconcerned face like nothing happened. Furthermore, all of the members of the {Slaughterers} had bitter smiles on their faces. The only ones who were nodded as if deeply impressed were Angela and Zulu. Rather~ youth has nothing to do with it right.

"No, it's unpleasant to abandon someone who came seeking help after all... And it wasn't anything that required much effort."

I said as if I was embarrassed. Each of the members of {Sun Ray} started thanking me.

"No~ it's not something that can be done so easily. We couldn't have said anything even if you abandoned Ginger. Really thank you."

"Just as rumored you seem to be quite the good person. As expected of one of the tops of Baldukk."

"Honestly speaking, I thought Ginger would end up becoming a slave. But it's quite good that prediction was wrong."

Is there nothing but idiots in {Sun Ray}? If it was {Verdure Brotherhood}, {Black Topaz}, or {Gehenna Flare} then these idiots wouldn't even be qualified to join them. Things like thanks and flattery you can say as much as you want when we return to the surface.

I make sure not to show how amazed I am on my face while continuing my words. It's fine just to make good use of idiots. Well since even these people are "a corner of the top teams" so they're not just idiots. I'm sure they can fight reasonably well and they should have gained experienced in the dungeon as well.

"By the way, I think it would be good if all you take a shower after Zemyunel-

san as well. If you shower in warm water I think your feelings will calm down. Particularly Ginger since you experienced something quite frightening.”

I said that and smiled again.

“That’s right. Please let me do that. I certainly felt refreshed after the shower before noon.”

Ginger said. I heard from Giberuti when we got back but it seems that two of the three who haven’t returned yet used water magic. Even though it’s summer I ‘m sure that just a cold water shower in the dungeon is harsh. Something like the mana from fire magic will recover right away so isn’t it fine to head out after taking a break?

“Please feel free to use that as you wish from here on out. It’s true that it’s refreshing but even more than that the wild boars on the 6th floor are sensitive to smells after all.”

“So that’s what it was! Shit!”

The one who suddenly raised his voice in comprehension was..Jerutodo.Ramires. 24 years old. Level 13 huh?

“It’s Bogu. Didn’t he not take a shower because he said it was cold. Because of that wild boars came consecutively..”

“Ah...”

“Come to think of it..”

“Certainly..”

At first I was a bit surprised but it made sense. So there was one guy who didn’t take a shower? Honestly speaking I don’t know if it’s really all that related but since there’s no way other than asking the wild boars, this is quite convenient. All of the members of {Slaughterers} are doing it and nodding. You’re all quite the actors~

“There’s that sort of reason for properly taking a shower and getting rid of the smell before going to the 6th floor.”

Toris came out explaining it.

“Just as our Greed said just now, the wild boars have a sense of smell on the

same level as dogs. That means it's on the same level as the Dog-people's Super Sense of Smell..Most likely you all took several days to make it up to here in the dungeon right? Of course, there's probably members who got some blood on them as well. It's important to wash away all of that."

and Toris courteously said. The four members of {Sun Ray} are nodding in admiration.

"That's why we spent quite a bit of work to create this sort of facility you can take a shower in here."

and Zenom continued off of Toris's words.

"I see now.."

"Wun..I see.."

"It does seem necessary."

"We need to do something about this as well."

Hmhm, I'm happy that you think that way.

"That's why it's a facility that you can't lack for exploring the 6th floor. Please don't break it when we're not around."

Gwine tilted her head a bit while smiling as she said. If there was no beard then it would be a bit better but..Well it's fine.

"Ah, of course. Honestly, I didn't think it was that important.."

"It's unthinkable to break it if we can use it as well."

"We need to make sure to tell everyone else when we return."

"We might need to leave someone to lookout like everyone from {Slaughterers} as well."

Yeah-yeah. Please do that. We'll eventually be heading towards the 7th floor and eventually aim for the 8th floor like Rombert the First. I want to make sure to maintain this base on the 5th floor for that time.

"I'm glad that everyone from {Sun Ray} are good people. With this I can rest easy."

Ralpa spoke while trying to use her most formal words. I nodded to Ralpa and then lowered my head while looking at the members of {Sun Ray}.

“We’re really saved that everyone has recognized it. I would like to continue with a good relationship from here on out as well.”

Seeing me with my head lowered the members of {Sun Ray} said in a hurry.

“No way..you saved one of our members, and even the shower..”

“Please raise your head. The ones who should be lowering their heads is us.”

“That’s right, we’re the ones in the position who should be requesting to let us use the shower.”

“It might be good for everyone to put forth some money and buy a slave to keep lookout like the {Slaughterers}.”

Yeah, please definitely do that. Since we can then keep moving forward without worrying about it.

While we were all having a conversation like that Zemyunel finished taking his shower and returned.

“What is it? What were talking about?”

After hearing that the members of {Sun Ray} started explaining to him how important the shower is to exploring on the 6th floor and that they need to keep a look out on it as well. If it was {Verdure Brotherhood} or {Black Topaz} I’m sure things wouldn’t have gone this well. However, with this you could say we’ve created a bit of an established fact that {Sun Ray} and the {Slaughterers} are cooperating on the front in some ways. Two of the only five top teams are teaming up.

Even if it’s the {Verdure Brotherhood} or {Black Topaz} with their true ability I doubt they would be willing to go as far as breaking the shower or putting their hands on the lookout Giberuti. About the only way to properly take us on would be for the remaining three top teams to team up together. And as far as I can tell that’s most likely impossible. After all, they all have considerably strong characteristics, particularly the {Verdure Brotherhood} who have confidence in their own abilities.

They have the basis and confidence that they were the top on the earnings front up until now. If we see each other’s face in a bar then we’ll have a drink together and make jokes but that old man Virhaima is probably the type that

doesn't trust anyone. It's just my intuition but he probably doesn't even trust his own party members from the bottom of his heart. If it comes to that then I'm sure the remaining Black Topaz and {Gehenna Flare} would find it difficult to team up as well. Even if it's that sis Anderson she can calmly make decisions based on loss and gains. Rather than carelessly trying to compete with us she'll probably try to sway over here.

Since the members of {Gehenna Flare} are all dwarves just the same as usual, I'm sure they wouldn't want to make Gwine into an enemy as well. Even in worst case they'd remain neutral and in a good case while I'm sure they have no intention of getting familiar it's probably fine to think they wouldn't treat us badly.

Since {Sun Ray} were one of the more unique adventurer groups in Baldukk I thought that if something were to happen from here on out these guys would be the key but after all that was the case. No, it's not like a conclusion has come out yet though. It was just according to rumors these guys are donating almost all of their income and they almost never go drinking or to brothels like other normal adventurers. Though it's probably not that they "don't" but rather that they don't have any money and "cant".

That's why they don't have much of a contact point with other adventurers. I've been able to get along decently with the members of the other four top teams. That's why, I can roughly understand, what kind of people they are, what they're interested in, and what their values are and I'm sure they do the same for me. However, when it comes to {Sun Ray} they don't come along on almost any socializing and just follow their own path. Putting aside the facts even if it's just from appearances, I think it would be big to show as if we're working together with them here.

"Ho~ I see now. Certainly it's a plausible story."

After hearing the story from his allies Zemyunel is nodding to himself. Now then, I wonder what kind of conclusion the leader Zemyunel will come to.

Incidentally, if I was him I'd avoid coming to an immediate decision here and earn some time by negotiating with the other members. Of course while making sure to appear friendly to our side at the same time. After that, if possible

negotiate with our side and request some funds to convince my allies with. It would be fine to say you yourself need it as well but it would be even more effective if over half of the members of {Sun Ray} were against it or someone in a higher position was against it and the money is needed to convince them or something. Of course the aim itself isn't the money.

By doing that they could even if just a little limit the options of the {Slaughterers} and while it's a weird way of putting it, appeal that {Sun Ray} isn't just one big rock as well, if they're lucky they could cause some negligence for the {Slaughterers} side. Even in worse case it would act as a check that they're not idiots.

"Greed-san. It's an offer I'm extremely grateful for and I myself would like to accept it right away but I need to confirm the wills of the other members first. However, right now I need to wait for the members we've separated from so I can't get in contact with them. I'll formally give you a response at a later date. I'm really sorry but I feel quite apologetic that I can't give you an immediate response. But, I think I'll definitely be able to give you a good reply."

Zemyunel apologetically lowered his head while saying that. Hm~n.

"No not at all, please don't mind it, it's fine for you to decide after discussing it with everyone. However, I don't think there's almost any demerits for you all as well."

I smile while responding. It seems that Ginger is taking a shower after Zemyunel.

.....

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 26

The next day, we woke up early in the morning at the same time as usual, ate breakfast, took a shower, and after putting on our equipment, we were about to start exploring the 6th floor again. When I noticed it Zemyunel had woken up and come to greet us.

"Be careful.."

"If, we happen across someone again we'll bring them back here."

“I’m very sorry. The five of us have no confidence on the 6th floor..”

“No, please don’t mind it, well then.”

We all grabbed on to the crystal rod and I chanted the incantation.

“kizutore”

.....

According to Gwine it seems that this is an area we haven’t been to before. After confirming that there’s no monsters in the surroundings we followed her words of “it seems like this direction would be best” and started advancing forward.

“Hey, Al. Do you intend to team up with {Sun Ray}?”

Ralpha said.

“Since they don’t seem like bad people, they’re fine as a partner to team up with though.”

Toris said. Somehow there’s something strange about that way of putting it.

“Right. However, I’m amazed they can manage things with a leader like that.”

Zenom said. I agree but if they’re independent of others then it’s not all that much of a problem after all.

“But, don’t they give off a better feel than the other parties?”

Bel said. Ho~ in regards to what?

“If it’s me, then I would prefer {Gehenna Flare}~”

Gwine said. You just aren’t thinking anything at all right. Don’t say it from your interests. For the time being let’s stop here.

I intentionally didn’t respond and waited for everyone to say their thoughts but as a result it seems to have settled that they’re the best ones to team up with. Yeah, if everyone has accepted that then there’s no problem. It would be fine if I decide to come out harshly on it but if possible I’d like for them to think about it, discuss it, and come to a conclusion on their own. Particularly these guys.

“Yeah, my opinion is almost the same as everyone else. They’re probably the easiest ones to cooperate with. Making them ideal is the fact that they have even more in numbers and on top of that we’ve already sold a favor to them. It should be a bit difficult for them to assert their opinion towards us. And, even if I say cooperating with them, it’s not like we’re going to get along and explore together. In the first place I’m sure they’d refuse that as well. It’s just the problem of managing the teleport crystal room. In that case I think they’re still better than the selfish guys who you never know what they’ll end up saying.”

I said that and looked around at everyone,

“There shouldn’t be almost anything that’s bad for them either. If they’ll even buy a slave them that might just cost a bit, at that level. Since they’re exploring the 5th and 6th floors they should have at least that much money to use. It’s just a matter of whether the story is worth that much of an expense. At the very least if I was one of the members of {Sun Ray} I’d think about cooperating. After that is just the problem of cooperating in what way. Everyone, just in case remain careful of the members of {Sun Ray}. You never know where they might come to try and split us up at after all. Though I probably don’t think they’ll try to do something like that.”

and said that, then started walking again as if saying that was the end of the conversation.

Chapter 141: Younger Sister

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 26

Just the same as usual, without doing anything special or hurrying along our way, we indifferently explored the 6th floor of the dungeon and then returned to the 5th floor. There's no way we'd end up running into the members of {Sun Ray}. Yesterday Ginger just had really good luck. I didn't think we'd run into them either way. There's no empty headed members among our group who thought we'd run into the members of {Sun Ray} either.

Just, since there's definitely at least two members among the three missing who can use water magic at least at level 3, it's not impossible for them to somehow make it to the teleport room on the 6th floor with just them.

That night, when we returned to the teleport room on the 5th floor, we just confirmed once again with Giberuti that of course no one had returned. Even then Zemyunel and the others lowered their heads to me. Well I'll accept just their feelings. You could say that honestly lowering your head is splendid but it's not like they lose anything from lowering their heads. Even I lower my head as much as is needed at times like these and if it's necessary I would even dogeza. If I was told to lick their shoes I would gladly lick them.

When I tried quietly asking Giberuti and they apparently tried to teleport to the 6th floor a number of times but stopped just before it seems. They're really no good. You should just leave one member remaining in the case they really come back and the rest of you should go and hire a guide or something. If it's just worrying then even a child can do it. If you were to properly pay us money then even we wouldn't be against seriously helping out.

Or else is it that? Was there a family member among the members that were separated? In that case they should think about it even more. I guess Zemyunel's confidence in his own strength is the type that causes him to get drunk on himself. The so-called, I'm a good leader because I'm worried about

my members. I'm not the only thinking things like that, the other reincarnated people in our group have scorn in their eyes as well. Of course he doesn't show even a bit of that attitude openly though. Zulu, Angela, and Giberuti aren't specifically scorning him but,

"They should just sell themselves already to make money and request master."

"That's right, if they serve master like that then it would be fine."

"..I see. As expected of Zulu-sama."

And they're saying some strange things. But, even that is one method I'm sure. If they don't see that much value in saving them to go that far then they should just give up already. Though I don't need the type of person who can't even thing of, execute, or negotiate over something like that right now.

Hn? I guess that means my three slaves are considerably superior? No, it might be better to think that their way of thinking was influenced from interacting with reincarnated people. Putting aside Zulu, even Angela had a strange of way thinking at first after all.

Incidentally, it seems that they ate their own food at lunch today. Obviously I let them eat dinner with us. After we finished eating I discussed whether we should return today or make it tomorrow but everyone agreed that we should continue exploring tomorrow. I mean, in the off chance that we manage to discover them then it's quite lucky. As expected from their food situation that I heard they shouldn't be able to properly last until the day after tomorrow. At best they'll last through the end of tomorrow.

.....

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 27

Once again today we teleported into the 6th floor being seen off by {Sun Ray}. Obviously I let them eat breakfast with us. Since we ended up teleporting into an area for the first time again like yesterday, we just continued exploring like that. We passed through several monster rooms and it was just after we finished eating lunch at around noon.

We were poking the floor as usual and just about to proceed. It was a long

passage connected to a lot of other passages. Bel said, “sh” and closed her eyes while concentrating on her ears just as we were moving down a slightly wide passage like that. However, she twisted her head as if it was misunderstanding and said, “It seems it was a misunderstanding. I’m sorry.” since we were ready for a monster attack we lowered the level of caution and proceeded ahead again.

After continuing for a short while, I couldn’t see anything other than a curve to the left about 10 meters ahead. Just like that we followed the path along to the left and I continued using Identify vision to look ahead and I saw a silhouette about 200m ahead in the passage. Bel must have reacted their talking voices just now. I got a bit excited thinking it was a survivor from {Sun Ray}. Obviously the only one who’s noticed for now is just me. However, they sure are far. I guess it would be fine to Identify after we get a bit closer. If possible I’d like to get within 50m and see their face before Identifying. It would suck if their names and faces get mixed up after all. If I look closely there were two shadows. One of them has their back against the wall in the passage and is sitting down. The other one appears to be sitting facing them taking a break.

After we proceed a bit further I’ll try warning everyone.

Thinking that we continued proceeding. When we approached to about 150m Bel said “sh” in a whisper again and everyone stopped in order to not interfere with Bels concentration. “One..three..” Eh? three monsters? So she wasn’t reacting to their talking voices!?

“I can’t hear them anymore. They were teleported!”

The moment we all heard Bel’s warning everyone stuck their backs to the walls of the passage and held their weapons. Certainly it’s true it’s not limited to just their conversation. The other wall of the passage Ralpa, Gwine, Zulu, and Angela have their backs to it and this time it’s me, Zenom, Toris, and Bel. And several seconds later a {Cave Boar} appeared from behind on our side and just kept going for a bit like that but quickly decelerated and started to change directions. It’s a chance!

“{Stone Javelin}”

”{Flame Javelin}”

"{Stone Bolt}"

"{Flame Bolt}"

Ralpa, Bel, Toris, and Gwine all fired off their spells at the ass of the {Cave Boar} leaving good sounds as the warheads stab into it one after another. As expected if it takes four attacks from attack spells it should be dead. I doubt it's still alive.

"Alright, everyone, you did..Ralpa!"

Wow, it was a bit delayed but this time another {Cave Boar} appeared from ahead of us (in other words, the opposite side from the direction we just attacked) and started charging at the back of Ralpa who just used magic. Shit... I won't make it in time freezing it! I need to stop it's movements in one shot!

"{Stone Catapult}"

In a hurry I overdid it..The telephone pole over 10 meters long and 30 cm in diameter gave off a roar as it nailed the {Cave Boar} to the wall almost like an example insect specimen pinned down. Adding to that it pierced through the wall on the other side as well. The {Cave Boar} was only a few centimeters from reaching Ralpa. Obviously since the {Cave Boar} had it's heart pierced as it was stuck to the wall it died instantly.

Th..that was dangerous...If she were to take a direct hit as expected Ralpa wouldn't die but she was saved from a severe injury. When Ralpa realized and turned around her face twisted in surprise.

"Wh.."

"Al-san.."

"Master, that is.."

Ah, come to think of it, it's the first time I showed everyone this class of spell. Something like that doesn't particularly matter though.

"Nn..It seems everything is fine now. I heard the sound of something hit a wall far away."

Bel was surprised by the telephone pole but she remained calm as she declared it was safe so while we temporarily lightened our guard, the sound just now was no comparison with the usual sounds of combat after all. After all it's

dangerous to suddenly have intruders in the middle of combat. I erased the large stone spear like a telephone pole and the {Cave Boars} corpse fell down with a thud. A~~a, if it's like this then we probably can't gather the magic stone. Isn't it embedded deep into the wall along with it's heart? Even if it's undamaged it's troublesome and I don't want to spend time digging through the smashed pieces of flesh in the hole in the wall either.

Since everyone realized that there was quite a bit of sound from the combat just now they all looked up.

It should be fine to not worry about attacks by {Cave Boars} for right now but {Vampire Bats} might come flying. Also, there's no way the people sitting down ahead of here wouldn't notice either. I tried looking down the passage with Identify vision. The guy with his back to the wall remained the same but the one sitting across from them stood up and is on guard with their weapon facing over here it seems...in that case the guy sitting down is injured? Then 【Identify】 should be fine.

【Corpse(Human)】
【Human】
【Condition: Good】
【Creation Date: 26/8/7444】
【Value: 10】
【Durability: 1】

So they died yesterday..either the damage was terrible or it's after they already took out their magic stone.

“Be careful, there's something there.”

Just in case I warned everyone and used 【Identify】 on the one with their weapon out.

【Binnodo.Gekudo/2/8/7421】
【Male/14/4/7420.Human.Sub-Baron Gekudo Family Third Son】
【Condition: Bruising.Stab Wound】
【Age: 24 Years Old】
【Level: 14】
【HP: 69(115) MP: 4(17)】

【Strength: 17】

【Speed: 20】

【Dexterity: 17】

【Endurance: 17】

【Special Skill: Earth Magic (Lv. 2)】

【Special Skill: Water Magic (Lv. 3)】

【Special Skill: Wind Magic (Lv. 2)】

【Special Skill: Void Magic (Lv. 3)】

【Experience: 371240(450000)】

Yeah, it's certainly a person from {Sun Ray}. I've heard their name. Everyone tensed up hearing my warning and they're looking all over the place while on guard. Even after waiting a few minutes, it seems there's no attack from above so we took the magic stone from the {Cave Boar} and collected a bit of meat in addition.

Now then, I guess we should move forward.

After advancing a bit Angela,

"It's true there's something there...Is it a person?"

she twitches her nose while saying. If I look further down and Gekudo is holding his sword while looking around restlessly. He must have heard the sound of combat and even if it was only a moment saw the flame from the magic. After that, he might not have seen us because we're slowly advancing while remaining careful of traps but he should know that someone is definitely nearby. Most likely, he should think it's either his allies in {Sun Ray} or us and might be cautious of an attack from us. He might just be hesitating on whether to raise his voice and ask our identity.

"Is it a person from {Sun Ray}?"

Ralpa said in a whisper.

"It would be good if that's the case."

Gwine whispered a reply. Yeah, it's a person from {Sun Ray}. This time it would be good for sure if they have some money. Since it seems he's from a sub-Baron family we can hope for more than Ginger.

“Most likely, there’s a person. I can smell the scent of blood as well. They might be injured.”

Angela said. They’re injured as well but the guy who’s blood you smell is already dead...Well that’s just the right timing for a statement.

“I’ll try calling out..Hey!”

I could see Gekudo flinch 100m ahead. He replied right away.

“Hey! Over here~! Hurry, please hurry and come!”

Yes-yes.

“There was one!”

“Yeah!”

Ralpha and Gwine raised cheerful voices.

“Don’t make such loud voices. Let’s hurry just a bit, let’s go.”

.....

Shortly later we arrived at where Gekudo was located. Gekudo looked considerably exhausted but after seeing us,

“!!..{Slaughterers}. I’m begging you. Just as you can see. If possible then I’ll do anything as thanks.”

and, it seems he was just a bit surprised but he honestly sought help. Yeah, well, that’s fine.

Everyone is waiting for my decision.

“..What about that person?”

and I said while looking at the corpse in a posture sitting down. It seems like Gekudo is injured as well but it’s mostly bruises and the bleeding from his scrapes has long since stopped. There’s no need to heal him in a hurry at this point.

“Ah, o, my little sister. I’m begging you, can we please carry her up to the surface? I’ll pay my entire fortune. I don’t mind if you take my weapon as well. If you say that it’s still not enough then even if it’s just my little sister’s magic stone..it’s this but..could you please bury this on the surface? Just as you can

see, I'm begging."

Ho...

As I look down at Gekudo lowering his head and begging to take his little sister's magic stone to the surface I thought. I'm sure older brother would do this as well... No, if it's older brother then in the first place he wouldn't fall into this foolish predicament huh?

I crouched down in front of Gekudo and after matching eye level with him, I put my hand on his shoulder and opened my mouth.

"Please raise your head. After that..you should bury your little sister yourself. Can you stand?"

I glanced over at the corpse and it seems there's a large hole in the flank. A piece of leather armor that seems to be the same as the one she was wearing was on her side. You can tell magic was used to try and heal the wound on the side. And after that, there's bite marks that appear to be from {Vampire Bats} all over the place as well. The front of her clothes were closed but there's blood from where the magic stone was taken out as well.

"Yeah.."

Gekudo stood up along with me standing up and,

"Zulu, Angela. Carry this person. Carefully."

and I ordered the two slaves. It seems that Zulu will carry the corpse. He had Angela hold his weapon. I used {Cure Serious} on Gekudo twice and his HP recovered to 87 and,

"500,000 Z is plenty. We saved Ginger-san at this price as well. By the way, could I ask your name?"

and said.

"Eh? Ah, so you'll save me as well! I'm very sorry. Thank you very much. My name is Binnodo.Gekudo. Please call me Binsu. My little sister is Yuriel."

I guess he didn't hear it like that? Also, even if you tell me the name of the corpse..Honestly I don't have any attachment to her..though I get his feelings.

“Please don’t mind it. I’m Greed. Alan Greed.”

“There’s no one in Baldukk that doesn’t know of the leader of the {Slaughterers}. Greed-san, I’m grateful.”

I’m sure that’s true but for the most part there’s the courtesy.

.....

It took close to three hours but we were able to make it to the teleport room on the 6th floor.

“Binsu-san. We haven’t tried teleporting while holding a corpse up until now. That’s why, it’s possible your little sisters corpse might not come along to the 5th floor as well. In that case please pardon us on that.”

I think it’ll probably be fine but just in case I thought to say it. If it comes to that then Zulu would have had quite the bad luck to pointlessly carry some heavy luggage for three hours.

“If it comes to that..it can’t be helped. Of course, I feel nothing for gratitude towards all of you.”

Is that so? Then that’s fine.

“Return us.”

.....

The members of {Sun Ray} were pleased to see Binsu return together with us to the teleport room on the 5th floor. We were able to teleport back with his little sister’s corpse with no problem. Zemyunel came over to offer his gratitude as if crawling. Yeah, just saying it is free after all. If I was you I’d say as much thanks as needed as well. If you add together the total for both Bins and Ginger, 7,000,000, Z, then it’s a cheap price to pay to sell a favor.

..Is what I thought but you can buy a single horse. Shit, after all it’s a ton of money.

I thought without complaint the first shower was fine going to Zulu but as expected he’s still a slave. I’m fine and I think the other reincarnated people would be fine with it but you never know what Zenom would think. Well, going

off the proper order it should be starting from me. Though I feel like I'm the only one bothering over the order of the shower, but that is that this is this.

After taking a warm shower I thought a bit while checking my bayonet. It shouldn't be all that bad to raise the favorable impression (?) of a top team like {Sun Ray}. If these guys will protect the shower on the 5th floor then I'm quite grateful for that. If we were to fall into a crisis, I don't think (since there's no one further than us, in that case there's no other choice than for us to save ourselves, even if they had more skill than us they wouldn't normally come to our rescue) even for an instant they'd come to save us but if they feel even a bit indebted to us then that's a profit. After all we overlooked several 1,000,000 Z. Work for at least that much.

Binsu took his little sister's corpse and it seems he's returning for now to bury her magic stone.

I won't say anything cold like there's no point to the corpse if you have her magic stone. Since I'm sure no one would want monsters eating the corpses of their family. Even if you're lucky they'll just be absorbed by the dungeon and above all else, rather than himself Binsu said he wanted to bury his little sister's corpse, or even her magic stone on the surface. That disposition is excellent.

Just before we went to sleep Ralph said "Thanks for today." When I was wondering what it was about, it seems it was how I turned the {Cave Boar} into an insect specimen pinning it to the wall of the dungeon. I can't remember such small things like that every time.

.....

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 28

It was one day soon but we decided to return today. There should still be one member of {Sun Ray} remaining but if you think about the amount of food they were holding they should already be at the limit. And we should have already sold them plenty of favors. However, couldn't we at least hit an altar room in the end?

..We didn't hit one. Obviously we never ended up running into the last remaining member. We just made clear the traps on another course through

the 6th floor. No, just that is plenty though.

We explored until evening and after withdrawing our camp, I made an apologetic face while telling Zemyunel that we would be leaving. Eh? Of course I erased all of the raised dirt that we use as a bed. It's only obvious right? Let's return right away, have some alcohol, and go to sleep. After all, the night of the day after tomorrow I'm entering the dungeon again and heading towards Karl's place.

Chapter 142 (Reverse Chapter 133)

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 29

Just past 4 in the morning. When it was still early morning before the light from the sun started to appear.

There was the silhouette of a single person on a horse at the Southeastern edge of the town of Baldukk in the King's Direct Territory of Rombert Kingdom. Shortly after another silhouette appeared to approach that silhouette. The silhouette on a horse got off it's horse after noticing the approaching silhouette and became one with the silhouette that was approaching. For a short while the two silhouettes remained overlapped before they split into two and then when one of the returned to the horse, it proceeded along the road leading out of the outer crater of Baldukk.

The distance to the summit of the outer crater in a straight line is roughly 1.5 Km. Since the road goes tilts along with the summit the actual amount of distance is a bit father. Almost straight to the East from the Southeastern side, the riding silhouette continued along the road at a steady pace towards the summit. After taking about 20 minutes when it reached the summit, the light from the rising sun was finally starting to shine through on to the silhouette.

Basking in the light from the sun the rider looked at the bright sun and then turned around just once. It seems that the silhouette it just split ways from is still standing in the same place seeing

this side off. After facing ahead once more the face of the rider was making an expression twisted from lingering attachment. *slap* the rider slapped both of their cheeks before changing their expression and properly looking ahead as they descended the hills basking in the light from the sun.

After basking in the sunlight you could tell that the rider wasn't just a person. The black hair isn't particularly uncommon, but their face and hands were an unbelievable level of purple skin color. What in the world is their race? If you were to just look from a glance then you could determine that they're not a race of this Orth. If it's deep purple skin then you could say they are a Dark Elf which some people call the Dyurou but the skin color of that rider was difficult to compare to that of a Dark Elf. It's even lighter, a purple color that borders on purple-blue. If you were to forcefully try to match them up then you might be able to consider them an Elf, or around there. Since other than the color of their skin, they still have the racial characteristics of the Dark Elf that they were born from.

Basking in the sunlight as they descended the road, the rider was slightly trembling. If you were to see the tears overflowing from their eyes then you would be able to tell they were trembling as they tried to endure sobbing.

What in the world saddened the rider? Was it going separate ways from the silhouette from just a moment ago?

However, it's not just sadness that is reflected in the expression of the rider. A form of joy could also be seen floating in their expression. But, at the same time an inexplicable expression as if

they're confused could be seen as well. Putting it frankly it's eerie.

.....

"Ha..I still can't get used to it.."

Miduchi mumbled to herself. The large amount of confusion that occurred since the other day still hasn't settled within her. Up until now..other than the memories of her life and experiences since she was born, she's confused over the seal on the memories of what could be called her past life suddenly being released.

Certainly she has confidence she can state that her personality is just this one. However, she also felt that her personality from the memories in previous life was a bit more proper than her current one.

Thanks to the seal on the memories of her past life being released the inside of Miduchi's head is completely jumbled up. The instant the seal on her memories broke, a sharp pain ran through her head as if she had been stabbed and it was to the point she had to crouch down. That was, while she was also experiencing the symptoms of mana exhaustion, a pain and shock so intense that even she a dark elf who had been trained as a rank 1 warrior since childhood couldn't endure it. And then, she was able to comprehend thanks to all of the memories of her past life that were released all at once. This is once again, certainly another life that I lived.

Most likely, Miduchi's personality received some influence from her memories and changed up until now but the base hasn't changed at all. The confusion at that time was large and it most likely was

washed into the most comfortable direction, in other words the memories of her past life as Shiina Junko and that personality. That only makes sense, it was her first time experiencing such a large amount of mental disorder and since her personality as Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol was horrified by that disorder, it might be more correct so it was almost an instinctual self-defense mechanism that it handed over the leadership to Shiina Junko.

After that, for the hour or so while her lost mana was recovered while resting, the organization of the released memories of Shiina Junko and the integration of personalities with Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol occurred. The result of that, their personality ended up almost in the middle of the two and in some meanings a new type of special Orth person with the memories of a Japanese person was born. Of course this wasn't something that consciously occurred. It's something that happened naturally. Therefore, in actual fact you could say she experienced a total of three personalities in a short period of time, that of Shiina Junko, Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol, and Miduchi which could be called the middle between them. It's only obvious but she can't recognize the multiple personalities.

After she reached the bottom of the hill Miduchi raised her face properly looked ahead and after fixing her grab on the reins kicked off the sides of the horse. Other than her work clothes her saddle bag has various types of weapons and some other luggage stored away, on her back she has a short bow and quiver. Her limbs are covered in leather armor and above that she has on a hooded robe.

In order to not carelessly lose the plate she borrowed she put it in the pocket below her armor and has her knife on the belt attached her to her right thigh.

(However, the design of this armor is lame..)

In the memories of her past life there was a lot more cool and showy armor. Though a lot of it had strangely high levels of exposure so even she wondered about those types but even so the design of the leather armor she's wearing right now was unfashionable. Of course, even before her memories were released she had memories of goods like that but up until now she's never paid any attention to the appearance of things like that at all. She's only made use of things that were durable, cheap, and last a long time.

It's only obvious that Midu~ritto understands that Midu~ritto has her own circumstances, she thinks that it can't be helped. However, she Junko thinks, (You're a woman right? You need to fix your appearance a bit more proper). The personality that has knowledge of and understands both of their circumstances, she Miduchi couldn't do anything but calmly (It can't be helped since there's nothing other than this right now. But let's at least make some new armor. In any case this one is almost at it's life span from how worn-out it is) think this like.

While she was riding alone on the horse, Miduchi's expression was busily changing from crying, smiling, breaking out into laughter as her as Midu~ritto and her as Junko's memories were being organized. Putting it simply since Miduchi was just a personality of her as Midu~ritto and her as Junko mixed together, she was able to accept

the people and her parents she was close to in her past life as well as common sense as fresh things. Even the man that Junko had been concerned with she was able to accept him as a target of longing without any sense of discomfort.

Longing? No, it was already no longer longing. Yesterday I got my hands on that man. I was able to exchange feelings with that man and gain a deep sense of satisfaction. I only just embraced him and was able to feel his warmth. She as Junko is thinking (Isn't it already fine, we could still return back now and stay together with him). However, she as Midu~ritto thinks (My older brother needs me. I can't just ignore him), and they keep running parallel. In any case, Miduchi thinks (things will end up however they do).

No matter what the case she doesn't have any intention of taking her time to slowly return to her home town. The route which normally takes over four weeks she'll cover even just a day faster and after selling the magic stone she received for money, she'll leave that money to her uncle and aunt, and resign from her job. And then..even a single day faster she wants to return to Baldukk. However, will you really leave behind your older brother? There's still some conflict remaining.

"The madam is the same as well..It's so cruel, it's too much."

She just wanted to try saying it. Simultaneously she remembered the refined appearance of her majesty the Queen she saw yesterday and almost was about to fall prostrate while still riding her horse. She somehow managed to endure just lowering her head. After regaining her composure and calmly thinking it over Miduchi

realized that it might not have been all that bad of a thing that her memories were sealed.

(If my memories were still remaining then I'm sure I would have definitely failed..I definitely wouldn't have made it as a rank 1 warrior...Even if I had managed to survive around now I'd be making a living as a part of the service ranking making mushrooms I'm sure. If I was careless it wouldn't even have been strange for me to die during the warrior training..)

Miduchi remembers back. The time when she was Shiina Junko, it's not like she was particularly bad with physical activity but she wasn't skilled at it either. It wouldn't be strange to say she was average. However, if it's just that level of physical abilities and stamina then let alone rank 1, she can declare with confidence that even rank 3 warrior would have been completely impossible. Let alone that, just thinking in terms of simple fighting, she would have been below even the lowest service ranking people. Even if she had been raised while still in possession of the memories of that Shiina Junko, it wasn't hard to imagine that she would have had quite the pathetic fate of losing her life during that first training when she turned 7 years old.

"Uhe..After all I might not be able to hold my head up.."

Once again she naturally ended up speaking out loud. At the same time she remembered. Her majesty Lilus who she respects and loves said that it was fine to have a child with that person. There's no problem with interpreting that as her being approved of. Her face changes to a grin. At the same time she notices a heat gathering in her abdomen.

"Nya wa wa"

She naturally caresses her face. Feeling the scar on her cheek with her left hand she gets depressed.

(He didn't say anything about my scars..)

While she was it she touched the scar on her forehead,

(As expected I wonder about this scar?)

And she thought that.

(He was young..So that's how his face looked..I could tell from a single glance though)

The face she remembers is the one of the man she just separated with. Though there was some of the characteristics of an Orth human mixed in and he had red hair but for her Miduchi, no, it's a special face that there's no way she, Junko, would mistake seeing.

It's not that he's particularly handsome. Even going off of her aesthetic sense as Junko there's countless other people with more attracting faces. However, to her that face is number one.

Now then, I want to reach the town of Renbisu by today. Since the roads of the King's Direct Territory in Rombert Kingdom are reasonably maintained I can probably make it.

.....

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 30

There's a single silhouette departing "Wagaya Manor" of Renbisu early in the morning. Of course it's that of Miduchi. The land continues with gentle slopes but there's some varying levels of ground. She should be able to make it to Torei village by noon of today. It would be best to take lunch at Tobai village just before that. Miduchi thought things like that while advancing on her horse.

Pretty soon the sunlight completely started to appear and around

the time it lit up the colorful green fields, it was just as she decided to let her horse drink some water from the large river. A short break. After drinking some water her horse regained it's stamina. It's the most efficient to let it rest for a bit every 40-50 minutes.

(I didn't know something like this)

Miduchi thought that while getting back on her horse and then continued along the road.

.....

A short while after noon, she finished eating the oatmeal, bean soup, and a bit of pork in her lunch at a restaurant in Torei village before paying the owner of the place the fees. While the owner took the money he looked at Miduchi and,

"Are you a Dark Elf? Or an Elf?"

And started frankly talking to her. As a matter of fact two months or so prior, when she ate at this village she was asked the same question.

"I believe myself to be a Dark Elf but..for some reason my color is light. I'm sorry, it's difficult to tell."

When Miduchi replied apologetically the owner,

"It seems like you've experienced quite a bit of hardship..Here, take this with you."

And handed her some bread.

"Thank you very much. But I'm already used to it."

And Miduchi lightly replied like that before taking the bread, and putting it into her saddle bag on her horse that was tied to the stake in front of the store. Up until here things were completely the same as two months ago.

It's not particularly like dark elves are hated. There's people who

are living normally after leaving the country and people who are working as warriors for regional lords in foreign countries as well. If you were to ask the only ones who really know that they make a living taking jobs as assassins are those of the higher ranking nobility. And even then it's not like they're hated or looked down on just because they're Dark Elves. In the knowledge of Shiina Junko that hadn't disappeared there was some that Dark Elves are often hated but she found out that wasn't particularly the case when she had her first job as a rank 1 warrior class together with the woman that was her senior.

"Come to think of it, I saw you a while back. Are you returning to your home country?"

Miduchi was surprised that the owner remembered her while, (Well Dark Elves are unusual after all) and understood it. At the same time, "Yeah, since I finished my job.." and replied while smiling.

"Ah, peddling huh? Then, be careful."

And the owner replied back.

The common image of Dark Elves is that of merchants. Since the mushroom types they grow are the ingredients for various types of medicines. They make medicines with those, or carry the ingredients before producing them to towns that are of a decent size(the capitals of high ranking noble territories) while selling them. The things they stock up on are centered around cloth and a portion of food items. Also, they stock up on weapons as well. Things like specialty goods and minerals that are produced and different between each region and it's not just limited to Dark Elves so

there's nothing strange about it at all.

When it comes to business all of the neighboring countries will freely let them pass if they show the company license that is issued by Lail Kingdom, otherwise known as the Dark License, it's a completely black license that the contents only appear if you use the spell {Light} on it. There's other licenses with a similar validity as this among other countries as well. The Type 1 license of Rombert Kingdom and the Blue License of Devas Kingdom, the proof of company for Kanbitt Kingdom, it differs in name based on the country but many countries have some sort of proof of approval to do trade between countries.

In Miduchi's country, Lail Kingdom, there's no clear difference between social standings like nobles, free people, or slaves. The elders that are treated as the highest in position, along with the service rankings, and those who act as merchants all members of Lail Kingdom are considered Lilac, a ranking of commoners among neighboring countries. It seems to be the Queen's policy but that Queen is seen as a living God.

After Miduchi found out the detailed circumstances of the Queen she understood it. She probably hates a society based on social standing like nobles and slaves and wanted to make a society that was centered around a single race with no difference in social standing. She doesn't know if that's actually the case but Miduchi decided to think like that. The reason why the elders and acquisition rankings are inherited is unknown but she thought it was most likely proof of the original citizens or something on that

level. Also, it's only as far as Miduchi knows but the only two countries that don't let the authority of noble rankings overlap with that of the army or officials are just Rombert Kingdom and Lail Kingdom.

In the countries like Devas, Kanbitto, Korakuto, and Guranan, etc... unless they're exceptionally superior in terms of commanding an army it's basically impossible to make it to a higher ranking and if they aren't a noble or have some kind of peerage then it's impossible to become over an intermediate level official.

After becoming a rider once again Miduchi controls the reins as she proceeds down the road. The sun has passed the midway point. I want to make it to the next village within 3-4 hours. From here there's Tongodo village. It's small but it should have had an inn as well.

(It would be good if there's a room available~)

.....

Year 7444, Month 6, Day 17

After passing through Count Faruergaz's territory she entered

Viscount Mongoto's territory. Until her home town, Erurehei of Kinru mountain there's about 100 Km left. Since the majority of that is made up of steep mountain roads it's necessary to prepare for it to take at least 4 days but she was able to return at a good pace. She was only attacked by monsters twice up until here. The first time the horse was afraid so she had no choice other than to get off and fight with magic. Since the opponent was orks after just defeating one of them the remaining ones started to retreat.

The next time was just the other day, when she was passing through

the forest she encountered a large swarm of {Green Slugs} in the process of moving. In a hurry she turned the horse around and took a detour around them.

However, once she's made it this far it's just one more breath

away. If she puts about two more days of work into it then she'll enter Erurehei, the area of influence of Lail Kingdom and not have to worry about monsters much at all. Since the rank 3 warriors enthusiastically patrol around it should be safer than Viscount Mongoto's territory.

.....

Year 7444, Month 6, Day 20

She finally entered the area of influence of Lail Kingdom. If she's

fast then she should be able to arrive at the entrance of Erurehei by tonight. Also, she recognizes this place as the only area in the world she can somewhat relax while camping. She didn't camp out even once up until here. Starting from here there's no need to take being attacked by monsters into consideration as much. There's wild animals but it's said there's no large predators.

While feeling relieved as she spent about two hours ascending the road, a sudden attack occurred at that sort of time.

The plate that she borrowed from that person protected her body.

She felt apologetic that it was damaged and bent out of form but thanks to the plate that was in her pocket below her armor she was saved from a serious injury. However, for them to attack a Dark Elf in this place..Miduchi immediately jumped off her horse and took her sword out of the saddle bag before using the flat end of it to tap the butt of her horse.

(Thieves huh..For them to attack a Dark Elf in the vicinity of

Erurehei, are they idiots?)

Even though she was being attacked, since she ended up not

suffering any injuries there was even composure that could be seen in Miduchi's expression. Depending on how things go the attackers could end up experiencing a fate worse than death. There's a high possibility that severe amount of reparations could be billed to the place of origin of the attackers. Of course, it's not as if there aren't monsters that use the bow and arrow as well but the chances of that are extremely unlikely.

After the arrow, the bullet of a spell came flying. If you think

about it with common sense there's no way it would have the added effect of {Missile} included in it. After lowering her posture to avoid the flaming arrows that came at her she jumped into some bushes on the side of the road to hide herself. She put her short sword on the ground and took out her bow and an arrow from her quiver.

There's already no trace of composure remaining on Miduchi's

face.

(The opponent is..It can't be)

Chapter 143 (Reverse Chapter 134)

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 28

"..Nn..Then, I need to start pretty soon"and, I need to fix my language as well.."

Lilus whispers that and used magic. It's an action that will reduce her amount of time remaining in the present world but it's not like she'll really die. She's just temporarily moving over to a different dimension {Other.Plane}. She'll spend a period of time there and then come back. Even she doesn't know how much time will have passed when she returns over here. A few years, a few decades, or over one hundred years.

With a smile that could be considered self-derision on her face she started mumbling about something after using magic.

The magic she's using right now is {Instruction}. It has the condition of the side receiving the orders undergoing a special ceremony first but other than that it's an extremely convenient magic. Of course the caster can freely select the target matching the conditions. It's fine if the target is just one person or even multiple people. This time 10 people were selected as the targets.

"I wonder if this is fine..it would be good if they properly take care of things while I'm gone though..since it's my first time as well..if I say anything too attentive and they might be troubled..Ah, I'm looking forward to what the town will look like when I return..after that is..just in case I guess that's necessary

as well.."

How to avoid the regulations, whether there's any loopholes to it,

Lilus held her finger to lip for a short period while thinking and

used magic another couple of times.

And then, with a slightly satisfied smile on her face she closed

her eyes.

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.

Several days later, in the Queen's bedroom of the depths of the

palace in Lail Kingdom, leaving just the hole where it's masters

legs were rooted the room was empty. Leaving all of the valuable

treasures and expensive various types of items in place, the room

was left just to quietly wait for the return of it's master.

.....

Year 7444, Month 5, Day 28

Lail Kingdom claims an enormous tunnel beneath Mount Kinru as it's

territory. In their sole capital of Erurehei it's always dark. Of

course there's lighting tools that make use of magic stones here

and there but it's a number far too few to light up all of Erurehei

and the wasting of magic stones is strictly forbidden. It's not

unusual for the lighting tools that are for the purpose of street

lights aren't actually lit up. The buildings are mostly made up of

dirt and stone walls that were gathered from the enormous tunnel

and since it doesn't rain the roofs are made by just stretching a

cloth over top.

Erurehei is a capital made by digging a tunnel in the mountains but

since their population isn't all that many, there is some leeway in

space. Though that's the case, the average family lives together

with 7-8 people in a building with three rooms and total area of about 30 square meters. If there's a member of the warrior rank in the family then it's slightly easier for them to be allocated a a bit larger building.

Also, it's something that almost never occurs but among the small number of families that marry and are allowed to start a new household they're allocated a cramped house with an equally less amount of rooms.

In that sort of environment, the comparatively splendid building(of all things it doesn't use cloth but has an actual roof) excluding the palace that is the government building, the young elder Fantodu was taking care of paperwork in the luxurious 10 square meter individual office room when he quickly reacted to the voice echoing through his head, jumping to his feet and prostrating himself in the direction of the palace. It's an instruction from her majesty the Queen that is said to occur at a high pace when it's once in every 10 years or so. Fantodu remained prostrate for a short while and after the voice echoing in his head was finished he stood up. It's necessary to discuss the instructions with the other elders and start making adjustments to execute the details right away.

After leaving his office room in the government building Fantodu went to the meeting room in order to discuss with the other elders. There were already five other elders seated in the meeting room and he was the sixth person. The remaining four should arrive shortly as well.

The other senior elders that were already seated can't hide the

excitement from their expressions. Though they aren't trying to hide it either. That's the same for himself. It was a direct instruction from her majesty the Queen that you may or may not hear even once in your life as a part of the lineage of elders.

Furthermore, the instructions this time were concrete and above all else the amount of time they heard her majesty's voice was quite long compared to what was heard from previous senior elders.

The prime elder who's in their 10th year as an elder this year,

Elder Webundo took over as speaker and after everyone had gathered started to speak.

"Everyone, it was great of you to gather like this without anyone saying anything. I'm grateful. I'm sure everyone has already heard but the divine orders have been handed out from her majesty Lilus. From here on out, we should move to allocating duties in order to accomplish the divine orders."

Everyone nodded while looking at Webundo. The only thing reflected in their faces was the delight of being able to execute a direct order from her majesty the Queen.

"Starting off with the first order, in regards to increasing the amount of edible fungus. Just as her majesty stated if we can't increase the production rate by 2% within one year then no matter how long passes our population won't increase. We need reports and ideas for improvements..

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..And also, the training of each rank of warriors. Rank 1 is fine but wasn't there worry that the quality of ranks 2 and 3 are

falling..This year there's already been two casualties among rank

3. Certainly you could say it's an alarming problem."

"However, one of the two was caught up in a cave-in while checking on the construction of a new tunnel and the other one was from an attack by ogres while escorting the acquisition ranking during sales!? It was reported that there was an ogre mage mixed in with them as well...I actually found it admirable they managed to restrain it to just that much damage."

Fantodu who has the role of managing the missions of the warrior rankings objected. It's where he would prefer if Yoretto his senior that's of the same warrior ranking and in charge of military and public orders to back him up in the argument. He continued, "I think it would be difficult to raise the abilities of the warrior ranking anymore than this but.."

And said some complaints. Hearing that Yoretto,

"Then the one who should be criticized for that is the one who was leading the escorts during that sale. Who was it at that time..Ah, Chizumagurol huh..So that was her first escort mission huh? If they're lacking in experience then I'm sure there's failure as well."

And said while forsaking her. Fantodu couldn't endure those details and tone of voice. Fantodu is still before his 30s, since he just entered as an elder this year and was the youngest of the elders so he thought he should restrain himself but he couldn't help but open his mouth to object. In the first place that wasn't Chizumagurol's first escort mission. If it was her first then she should have been escorting along the fixed route where ogres don't appear.

"Yoretto-dono, what in the world does that mean? Are you saying we should let rank 1 warrior class Chizumagurol take the punishment for that? She was the only rank 1 from the iwaganeeresade 68 period. Even if that wasn't the case there's only a mere 29 rank 1 warriors who are still active duty. I'd like to avoid pointlessly crushing her."

I wonder what in the world this person is saying, or at least thinking that I couldn't endure it.

"Fantodu, do you not think that letting one rank 1 take the blame and tightening the discipline of ranks 2 and 3 which have far higher numbers is an effective way of thinking about it? Certainly, her majesty Lilus stated that rank 1 was fine. However, wasn't it ranks 2 and 3 that she was worrying about? In the first place, aren't the rank 1 warrior class just assassins that can use all elemental magic. It's not like they're particularly special either. A misunderstanding from the number mixed into their classification..Oh, I don't intend to criticize something that her majesty decided but.."

Hearing these words of Yoretto, Fantodu thought,
(You're just saying those things because you couldn't even become a rank 3 warrior class though..)
and was displeased with his thoughts.

Certainly the elders are an exception but Yoretto joined the course for cultivating the warrior class during his childhood. Since Yoretto has an older brother above him, that older brother was believed to become the elder. Unfortunately Yoretto's aptitude towards magic techniques was low and he was only able to acquire

one elemental magic. For that reason, he only experienced a short two years of training and was removed from the warrior class training course, it was believed that he would spend the rest of his life as a part of the service ranking.

However, just before Yoretto turned into an adult, his five year older brother that hadn't become an elder yet ended up being poisoned by a monster while inspecting the surrounding territories for the rank 3 warrior class and passed and away. He hadn't experienced being an elder, in order for someone to become an elder they normally start training at the side of an active elder from just before the turn into adult around age 13, and it's been customary to perform training to become an elder in the future but the elder his older brother was with just happened to be performing an inspection that day and since Yoretto's older brother was there when the monster suddenly attack he ended up being poisoned, it was completely an unfortunate accident.

However, Yoretto was ashamed of the fact that he wasn't even able to become a rank 3 warrior and ever since then would harshly criticize the warrior classes. The period he became an elder was in his mid-40s but from the start he strongly volunteered to be in charge of the warrior classes.

Fantodu replied with all he wanted to say and decided to compete from a different dispute point. He already knew that it's rude to interrupt while the other person is still talking but while he's an older senior, publicly they're elders of the same position. It won't be considered impolite so easily.

"The rank 1 warrior class which we've invested budget, time, and

starting with excellent instructors a large number of people into is a treasure of our country. And also, the warrior class is the only existence we have to earn foreign currency. That so easily.."

While Fantodu was desperately objecting to it Yoretto opened his mouth from the side.

"I can't imagine that there's a very big difference in abilities between rank 1 and rank 3 warriors though. It's just a matter of them being able to use a few more spells right? I don't think it's something to be so concerned over.."

This isn't the truth. Certainly the initial training lifestyle including rank 2 and 3 warrior classes all receive a training curriculum closely covering drills over magic and close combat techniques. However, there's a large gap between the absolute amount of time spent training. Holidays are different but they only train for roughly 5 hours a day. Of that training starts 6 in the morning and the magic lecture only last for about 1 hour, 4 hours after the start of the training at 10 am. After the lecture they're quickly made to exhaust their mana and before they go to sleep they eat an early lunch and then sleep for about 4 hours before returning to their houses.

However, once they switch over to the rank 1 warrior training curriculum, they fundamentally live in a dormitory other than holidays. Since a single days training time stretches out to 16 hours. Of the entire training time the magic lectures only take up around 4 hours and the remaining 12 hours is harsh combat technique training that's like hell. The amount of time they have to sleep is

from around midnight until 6 am. All time other than that is spent in training with instructors that have three shifts and don't quite make it to man to man but it's time spent undergoing extremely deep training. It's often that the instructors are former veteran rank 1 warrior class people who retired.

In regards to chances for live combat after being assigned a position rather than ranks 1 or 2, rank 3 warriors end up with overwhelmingly more chances to combat and defeat monsters while patrolling the territory so it's not completely different from reality that one might think rank 3 is far higher in abilities from a glance though...

After seeing the debate start to go into a circle the speaker

Webundo opened their mouth.

"It's already fine, there's things that should be taken into consideration for both of your remarks. It exceeds my duties but I'll add my own views to this. We'll have Chizumagurol herself who acted as the leader undergo a hearing and then it's fine if we decide for ourselves whether the decisions of her command were proper. We'll have the head warriors of each ranking participate and take their opinions as reference as well. Is Chizumagurol in Erurehei?"

Fantodu replies to Webundo's question.

"Currently Chizumagurol is independently on a type 4 headpiece mission. I believe she's in the dungeon of Baldukk in the Kingdom of Rombert right now.."

Yoretto supplemented that reply.

"Type 4 headpiece is the assassination of a low ranking noble. It's

necessary for the target do die an accidental death or take the shape that the surroundings don't believe it was an assassination."

"I already know something like that. And, when is the deadline until?"

When Webundo asked again Fantodu replied again.

"Since it's six months after we accepted the job so..Through the end of July."

"Do you think she'll succeed?"

"..The target is the son of a Marquis of Kanbitto and an adventurer. I'm sure they have allies as well and it seems they'll be in the dungeon of Baldukk so..Monsters will appear as well..I can't help but say it will be quite difficult."

Even then Fantodu had already decided that Chizumagurol would be able to do it. It was an expression with confidence.

"What's the compensation?"

"15,000,000 Z. Of course we've already received the payment in advance."

Hearing that Yoretto snorted with his nose and ridiculed as he said.

"Hmph, just that much huh? Our countries foreign currency income reaches 20,000,000,000 Z. Of that what the rank 1 warrior class is earning is just a mere 6-7%, on average it's no more than 1,300,000,000 Z. It's 500,000,000 Z more than the amount we make from sale of surplus magic stones but...Regardless the yearly budget for cultivating the warrior classes exceeds 3,000,000,000 Z. The majority of our countries income is earned by the acquisition rankings selling crops that the service rankings are producing.

Since it's this occasion, I think we should cut the training costs for all of the warrior rankings from rank 1 to rank 3. There's 29 rank 1, 48 rank 2, and when it comes to rank 3 there's even 193 active duty members you know. That's a total of 270 people. If we cut all of the classes by about 20% and sent them around to the service ranking wouldn't we earn far more?"

There Fantodu(why does Yoretto-dono see the warriors as enemies to that extent?) held such doubts once again. Since he started as an elder this year, he's held pride in his first job of governing the countries military affairs and the warrior classes that oversee the public order.

However, Yoretto has his own expectations as well. Of course, if he were to say he doesn't hold feelings of inferiority towards the warrior class rankings, then that would be a lie. However, rather than that what he's thinking about is the financial expansion of Lail Kingdom. Taking the numbers from just now as an example and among the rank 1 warrior class about 10 of those are always acting as the escort leaders of caravans for the merchants. Just the same there's around 10 from rank 2 as well and 80 or so from rank 3 are always acting as escorts as they act away from the country. This is something that can't be helped.

Of the remaining 15 rank 1 warriors, roughly 35 rank 2 warriors, and over 100 rank 3 warriors, isn't the only ones absolutely necessary roughly 30 of those from rank 2 warrior class to act as gatekeepers and 12-13 groups of 5 rank 3 warrior classes, roughly 60-70 people for patrolling inside of the territory? If you think

about rest then it's fine to be a bit more. Of course, while there's few of them even the rank 1 warrior class earns some foreign currency so around 10 would be necessary.

Incidentally, in regards to labor costs, the rank 1 warrior class costs a yearly average of around 8,000,000 Z and that's over double the cost of the elders. It drops sharply at rank 2 and is around just 1,800,000 Z. When it comes to rank 3 it settles around 1,200,000 Z. However, in the case of the service ranking, the average annual income is around 600,000 - 700,000 Z. You could say it's an income that's only feasible in Lail Kingdom which is almost completely self-sufficient. What they purchase mainly consists of clothing, weapons, and various metal products and there's a small portion of luxury and hobby goods but those are extremely limited.

In Yoretto's opinion, he wants to increase the income from the service ranking which makes up the majority of the population by even 1 Z. Just by increasing the disposable income potential by that much increases the money in the country and increases the scale of the economy. For that sake it's necessary to increase the size of the production base but he's read that if they were to move strong adults from the warrior ranking to the service ranking then they would be able to increase production beyond just the number moved. After all, the fate of the 3,842 people of Lail Kingdom are guided by just these 10 elders. Having the warriors who have leeway in their strength dig out tunnels, take the allotment of physical work, and increase the seedbeds for fungi directly connects to an

important increase in production.

By saying that he had such intentions in his chest and acted as the supervisor of the warrior rankings.

"Yoretto, leave things around there. If the views of you two are different then that's something all of us will decide on. We'll wait for Chizumagurol's return and have the leader at the time of the escort once again report to us. If on top of that the blame is with Chizumagurol then we'll have her take responsibility.

However.."

Webundo's discussion still hasn't ended.

""However?""

And Fantodu and Yoretto raise their voices to get urging a continuation.

"I find it difficult to think that the members of the rank 1 warrior class are that inferior. Prior to Yoretto becoming an elder I've taken charge of the warrior ranking before as well so I intend to know a reasonable amount. All of them are extremely loyal towards our country Lail Kingdom and in possession of extraordinary abilities...Fumu..Since this is the final topic on our agenda, there should be no need to worry about time. Call for Zageruforu."

Zageruforu's full name is Edomarin.Zageruforu and is the current head of the rank 1 warrior class and is a veteran warrior that's 35 years old this year. With beautiful white hair almost like snow, skin that is deep purple almost completely black in color, and eyes that have a suspicious lavender glow to them, he's the ideal Dark Elf. Obviously, his abilities as a warrior are suitably high as

well.

In about 10 minutes Zageruforu appeared in the meeting room. Even though he's not on a mission he has his leather corset armor that's dyed deep blue on and is wearing his short mantle that goes down about half of his back.

He's taller than the average dark elf at 185 cm and is quite the big man.

"All elders, I have appeared before you as you have requested."

After Zageruforu said that greeting them Webundo called out to him.

"Zageruforu, we were thinking we'd like to have you explain things about the rank 1 warrior class Chizumagurol. Explain to everyone about Chizumagurol. Since we don't want to give you any preconceived notions we'll explain the reason after. First off, we want to hear an explanation with no reservations."

Being ordered by an elder that's in their last year of office,

Zageruforu opened his attractive lips.

"Ha...Chizumaguorl is my..Yeah, since I was from the uzuuroboride 97th period so..she's a woman that graduated the education training process 19 periods my junior as a member of the iwaganeeresade 68th period and two years prior was official appointed. If I remember correctly during the education training process she was always at the top. Up until now she's had independent missions twice and cooperative missions three times, escort missions..if I'm remembering correctly she's accomplished them about six times. Among those, one cooperative mission and two escort missions were

while she was an apprentice. There was nothing that could be considered a mistake her work...

Her personality is introverted and she prefers to be alone but this is believed to be as a result of her first independent assassination mission clashing with a member of her same class who she ended up having to kill. Nevertheless, she hasn't had any difficulties in her jobs up until now. Her abilities with spells are just a bit above average, I guess you could say. Though that includes a note of taking into consideration her current age of 16 years old though. Since her void magic is level 5, it's around there I'm sure.

Also, she's enthusiastic when it comes to training and is never negligent in her training even when off duty. Her normal close combat abilities are reasonably good but due to problems in experience as well, she's still a bit below the average of the rank 1 warrior class. In regards to the crucial assassination techniques she's plenty skilled and already above average. Of course, she still isn't at my level though.

Furthermore, it's believed that the majority of her compensation are being used for medicine for her older brother with a weak constitution and the person herself lives a lifestyle with just the bare minimum equipment. I think she's a good young lady with filial piety towards her older brother. Well, her hair is black and her skin color is light so she's not to my preference and I wouldn't think of putting a hand on her."

Hearing Zageruforu's explanation Webundo said a bit surprised.

"Ho, that's a considerably high evaluation. And also, so

Chizumagurol was still 16 huh..Ah, you did say the 68th period of iwaganeeresade."

The other elders are exchanging glances and talking in a whisper as well.

"Umm, is there something with Chizumagurol..."

Zageruforu asked timidly.

"Umu, it's about the incident where Chizumagurol was acting as the escort leader and one of the rank 3 warriors lost their life, an opinion has come out to have her the commander take the blame for lacking in ability so.."

Hearing that reply from Webundo, Zageruforu said in a panic.

"Wha...What are you saying!? I've properly received a report on the details but that was an inevitable situation! They were attacked by a group of ogres while passing through a valley!? An ogre mage was included in them and there was a total of 5 ogres!? Even when it comes to the might warriors of the rank 1 warrior class, it's not a situation that can be settled without any damage. That time, Chizumagurol's elemental magic levels had only just reached level 4 and she could only use arrow type spells plenty, it should have taken close to 5 seconds for her to active Javelin. Let alone that for her to use Arbalest she would have required several minutes! In sort of situation she has to protect the load, her subordinates, and the members of the acquisition ranking!? Even her subordinates were only at the level where the skilled ones could somehow use Javelin! Also, there was no damage done to the essential load or the members of the acquisition ranking!"

In response Yoretto laughed scornfully while saying.

"Fumu. A mighty warrior huh? However, if she ends up taking damage from just 5 ogres then isn't she nothing special at all? Aren't you treating the rank 1 warrior class as too special? If you look at them as warriors, there's no big difference between 1, 2, or let alone 3 right?"

Hearing that Zageruforu's eyebrows went into a frown as he objected.

"Yoretto-dono, what are you saying! Certainly calling them mighty warriors might be exaggerating but normally escorts are performed with two warriors. Since it seems that in the past there was no rankings to the warriors so you could change it to say that it wouldn't be incorrect for there to be two rank 1 warriors. If we were to follow in that example then one rank 1 warrior is equal to a single rank 2 warrior leading six rank 3 warriors.

If it's just that much then they can fight them sufficiently!

There's that much of a gap between their abilities! That's why they're rank 1!"

There's probably exaggeration included in these remarks. No matter how skilled of a person they are, there's no way they could match up to seven opponents who have received decent combat training. If they give their best then one person and put in some desperate effort you could say it would be a good performance for them to bring two of them down with them. If you think about it with common sense it's normal to think the side with seven people will take no damage.

However, Zageruforu thought (This complete amateur who doesn't even

know how strong just one ogre is!), while objecting in retort to the inflammatory words. It was a big failure.

"Ho? Head warrior Zageruforu. If you're going to say that much then how about we prove it? You said that Chizumagurol was of the 68th iwaganeeresade period right. Well then, just as you said she should be able to win against one rank 2 warrior and six rank 3 warriors from the same iwaganeeresade 68th period right? Of course I'm sure it would be difficult to gather them with just members of the iwaganeeresade 68th period. It's fine if you mix in some members from Jorounefiridi 124th period and taranchurarikosa 80th period as well."

Hearing that starting with Zageruforu, the other elders stirred as well.

"Wha!? Do you intend to make dark elves perform a death match with each other over a reason like that!? Are you go crazy!?"

"Yoretto, are you, sane?"

"Something like that, isn't that just uselessly decreasing our countries forces!"

"How foolish, no matter how you think about it one versus seven wouldn't be a proper match."

While indifferently waiting for those jeers to pass by Yoretto opened his mouth to reply.

"..Of course, something like a death match is outrageous. It's a practice match. Since they'll use real weapons I'm sure there will be some injuries though. Going to the extent of taking lives over something like this, that itself is nonsense. If the one known as Chizumagurol is superior then that's fine, it's fine if we just have them suspend it right away. If that isn't the case then it's

just a matter of fighting until she can't move anymore before stopping. However, in that case, my remarks from just now should pass and she should cut the number of warriors by 20% from rank 1 to rank 3 and send them around to the service ranking, we should be aiming for an increase in production to food."

Hearing that Fantodu objected.

"That itself has no relation at all. Just because a rank 1 loses in a fight against seven people we decrease the number of warriors? I don't understand the meaning. I don't think that her majesty's feelings are something like that though. In the first place wouldn't that end up reducing our forces for the Royal Road Paradise Construction Project!"

"Fantodu, I understand what you want to say. However, isn't using her majesty's feelings as a comparison cowardly. Of course, with my humble abilities it's difficult for me to guess her majesty's thoughts. But, her majesty mentioned it. In preparation for the time that comes, the country, particularly increase the food production. Earn money and make the economy more robust, like that. Our countries doesn't have surplus in population. Where would it be good to pull out that manual labor power from? The warrior classes have plenty of stamina as well. They can even use magic. Obviously I have no intention of saying something so foolish as all of them. Even if it's just taking 20% of those with the lowest level of skill from each ranking, we could greatly increase the speed of expanding the tunnels and with just that we can increase our production rates."

Yoretto indifferently replied. Putting it frankly it's close to an

absurd reason. Even he understands the importance of the warrior classes plenty. However, there's not enough people. There's no money. Even the her majesty Lilus said this. "My children, the time of the Royal Road Paradise Construction Plan is close. Make preparations. Make food, circulate money, give birth, increase." Well, content at that level is almost close to a preface. Whenever there's an {Instruction} those are the first words they're generally told. However, this time just the usual one or two words of instruction wasn't enough. After the usual words from just now she normally ends things with a line like "put priority on expanding the 22nd tunnel."

However, this time there was even more details and they covered a variety of subjects.

Certainly included in that there were the words, "Rank 1 is..fine.

Deal with the drop in quality for ranks 2 and 3." as well. Yoretto was thinking of "dealing" with the drop in quality of the warriors by including them into the service ranking. If the remaining warriors brace themselves and make efforts in their training, as a result the quality should increase. If it's for that sake then just a single sacrifice {scapegoat} from the rank 1 then I'm sure there's no problem and just thought like that. Additionally he can harass the members of the rank 1 warrior class that are paid a high salary just because their abilities are only a bit higher.

In comparison starting with Fantodu the other elders were thinking of taking a look at the time required for training and revising the details, also taking another look at the curriculum for the

education training process in order to "deal" with it.

Neither of them are largely mistaken.

Yoretto is hoping that the rank 2 and 3 warriors cooperating to defeat a rank 1 warrior will connect to an increase in confidence and their training after that will reach greater heights. Of course it's not as if he just simply hates rank 1. It's certainly true that their abilities are high and even Yoretto recognizes that. However, he thinks that they should make use of this chance to reduce their wages a bit more as well. Half is going too far but if they can reduce it to an average of 2,000,000 Z then that will leave 60,000,000 Z to float. They can increase the annual income of the service ranking by 20,000 Z per person for that portion. Certainly the amount of foreign currency that can be earned in their lifetime is overwhelmingly higher for the rank 1 warrior class. It's fine that their compensation is higher than the elders as well. However, he's always thought that isn't it just a bit too much.

Also, while it's just one or two people every few years but he loathes the people who choose to leave Erurehei and live outside of the country as well. Those sorts of people are largely made up of the former warrior classes. While they're in the outside world as escorts they end up feeling the appeal of other countries than Lail Kingdom. This is believed to be an alarming problem as well. However, included in her majesty Lilus's words today was "Don't follow those who leave and just let them be free." as well. That's why for now they have no intention of saying anything about the people who leave the country.

However, things that are necessary for the Kingdom, things that they believe are necessary must be asserted. Every chance that can be used should be used.

.....

Year 7444, Month 6, Day 1

Fantodu and Yoretto were giving out instruction to the seven people lined up in front of them.

"..For that reason, you should always remain on guard as you carry out your decisions. Other than those who have this mark tied on them don't let them pass the fourth checkpoint. Capture them alive. However, caravans are different. Also, you must not harm anyone other than dark elves. Starting from this moment of today for the next two month, this is all your orders!"

""Ha""

A sharp reply came back from the seven people.

After dispersing, Yoretto called out for rank 2 warrior, Harugozon of the Jorounefirdi 124th period, who was going to become the commander and talked to them.

"I said that just now but rank 1 warriors are different. The opponent has a considerable level of skill as well. If you don't attack them with the intention to kill you all might end up being killed."

After saying that he patted the shoulder of Harugozon who was young and tense as he stood at attention, then from an unseen angle he grinned with a smile.

(Right now, other than the those escorting caravans there's only two rank 1 warriors outside huh..It's unfortunate but die, No..I guess that's indiscreet..We need to make sure they're at least

seriously injured..)

Chapter 144 (Reverse Chapter 135)

Year 7444, Month 6, Day 1

After giving out the instructions Fantodu returned to his office room and called out the head warriors of each ranking. With the rank 1 head warrior Zageruforu at the front, the rank 2 head warrior Akein, and rank 3 head warrior Emyuddo were all quickly called to gather in Fantodu's slightly narrow office room. They're all older than Fantodu. In an already cramped room, while feeling the pressure of the three head warriors, even then Fantodu somehow tried to maintain his dignity as he opened his mouth. Obviously since he's younger he spoke politely.

"Yesterday, just as we notified you, the command was given by warrior inspector general Yoretto. Just a moment ago with rank 2 warrior Harugozon as the command an interception unit with a total of seven members were given the dispatch order. As the assistant inspector general, no, as a single citizen of Lail Kingdom I don't think there's any order more foolish than this. I'm sure that the inspector general has his own way of thinking but I have my own thoughts as well. I would like to proceed with this discussion as if everyone already understands the circumstances. If anyone still doesn't understand then please come forward now. I'll explain everything."

The rank 3 head warrior Nemerukoru. Emyuddo her long light blue hair swayed as she stepped forward. Just the same as Zegeruforu, she's a female warrior wearing leather corset armor dyed in high quality

black and crimson with a mantle that goes midway down her back. Her skin color is considerably deep. Emyuddo appeared nervous as she opened her mouth.

"What I was notified about was commencing a practice match against a member of the rank 1 warrior class as they return from the outside. I wasn't told as far as the reason."

Just the same the rank 2 head warrior Dyusukuri.Akein stepped forward with his slightly reddish hair fluttering. While he's also wearing leather corset armor but that armor is dyed black and yellow green. He isn't wearing a mantle.

"I haven't heard about the reason either. I thought that we would receive an explanation about it here though"

Hearing their words Fantodu made a face as if he expected it and nodded.

"..I see. I'm glad I asked. The reason is far too worthless. First off, the warrior inspector general is of the thoughts that he wants to make Lail Kingdom even larger and more abundant. Of course, I am too and I'm sure everyone thinks that way as well. The matter this time is a dispute over the method of how to achieve that. The warrior inspector general believes that in order to make the kingdom even more abundant we need to increase our production ability. Up until here is fine right."

After confirming that the two head warriors who stepped forward nodded, Fantodu continued.

"For that reason, the warrior inspector general is of the thoughts that it would be best to cut each of the warrior class numbers by 20% and allocate those numbers to the service ranking in order to

increase our productivity...Yeah, without a doubt that's what he's thinking. I think that you all already know but ever since the warrior inspector general took up his role he's been advocating that we should reduce the number of warriors.

Since the assembly of elders has continued to push back against it, there hasn't been much of any change at all to the number of warriors but he's still been advocating that. And then the other day, we received divine instruction from her majesty Lilus. The details were over a number of topics unlike ever seen until now. However, among those the warriors were almost not mentioned at all. The only words she offered us were "Rank 1 is fine. Deal with the fall in quality of Ranks 2 and 3." was just that."

Hearing that Akein and Emyuddo looked down making mortified faces.

In their eyes they were directly referenced by her majesty the Queen in the "fall in quality". Certainly they haven't just been playing around but it's true they've felt a drop in quality compared to 10 years ago as well.

"Hearing this what do you think? Do you have any ideas on what to do?"

Fantodu questioned the two head warriors.

"I would like to increase the amount of time for training. I'll discuss the details afterwards with rank 3 head warrior Emyuddo but in order to make the most effective use of the extended time I would like for the two of us to devise some means."

Akein replied.

"We should urgently revise the details of the training and on top of closely investigating them, we should abandon the standardized

training and focus on growing each individuals strong points while also having them overcome their weak points."

Emyuddo replied as well.

"That's true. I think we should start off with things like that.

However, it seems that warrior inspector general would have preferred the effects be shown even sooner. He's thinking about having 20% of the warriors with the lowest abilities of each ranking retire and include them into the service ranking. I think that he's most likely aiming to pull out the motivation of the remaining warriors through that act as well. And then, in the case it really comes to that, I'm sure the morale of the remaining warriors will drop a bit. What I think was raised as a plan to avoid that is for the rank 2 and 3 warriors to defeat a rank 1 warrior."

Of course it's not as if all Fantodu's guess is on the mark but

Fantodu said with a confident expression while looking at the two head warriors. Akein and Emyuddo couldn't hide their surprise. Only Zageruforu was making a bitter face as he stood in the back.

"The basis for those thoughts of the warrior inspector general-dono being "There's no difference in the abilities between each ranking of warriors. The only difference is their skill with magic." is something I'm sure you already know. I dare to question this but what do you two think in regards to this?"

Fantodu caressed his grey hair which isn't very appealing as a Dark Elf while asking.

"If it's ranks 2 and 3 then I think it's fine to say that's largely correct. Of course if you properly make the comparison then I think

that rank 2 is slightly above rank 3 in some ways...Nevertheless, whether it be simply martial arts and obviously magic as well they're not match for rank 1. If they're going to be a match for rank 1 then..if the opponent is just one then, at the very least they would need at least three people to challenge them at the risk of their lives. It would be while preparing themselves for two of them to be killed or suffer heavy injuries though. Obviously it would also be necessary to make preparations under favorable conditions as well."

The rank 3 head warrior Emyuddo said. Hearing that the rank 2 head warrior Akein nodded as well.

"It's almost the same opinion as myself. Zageruforu rank 1 head warrior. How about you?"

After accepting Emyuddo's answer Fantodu questioned the rank 1 head warrior who was still standing disappointed in the back.

"..I'm of the..same opinion."

Zageruforu twisted his face in regret as he replied.

"Ho? I remember you saying that seven people of rank 2 and 3 would be plenty to challenge them but..."

Fantodu said it disagreeably. He still took it personally how

Zageruforu made a slip up in his words the other day. He thinks that if something unnecessary hadn't been said it wouldn't have gotten this complicated.

"Well it's fine. As a matter of fact the things I just said were a statement that Zageruforu rank 1 head warrior said in front of the assembly of elders. It ended up taking the shape of the warrior inspector general taking it as his pledge."

While the two head warriors eyes went wide, Fantodu continued his

words.

"The order has already been given out to prevent the infiltration of any dark elves who don't have the yellow ribbon as a mark tied on their arm from making it above the 4th perimeter of the mountain. According to Zagerufory head warriors report there's two targets. It's possible that both Dendudasu and Chizumagurol will return from outside within the next two months.

I've heard that it's very possible both of them will have finished missions bringing us over 100,000,000 Z in foreign currency. I'm sure they're tired from their long journey as well. If they were successfully able to achieve their mission then the moment they enter Mount Kinru it's possible to think that they'll let their guards down. The order just now is something that might end up injuring those such brethren. Killing them has been forbidden but there's no way Dendudasu and Chizumagurol would know about that. Do you know what this means?"

With silence as their answer Fantodu looked at the three head warriors and continued his words.

"I think that this worthless, unhelpful order is clearly a mistake.

However, something that was announced by the warrior inspector general-dono who's in a position above mine doesn't make mistakes.

Anyone who doesn't want to hear what I'm about to say now please leave this room right away, I give you permission to return to your jobs. There won't be any special disadvantage to it.

Just, please think carefully about it. What can be earned

from the warriors injuring each other. We will end up losing 20% of the total number of warriors as well. Of course, since they'll end

up servicing our country through the service ranking I'm sure it will still raise the national power of our country. Nevertheless decreasing our precious active duty warriors who have gone through training by 20%, I wonder how we are supposed to accomplish the Royal Road Paradise Construction Project from here on out. When her majesty Lilus gives out the proclamation for the Royal Road Paradise Construction Project, please think about what sort of meaning it is to reduce the warriors who are the vanguard for that.."

After confirming that no one seemed like they would leave the room, it's something he already expected but Fantodu breathed a sigh of relief.

"Now then, once again I the assistant warrior inspector general declare that I have finished explaining to you the reason for the practice match this time. It's not like I was particularly forbidden from it but I just wanted each of you head warriors to know. From here on out is just me speaking to myself."

Fantodu said with a serious face.

"After this for a period of two months, I think it sure would be nice if some warriors with free time were to start wandering around in the area of the 4th perimeter without the mark on them. I sure do wish someone would even cut time out from sleeping to always been wandering around the areas between the 3rd and 4th perimeters. Since the commander chosen this time rank 2 warrior Harugozon is from a branch family of the warrior inspector general, I'm sure he'll try to faithfully follow through with the order but even they need to take some rest. It sure would be nice if there was people

wandering around to the point where they can't get anything like rest~ And then, in the off chance that something like a practice match were to start, if someone yells "It's a practice match!" in the area to call their allies that would be great. If there's any injured people in the area it would be great if they could use some healing spells~ Hey, it's just for two months. It's not a very long time at all."

He looked around at the three head warriors and finished saying just that last thing to himself.

"Obviously, I would like for the head warriors to forget to eat and sleep and carefully patrol the 3rd and 4th perimeters as well."

And then, while he is younger than them but he made a elder-like expression while glaring at the head warriors and, "Hn? So you were still here huh? It seems I spent too much time talking to myself. Everyone leave the room and return to your official duties."

And said that while taking out some expensive paper for documents.

.....

Year 7444, Month 6, Day 20

(..But..Why?)

The inside of Miduchi's head was confused from the attack she's receiving. However, she can't just remain confused either. In any case understanding the situation can be put off. Something like the situation is something you can slowly confirm while doing everything you can do. She lowered her body low in the bushes she rolled into on the spot and started preparing an arrow with her

bow. The moment I can see the opponent even if it doesn't hit it's necessary to keep them in check. If the opponent falters then I can move over to those other bushes that seem a bit easier to fight defensively from, in the case they don't falter then this time just like I was just attacked, this time it should be fine if I fire a {Flame Arrow}.

However, the {Flame Arrow} from just now was a speed slow enough to normally be avoided. I guess they don't have any intention of killing? It's not as if that first arrow was aiming for a vital point either. If they're serious then it's best to aim for the face or heart on the first shot after all. They aimed that for the stomach. By chance I had the plate I borrowed under my armor in my clothes pocket so I was able to block it without any damage at all but even if I didn't have the plate I'm sure I would have been injured but putting aside {Cure Light} for an arrow wound to the stomach, if it's {Cure Serious} then there wouldn't be any risk to my life.

It would be a different matter if poison was smeared on it but there was no poison on it.

She was able to decide that far in an instant but in any case there's no other choice than to hold out for now. I somehow want to jump into the entrance of Erurehei but there should still be quite a bit of distance remaining. She quietly took off the arrow before putting it on the ground and then grabbed two bottles from her waist with her right hand. There's a special chemical in both of these bottles and when you mix the contents together a red smoke is

given off. She placed one bottle on the ground and then if she just pours the contents of the second bottle in there the red smoke will start to raise right away.

It's something like an emergency smoke signal for dark elves. No matter what they're doing when dark elves see this smoke they're obligated to go and save them. Fundamentally the ones who use it the most are rank 3 warriors who are fighting monsters or hunting along the mountain paths. It's common to remain within 20-30 m windward from where you use it but there's no absolute to it. It's more often the case that you can't continue to remain in one place while in the middle of combat with monsters after all and it can also be thought that there won't be any place just right to wait windward.

Miduchi hesitated over whether to use the bottle of smoke. It's simple to use it but at the same time it gives away your location to the opponent.

If you don't use it then it's possible to tragically be killed as well.

In the first place is the opponent..Alone?

In the case there's multiple of them, even in the worst case

Miduchi thought she didn't have any chance of winning. She remained to the ground holding her breath, while Miduchi couldn't do anything but that she hesitated and started thinking.

The only thing Miduchi can rely on right now is the small bottle in her own hand.

She also had doubts about what kind of reason this sudden dilemma was occurring. At the very least, it's difficult to think that she

would be targeted by someone within the area of influence of Lail Kingdom. Well then, is it a monster? That's unthinkable as well. There's not even a 1 in 10,000 chance that monsters that can use not only the bow but also magic would be wandering around here.

While she keeps remaining close to the ground going in circles with her thoughts the situation isn't changing for the better. Miduchi quietly looked around the area and returned the smoke bottles to her pouch.

"Oh~ another practice match huh! Give it your best~!"

She heard that sort of voice from the distance. There was a considerable amount of distance from that voice but it echoed out as if it was trying to teach Miduchi that a practice match was taking place. Hearing that while Miduchi was somewhat able to accept it, there was still points remaining that she couldn't understand.

(Practice match? But, why are they aiming for me? In the first place, there never should have been a practice match in a place like this up until now..)

Thinking that, she carefully continued to look in the direction the arrow came flying. If a practice match is really taking place and she was mistaken as the target for that then it's not as if she wouldn't understand the attack from just now. However, she couldn't make sense of why they would suddenly start a practice match without notifying this side. After all if Miduchi were to counterattack in the case she doesn't know anything, her first consideration would be taking the lives of their opponents as she

counterattacks.

(Something is strange..)

While she was thinking that and quickly a person appeared in her

sight. It still hasn't been 10 seconds from the first arrow.

She almost reflexively went to use {Flame Arrow} but stopped

herself. The opponent is the same dark elf as her. She's seen their

face before as well. If she remember correctly that's the young

rank 2 warrior Harugozon. There's two people behind, some other

young rank 3 warriors are abiding by him.

(Eh? Why is a rank 2 warrior in a place like this?)

Miduchi surprise is something only obvious. The rank 2 warrior

class normally act as so-called gatekeepers protecting what could

be called the front entrance of Erurehei, their mission is to guard

the surface entrance and several of the secret entrances. There's

no way they would be forgiven to leave their position and wander

around in a place like this. Of course, it's possible they could be

off duty and using their day off to do some training alone but even

in that case it's unnatural. You could say that equipment is

strange for training. After all, they don't just have a bow and

arrows but they're equipped with long swords on their waist.

They've properly got their leather armor on and the way they're

scanning the area without letting their guard down is hard to call

training.

(This location, that appearance, is it really a practice

match...Otherwise it's live combat?)

"There's seven people after all! Be careful~!"

Miduchi can hear the voice from a moment ago again. It's closer

than last time.

(Eh? A warning? Is it aimed towards me? What's that? What's going on? I don't understand the meaning..)

That's only obvious. Even though they're performing a practice match there was notification to this side, not to mention for some unknown reason they're even so politely telling the number of attackers. Harugozon and the other's faces twisted detestably hearing the voice. It was to the point where she might even have heard them clicking with their tongue.

(If it's seven people then..Other than the three in front I guess one on each side..If even further they have one in direction to the back then they would have me surrounded..So the three approaching from the front are the decoy huh?)

"We've secured the horse~!..Chizumagurol huh!? It's a practice match! Don't kill! It's alright!"

Along the way the voice echoed out as if it was in a hurry.

She thought it would be fine just letting her horse go but she's thankful that they secured it. After all among her precious business tools stored in it's saddle bag is the especially heavy magic stone. The size is around that of an adult's fist and it's weight is over 6 Kg. Just one of those could easily rival over 10 years of her annual income.

Simultaneously she also felt she was able to relax a bit. It seems true that she's really being challenged to a practice match. And, if that's the case then there's only one thing to do. Even if it's just a practice match losing is annoying. Miduchi sticks out her forked tongue to lick her lips once before thinking of the area where they would be circling around from and without worrying about

hitting just fired her bow, then at her full speed hid her body behind the trunk of a tree nearby.

"She's in the shadow of that tree! Pin her down!!"

Harugozon's order echoes out. While Miduchi was hidden behind the tree she took some distance and confirmed above her and then in a hurry used earth magic to create a doughnut shaped wall surrounding her to act as an improvised shelter. Right now Miduchi's elemental magic is level 5. She create 30 cubic meters of dirt in one use.

The inside has a diameter of 60 cm, the walls a thickness of 1.5 meters, and a height of over 3 meter as she shaped it like a gun barrel. She can't afford to take her time. She has to decide the match before they throw dirt or water inside.

Immediately after she climbed up the dirt about 50 cm and used level 5 wind magic at her feet. In an instant 30,000 cubic meters of air appeared and taking into consideration the 1.5 meter height of the gun barrel Miduchi was sent flying over 20 meters into the air. Below her the improvised gun barrel and shelter was smashed to pieces sending a cloud of dusting flying into the surroundings of where she was.

During the 2 seconds or so until she falls 10 meters to the surface how many times can she shoot {Lightning Bolt}? If possible she wanted to hit at least one person surrounding her. Then at least make one person from the decoy group unable to fight through electricity.

She flew into the air and while Miduchi was making a twisted face she sent pale blue lightning flying from her left hand.

Chapter 145 (Reverse Chapter 136)

Year 7444, Month 6, Day 20

Bashi!!

Along with a sound as if the atmosphere is being cut the

electricity from {Lightning Bolt} surges out of Miduchi's left hand and stretches towards one of the dark elves that was trying to circle around her knocking them out in an instant.

Since she's only poured the standard amount of mana into it the damage isn't enough to cause instant death. It should have just paralyzed them.

Bashi!!

Again the same sound from before rings out, this time the

electricity jumps from her right hand. The target is one of those coming from the front, rank 2 warrior Harugozon. The warriors who are below rank 2 can't use {Anti-Magic Field} due to reasons relating to the number of elemental magic skills they were able to learn. Although, even if they could use it, there's no way they would have mastered it to the level of being able to deploy it faster than electricity either. Without missing it's aim, the electricity hit Harugozon in the abdomen and knocked him out on the spot.

For Miduchi since she's taking on multiple opponents she'd like to use {Chain Lightning} which splits up after hitting it's target but her wind magic only just reached level 5 the other day.

Consequently, since she's barely used it before it, she can't

activate it in an instant, let alone that when it comes to {Chain Lightning} putting aside the attacks that split up, unless you've achieved mastery with it the first direct hit will almost always deal enough damage to seriously injury or kill so it wasn't an option in the first place.

The reason she used wind magic to send herself flying into the air as well, it was to momentarily move outside of their sight and gain the 2 seconds needed to use magic. She'd like to send one more hit flying but it's already the limit. She'd like to use wind magic a number of times to gain a soft-landing but she can already confirm several hands and bows being aimed over here. In order to camouflage her landing point she uses wind magic consecutively going parallel to herself and went to great pains to try and shift her landing point from mid air to a location she can't be noticed.

Miduchi's wind magic shakes the bushes and trees that have a height of over 10 meters around both sides of the road Miduchi was following and generates a miniature typhoon. Even if it couldn't be considered high quality if she wasn't wearing proper leather armor and had the hems of her pants inside of her boots it would have been a disaster just like the robe she was wearing from the wind. The robe was already reduced to nothing more than scraps and strings since the first wind she used to ascend and is now basically a mantle swaying on her back. However, it might have been thanks to this robe that she was able to receive the wind easier.

There's no need to even evade the arrows that are flying, their trajectory is bent by the wind magic and the warheads of the spells end up being blown in a different direction as well, thanks to that she was somehow able to land without taking any damage. Since she ended up rolling about 5 meters from the impact of the landing, it's not as if she didn't take any damage at all from the fall but the fact that she didn't suffer any bone fractures or sprains was just as she was aiming for. Miduchi ignores the pain surging through her body from the landing as she stands up right away and dashes at an intense speed up Mount Kinru towards where she heard the voice from just now.

However, while she's knocked two unconscious there's still five people remaining. While things have gotten a bit better compared to the start, there's still no change in the situation of being outnumbered. She's paralyzed them through electricity but if they can just use earth and water elemental magics at level 4 then as long as they have time there's no problem with them being able to use the spell {Remove Paralysis}. The possibility that sooner or later they may return to the battlefield can't be ignored.

"Over there!!"

When Miduchi ran off she heard that voice shout from behind her.

It's one she recognizes. It's the voice of a male rank 3 warrior that was the same age as her. During the education training process they spent just the first year together. What was his name again?

(In your case..you're magic results were bad right..)

She glances behind and hides behind an adequate tree while smiling

and after waiting for the timing jumped out. She's already got both of her hands aimed at the target. And, between Miduchi and her pursuers a blue colored gas springs forth.

"It's {Stun Cloud}!! Be careful!"

Someone else shouts. Idiots. You should have either silently taken a detour around to avoid it or immediately stop your feet and use an attack spell...She uses the {Stun Cloud} that's already started to disperse as a decoy as she uses spells consecutively.

"{Quagmire}"

Miduchi poured five times the normal amount of mana into it and created a bog with a length of 2 meters and a width of 10 meters on her right side. And then, on the opposite side she created a similar bog as well. Miduchi's mana has already reached the point where it feels like she can only use cloud type attack spells two more times. It seems it would be best to use arrow type spells on those who get caught in the bog rather than cloud type. She didn't want to harm them but it can't be helped.

Several {Flame Arrow} and {Stone Arrows} fly towards Miduchi. She quickly evades those by rolling and then plunges into some bushes higher up from where she was while checking to see if any fools get caught up in her {Quagmire}.

"Uwa!!"

"Eh!!"

"Kyaa!!"

Just as expected three people ended up getting caught. While the three of them have their legs caught in the mud and can't move freely she hits them in the abdomen with {Stone Arrow} and this time intentionally makes some loud noises while jumping out of the

bushes as she shows herself running towards the summit of Mount Kinru.

(It should be fine since there's no one who would die over

something of that level. Though I'm sure they wouldn't be able to use magic from the pain.)

She holds her breath, hiding her presence, crouching down in the bushes while taking a throwing dart out of the chest of her leather armor, then took a characteristic bottle out of the pouch at her waist. There's a paralysis poison inside made of ganbi grass leaves and the blood of the green tree frog. She dips the edge of the dart inside and then quickly puts away the bottle and(I haven't officially heard that this was a practice match, so it's fine right) and makes excuses for herself. The place to aim is either the neck or chest. As close to the head as possible is best.

Without even giving them time to use magic, her aim is to let the paralysis poison reach their brain and knock them out.

Since it's a pure poison, the superior point of a poison is that it will temporarily numb the brain as well. If it was a paralysis poison that is based on a magic effect then it wouldn't go this way. Since martial arts and spells stand out the rank 1 warrior class which specialize in those portions are said to be stronger than the other warrior classes but true strength is this sort of knowledge. The recipes for the various drugs and how much of their strong and weak points you understand. There's a wide variety of knowledge that is only stated to the rank 1 warrior class.

If I hadn't used up the last of my caltrops during the

assassination mission this time then it should have been even

easier. However, I was lucky to be able to reduce their numbers down to just two more who can fight properly.
(Seven people, and if that wasn't a lie, that is...)
While thinking that Miduchi thought that the opponent was seven people as well.
Either they lost sight of me or, she carefully holds her long sword on guard in her right hand with her left hand stretched out as she looks around the area and found a male rank 3 warrior about to pass by several meters on her side. She smiled as if she just waits for another 10 seconds she can aim for the back of his neck with a dart.
(Ya~!!)
From Miduchi's hand the dart is thrown and stabs into the back right side of the mans neck without missing it's mark.
His left hand reflexively stretched out to the nape of his neck where the dart hit but the man then fell to both knees and collapsed.
One more left.
It's regretful that her bow and arrows went somewhere while she was flying through the air. However, if it's just one more person then she should be able to somehow deal with them. Rather than letting things drag out, even if it's a bit dangerous she should charge in and finish things off all at once. If she leaves them alone the two who were hit by the initial {Lightning Bolt} and convulsing might be able to recover.
She carefully scans her surroundings but wasn't able to find the remaining person. Miduchi switches her remaining dart with the paralysis poison on it to her right hand as she stands up and moves

to the side of the opponent she just rendered powerless with the other dart, she sticks her blade up to the neck of the fallen opponent and provokes the remaining person.

"Hey coward who suddenly attacks without informing the reason! I'm right here! I only have one knife and dart remaining! Now, come out and have a match with me!"

She raises her voice and continues.

"If you don't come out then in 5 seconds I'll kill this man!"

Five~!"

The groans of the dark elves who got stuck in the bog and took

Miduchi's attack spells echo around the area.

"Four!"

She can hear the sound of a horse coming from higher up the mountain. It should be the person who raised their voice and informed her of the danger just now.

"Three!"

A {Stone Arrow} came flying from her left shoulder. Miduchi easily avoids that. Next an arrow will probably come flying.

Just as predicted an arrow came from the same direction. If she already knows the direction it's coming from then it's easy for Miduchi to avoid an arrow. Around 30 m away there's a single dark elf woman preparing another arrow on her bow.

She charges towards her. Of course she doesn't aim at her in a straight line. She runs along a slightly shifted path. The instant an arrow was fired in the position Miduchi was heading, she lowered her the posture of her body and threw the dart she had while rolling.

The woman avoids the dart and draws the long sword from her waist

as she throws down her bow. Miduchi looks at her remaining knife and after quickly fixing her grip on that she lowered her stance while going on guard. Seeing that the woman remembered the Miduchi's only remaining weapon was her knife. A bit of composure could be seen in her tense face.

With the knife still at the ready in her right hand Miduchi ran towards the woman. The distance quickly was closed..the woman used wind magic right in front of her and send herself flying. And then, before it could be noticed she threw the knife in her left hand aimed at Miduchi. With a hair's breadth, the fact that she was able to use the knife in her hand to repel that was in part thanks to good luck.

The rank 3 warrior class woman used wind magic once again against her own back and this time charged in at a tremendous speed with her long sword in hand. She instantly used wind magic in front of her and while pulling back a bit herself, distances the woman coming from in front. In reality she'd like to use earth magic to make a wall here but it takes several split seconds from the moment the wall is formed until it raises up from the dirt. She had no other choice than to give up on it because the distance is too close.

While confronting the woman with several meters in between, Miduchi lowered her back and changed her stance so her right hand is sticking out as she remains ready with her knife. The woman is on guard with her long sword in her right hand and she has her left hand meeting the side of that. In order to use attack magic at this

distance it's meaningless unless you have a level of mastery on that man's level. The activation time that the dark elves define as mastery level is less than 1 second but even then it takes several fractions of a second. Of course, even then as they get closer to the top of the sorcerers the activation time gets that much faster.

The woman licks her lips with her forked tongue. She must have confidence in her sword skills.

Contrasted with that Miduchi was expressionless.

The two of them step in at lightning speed and while in passing, a clear sound rings out.

The blade length of Miduchi's well maintained and sparkling knife is only a mere 15 cm.

The length of the blade of the woman's long sword is about 80 cm.

They step in once more and both of the blades were brandished.

Silver light intersects and this time a shrieking sound rings out as both of their movements stop.

Their blades are locked together.

The knife with a short grip can only be handled with one hand so it was an overwhelming disadvantage.

The long sword the woman was using was normally supposed to be used in one hand so the grip is short but even then there's enough room for her left hand.

While they're pushing back against each other Miduchi's stance continues to get worse.

In comparison the woman gradually gains an advantage in her posture pushing back.

The match seemed as if it had reached it's conclusion.

"Shit!! Where are you!?"

It seems Harugozon has already recovered.

Depending on the elemental magic types they have the other victim

of {Lightning Bolt} might recover soon as well.

Sweat drips down Miduchi's face.

However, in the next moment, the woman's eyes went wide as she

tried to raise her voice but was unable.

Her own right arm which was holding her long sword, there was a

dart being held by Miduchi's left hand stabbing into it.

The paralysis poison smeared on the dart quickly started to take

effect and she lost the power in her right hand, just as she

thought she was losing the advantage in her posture and the

paralysis circulated through her body.

If she were to try and raise her voice here she felt like she would

lose all the power in her body all at once.

However, it's already only a matter of time.

Even that's at best a few seconds.

"I didn't say that I only had one dart remaining. Being unprepared

is your greatest enemy."

As the woman lost all of her strength and collapsed Miduchi looked

over her with cold eyes and said.

She quickly stole the woman's long sword and started moving while

keeping low.

Her aim is the last remaining one, most likely the commander

Harugozon.

As a matter of fact Miduchi already has almost no mana

remaining.

She may be able to use 3 or 4 more arrow type attack spells.

It won't work for anything more than restraining.

However, Miduchi(This is plenty to manage) thought that. Putting aside a veteran, when it comes to fighting against rank 2 or 3 warriors one on one who aren't all that difference in age from her she couldn't think of any reason she would lose. Even just now she skillfully deceived the opponent and overturned the disadvantage in equipment.

It's fine if she calmly does it the next time as well. There's already almost no disadvantage in equipment. She returns her knife to it's scabbard on her thigh and tightens her grip on the woman's long sword while moving without making a sound. The name of Miduchi the Silent isn't just for show. Among the rank 1 warrior class which is filled with masters, Miduchi's techniques at erasing her presence are already able to rival the veteran warriors at her young age of 16. She's capable of plenty for rank 1 head warrior Zageruforu to put his seal of approval on just her assassination techniques.

"Isn't that already fine! Isn't it already Chizumagurol's victory!?"

Hey, Harugozon! Heal the injured!"

Rank 2 head warrior Akein appeared from somewhere and declared.

Just a bit behind that rank 1 warrior class Kurozakku was leading Miduchi's horse and happily grinning.

"Ku...I understand."

Harugozon's voice appears from just a bit of distance away. She can hear footsteps running nearby.

Miduchi was,

(So that voice from just now was Kurozakku-san huh?)

thinking that while still keeping the long sword in her hand as she approached the two and said.

"Kurozakku-san. Rank 1 warrior, Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol has successfully finished the type 4 headpiece mission and just returned. Afterwards I will report the details to head warrior Zageruforu but this is..Umm..."

Kurozakku who was grinning until just a moment ago nodded hearing Miduchi's words and said something to Akein. Hearing that Akein nods once and,

"Chizumagurol. I'm sorry about the sudden practice match...Ask about the reason later. I need to heal the injured."

And said with a slightly apologetic face. He quickly changed his expression to a more severe one and,

"Harugozon! I'll look after everyone in this area! After that you bastard! Even if the opponent was a rank 1, what in the world is meaning losing seven versus one! After this I'll retrain you from the start myself! Prepare yourself!"

And shouted that before heading to the woman that was Miduchi's opponent just now.

Seeing Miduchi make an expression like she had no idea what was going on, Kurozakku said.

"Thank you for your work. First off let's return to Erurehei. I'm sure you're exhausted from the long journey, I really would love to let you get some rest right away but after you take a shower and get refreshed appear before the head warrior and receive an explanation. However, you did quite well against seven opponents. I'm sure he'll praise you. I guarantee it."

He said that while showing his teeth as he smiled.

Chapter 146 (Reverse Chapter 137)

7444, Month 6, Day 20

"Fumu..Well then, with this we call an end to the hearing of rank 1 warrior Chizumagurol. Chizumagurol, from here on out devote your loyalty to Lail Kingdom as well."

The speaker elder Webundo said that concluding things and Miduchi went to open her mouth to reply in understanding.

"Webundo-sama, please wait. We still haven't finished with the judgement of the practice match today!"

One of the elders, warrior inspector general Yoretto stated a difference. Currently in this location other than the subject of the hearing Miduchi, there's the 10 elders, and additionally the the three head warriors as well as the head of the rank 2 warriors that was escorting the caravan and Beindoru the head of the acquisition ranking. In the first place they discussed the source of the problem that is the details of the escort mission at the start of this year and the hearing concluded without any particular problem. During that time, Miduchi and the other warriors remain keeling with their heads lowered only allowed to speak when their opinions are requested. In the not particularly spacious corner of the assembly of elders meeting room there were five warriors and one other kneeling so it was considerably cramped.

Miduchi couldn't help but find it strange. In regards to the

hearing this time as well, it was just a matter of conveying the details she had reported to the head warrior after completing the mission. No matter how anyone looks at it the fact that they were able to minimize the damage to just one rank 3 warrior who was escorting was largely thanks to the efforts of the escort leader Miduchi taking command and each of the other escorts. Exactly where was there any fault that a hearing needed to be performed. Of course, the hearing was something like a formality and it quickly progressed and just now ended without problem though. Up until another problem was raised again here, excluding just one person everyone on the spot didn't have any doubts that it was the conclusion of this strange ceremony. It was quite literally just about to end now. It was then that the elder Yoretto warrior inspector general accused Miduchi.

"Even though it was a practice match, I've heard that rank 1 warrior Chizumagurol didn't just use horukutokiso but also used magic to injure her brethren. Isn't this fine as rank 1 warrior Chizumagurol's loss?"

Regardless of whether it's fine or not. Miduchi doesn't care about the outcome of the practice match at all.

If you want to say it's a loss then a loss is fine too. She can't accept it but it's certainly true she used the natural paralysis poison horukutokiso which is forbidden from practice matches so if you want to determine it as a loss because of that then it's fine to think that can't be helped. After all she already understood that it was a practice match at that point.

Rank 2 head warrior Akein raised a groan on Miduchi's side.

"~~! Yoretto inspect general. I can't agree with that. The matter this time, both rank 1 warrior Kurozakku and I were watching from the start. Exactly what about that was a practice match! Without knowing or being told anything, even though she just finished the hard for to finish a mission in a distance land, when an exhausted warrior finally returns home if suddenly ambushing them with seven opponents without asking questions is within the realms of a practice match then I wouldn't have any choice but to accept it though."

Yoretto warrior inspector general coldly looked at rank 2 head warrior Akein and,

"I don't remember permitting you to speak."

And said that before looking at Webundo once again. Miduchi was still thinking (It seems that rank 2 head warrior Akein is covering me but if it's like this then his position will get worse. Will things be fine if I just accept my defeat?) she had no idea what was going on. In that case then it's best if things are concluded even just a bit better here.

"I request permission to speak."

And Miduchi said while looking at warrior inspector general

Yoretto. Since no one was giving her permission she continued looking at Webundo. After seeing Webundo consent with his eyes and a nod she opened her mouth.

"It's certainly true that I used horukutokiso in the practice match just now. I did it in order to render my opponents powerless without injuring them as much as possible but if you're going to decide the outcome based on that then"Chizumagurol!"

The one who raised a loud voice interrupting Miduchi's statement was rank 1 head warrior Zageruforu.

"No, I officially permit you to speak. Rank 1 warrior

Chizumagurol..continue speaking."

It seems it's not a good idea to just obediently accept my defeat from the practice match just now.

"Ha, practice match is an abbreviation for practice combat. It's something that is modeled around real combat and normally rules don't exist. Even more, I was ambushed without being given notice that it was a practice match. I was hit in the abdomen with an arrow at the start..by chance I somehow managed to defend against this but following that I was attacked with attack spells. By that point, if I hadn't had any leeway I don't think the fault would have been with me if I had counterattacked with all of my ability and killed the opponents. In actual fact, I rendered all of the seven people who attacked me unable to move."

"You! This unsightly failure! There would be no fault for killing your own brethren you say!?"

(This is bad. It's true I might have said too far.)

Since she was already too used to hearing it during her childhood

Miduchi's sorrows told ht tale of how she no longer feels anything to the remarks of "unsightly failure". Mentioning it additionally, thanks to the events of the other day she's gained some leeway her heart so in the first place she's gained a sturdy barrier and resistance against abusive statements and didn't take any damage from words like that at this point. Her girl power had become infinitely low.

"Webundo-sama, permission to speak."

On Miduchi's side rank 1 head warrior Zageruforu requested

permission to speak in a deep coercive voice. Seeing Zageruforu,

Webundo said just the single word "Permitted" to give

permission.

"Ha..Inspector general Yoretto. There's several things I want to

say but first of what does that statement "unsightly failure" mean?

Appearance isn't requested from warriors. An apology for

Chizumagurol. After that, the matter this time, the largest

responsibility is with myself for making a statement that could be

taken as a pledge at the start.

Nevertheless, no matter who looks at it the practice match ended in

Chizumagurol's victory. The rules of a practice match don't matter

at all this time. If you were to bring that up then I can't help

but think the fact that they suddenly performed an ambush without

any notice is a problem as well. Even though that was the case

Chizumagurol won and just now it was proven that she accomplished

her escort mission without problem as well.

Therefore the reduction in the warrior class is "That's plenty.

Remain quiet."

Assistant warrior inspector general Fantodu interrupted

Zageruforu's statement.

"From there on is the job of us elders. Head warrior...Now then,

Yoretto-sama, in regards to rank 1 head warrior Zageruforu's

statement just now..First off of course there's the apology for the

rash remarks you just made but why are you so insistent on reducing

the numbers of the warrior class? In order to increase

productivity, it's certainly important to increase the numbers of the service ranking. However, aren't you acting somewhat impatient on it?"

Yoretto was listening with a cynical face but he opened his mouth to reply.

"..What do the other elder members think about it? Aren't you taking her majesty Lilus's words too lightly? Her majesty raised an increase in the production of food as the number one point. We must carry out with it no matter what sacrifices we have to make. Since our countries human resources are limited after all.

..These past 100 years the population has only increased by a mere 400 people, that's only 10%. The mortality rate of newborns is roughly 30%. Even if we have three children that comes out to the population almost not increasing at all. You could say that the cause of that is entirely the problem of food. Other than leaving the bare minimum number of warriors, exactly what are you saying is the problem with moving them to the service ranking? That itself is what I can't accept."

Yoretto quietly started talking.

"The other day I stated that our countries income of foreign currency was 20,000,000,000 and of that only 2,000,000,000 is earned from the warrior class including through the sale of magic stones. Certainly I'll recognize that there's some improper portions of this expression."

After saying that he wet his throat with some water.

"The purchase of glass bottles for cultivating mushrooms and the purchase of all sorts of materials. Of course the purchase of

equipment for the warriors to use as well. Since the ingredients for medicine isn't just mushrooms after all. All of those purchases cost money. It's not like the horses that are used while trading can eat mushrooms either. Even the cost of feed can't be made fun of. The cost of feed for just 30 horses is 25,000,000 Z a year on straw.

Therefore, just as you know it's not as if we have 20,000,000,000 in profits. Our expenses reach 17,000,000,000 after all. If you include the compensation we pay our citizens as an expense then it's already at the limit with 20,000,000,000. We can't save anything more than tear drops worth of money towards the foreign currency reserve. We need to earn even just a bit more money in order to escape from this situation."

While Yoretto's tone of speech has already changed not just the elders, but everyone there was paying attention to him.

"Certainly I think it's an inexcusable thing to the warriors.

However, at the current point my trial calculations show that a 20% cut, if over 50 warriors were to move to the service ranking then the tunnel expansion efficiency would increase by close to 30%. After all there's only around 300 people actively participating in the expansion of tunnels in the service ranking right now. Those 300 center around men but those in there 40s don't even need to be mentioned, a lot of them are in their 50s as well.

10 or 20 years later the result of this will definitely come back as a blessing to our country. In the expanded farms we can cultivate that many more mushrooms, with the increased production, both our food and our money will increase as well. The families of

this generation will be able to relax and have four or more children. Our population will increase and then our productivity will increase even further. If we have money we can buy even more wheat as food from the neighboring countries as well. If we can buy more food that is capable of being stored for prolonged periods like dried mushrooms or wheat then that would become a great power."

While the attention gathered on Yoretto he lowered his head to the desk pressing it against while continuing his words.

"Fortunately our country hasn't been invaded by foreign countries.

We don't have as much of a need as other countries to fortify our defenses. After all we only have this mountain. As long as we can't make fields in our territory like the countries on the surface, I'm sure the various countries wouldn't want our territory to the point of fighting for it. For those who went through the painful training and spent their days training only to finally join the warrior class, I really feel apologetic towards them. However, this is the current state of our country right now. I think we should start making drastic forms pretty soon. In the first place I think that the Royal Road Construction Plan is a plan with that sort of meaning.

Of the records of her majesty Lilus's instructions, excluding that time 300 years ago during the "{Purple Worm} incident", almost all of them are connected to increasing productivity. Her majesty is always thinking about the happiness of our countries citizens. It's the same this time as well right? The new method of raising

aberujii and the increase in cultivation efficiency, the maintenance to the seedbeds of takurujii, the method to control temperatures for the kofurujii it was all instructions about the edible mushrooms. Other than that it was about the direction to stretch the tunnels and how wide to expand them, almost all of it was regarding things needed for daily life and living. There was no instruction at all in regards to the ingredient for medicine like rakuhoggu or the poisons rirehoggu and soruhoggu. Even when it came to the warriors they weren't mentioned much at all."

Seeing Yoretto rub his head against the desk while stating the present conditions and plead, Miduchi thought.

I somewhat feel like I can get an idea of the background up until now from the flow of the conversation but even if that's the case I really have to wonder about that being the cause for being attacked even if it was practice.

(I see now. So there was a person like this. But, if you're a politician then you should properly lay out the groundwork and get everyone's agreement before..It's not a democratic rule though, so I guess that's fine..But the elders are organized through consultation so isn't it sort of like a democracy? And also, he still hasn't apologized to me yet. Ah, come to think of it..)

Miduchi rummages around and takes out her anku then puts that to her head while fixing her posture on the ground as if praying and started singing the "Japanese national anthem". Of course, she also included a word at the start for camouflage.

"Yo..Your majesty Lilus!? "Ki~mi~ga~a~yo~o~wa~"

Everyone was startled as their attention gathered on Miduchi as she

suddenly started singing a strange song. That's not unreasonable.

However, since she has the anku at her forehead and is taking a pose of prayer they couldn't do anything but watch over dumbfounded. Even more so because the first words she spoke cause some hesitation.

(Wu, embarrassing..)

"..Mwu~u~su~u~ma~ade~"

For a moment Miduchi's anku gave off a strong light and then almost as if a 3D projector was used an image appeared in the meeting room. What was shown was a female dark elf with the legs of a spider from her back and a crown on her head. Simultaneously the same words echoed through the heads of everyone here.

""I am Lilus.Zugutomore. The Ruler and Empress of Lail Kingdom. My children, bow before me.""

The color of everyone's faces changed as they crouched down into the pose of prayer. The elders jumped off of their chairs and those who were kneeling in the corner of the meeting room started prostrating themselves on the spot as they prayed. Among them there were those who started to shed tears being overcome with emotion.

"Shiina-san. This is, something like a recording but there's just a bit of improvisation to it. Among these three options please choose one. 1. There's a political problem related to a foreign country. 2. There's a problem occurring regarding your social standing. 3. There's a political problem occurring domestically. Say the number you pick in Japanese. Next say the degree it requires being dealt with. A strong offensive stance. A moderate stance. Or a weak

defensive stance. It doesn't matter if this is the degree you want to stop it at as well."

Miduchi was a bit confused but still,

"Option 3, a moderate chance."

and said that. But hurried a bit and bit her tongue. After the recording confirmed her words Lilus's image nodded and majestically opened her mouth.

"It seems that all of the elders are gathered. Listen well, my children. I don't like trivial disputes within my country. I'll give Chizmagurol orders in regards to this matter afterwards. Tomorrow afternoon, instructions will be given through her. Tonight, allow her into my bedroom. Alright?"

""Ha!""

Everyone in the room seemed to have said in chorus. Just Miduchi was, "It can't be, she's throwing it all on me.." rendered speechless. Furthermore, there was just a bit more conversation from her majesty the Queen. Thanks to that, putting aside Miduchi's skin color, black hair ended up as one of the most beautiful colors though. It was to the point where you would feel uncomfortable how different things were for the sense of values among the dark elves up until now.

.....

Today after Miduchi arrived at Erurehei these are the things that took place at the assembly of elders she appeared at without having any time to return to her house and see her older brother's face.

Author's note: some notes on glass bottles breaking, costs, and a small amount of livestock being raised in the kingdom.

Chapter 147 (Reverse Chapter 138)

Year 7444, Month 6, Day 20

After being released from the administrative office which also acts as the assembly of elders, Miduchi moved to the warrior building along with each of the head warriors. It's because she still hadn't given an official report on the completion of her mission this time. The group was engulfed in a strange atmosphere, no one said a single word as they maintained the silence while moving. In front of the warrior building rank 1 warrior Kurozakku was taking the saddle bag and harness off of Miduchi's horse and waiting with that luggage until Miduchi and the others returned.

Miduchi offered her thanks to Kurozakku when receiving her luggage and started on her way inside of the warrior building where Zageruforu rank 1 head warrior has his domain in order to report the completion of her job.

"..And that's the shape it ended up so I ended up finishing off the target Mittorigu. Rokisu including all of the subordinates he was leading inside of the dungeon. There were no witnesses as far as I confirmed. The surrounding people believe they were defeated by monsters while exploring the dungeon, and I believe it was accepted in that sort of natural shape. Taking into consideration the possibility of their corpses being discovered I didn't gather their magic stones but I definitely confirmed their deaths. I also disguised their injuries to appear as if they were attacked by

monsters."

"..I see. Thanks for your work. It's fine for you to return home today and get some rest. Since you have to appear at the royal palace tonight after all.."

Rank 1 head warrior Zageruforu replied while wiping the corner of his eye after receiving Miduchi's report.

A deep fatigue could be heard in his voice.

"And also, umm.."

Miduchi faltered with her words.

"Hn? What is it?"

"That is, during my mission I inevitably defeated monsters inside of the dungeon. When I had leeway in time I gathered the magic stones so I have the magic stones with me. Also, separate from the mission there's a magic stone I obtained privately but this is..."

"How many are there?"

"All of the small ones I obtained during my mission I merged together so there's a total of two."

Hearing that Zageruforu waved his hand while declaring.

"Yeah, just the same as usual whatever magic stones you obtain during the mission belong to you. Feel free to use them or bring them to the place of the rank 3 and sell them, dispose of them however you please. I'm always saying it right? There's no need to honestly report things every time."

Hearing Zageruforu's comments Miduchi suddenly made a cheerful face,

"Right. Excuse me, thank you very much."

and said that while lowering her head to Zageruforu.

"Ah, and then if possible submit a report document by the end of

the month."

"Yes."

Miduchi turned around and left the warrior building. Of course she returned her harness to the stable hand and switched all of her belongings into a sack.

.....

She returns to her home that she was away from for a short four month. There's a strange nostalgia.

"I'm home."

She rolls up the cloth that acts a door to the entrance while calling out but there was no reply. There's no lights on inside of the house and it's darker than outside where the street light is. She doesn't know if her older brother is in good condition today but he seems to be out. In order to exercise his legs that have started to go numb, when there's open hands among her uncles family they often take him out for a walk.

Since their parents passed away their family was just her older brother, the two of them so now their current house is only 1 ken(6 ft)(On the occasion their parents died their great grandparents moved into the house of their uncle and aunt. Of the remaining siblings until her older brother reached adulthood he was under their care as well). In terms of area it's about 15 square meters. In Miduchi's opinion it feels a bit wider than 8 tatami mats maybe? just that sort of feeling. Even then this is a reasonably spacious room they were allocated for two people to live in because Miduchi is a part of the rank 1 warrior class. On the contrary if you exclude the roof and the difference in buildings which even the

walls are made of wood material then it's plenty to call first-class.

1/4th of the house has dirt floor and the remaining portion is a single tile wood floor about 30 cm off the ground. The cooking is down at the stove magic tool kitchen over the dirt floor. Further in the room there's a pair of thin futon folded up and an entire wall is covered in plain shelves where clothing, tableware, and various tools are stored, other than that there's just one small chest of drawers and a small table.

Fu~ and Miduchi lets out a sigh of relief before taking off her armor and filling a tub on the dirt floor with hot water she takes off her dirty clothes and starts to wipe down her body of sweat and dust before putting on some clean clothes. Since there's also a problem with drainage in Lail Kingdom, even if it's inside their own house they aren't permitted to take a shower whenever they please. Unless you go to the so-called public baths, let alone a shower, you can't even wash the dirt off of food such as mushrooms. The only time she can appear in a place like that and expose her unsightly skin color to take a shower is late at night when there's few people, unless she's concealing herself from public notice Miduchi couldn't do it. While her girl power has fallen to it's limits, Miduchi still takes into consideration other people's sentiments.

After Miduchi got a bit refreshed she walked to the public drain area which was about 3 minutes away with the tub and threw away the dirty water before heading to the selling place. The sell placing

is run by expert employees (they're government workers as well though) and starting with the edible mushrooms produced in the country, luxury import goods like salt and pepper, various food items like edible meat, cooking utensils, clothes, and the magic stones for lighting or other daily necessities are sold there.

Incidentally they don't purchase magic stones. There she bought some hiratake bikurujii and maitake kofurujii, as well as a bit of luxury to celebrate the completion of her mission the stomach meat of pork and put those in the tub, she washed off the dirt of the mushrooms before wiping them dry and throwing the water into the public drain and then returned to her house.

It should be about the time her older brother returns from

exercising. In that case, she went to the shared well and put some water into a pot before finely slicing the dried meat and other preserved foods and putting them inside, making some stock, and boiling the mushrooms and thinly sliced pork. It's a pork and mushroom pot. She'd really like to add some burdock or lightly cut carrots as well but those sorts of vegetables are considerably expensive so she can't bring herself to buy them.

When the pot started to boil she stopped the flame of the stove and turned off the lights in the house before taking a nap. She pulls out the light futon and covers herself in an equally thin blanket and since there was still the fatigue from the practice match today, fell asleep quickly.

.....

Suddenly she opens her eyes and her older brother had already returned home and was turning on the flame for the mushroom

pot.

"I'm home."

"Ya~ welcome home. So you prepared a pot. I'll finish warming it up soon so shall we eat together?"

Her older brother Godu~guru smiled with his thin body. Since

Godu~guru has had a weak body since his childhood he never took the warrior cultivation course and up until 7 years old had the duty of cultivating edible mushrooms. Since he would frequently have dizzy spells, irregular heartbeat, and shortness of breath he was allowed some leeway in breaks and harvesting which doesn't require that much strength was primarily his duty. Unfortunately, these past few years his legs have started to go numb and when it's particularly bad he can't even stand up alone so currently he's even been exempt from his servicing mission. In order to cover his living expenses he's provided with 240,000 Z a year. His laundry is taken care of by his aunt.

"Yeah."

Miduchi replied while climbing out of the futon and smiled while preparing the rice bowl and chopsticks on the small dining table.

They placed the pot holder on the dining table and after that placed the heated pot over there so they can easily access the food. Furthermore, in Lail Kingdom it's only obvious to use chopsticks as tableware.

"Umm you know, older brother.."

While Godu~guru was looking at the state of the pot with his back towards her, Miduchi started talking to him. What to talk about?

"Yeah?"

"After we finish dinner tonight I need to go out again. I think

I'll return tomorrow afternoon or evening."

She only talked about the general outline. Since her older brother has a weak body just the same as Miduchi up until there was no expectation for marriage. The head of the Chizumagurol family has already long since been transferred to their uncle. It's not that she particularly promised to marry that man but she felt a bit guilty towards her older brother.

"I see, it's difficult right."

Godu~guru who's five years older than Miduchi let out a heave as he carried the pot that was brought to a boil again to the dining table. If her older brother has decided he can do it on his own then there's no need to offer a hand. However, since he's holding a hot pot in the worst case she'll move quickly to help him and if he burns himself she'll have to use magic to heal him. Miduchi was anxiously watching over her older brother but while Godu~guru staggered a bit, he was safely able to place the pot on the dining table without dropping it.

This is the first the two siblings were able to eat across from each other at the dining table since the end of March when Miduchi left for the independent mission this time.

"Look, here some more meat. Your body is your capital after all, you need more nutrients."

Godu~guru said that while serving some pork into Miduchi's rice bowl but Miduchi wanted her older brother to eat the meat.

"Older brother should be the one eating it. Since a while ago you've only eaten bikurujii."

"Hn? That's not the case. I'm properly eating."

It's pleasant but somehow the scene of the Chizumagurol dinner

table has an unbearable feel to it.

After eating Godu~guru took some medicine and while saying "I guess

I'm a bit tired." while laying down and closed his eyes

satisfied.

After confirming that Miduchi put on her armor once again and

equipped her short sword before leaving the house. After walking

for about 5 minutes she arrived at her uncles house and it was just

as they were finishing their meal. Her aunt was cleaning up the

tableware.

"Uncle, aunt. I returned today. Thank you very much for always

looking after my older brother."

"Ya~ welcome back. Since it seemed like Gocchi was in good

condition today we brought him on a slightly long walk."

Miduchi's uncle Bedushu replied to her. It seems her uncle brought

Godu~guru on a walk.

"Miducchan, so you prepared dinner. It's a big help."

Her aunt Hamyuri smiled while replying.

"No, rather than that, I'm very sorry I can't offer much in thanks.

During the mission this time I was able to obtain some magic stones

so I'll sell them later."

"Is that so, but it's fine if you don't do anything

unreasonable."

"No, that's not the case.."

She exchanged greetings appropriately and patted the heads of her 5

and 6 year old cousins who were badgering her to play while Miduchi

lowered her head to her aunt.

"What the~ Just as I was wondering who it was, so it was Miduchi?

You're the same dirty color as usual. That's why you can't get

married."

The one speaking abusively to her is her oldest male cousin that just turned 12 years old this year Baduson. He's in his last year of the warrior training course and if he's able to spend it without any large mistakes then putting aside rank 2 he should be able to make it as a rank 3 warrior.

"Hey! Baddu! What kind of language are you using towards your older sister! Apologize!"

Being scolded by his father, her uncle, Baddu ran into the back with a sullen look.

"It's fine, uncle. It's true that I'm a dirty color after all..Well then, I need to go out again after this so please excuse me. Again tomorrow I'll properly stop by for greetings."

Miduchi said that before leaving her uncle's house.

.....

When Miduchi arrived at the royal palace she apologized to the elders who were already waiting for being late and asked what she should do.

"..Umm, what would it be best for me to do?"

"It's her majesty's order. There's nothing other than going to her majesty's bedroom right."

The one who replied to her was elder Zoriddo who's in charge of expanding the tunnels. He's a man of small height for a dark elf and is only around 150 cm.

"Weapons are unnecessary for entering the royal palace. I'll hold on to it for you."

Elder Fantodu received the short sword along with the sword band from Miduchi.

"It's normally prohibited to enter the royal palace so we can't

accompany you inside. Once you enter there should be a large door in the front. Even further inside is the audience room but; since this time it's to her bedroom after all. Open the door on the right and continue down the hall. Along the way there should be several doors but once you reach a stairwell descend it and go to the basement. I don't know the details beyond that but there should be a door with the name of the room written on a plate. The {room of sleep} should be the bedroom."

Only two people are allowed to step foot into the royal palace of Lail Kingdom and those are maids who's primary jobs are cleaning. Even when it comes to the elders they're not permitted to enter at their own convenience. The maids have already finished their service work for today and have returned home.

"I understand. By the way"

"Hn?"

"During my mission this time I privately obtained a magic stone so I'd like to sell it but..Of course, I've already received permission from head warrior Zageruforu to sell my own private property."

"Yeah, then I'll take custody of..What!?"

After receiving the leather bag from Miduchi the elder Zagurocchi who's in charge of public relations unintentionally raised her voice at the weight. Just from looking it didn't seem to be that large of an amount. She expected it to be at best 30-40 of them.

"This is..quite amazing. It's considerably heavy. Is it fine to open it and take a look?"

Elder Zagurocchi has already exceeded 30 years old but is famous

for being a beauty. Of course there's her beautiful white hair but her sharp and uniform proportions wouldn't let you believe that she's given birth to three children. Her beautiful facial features without a single scar are above the rest of the dark elves who have quite a few beauties. Even though she has that sort of appearance the fact that she made an expression of surprise without trying to cover it was because it weighed just that much.

After hearing Miduchi's reply, Zagurocchi opened the mouth of the leather bag and looked inside before being lost for words and freezing in place. While all the other elders watched on with strange expressions, the words she finally managed to squeeze out were, "Beautiful..", just those very common words.

While holding the leather bag in her left hand she stuck her trembling right hand into the bag and what she pulled out at first was a grey magic stone with a diameter that wasn't even 2 cm. Since the color is somewhat light it's got a reasonable value but if it's just that much, the rank 3 warriors who are out on patrol around Erurehei for several days can make one if they merge their magic stones.

She placed that in her left hand that was holding the leather bag and then once again stuck her right hand into the leather bag. Just from a glance it seems like another 30 or so magic stones of the same size she just pulled out could be inside. If you think about that then it's certainly true that a fortune could be inside of that leather bag. However, everyone's eyes went wide seeing the gem that Zagurocchi pulled out next.

While it may be small even they who stand at the top of a single

country have never seen such a large, white magic stone. You could say it's regrettable that there's just a few dark stripes running through it but even if you ignore that you can tell the amount of mana packed into it. Most likely a consider number of magic stones were merged inside and the magic stone that was the base was quite something with how large it was as well. If it's that size then even if the color is pitch black, the amount of mana inside is low then it would be of a reasonable value as a mother stone for merging others so there's no doubt about that.

""Wha!!?""

""This is!?"

""It's huge..""

""Beautiful..""

While each of the elders were making remarks of wonder, hearing that Miduchi felt a bit embarrassed.

"{Status Open}..Hi!! In..Individual.."

Fantodu supported Zagurocchi as she was about to fall over and took the magic stone from her right hand while using {Status Open} on it to check the status.

【Magic Stone(Death=Tyrant.Kin)】

"Death=Tyrant.Kin..This sort of, even though it's this size and color it's an individual magic stone!?"

"Impossible! Hand it over! {Status Open}!.."

"Me too..{Status Open}~!"

"{Status Open}..Certainly!"

After Webundo was the last one to check the status of the magic stone he looked between the magic stone in his hand and the status window floating in front of him and while still unable to hide his surprise he questioned Miduchi.

"Rank 1 warrior Chizumagurol. What in the world is this magic stone..."

Being questioned by the elder, Miduchi stood upright and opened her mouth.

"Ha, after finishing my mission this time, when I was going to leave the dungeon I let my guard down and ended up falling into a pitfall trap. I believe that the pitfall, most likely lead to the lowest floor of the dungeon. There I encountered another adventurer who had gotten caught in the trap and the two of us cooperated to somehow escape. It's something that we obtained when we defeated a monster that appeared to be something like a gatekeeper from the lowest floor to the upper floors. Though I say that, it was largely thanks to the power of that adventurer that we were able to defeat that monster and I was close to just an addition though.."

"What! So you were inside of the dungeon your mission huh...But, there's one thing that doesn't make sense to me. The reason why that adventurer would give something worth as much as this to you. Did you kill that adventurer and steal it?"

"No. Since I wasn't able to contribute much in defeating that monster I tried to restrain myself but certainly that magic stone is something I received from him. Since I have a sick older brother, when he found out that I needed money for medicine he handed it over to me."

"That's absurd! As if there's such a softhearted person!"

The one who joined the conversation between Miduchi and Webundo was elder Zorebahiru who's in charge of medicines. Miduchi was of the exact same feelings. In what world is there a person as softhearted

as that? I'm sure even if it was that man if it wasn't me then he wouldn't have handed it over. Miduchi prepared her resolve before facing him and opening her mouth. I'm sorry, your majesty, no, madam, I'm borrowing your name.

"It's all to the wishes of her majesty Lilus. I'm sure that her majesty did something. When that male adventurer offered it to me, I certainly felt the presence of her majesty."

A lie on this level should be fine. After all it's not incorrect to say Miduchi has a large favor with her majesty the Queen.

""What!""

""..I see, her majesty did..""

""So that's why they were able to defeat a monster with this sort of magic stone...""

""I see now..""

""That's why her majesty to Chizumagurol..""

It's probably an effect of the 3D image that was projected a while ago said things that seemed to view Miduchi in a special light but the elders didn't doubt Miduchi's words at all. Miduchi alone thought (they're too easy), but this is probably not something unreasonable.

"However, if it comes to a magic stone of this level, it won't be so easily.."

Webundo looked at the magic stone in his hand in a daze while he whispered.

"It's a quality that I'd like to make into a national treasure."

"It's outrageous to use that."

"Selling it to another country is absurd."

While the elders one after another continued commenting while

looking at the magic stone, Miduchi(Wun, that person said that I could easily sell it directly to the country but it's not easy to sell at all) was troubled. I wonder if I should negotiate.

"Umm..In regards to that magic stone but would selling it be difficult?"

She tried questioning nervously.

"That's only obvious right!? This sort of magic stone..Furthermore since it's individual it must have been a greatly powerful monster right. I've heard that the Kingdom of Devas has the magic stone of the Green Dragon 【Berugofurokuti】 that one had it's nest in the Dirt Plains in their treasury as a national treasure. I haven't seen the actual thing so it's just my imagination but isn't this something that rivals that?"

"That might be the case."

"It's appropriate to make into a national treasure for our country."

"However, it's magnificent."

I see. So this is the critical moment. It's the time for me to show off my negotiation skills trained by that person.

"I'm troubled. That magic stone is something that.I.personally.was.given. but if I can't get the kingdom to buy it then..The medicine cost will.."

While hanging her head she made fleeting glances at the elders and they were looking over here with expressions of surprise, confusion, and anger.

"And then, there's also her majesty's intentions as well.."

And then, awe and shame was included in their expressions as well.

Putting aside awe, the one who was making an expression of shame is

the elder who was making an expression of anger until just a moment ago. They must have been trying to think of some reason or other to confiscate it from Miduchi.

"However you know, rank 1 warrior Chizumagurol. It's something of this level, we can't purchase it that easily...If we were to pay that much cash all at once then it would have an effect on stocking up from here on out.."

Obviously on Orth it's fundamental paying in cash with a smile.

Miduchi fully knew something like that as well. When it comes to expensive goods like equipment there's some trades where half the amount is paid in advance as well.

"I don't particularly have any concern over that magic stone itself. It's a greedy way of putting it but I thought that if it would just help out in taking care of my older brother's medicine and living expenses then that would be plenty. Of course, since at great pains I managed to privately obtain such a splendid magic stone, I also would like to present it to the country. But.."

That magic stone is something that man and I obtained while risking our lives with just the two of us. If I'm going to sell it then I want to get even just a bit higher of a price for it.

"Fumu. Well then the country will look after the trouble of your older brother's treatment from here on out. How about that?"

Elder Merurikkusu who's in charge of human resources and the health of the citizens proposed. There's no way an elder like he would have a grasp of every person like Godu~guru and his illness or the cost of his medicine. However, this is the settlement point that Miduchi already assumed in the first place. The compensation for

completion of the mission this time..normally 1% of the reward for the job is paid to those who complete it. This time was a special assassination mission and it should have been 150,000,000 Z, since Miduchi completed it alone she should receive the entire amount of 1,5000,000 Z..since she had already received it the amount is just 1,000,000 Z but there's also the magic stones she obtained in the dungeon.

"..I appreciate such a grateful proposal...However, I believe I will be given a new mission by her majesty tonight. My older brother's living expenses are also necessary during that time."

Honestly, it's probably impossible up to here. Those who are receiving payments for living expenses even in this small Lail Kingdom including her older brother is just five people. Even more so Miduchi is a rank 1 warrior class who has a high salary. If they don't know the cost of the medicine then with just that it would be strange for them not to think she's living a considerably prosperous lifestyle. Even when thinking with common sense it's difficult to imagine that someone of the rank 1 warrior class has almost no savings.

Miduchi who's in her third year as a member of the rank 1 warrior class receives 510,000 Z a month in wages. If they were to live thrifty then with just that they could live for one year. If you add the bonus for completing a mission to that then it's just around the point where it reaches 7,700,000 Z in annual income. Even this is largely in thanks to rank 1 head warrior Zageruforu

pitied Miduchi and pushing the profitable missions around to her. Even with the 240,000 Z a year living expense money her older brother receives they're barely able to somehow live a normal lifestyle.

"Mwu, as expected we can't go that far..However, it's disappointing."

I guess this is it. If the cost of medicine just floats then our lifestyle will quickly become much easier. She should be able to offer plenty of thanks to her uncle and aunt for the burden she's put on them as well. It's for that reason that used such a way of talking that even after leaving the country she'll still be on a mission.

"No, I shouldn't hope for too much. I appreciate just being able to entrust the treatment of my older brother. I present that magic stone here and now. Merurikkusu-sama. My older brother, please take good care of my older brother."

Miduchi lowered her head very deeply. Starting with Webundo,

Fantodu and Yoretto remembered hearing Zageruforu's words about her diligently working for the medicine costs but since Merurikkusu didn't seem to remember they thought to just ignore it.

Made from wood and cut stone..The extremely extravagant building for Lail Kingdom..

Each of the ten elders watched Miduchi's appearance from behind as she stepped foot into the royal palace with a different expression.

Chapter 148 (Reverse Chapter 139)

Year 7444, Month 6, Day 20

Miduchi, No, as a part of the senses of the Japanese person Shiina Junko who's a part of Miduchi she felt it was considerably plain for the royal palace of a single country but from Midu~ritto's sense it was a considerably extravagant royal palace that she was stepping foot inside. It seems the maids are properly taking care of their service work and the cleaning was done so thoroughly there's not a single piece of dirt or dust. Just from a glance it seems like about 2 meters from the ground was made from rock that was cut out but from there and above was made of wood and mortar almost as if interest was lost in it. The floor is made of sturdy wood and a portion of it was made of a stone material like granite that also has been carefully polished. The ceiling is considerably high and it was made extremely spacious and there should have been a second floor as well. Come to think of it the roof was tile as well. Even though something like rain will never fall.

Soon after entering there was something like a rail and a entryway step up on to the wooden floor. It resembles the lobby of a mid-scale hot spring ryokan of somewhere. There's lightning magic tools in four places on the ceiling of the lobby that were lit up. They aren't white like fluorescent lights but closer to an opal like sunlight that sort of tinted high class luxury item. There's a 10 cm difference in level between the polished granite floor and

the wooden floor on the higher step up, going off of Shiina Junko's feeling she wants to take off her shoes. She somehow manages to hold back the uncomfortable feeling of standing on the polished and sparkling wooden floor with her shoes and opens the double doors on the right side of the lobby that she heard from elder Webundo. If it's this sort of structure she would have preferred they were sliding doors.

Ahead of that was a hallway that was roughly 3 meters and after advancing for a bit there's several similar pairs of double doors on the left side of the direction she's proceeding. On the opposite side there's windows for light and shoji fitted on to them but since it's dark outside they probably have no meaning other than just decorations. Just the same as the lobby there's lightning magic tools along the ceiling of the hallway and they're giving off light. On Webundo's instruction they must be left on all through the night up to the descending stairwell that's supposedly ahead of here.

Miduchi continues while restlessly looking around the first royal palace she's entered since she was born, after turning left twice a stairwell that almost seemed as if it was descending into the abyss appeared. There's light from the ceiling going down the stairs. After descending down the long stairwell and the floor changed to the same polished stone that was at the entrance lobby. Since she had heard that even for the service rank maids the basement was prohibited from entering she thought there would be dust but as far as she could tell it was carefully being cleaned.

Now then, if we were to go off of common sense there should be a switch around here for the lightning magic tools. Thinking that she tried fumbling around searching the wall where she assumed one would be but couldn't find one. Since it couldn't be helped she used the spell {Light} on her left fingertip to light up the area. Infrared vision would be fine as well but since it's a rare chance she wanted to see with proper color. After descending the stairs as far as she could see down the hall that was on the immediate left there was nothing like a switch. The light shining from the {Light} reflect off the polished stone floor and walls and make it visible a considerable distance though the ceiling just seems to continue for quite a while. For the time being there were lightning magic tools along the ceiling.

Around the dead end she can see in the distance there's one set of double doors and then two sets of double doors that can be seen on the left side. One of these three doors should be the {room of sleep}. Since she has light she won't trip in the darkness. It seems that the stone used in the basement isn't granite but marble. The moment she took one step forward, Miduchi twitched as if she had been hit with an electric current. (What? Just now?) and she only thought that for a moment, it soon made sense. Just now was probably a check for intruders. She can't even guess what kind of principle it works on but the walls on both sides there's two rows of circular holes lined up and when she looked into one she understood it. It's probably some kind of anti-intruder sensor. There were spears embedded in the holes.

She can tell there's something moving a bit ahead in the hallway.

It's not very big. It looks like a transparent jelly about 15 cm high in the shape of a cube. About once every 3 seconds it seems to be rolling. (What is that?) and she thought that but it was something Shiina Junko knew about. That's most likely {Cubic Jelly}. A splendid monster. Normally they make their nests in underground dungeons like Baldukk and they're often much larger in size. Right, large enough to bury the entire passage. They're the cleaners of the dungeon who cleanly dispose of the corpses of monsters and adventurers defeated. Did she tame those and use them as cleaners? If they're large scale ones then you could say they're considerably troublesome powerful enemies but if it's that size then there's no harm at all. When she approached it to get a closer look she could see a small magic stone about the size of a little finger inside of it.

She arrived just in front of the first door. When she checked the plate on it and it says {room of meditation}. The plate on the next door was "Bath". Why is just this one in Japanese? In that case the {room of sleep} or whatever should be the one at the end of the hall. She went to the end of the hall and checked the plate and just as she guessed, it was the {room of sleep}. Miduchi took a deep breath and then put her hands on the door to try and push it open, she was about to push it but the moment her hands touched it, it was slow but automatically opened.

She nervously entered inside. Some lighting magic tools automatically lit up. The room seems to stretch out to the left.

There seems to be a length of about 15 m. There's shelves all over in the room and all sorts of things she can't tell what they are placed all over the place. Among that stuff, the things that caught her eye was large bed enshrined further in the back, the desk in the corner, and a large hole opened in the middle of the floor. Could it be someone dug a hole in order to sneak into her majesty the Queens bedroom!? and, shortly after she thought that a voice echoed out from somewhere. Not in her ears, it felt like it echoed directly into her head.

"If it's Shiina-san then sing the Japanese national anthem, if it's not then leave now. You have 10 seconds. 10.."

In a panic she took out the anku and put her to her forehead while singing the Japanese national anthem. She thought, there's no to sing it all in 10 seconds but the counter stopped after she got through singing the first phrase. After she finished singing and a 3D image of Lilus appeared above the hole in the center of the room. The image differs from the one she saw during the day and it's transparent enough to see through to the other side a bit. Also, around the knees of both her legs they're fused together and around the point where they've fused the skin seems to change into that of a plant as it gets even thicker. Beyond that is almost like the roots of a plant entering the hole in the ground. With long hair that's white than snow and slightly diluted blue purple color skin. Her red-violet eyes are a bit slanted in the shape of almonds. On her back is 8 spider legs that almost seem to have broken through the skin and seem to be vaguely moving. She's not

wearing any type of clothing.

"Confirmed as Shiina-san. This a spell that I assembled on Year 7444, Month 5, Day 30. It's possible for it to reply to some extent but it can't reply to questions that are far too apart from the details that I had assumed. Also, I can't reply to any questions regarding the principles of this world. Since time is limited if there's anything that is insufficient I'm sorry. First, a confirmation. Is this your first time coming to this place?"

"Yes, it's the first time."

Miduchi knelt down in a hurry before replying and then the image stopped for about half a second before starting to move again and opening it's mouth.

"I understand. I'll interact in first time use mode. First off, I'll start from telling you the warning points. This spell consumes a considerable amount of mana but it's possible for it to automatically replenish that. For meeting here once and talking for 5 minutes of time it takes around six months to replenish the mana. Currently the status is at..roughly 31 minutes..of mana filled.

This will end up being used even if you leave the room partway through. It's one of the limitations to the spell that can't be helped. I'm very sorry but I recommend you make effective use of the time. Furthermore, since this time is the first use, for the last few minutes you'll be forced to listen to my conversation. I'm sorry. Well then, the next confirmation. Is the reason you came to this place for my instruction? Or is it because you had something that you wanted to confirm?"

"Instruction."

The image stopped for another 1 second or so and then started moving again.

"I understand. It's fine for you to speak freely after this. Also, I don't think it will stop anymore."

First off there's the things that need to be taken care of. This is the start right.

"In order to increase the edible mushroom production and the required tunnel expansions for that, one of the elders was planning to secure manual labor through moving members of the warrior class. It's the current warrior inspector general, elder Yoretto. I think that the objective itself is acceptable but there's also the opinion that it's too impatient as well and I agree with that. How should we persuade them to calmly settle things?"

"With just that it's a bit difficult to understand. What's the date right now?"

"Year 7444, Month 6, Day 20."

"..I'm sorry. The details that I instructed the elders on Month 5, Day 28 might have been misunderstood...Let's do it like this.."

While listening to Lilus's words, Miduchi(thank goodness, it wasn't her throwing it all on to me) let out a sigh of relief.

.....

Just like that after she received all of the necessary instructions, the image of Lilus asked Miduchi.

"Is the anku currently in your possession?"

Obviously she has it. Since she just stuck it to her forehead as she sung the Japanese national anthem after all..Come to think of it, different from the time at noon the anku didn't give off any

light. Is it fine even if there's no anku in this room?

"I have it."

"That dark elf anku is the high grade spell medium for this spell.

While you're inside of my bedroom like right now the level of freedom in conversation is higher but if you use that anku as a medium and sing the Japanese national anthem then this magical version of myself that I've prepared can be called out anywhere within Erurehei. As a matter of fact as long as they have the anku then anyone can do it so whenever you sing the Japanese national anthem please sing in a whisper within your mouth.

This is made use of on a separate mana than this spell. If you

haven't used it then my image should last for roughly one hours worth and while it's limited conversation is possible. Since you've most likely already used it I'm sure please calculate the remaining time. Even if you use it the mana can't be replenished but by customizing it you can make it so it says whatever you please.

That's why please don't have me say anything too absurd. The method for customizing is..

.....

The ability to customize it and make it speak whatever she wants was something extremely appreciated to Miduchi.

If just as Lilus said she doesn't use it in any way that's too absurd then it should become a large power to her from here on out. By the way, I wonder if there's still time remaining? If there is time remaining then there's some things she'd definitely like to ask, no, she'd like to request.

"Umm..Is there a spell that can cure diseases?"

"It's not very well known but there is."

Hearing that Miduchi was so happy that she clapped her hands and jumped up.

"Can you use that spell in this condition?"

"I'm sorry. This is just a simple image so it can't use spells."

She was a bit disappointed but even then it was good. She was able to gain the information that there's definitely a spell to "cure diseases". It's huge just that she was able to identify that no matter how much time it takes from here on out it's possible she could use it. Tears started to well up in Miduchi's eyes.

"The spell {Cure Disease} requires all elemental magic skills at level 8 and void magic at level 9. However, even if you meet the level requirements it can only be said that acquiring it is extremely difficult. The first time you use it, it requires mental concentration for an extraordinarily long time. Of course there's some individual differences but I think that it would be in the denomination of several tens of hours."

This time she was considerably disappointed but..if it's that man then he should meet the requirements. There's no doubt he'll be able to do something about it.

"Thank goodness.."

She thought that she was able to resolve her second problem.

"Shiina-san, it's about time. I'm very sorry but I'm forcefully switching over to first time use mode...First of there's something I want to hand to you. Please take the bottle on that shelf. On the label it should have "Medicine(Disease use)" written in Japanese. It should be about half full with a powder."

Miduchi took the specified bottle from the specified shelf. Her

chest was filled with expectations. Simultaneously she also felt a bit discontent. If something like this existed then why didn't she give it to me even sooner?

"On top of the desk there should be a pen and paper. If it's necessary then please take a memo of this. First off, just as is labeled that medicine can certainly show effect on any disease but the effects of it aren't very high. However, if you add some specific ingredients and mana to it then it's possible to increase the effectiveness of it considerably. It should be effective on your older brother's disease as well. I'll list off the ingredients now."

Hearing that while still holding the bottle she jumped at the desk.

Unlike the shelves the desk was neatly organized and there were several pieces of thin high quality paper on top of each other and on the side was a pen and jar of ink as well. Obviously the pen was standing there. She pulled out the pen and dipped the end in the ink jar. From here on out she won't miss hearing even a single word.

"The charred tail of a black gecko, around 1 cm of the tip.

{Shurika} fruit, about 5g of the center portion. A dried powder made of the liver of a {Scavenger Crawler}, about 3g. One eyeball stored in glass from a Human Vampire Lord.."

Just as Lilus says it Miduchi focused on writing down the details as if she was a machine.

"Eggs of the {Kuntokigaeru}, two of them. A powder made from the end of the tail of a {Wyvern}, about 0.1g. The yolk from the egg of a {Rock Viper}, one of them."

Miduchi's eyes were giving off a fiery sparkle. She's overflowing with motivation. No matter what she has to do she'll hunt them down.

"The baked hair of a human of the opposite sex of the patient, around 3 hairs of a length around 10 cm. A powder made from the nails of a gnome that's of the opposite sex of the patient, around 1g."

She flinched a bit at first but was relieved right away. She should be able to obtain it easily.

"The raw liver of a human of the same gender as the patient, about 10g."

What was that!?

"The living brain stem..of a baby born within one week of the same gender and race as the patient. About 2g."

It's hopeless. The pen stopped.

"Otherwise, the heart muscle of a dragon species. About 2g. If you mix all of those ingredients along with that medicine and a quantity of water equal to the empty bottle the medicine was inside, then once every 5 minutes knead an {Aid} type spell in well. It's completed once you can no longer target it with the spell {Light}. It should take about 20-30 minutes. After that, make 144 pills from it and please use magic to dry them. One per week, if you have the patient swallow them, roughly one month after they've swallowed the last one their disease should be completely cured."

She reprimands her trembling hand inside of her heart while somehow managing to finish writing it down but Miduchi felt all of the strength in her body was exhausted. Something like this, regardless

of the circumstances there's no way she would receive it. Even if she has a large debt, let alone the completed product it doesn't even match up to the ingredients. When it comes to the raw liver since the {Cure} type spells exist, it's still possible to do something about it but something like sacrificing a dark elf baby just for the sake of curing her older brother's disease...Even more so something like a dragon is absurd.

The tears started overflowing ceaselessly.

"Shiina-san, No, Chizumagurol-san. I don't know what you're thinking right now. However, please don't abandon your hope. This will be the last but there's just one more thing I have to give you. On the side of this room there's a room called the {room of medication}. In the corner of that room there's a single sword that I used use when I was traveling. I offer that to you. Please treat it well as a partner. Now then, I think the next time we will be able to meet is after the mana has replenished over a fixed amount. It should take at least one year from now.

Chizumagurol-san, I've caused quite a bit of trouble for you. I

don't think that just this much would be able to make up for that but please forgive me. It might be unreasonable of me to say but..If possible, that person..Please become the happiness of that person."

After saying that the image stopped moving and rapidly started to fade before finally disappearing.

Miduchi was left behind alone as she put the paper with the memo she took into her pocket and started sobbing.

After she cried for a while she remembered there's things she needs

to do. First off she needs to make the custom details of what to make the image of Lilus speak by tomorrow at noon. She adds her own thinking to the details she heard from Lilus and started the customizing that would benefit not only Lail Kingdom but also herself.

.....

Year 7444, Month 6, Day 21

The next morning, after waking up in the bed that was in Lilus's bedroom Miduchi was struck with awe that she did something as overwhelming as sleeping in the same bed as her majesty the Queen. She finished the customizing that ended up taking until close to dawn and she couldn't but let her guard down. Not only that but she ended up rolling over onto the bed without taking her shoes off. She turned pale white (I've made it dirty) along with her awakening consciousness but strangely there wasn't any dirt on the bed at all. Not only that but Miduchi's shoes didn't even have any dirt.

Even then she wiped down the surface of the futon and when she confirmed the time on the clock magic tool on the desk it was already long past 11 am and close to noon. She recognized the fact that it was so comfortable she couldn't help but sleep for a long period and ran out of the room in a hurry. After she ran out (Come to think of it she offered my a sword in the {room of meditation}) remembered that and opened the door for the {room of meditation}. It was just as a {Cubic Jelly} was changing the shape of it's cube body making it thin so it can fit through the gaps and enter the door.

When she opened the door the body of the {Cubic Jelly} changed back to a cube and started rolling again as it entered the room. The {room of meditation} was close to 7 m in every direction, a considerably wide room. There's no furniture, baggage, or anything else, it's close to a completely empty room and in the far corner there's just a single sword leaning against the wall. That sword huh? Just from a glance it looks like a completely normal scimitar. However, it's something her majesty granted to me. There's no way it's something bad.

She picked it up including the scabbard carrying it in her left and left the basement of the royal palace.

She passed through the lobby and opened the doors leading to the front.

It wasn't just the elders that were already waiting but all of the head warriors and the head of the acquisition ranking Beindoru were included, she could see a total of 14 of them gathered directly outside of the royal palace grounds. Behind them was close to 100 onlookers gathered wondering what is going on. When Miduchi approached the gate of the plaster wall that surrounds the royal palace, she stood in the center of the gate before turning around to face the royal palace, then after placing the scimitar in her left hand on the ground she knelt in place. Seeing that Miduchi they all starting kneeling as well.

She took out her anku in both hands and placed it to her forehead before taking a respectful pose of prayer towards the royal palace and singing the "Japanese national anthem" just inside of her mouth.

Chapter 149 (Reverse Chapter 140)

Year 7444, Month 6, Day 21

When Miduchi finished singing the "Japanese national anthem"

and for just a moment the anku gave off a powerful light and then the Queen of Lail Kingdom, Lilus, was standing in front of the royal palace. Her appearance was just the same as it was when she appeared in assembly of elders meeting room in the government office yesterday, with a crown her head, long and graceful pure white hair, and with spider legs growing her from back wearing a light veil of silk. Of course she properly has legs as well.

It's something they found out after investigating it later

but her voice echoed through the heads of all of the dark elves bowing in prayer over 100 m in the surroundings.

""I'm Lilus.Zugutomore. The ruler of Lail Kingdom and

Empress. My children, kneel before me.""

The last time her majesty appeared this many times in such a

short period to offer words was the "Purple Worm Incident" on record. The dark elves who gathered as spectators were even deeply moved and shedding a flood of tears. If you were to ask, in their case rather than her words they were shedding tears of joy from being able to be in the audience of her appearance.

"Everyone, listen to my instructions and execute them without missing any details."

Everyone on the spot pushed their foreheads to the ground.

"Since I was pleaded by Chizumagurol, just this time I'll give out instructions directly...It's fine for you to raise your heads."

What! The elders thought it was unexpected. Judging from the conversation yesterday, they thought her majesty's words would be an oracle conveyed through the warrior Chizumagurol. For them to directly be granted her words. Everyone concentrated their nerves on their pointed ears so as to not miss a single word.

Incidentally, the "raise your heads" matter was one of the divergent conditions for the custom settings.

"First off, Yoretto warrior inspector general. I understand your worry. However, no matter what the reason reducing the number of warriors is not permitted. Also, the point of almost causing a dispute between brethren is inexcusable as well.."

Yoretto who was criticized directly by name from her majesty the Queen couldn't do anything but humble himself. However, even if it was a bad impression, he was delighted at the same time that her majesty would call his name and remember him.

"I remove you from your duty as warrior inspector general."

No raised even a single cough to the harsh decision.

"In your place I make Fantodu warrior assistant inspect general into the inspector general. Fantodu, from here on out bring together the warriors and devote yourself to our country."

"Wa, wa ha!!"

Fantodu's reply echoes out. Fantodu was making an expression as if he was raising to heaven.

"Furthermore, I remove the duty of warrior assistant inspector general that has become vacant from the elder's duties. From here on out the current head warriors of each ranking will act as assistant to the inspector general."

""Ha!!""

The head warriors replied.

Some reasonably detailed instructions were given out to each of the elders individually from Lilus. In the end to Webundo she gave out the instruction, "From here on you should properly confirm if these things are being realized and if there's nothing missing, in the case that you find something like that then act as advisor to the one in charge." and then added on almost as if she remembered about Yoretto.

"Now then, Yoretto. I give you a different duty. Listen carefully."

"Ha!!"

What he would be told, Yoretto remained kneeling with his body stiff.

"Starting now I made your duty as an elder into something new. You're the assistant inspector general of provisions. Starting now you're going to gather the necessary members including escorts and aim for Denziru which is beyond Kanbitto and Korakuto together with them. In the South of Denziru Kingdom, I command you to gather seedlings of the matsutake dekurujii that exist in the Mayle mountains there. Observe the growing environment and create the

foundation for artificial seedlings. Simultaneously research the crops of the surface. Something which can be grown in the environment of Mount Kinru is desirable but there's no need to concern yourself with just that. In the case you can achieve this, our countries food circumstances and income will largely be improved. Doing it sooner is better but there's no need to hurry. Don't try to achieve results within a few years. Daring methods are unnecessary as well. It's just a plain and monotone duty but remain aware that it's one of high importance. That time itself will become the period for the Royal Road Paradise Construction Plan to start. You should become one of the cornerstones for the Royal Road Paradise Construction Plan. Furthermore decide the members to accompany you together with the elders."

"Ha!!"

Yoretto lowers his head while recognizing the responsibility and importance of the mission he was ordered and couldn't hold back the trembling of his body from how delighted he was. Certainly it will be a difficult mission. However, if it will lead to the betterment of the food situation and increase income then it's just as he originally wanted.

This decision was something that Lilus's magical body decided last night after hearing the circumstances from Miduchi. In the first place Lilus might have been thinking about finally expanding her territory matching up with her revival.

However, hearing the declaration that was clearly conscious of the surface not just the elders but even the onlookers who were on the spot felt a similar burning enthusiasm towards their

responsibilities as Yoretto. Sighs of excitement could be heard from here and there.

"Chizumagurol. I released you from your duty in the rank 1 warrior class. After resting act as an independent rank 1 warrior and accomplish the duty I ordered last night. Find a country to ally with and start building up relations with them. Until you're relieved of your duty I grant you authority on the same rank as the elders. Everyone else should listen to her wishes and make preparations so she can make progress with the duty I've given her without having to look back."

"Ha!!"

Miduchi gave just a short reply while still kneeling.

"Well then, everyone, devote yourselves fully to your duties."

After saying that Lilus's 3D image disappeared.

For a short while no one moved.

.....

Webundo questioned Miduchi.

"Chizumagurol, that sword is?"

Certainly last night, Miduchi should have left her sword in

Webduno's care. Her sword short is still in his hands.

"Ha, I was granted it by her majesty. In the past, it seems to be the one that her majesty used on her travels up until arriving at this land."

""Oh!""

""What!""

The commotion spreads through the surroundings.

When the commotion calmed down a bit Miduchi

continued.

"Since I'll be acting independently for a long period I was granted it. I would like to make this into an heirloom. However, since it's her majesty's order I intend to bring it along with me. I'm a bit worried about whether I can make use of it though"

"Draw it and show me the blade."

When rank 1 head warrior Zageruforu said that Miduchi consented before holding the scabbard in her left hand and smoothly pulling it out while holding the grip with her right hand. The width of the blade was thin but it's firmly made. Other than the slightly curved edge of the blade the rest is dyed black.

"..It's magnificently beautiful.."

While looking at the charming and beautiful blade Zagerufory gently touched the blade and used {Status Open}. Miduchi thought (Ah, come to think of it I forgot) and just in case she decided to look at the status as well. I'm sure it's just a {Scimitar} though.

Zageruforu was at a loss for words on the other side of the scimitar that Miduchi was holding horizontally in her right hand.

【Blade Shadow Scimitar Of: Raidyuroufusutira】

The knowledge of Shiina Junko inside of Miduchi was saying (This is bad~ This is the bad~ kind).

"..Blade Of Dyurou.."

Zageruforu whispered while entranced.

"A splendid name. Since it seems to have undergone the naming

ceremony, this must be the rumored magic weapon huh.."
Hearing that the elders and head warriors in the surroundings
whispered, "If it's equipment her majesty used then it's only
obvious it's a magic item." while politely lining up in order to
see the status of the sword.

"Chizumagurol, since you've been granted a sword by her
majesty using it in an unsightly way is unforgivable. Just now her
majesty say to carry out your duty after resting. Since you only
just finished your Type 4 Headpiece mission the other day it's fine
for you to have some rest. However, I won't forgive playing around
and spending your time in inactivity. Remain diligent so you can
use techniques suitable for this sword. I'll give you some training
myself."

Hearing Zageruforu's statement Miduchi was
dumbfounded.

She had no intention of spending it playing around in the
first place but it might be her last chance. She wanted to spend as
much of it as possible with her older brother. In the first place,
she's a full-fledged rank 1 warrior class that can be left in
charge of independent missions so Miduchi's skill with the sword is
considerably high as well. Even more than this, what in the world
are you saying to do?

When she gave it her best thinking of the lines for the

custom to say, she paid attention so it didn't sound very
unnatural. After a warrior completes a first-class independent
mission they're given a one month break unconditionally.

Additionally to that, for each month they were acting independently

they get an extra one week break. Since her independent mission this time took four months or so she should get close to two months in rest unconditionally.

She failed.

.....

She's already gotten the guarantee that her older brother's treatment will be taken care of for the time being in exchange for the magic stone she privately obtained, so all that's left should be to go through her reluctant parting with her older brother and uncle's family, but that now how things ended up.

When Miduchi returned to her house she was shocked and worried over future distress. The reason is the scimitar she was granted by Lilus. After returning to her house, as Miduchi finally had a moment of rest she decided to exchange her main arm from the short sword Webundo returned with the scimitar she was granted by Lilus. In order to confirm the balance she only understood for the first time after putting it on her sword band.

When she held on to the scabbard while holding it in her hand she didn't feel anything but when she has it on her through her sword band, now she can feel the strong existence of the sword. Nevertheless it's as light almost as if it's made of feathers. When she drew the scimitar she could feel the proper weight and the graceful grip fit well into her hand. The scabbard still feels almost like it has no weight at all. She tried swinging it around a bit and it was easy to use as if drawing the ideal sword trajectory.

(If it's this then won't training with the head warrior be

easy?)

And thought that.

After discussing with her older brother that she was granted

a sword directly from her majesty and he was pleased as if it was himself. Also, after talking about how the cost of the medicine will be granted as well and he apologetically lowered his head.

"Since I'm like this, I've done nothing but cause trouble for you. Sorry. I'm really sorry. If I were just proper then I'm sure you would have long since been very popular..I can't find you a partner to get happily married with..Forgive me."

"Stop it, older brother. You promised not to say that right.

And..I'm already fine. Something like a marriage partner.."

While saying that Miduchi's face changed to a grin partway through.

"Eh? Could it be, you have a partner? What house are they from? Are they a warrior? It would be best to at least greet them but..No, it would be bad for me to do it. It would be best to ask uncle.."

When Godu~guru suddenly started to panic, without losing in how flustered she got as she tried to calm him down,

"Really~ what are you saying. It's not like that. Let's eat at uncle's house today. I received a considerable amount of money after all, I need to properly thank them as well."

"But you know, these sorts of things are better to do sooner rather than later. You're already at a marriageable age after all. Let's consult with uncle about it right away today."

"That's why I said it's different. And also, I'm still 16.

It's still too early for marriage."

"But you know, if there's a curious long-awaited someone who would accept you then there's a mountain of things I'd like to request of them. I can't just be waiting around like this right."

Isn't curious saying too much? is what she thought. Even if the partner is a dark elf if it's Miduchi who has a high salary then as long as she doesn't have the shackles of the money eating parasite that is her older brother then marriage itself isn't all that much of a problem. No matter how unsightly she looks, Miduchi's facial features alone aren't all that inferior after all. She's less than average among dark elves but even for the women who are below average there's pretty much none that end up spending their entire life unmarried because of their appearance. In the first place it's not that bad either.

"Really~ just stop already. And also, I, didn't say anything about the partner being a Dyurou.."

Hearing those words Godu~guru went silent as if he had cold water thrown on him.

"Ah..Yeah. I see, I guess I was getting ahead of myself. Wa ha."

While weakly laughing what was going through Godu~guru's thoughts was his pitiful little sister who can't find a partner among their brethren of dark elves. This and that are all because of this weak body of his. He was depressed over the realization that he was weighing down his only remaining little sister with a

pitiful appearance. However, Miduchi cheerfully smiled as if to wipe away that atmosphere and,
"Then I'm going to go shopping for dinner. Let's have an extravagant meal today!"
And said that while leaving the house in high spirits.

.....

After buying not just meat but a bunch of high class edible mushrooms, in order to give notice she went to her uncle's house along with her older brother. The fact that her older brother's medicine costs will be supplied. And furthermore the fact that they'll receive the salary for a rank 1 warrior class. She decided to hand over all of that salary her uncle.

While her uncle's family was all surprised with their eyes wide open she threw out a final bomb.

"After my rest ends I need to depart once again for an independent mission. This time I received orders directly from her majesty Lilus. I can't explain the full details but I don't know when I'll be able to return. Also, from her majesty, I was granted a sword that her majesty used to use in the past."

While Miduchi was casually saying these things which are the supreme honor for dark elves, Bedushu and Hamyuri, her uncle and aunt were overjoyed. Even the cheeky Baduson froze up with his mouth wide open. Starting tomorrow for a short while, in preparation for her independent mission she conveyed that she'll be starting her training from the start again, then after cutting off a chunk of the pork roast off Miduchi placed that on the plate in

front of her older brother.

.....

Year 7444, Month 7, Day 21

A lot of people came to see off Miduchi as she departs for

the independent mission that her majesty personally ordered.

Starting with Webundo, the 9 elders (Yoretto has already departed).

Her older brother Godu~guru supported by her uncle and aunt. Her

cousins. And then, a long and neatly ordered line of around 180

warriors of Erureihei. If they were to find out that it was really

not a mission or anything else but simply an excuse for her to be

together with a man then she wondered if being cut to pieces

wouldn't be enough? After feeling a chill Miduchi looked at

everyone's faces while carving them into her heart.

She spent plenty of time together with her older brother

while feeling reluctant to part but she properly told him to hold

hope that his disease will definitely get better.

She'll probably never be able to hold her head higher to her

uncle and aunt she's caused trouble for. If possible she hopes that

there's good fortune in the future of her young

cousins.

During this past month, the rank 1 head warrior Zageruforu

who's forced some painful training on her was there. Even through

all of it she felt like her skills with the sword and bow went up

quite a bit. Though to be more specific rather than saying her

abilities raised, it was largely that her faults were corrected.

She feels quite grateful for that now.

The elders who guide this Erurehei. They always think of the

country and while they might not match up at times, the way they're always straining themselves with their best efforts is truly an appropriate appearance for a leader.

She's put the 20,000,000 Z (20 gold coins) she requested as mission expenses into the multi-use wallet she has sewn into her stomach band. The plate which has some bends remaining is in there as well. She has a knife with a cracked blade on her right thigh. She has two small knives embedded in each of her boots. On both sides of her leather armor there's three darts each. In each of her gauntlets there's a thin knife prepared with the grip facing her hands. She's carrying a large rucksack with a quiver and has both the scimitar and short sword on her left hip while holding a sturdy bow made from the flexible Juru tree and hard Nimaruku trees in her hand. In Shiina's view it's Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol, Full Armor version. She wants to give her a FA pattern number.

With her robe tied up in front, Miduchi lowers her hood as she starts descending Mount Kinru.

First off, she needs to purchase a horse and harness as soon as possible at some town.

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Chapter 150 (Reverse Chapter 141)

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 4

Close to half a month has passed since Miduchi departed Erurehei.

Yesterday she finally passed through Viscount Mongoto's territory and entered Count Faruergaz's territory. After entering the Count's territory the state of the roads underwent a complete change as they were more maintained and better. The mountain pass she passed through yesterday afternoon should have been the border between territories.

After Miduchi left Erurehei the first place she stopped at Remeru village in Viscount Mongoto's territory she wasn't able to buy a horse. That was fine since she didn't think she'd be able to buy a horse in the small Remeru village. However, while she just intended to take a slight detour on the way to the capital of the Viscount's territory Righettsu but even there only old pack horses and donkeys were for sale. She had no intention of seeking the luxury of a young and fearless war horse but if possible she wanted a horse that was under 10 years old. Since it couldn't be helped she ended up having to travel to Count Faruergaz's territory on foot.

Different from the poor Viscount Mongoto's territory, Count

Faruergaz's territory is a completely normal high ranking noble's territory so Miduchi thought that if she goes to the capital Robamorusu then she should be able to buy any number of young

horses.

.....

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 8

Miduchi arrived at the capital of Count Faruergaz's territory,

Robamorusu just past noon on this day. It's just a bit larger in scale than the dungeon town Baldukk that she was staying in until two months prior, it's a large town with a population of 50,000. The town is split into roughly six sections with the river flowing from the East to the West and just the same around 1 Km North parallel from the river is Mina road and then Rapisshu road which runs from the Northwest to the Southwest. Miduchi came walking along the Mina road from the East to the West.

There was a mix of houses and fields between the road and the river and on the other side of the river to the South is almost entirely fields. In the North there's a lot of housing. There's some houses in the fields to the South as well but judging from the construction of the buildings and their location they're problem housing for serfs. With the summer sun blazing down on her, there was a waterfall of sweat between Miduchi's back and her rucksack as she's already soaking. She could see a well a bit head so after drinking some water there and resting for a bit she'll start heading towards the center section of Robamorusu. Ever since she ate breakfast she's only had water to drink so she's considerably hungry. Either way she wanted to have a proper meal in the restaurant of a large town.

After finishing her short break Miduchi started walking towards the center block of Robamorusu. A dark elf carrying a large rucksack

with a bow, quiver, and sword doesn't seem like anything other than a peddler. It's unusual for them to be alone but it's not as if there are no peddlers who travel alone not limited to just dark elves. There's always a constant number of poor novice merchants who can't afford to hire adventurers as escorts. Along the way she ended up encountering what she believed to be knight group members on patrol.

"Excuse me, there's something I'd like to ask but"

Miduchi called out to the knight group member while still wearing her hood for blocking the sun. It seems they noticed.

"I want to buy a horse but could you please refer me to a place somewhere?"

"Oh~ a dark elf huh? What is it, did your business go well and you make a nice profit? Do you not need a carriage?"

It was a group of two male and female knight group members and the male replied.

"Yeah, a carriage is still..Just as you can see a saddle bag is plenty for my luggage.."

"You, if you're peddling then you might already know but the knight group only just returned from a campaign last month. Since there's also replacing horses that were crushed, right now, the price of horses is increasing."

The woman puts her hand at her waist while saying. She already knew that half of the knight group had gone on the campaign. Previously, when she was heading towards Baldukk and returning to Erurehei she heard both times. But, I see.

So they've returned.

"Well it's fine even if it's a bit expensive. As long as it's not

outside the realm of common sense."

"Then, there's a place called "Rokeshu Harness Store" up ahead. If you go there they might be selling horses. Just in case it is the primary merchant the knight group uses so you should be able to trust them."

After Miduchi heard the detailed location of "Rokeshu Harness Store" she politely thanked them and split ways. It didn't seem like she could endure her hunger. According to her stomach and she needed food before a horse. She entered a random restaurant and ordered some sobagaki, then immediately got to kneading it in her bowl. Some deep grey soba flour that wasn't very good quality came out with the husks still attached so she started mixing it with the boiling water and in no time at all it's viscosity increases as it reached the point of eating. She added a bit of salt and olive oil and gulped it down. She really wanted some bonito stock for the soba soup but this isn't half bad once you get used to it.

A story from long in the past, when she was still Shiina Junko, when she went to drink at night at a soba shop near the company she remembers the man who would eat some sobagaki as a side to Japanese sake. I wonder if he's still eating sobagaki together with sake now?

After her stomach was full she started towards "Rokeshu Harness Store" without drinking any tea. She tried negotiating with the owner of the Harness shop to sell her a horse but both of the horses they had already had been sold. However two days later they were supposed to get a young four year old horse that could be sold. She handed over 1 gold coin as a deposit and said she would

come again two days later before resting in an inn this day. She carefully wiped her body in an inn that costs 2,000 Z (20 copper coins) per night and since she still had time before dinner she laid down a bit and was easily dragged into the world of sleep. She opened her eyes close to the middle of the night. In terror she checked to make sure there was no abnormalities in her luggage or stomach band. Since she had made sure to just properly close things up the only thing stolen was time.

.....

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 9

Since she hadn't eaten anything since yesterday afternoon she ended up eating a considerable amount of food from the morning. Though she's a woman, she's still trained as a warrior, and Miduchi consumes more calories than the average man. Of course, she can endure a simple diet as well but there's no need to push herself right now. She put vinegar, olive oil, dressing made from pepper, and the truffle powder she had over a bowl of raw vegetables with lettuce as the base before eating it. She also sprinkled the truffle powder on some rye bread after dipping it in olive oil before eating it deliciously.

(Huh? If I think about it other than the fact that there's no

matsutake isn't Lail Kingdom considerably luxurious?)

And she started thinking about it at this point. Adding to that if

the perfect method of artificially cultivating shimeji,

kurokawatake, or amitate were brought to Japan they'd make a

fortune. After all Lail Kingdom's mushroom cultivation techniques

have completely surpassed modern day Japan. They're often more

delicious than the natural product.

Miduchi(Well since truffle powder is already something I'm used to I'll save it and give it to him I guess) thought and put the cork back on the bottle of powder.

After leaving the restaurant Miduchi went on an after meal walk. It seems the knight group is training at the edge of town. Since she has nothing to do today, she decided to kill some time by checking the abilities of the knights on the surface while wandering around.

She wandered around the town of Robamorusu before arriving in front of the knight group training area before 9 am. The squires who are still young are swinging their wooden swords wholeheartedly after receiving the signal from the knight teaching them. She remembered her own education training process days for becoming a warrior.

(This is some lukewarm training~)

They've properly only just become squires. While observing Miduchi got the impression that the squires were all in their mid teens or just about adults, the same age as herself. Miduchi sat on the embankment while dazing out as she watched the training but in less than 20 minutes she got bored of it and decided (there's nothing to gain), so she stood up and started wandering the town of Robamorusu again.

A galette made almost like a crepe made from soba flour had some vegetables and ham between it as it was being sold so she ate two of them for lunch, then after returning to her inn she started maintenance on her two swords. The short sword she's used for many

years is starting to reach it's limit. It's a weapon she chose simply because it was cheaper than a long sword. Since she's comfortable with it she intends to continue using while it can still be used. However, just as expected from one made from cast iron it's endurance is low. She's undergone live combat with it countless times so it wouldn't be strange for there to be some fine cracks that can't be seen in it.

She carefully checks if there's any distortion while touching the edge of the blade. It had a reasonably sharp cutting edge when she first bought it but after being sharpened countless times it's gotten shorter and now that the low quality cast iron that makes up the core has started to show through it's cutting edge is getting dull. It's already at it's limit. It might be best to sell it while it still can be sold.

In comparison, the scimitar granted by her majesty Lilus should have existed since several hundred years ago but the blade still gives off a suspicious light as if it was completely new. The blade is dyed black and just the edge of the blade has the silver metal showing.

【Blade Shadow Scimitar Of: Raidyuroufusutira】

The beautiful scimitar crowned with the name of their race also has a dangerous sounding second name. If she digs through the knowledge of Shiina Junko and it's not something that's suitable for a mere dark elf herself to be using. The grip she holds in her right hand fits so comfortably almost as if it's connected has a length of around 15 cm. From the end of the grip up until around the middle finger there's a knuckle guard growing out with a refined curve to

it. The guard isn't very large but it's plenty large enough to endure locking swords and was made durable.

Up until she arrived at Robamorusu she ended up cutting down a {Mountain Wolf} that seemed to have strayed from it's pack with this scimitar but the blade passed through so well she felt almost no resistance at all, in just a single attack she split the spine of the {Mountain Wolf} and was dumbfounded over it's overwhelming cutting edge.

After that, since she split the bone she quickly tried checking the blade but after confirming that there wasn't a single bend or crack in the blade she was dumbfounded once again. However, if it's this then no matter what kind of opponent comes out there's no need to fear. Lightly, just for the sentiment she wiped the blade with a cloth with a bit of oil on it before returning it to the black scabbard without ornaments.

.....

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 10

After finishing breakfast Miduchi started on her way to "Rokeshu Harness Store". There's no way the horse would arrive this early in the morning but she didn't have anything else to do. She decided to wait in the store front looking at harnesses until it arrives.

Since she doesn't know what size the horse will be she decided to pick after it comes.

After telling the owner that she would wait they didn't just pleasantly permit her but even offered some tea. Certainly since she's not just buying a horse but a full set of harnesses so she's good customer. You could say this treatment is only obvious.

While she was looking at the saddle made from leather, the stirrup made from metal parts, and the various belts noon arrived in no time at all. When the owner called out to her she went and got some lunch and by the time she returned the horse had arrived. It was a chestnut horse with gentle looking eyes. Miduchi approached it from the front and even after stretching out her hand to it's neck it wasn't afraid.

(Yeah, there's no problem if it's this one)

The price of the horse was 7,200,000 Z, including the full set of harnesses it was 8,000,000 Z. It already had horseshoes on before it arrived here. She received some spare horseshoes and put them in the new saddle bag before moving all of her luggage over from her rucksack as well. She paid the remaining price of 7 gold coins to the owner and got on the horse with an accustomed method. After being seen off by the owner she advances down the road. She watches the training of the knight group as she passed by the training grounds. Today it's not just the squires training but combined training with the knights.

As expected she hadn't learned combat while riding on horseback so she might be able to gain something today.

I see now, in order to open up both hands you control the reins with your neck huh? The knights were showing of splendid riding techniques as they wield their lance and kite shields riding around. All of them have helmets on so she couldn't tell their faces but since some of them have tails she could tell just the non-humans apart.

..I wonder if that pure black tail is a Tiger-man? Since there's no

stripes I can't really tell but that shape should be a Tiger-man.

Since they're not on a horse they must be either a squire or a low ranking knight. Among the infantry just he seems to have quite the high level of skill.

He's good at using the shield.

While straddling her horse Miduchi watched the training for just a bit but in the end it's just knights from a remote region. Partway through the knight with good movements got on horseback as well but while his movements were somewhat good the rough parts still stand out. After all it seems that the main knights who were on horseback from the start have more skill. It seems he wanted to make use of the large size of his body and long reach to fight with the sword but since he's on horseback she thought he should just use the spear. It might be the case that he can't use the lance though.

It seems it would be best to hurry ahead. Tonight, she wanted to reach the next village before the night.

While heading Northwest along Repisshu road Miduchi caresses the neck of the horse that has just become her favorite horse.

.....

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 28

Today was once again an extremely hot day. Miduchi thought it might be best to stop by his company in the capital and his older sister in the knight group just in case but she realized it's only been about three months since then. And since thought that it would be best to go and greet them together with him she just steadily aimed straight for Baldukk.

Close to that evening Miduchi finally arrived in the town of

Baldukk and she started on her horse towards the "Boil Manor" she had heard about. According to her Unique Ability, Unit Organization he's been in the dungeon since several days ago. There's a lot of farmers who tend to the fields surrounding the craters and artisans along the road.

She avoids them while continuing on her horse and finally arrived at her destination. There was signs of water sprinkled in front of "Boil Manor". Since he's in the dungeon I don't know when he'll return. For the time being I should take a room. No, if I stay in the same room then there's no need to take one. While worrying about something weird (it would be faster to just directly ask) and thinking it over once again she connected her horse out front before "Welcome~~!!" telling the young apprentice at the front the name of the man who should be staying there.

"Kawa, I've heard that a person named Alan Greed is lodging here. I want to meet him."

She already knew he wasn't around but Miduchi thought saying that seemed less unnatural. Also, she had intended to ask politely but it seems it came off wrong to the brat who was the same age or just a bit younger.

"..Really again..Certainly that person is a customer of ours.

Though if you're trying to join his party you should give up.

Really, every single day, they all keep coming to try and join...It's all people wishing to join the {Slaughterers}. That person rejects everyone with a glance. Since he's a first-rate adventurer. If you aren't a customer, then, leave already."

I see now, so that was the case. After understanding the young

apprentices attitude Miduchi took the plate out of her pocket and showed it to him before opening her mouth again.

"This plate is something I received from him. Also, I'm an acquaintance of his, his wife. Would you please show me to his room?"

(Is it a bit too forward I wonder? But, one day it will become like that, so it should be fine right.)

After hearing Miduchi's words as she turned red the brat broke into laughter and started holding his stomach as he laughed.

"Ha!? That's a new pattern. Hey~ dark elf sis. What did you say just now? What did you say? I heard you're his wife though. Don't say such easily exposed lies! Show some proof, here, {status open}..Are you an idiot? You said a lie that was exposed in two seconds. In the first place there's no way a dirty plate like that would belong to that person!"

"We just haven't done the naming ceremony yet. And if you're going to say I'm not a customer then..that's fine. I'll take a different room. Please take care of my horse as well. How much is it?"

Miduchi replied a bit irritated.

"What are you saying you idiot? There's no way we'd let someone like you stay here. If someone suspicious like you stays over, Greed-sama will get angry at us!!"

"Wha, rejected me a room is it..Is that fine with you? You'll end up getting told off later. Even if you end up fired I won't pay any mind to it!"

"Ha!! Iddiio~! Let alone Greed-sama, I was asked this of all the members of {Slaughterers}. Refuse strange people that is! Even last week they were grateful to me for turning away some idiot. You

could even say I'm a member of the {Slaughterers}. Get going already!"

Because of how rudely it was said Miduchi was about to get angry but she managed to calm down and speak. It was because she felt that he returned to the surface with her Unique Ability, Unit Organization.

"If you're going to say that far, then fine. I'll wait here."

"Che..You're an annoyance. Now, you're in the way. Leave already."

In her head she was thinking, (I'll tell on you!) while she moved a bit of distance away from "Boil Manor". She can still tell the boy is glaring at her from the entrance but she wasn't bothered of it.

(Come to think of it, I'm hungry~)

After taking the reins of beloved horse, it might have just been her imagination but her horse seemed to be making an expression of hunger as well.

Miduchi counted the piles of horse poop on the ground while just waiting for his return.

.....

For a short while, Miduchi maintained the blank in her consciousness after casting some cold water over her horse to cool it down and then she noticed a group talking at the entrance. He's already right in front of her. The ones she can hear might be his allies. With expectations in her chest just as she was about to look at their faces she her a loud woman's laughing voice echo around.

"Eeeh!! Wife~!?! Ahahahaha!! Did you hear that!?"

"Really, you're laughing too much. But, that's certainly a new method."

"Al didn't mention a single thing about being or getting married after all. How pointless. Come on let's go."

It's a male and female dwarf and a human woman.

"Just a minute, is it that person?"

"Yeah, that's right, Ralpa-sama. It's that woman. Just because she's slightly pretty she intended to enter using seduction. Even though there's no way Greed-san would be caught by seduction..she's been there for a while without leaving. She's really obstinate."

"Shall I say a word to her?"

"No way, she's nothing to trouble Akdam-sama over. She even forged some kind of dirty and strange plate, that dark elf."

"A Dyrou you say? Why didn't you say that first!"

After Miduchi looked at the three glancing over here after hearing the brats story she took off her hood. Though it was evening, there was still some sun remaining. She had heard the story from him but among those three the female dwarf and human should be reincarnated people.

When all three of them saw Miduchi's face from the side in the setting sun their expressions went stiff.

"What is it, so you're still just standing over there. If you don't leave soon then Larry will chase you off."

"What's going on? Everyone over there.."

"Hey Ralpa, since you said you wanted to take a shower..first.

That was faster than I thought."

It was the face that Miduchi had continued thinking about these past three months, no, Shiina Junko had for over eight years.

Since it couldn't be seen from the back light the expression was
definitely smiling.

"Dear!"

She let go of the reins and ran off

""Dear~!?"""

In the twilight of the town of Baldukk several voices rang out in
disarray.

Chapter 151: Valuable Item 1

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 28

We've returned to one of the small rooms on the side of the teleport room at the surface.

"Ah~ I want to take a shower. I can't get the smell of the blood out from my hair."

Ralpa said like she was already sick of it. After finishing our exploration of the 6th floor when we returned to the 5th floor Giberuti had already finished packing our stuff so we decided to put priority on returning right away and taking a shower at the inn.

"Me too~ Al-san, we returned one day early this time but are we still doing a four day holiday?"

Gwine continued to say as well. Why do you always tilt your head a bit when you say things like that? It's quite sly.

"Yeah, there's four days off starting tomorrow. The next time is starting from September 3."

"Where are we going tonight?"

Toris asked.

"I want to eat meat~"

Bel is speaking on a whim. Even though she's a rabbit she eats meat. Though it doesn't particularly matter, I want to eat fish.
I guess it's fine if I carry one in?

"If it's meat then ""Murowa" is good. The pork skewers there are delicious."

Zentom said while licking his lips. Yeah, "Murowa" huh? They have ibodi and keiswago there as well so it's okay. However, today my stomach is saying it wants flounder. I've learned it recently but even without soy sauce if it's white

meat fish then sashimi is pretty good with just salt. In my past life I made fun of it as a “fancy” way of eating it and was adamant about having soy sauce and condiments but when I drink alcohol I can’t help but want to eat sashimi. As a matter of fact this method of eating was something Mary taught me but it’s surprisingly good.

Incidentally those born on Orth like Zenom and Zulu find eating raw fish to be creepy. Even in Binsil’s restaurant of Keel it seems that Mary and Kuro would eat ekiswago, wokoze, mivaru, and those sorts of white meat fish with just salt or citrus juice on them but no one would order any of it. Hmph, everyone who can’t understand the deliciousness of this just has a pitiful tongue. Even if I’m scorned as a barbarian who eats raw fish I have no intention of stopping.

“Ah, then, let’s make it “Dorureon”. I’ll stop by the fish dealer and buy a peiramu. Since you can’t bring your own ingredients in to “Murowa”. If it’s the meat dishes at “Dorureon” then you don’t have any complaints either right Zenom? Ralpa you and the others can go ahead first and take a shower.”

As we walked up the stairs to the surface Zenom nodded while smiling and,

“Ah, peiram is it? That sounds good. Please let me judge them.”

and Toris replied. Recently, it seems Toris has awakened to the deliciousness of fish as well and whenever I go to buy some fish he comes along. One day I want to go fishing together with him.

“Oh, I see. Just the lively looking peiram is no good. They’re the best about two days after being caught when they’ve had time to mature. Make sure you properly see through them?”

I said that and went to the surface.

After leaving the dungeon and I felt Miduchi nearby. One week ago, just before we entered the dungeon I couldn’t tell anything but that she was quite a distance away but the moment we left into the entrance plaza I could feel her. Her distance is roughly 1 Km. The direction Southwest. It seems to be “Boil Manor”. I wonder if she’s already in the inn? A smile naturally appears on my face. I wonder if I made her wait? But it was really perfect timing.

“Then, shall we go. Ah, Giberuti, go ahead first to “Dorureon” and reserve some seats for us.”

Since we go to “Dorureon” once a month even my slave Giberuti can reserve seats for us with no problem. Well we are the {Slaughterers} who saved the second son of the owner after all. We split into three groups. Angela and Zulu were given the luggage Giberuti was carrying, Giberuti who is going ahead to the restaurant. And then us six.

Along the way when we were about to arrive at the fish dealer, Ralpa and Gwine wanted to take a shower so Zenom their guardian went along with them ahead of us. Toris and I started looking for a good peiram from the fish lined up in the store front. Since Bel obviously won't separate from Toris while we're on the surface she's here as well. There were only two peiram at the fish dealer. There's no room picking. Since I normally only buy one of them regardless of what I just said without picking I ended up buying both it seems that Toris and Bel found it strange.

“N, today is special. When we arrive at the restaurant I'll have them cut right away. If it's “engawa” then Bel you'll eat it too right?”

Since it's this sort of occasion. I paid the master of the fish market 10,000 Z (1 silver coin) for the two fish and then held on to a string that went through their gills. Even on Orth Peiram is an ultra high-class fish. I'm sure there's many among the commoners that will never taste them. They're normally eaten as a meuniere. Even if you look at all of Orth probably the only ones eating them in sashimi would be reincarnated people I guess?

“I'll hold them for you.”

“Sure.”

I handed the peiram to Toris and followed after Zenom and the others about 100m ahead.

I spent a short while talking with Toris and Bel while walking and when we reached the T curve towards “Boil Manor” I noticed Zenom and the others stopped at the entrance. It seems they're talking about something with the brat. I wonder if Miduchi left a message? She should be nearby there.

Since the building is in the way we can't see from where we are but I could hear Ralpa's noisy laughing voice echo.

.....

On the left side of the entrance Miduchi was standing with her horse in a short robe that went down to her hips. Did she go to the trouble of waiting in front of the entrance? Putting that aside, if Ralpa and the others aren't talking with Miduchi then hurry up and go take a shower. Toris and Bel are already gone.

"Hey Ralpa, since you guys said you were going to take a shower..first. That was faster than I thought."

I call out while raising my left hand and,

"Dear!"

Miduchi let go of the reins of her horse and started running towards me.

"Dear~!?"

Ralpa, Gwine, the brat of "Boil Manor"..and then my voice echoes out. What's that, Dear...It's true that Miduchi mentioned something like that when we were in the dungeon the other day but..Hey now, are you already acting as my wife? That's~ not just at the level of moving things too fast?

"Bugya!!"

While she was in the middle of running over Miduchi magnificently tripped over a pile of horse dung in the middle of the road. You could say she had good luck that she slipped with good momentum so she didn't fall straight down into it. Though there's horse dung on the bottom of her boots.

".."

No one could say a word after seeing her appearance of tripping with such momentum and hitting her head against the ground then rolling around while holding it. I can hear the hustle and bustle of Baldukk from the distance. Since I would feel bad just leaving her when she's making that face like she's going to cry so I approached and stretched my hand out to her to help her stand up.

"Ah.."

After letting out just a single word Miduchi diligently took the sword off her waist including the scabbard and started checking it. It's a simple scabbard but the guard and handle are high-quality.

“Thank goodness..It’s not dirty and there’s no scratches.”

After she whispered quietly she once again carefully returned the scabbard to the sword band and looked at me.

“Dear!”

““Starting from there again!””

.....

While the brats eyes were wide and he was dumbfounded I told him to prepare a spot in the stable for Miduchi’s horse. I don’t really know why but for some reason I watched as Miduchi triumphantly brought her horse back to the stables and a nervous and reserved voice called out to me.

“Umm..Al-san. That woman is...”

I guess she couldn’t put up with the mood of everyone remaining silent, Bel tried asking.

“It’s the Dyurou that Al mentioned before, his subordinate from the past right?”

Zenom replied in my place.

“Yeah, that’s right. I’ll introduce everyone later.”

“Were you married?”

“No way. I’m still a bachelor.”

““Then why!””

Ralpa and Gwine raised their voices at the same time. As a matter of fact I’ve been thinking it since just but, aren’t you guys just twins who don’t resemble each other?

“Nn..Well, one day, maybe. We might.”

Somehow I feel a bit embarrassed.

““Wha!?””

Yeah, I see now. I certainly understand the feelings of you two~ Particularly Ralpa, you even had this strange sense of relief because we’re both humans

right? I consider you a good friend but your hobbies are no good~ Putting aside the jokes,

“What is it?”

Do you have some sort of complaint?

“....”

“Fu...In any case, so that means our allies will increase by one again right? Then why don't we welcome her.”

Zenom made an amazed face after looking at Ralpa and Gwine while spinning his {tomahawk} around once.

“Ral, Gwine. Now go and take a shower.”

Bel pushed them on while holding Toris's right hand in the middle of her cleavage while saying with a voice filled with composure. However, no matter when I see them they're quite magnificent. By the way you, what happened to the timidness from just now?

“Isn't she a pretty person, Al-san?”

Toris smiled while carrying the peiramu.

“What does this mean?”

“She hasn't taken a room..”

“Even though she came out of nowhere..”

“How dirty..”

“That sort of face wound..”

“She must not have had enough mana to fix it right?”

“Then isn't that no good.”

“I won.”

“You, don't you have no chest? It's your loss.”

“Even Ral is at best a B right?”

“Even then I have more than you.”

“If it's color then even I..”

It seems that Ralpa and Gwines grumblings entered Bel's ears.

“I'm in the same room as Toris as well!”

and she said that and then looked at me before smiling. No, I intend to have Miduchi take a different room? Though since there's no open rooms on the same floor she'll be on a different floor.

Zenom hit me on the butt lightly once before following after Gwine and Ralpa into "Boil Manor".

Miduchi finished taking off the harness and returned. It might just be my imagination but the brat who came along her side carrying her saddle bag seems uneasy. In comparison to that Miduchi is making an arrogant expression while carrying a number of bags on her left shoulder. I faced Toris and Bel before saying.

"I'll introduce you. This is Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol. My subordinate from in the past that I mentioned I met the other day deep in the dungeon. Right now she's my wo"Wife. Please call me Miduchi. Thank you for always taking care of this person."

...

Miduchi used polite words to interrupt my speaking. What's that, did you practice your speaking quite a bit? A lot of the weird feeling from your tone of speech has disappeared.

I dropped my fist on Miduchi's head and said.

"Since I haven't married I have no wife. And you don't need to force yourself to use polite speech. Your accent is strange. This bumpkin."

"Eh? Is that so? Even though I practiced quite a bit.."

"It's fine. Just talk in a way that's easy. It's fine if you fix it a bit at a time."

"It's nice to meet you, Miduchi-san. I'm Tolkelis.Kalstalan. Please call me Toris."

Toris said that and stretched out his hand to Miduchi. When Toris smiles one of his teeth shines in the setting sun.

"Yes, I'm looking forward to working with you from here on out."

"It's nice to meet you I'm Bernadette.Koloil. But in several years I will be Berndaette.Kalstalan. Please call me Bel."

“Oh my..is that so. That is..It’s a pleasure to meet you as well.”

She’s lowering her head but Miduchi’s eyes were stolen by Bel’s chest. Feel free to fall backwards.

“Yeah, just as you’ve heard, she was born far in the countryside. Just give up that her way of speaking is strange. If it’s “Japanese” then there’s no problem so if it’s a pain then using that is fine.”

We walked towards the front in order to take a room for Miduchi.

.....

Everyone other than Miduchi, Toris, Bel, and I were already at “Dorureon”. When we entered the store late and Zulu, Angela, and Giberuti came rushing over.

““Congratulations. Master.””

I dropped my fist on Miduchi’s head again when she’s grinning and bowing her head and,

“I still haven’t gotten married yet.”

said that and took my seat.

Out of the six person table and the four person table, I sat at the six person one. Ralpa and Gwine are lined up on the far side of the four person one and looking at me with a strange expression.

Well I’ll forgive that rude attitude for at least today.

Angela and Giberuti sat down across from Ralpa and Gwine.

Zulu, Toris, and Bel sat down in front of me and then on my left Miduchi and Zenom sat down.

“Then, once again I’ll introduce her. This is Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol. Her position is..probably the same as me reinforcements. For the time being, since we originally were supposed to be in the dungeon until tomorrow, I intend to do some training tomorrow morning but it probably won’t be any different. Also, her way of speaking is strange but forgive her on that. She’s from the countryside.”

I said that and introduced Miduchi and this time Miduchi stood up and

greeted everyone.

“All peoples, I’m Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol. Please call this one Miduchi.”

and said that before lowering her head.

“Pu..Did you hear that? She said, all peoples.”

“Yeah, and she’s calling herself “this one”.”

Ralpa and Gwine are whispering to each other but we can completely hear it. Look, Miduchi’s turned red. Bel who was sitting in front of me,

“Stop it.”

said that and scolded them. But, well, it can’t be helped if she’s laughed at a bit.

I sigh once and took the peiram from Toris,

“I’ll go get this prepared. Sashimi is fine right?”

and said that before standing up.

“Ah? Is that “flounder”? If that’s the case then it’s just right. Would it be alright to make one of them “Meuniere”?”

and Miduchi said. Does she not know the {Common Language} for “flounder” and “Meuniere”?

“Eh? Well it’s fine. But why?”

“If it’s a “flounder meuniere” then I can prepare the sauce.”

Hmph. Well, I guess it’s fine. Since it’s something like a welcoming party for Miduchi after all.

After going to the kitchen since it’s the same as usual, I borrowed a knife from the head chef and started cutting the two peiram into sashimi pieces. While Miduchi was quietly watching she said, “Is it okay if I take the head and middle bone?” so I gave it to her. It seems she’s started to moisten it with steam right away and making stock from it. I cut out eight “engawa” worth from the two fish and cut them into bite sizes, and make them 1/4th the size while carefully adding some garnish for looks.

“I’m going to take the guts from one of them as well.”

and before I could say anything she quickly took the guts of one them and started steaming and straining those as well. Aa~ even though gut sashimi of flounder is delicious...However, so she's making a meuniere using a sauce made from using the guts as a stock huh? Isn't that normal?

Miduchi quickly cut one fishes portion into an adequate four pieces and started adding salt, seasonings, and a bit of wheat flour. She lined some oil along the frying pan and started frying the meuniere. After it started sizzling and she finished frying one she placed it on a plate and then split the oil from the flounder into a separate frying pan. There she added the stock she got from the first bit of guts and added a bit of wine and vodka. It seems she's going to boil down the sauce in the small frying pan.

At this point the head chef and I who was half way done making sashimi were watching Miduchi with interest. While she was boiling down the sauce in the small frying pan, she poured down a bit more of the light oil from the large frying pan returned the meuniere from the plate before frying it again. It should be fine if I don't watch over for a bit. She took a small 15 cm higher and 10 cm diameter bottle out of her waist pouch and I can tell something like a small stone is inside of them. She took the cork off of it and then took one white-ish looking rock out and the head chef raised his voice in surprise. You know what that is, old man?

With a familiar method she sliced the rock into fine pieces. It seems it's not a rock. A potato?

"O..One whole. An entire single white sarenruji!?"

The eyes of the head chef are spinning as he whispers. I don't know what this white sarenruji is but it seems it's valuable. Miduchi completely finished finely cutting up the white sarenruji and started adding it to the small frying pan with the sauce, she then added something like a paste and then started focusing on the large frying pan. An extremely enticing smell started to float through the kitchen.

Ha..This isn't the time to be charmed. I need to make sure to make mine as well. I cut the flounder into sashimi and put it on a large plate, in the center there's a small hill of engawa pile on top of each other. After this if I just add a

bit of rock salt to a small plate to go with it and it's done.

Miduchi is serving the meuniere on a plate and putting the sauce from the small frying pan on top of it. It seems she's done as well.

"U..Umm, would it be alright for me to have the remaining sauce in that frying pan?"

The head chef called out to Miduchi. Hey now, your name as the top restaurant in Baldukk "Dorureon" will cry. Let's stop with the poor people antics. In the first place, it's the cooking of an amateur. While my face is turning into a frown Miduchi smiled and, "if you're fine with something like this then, please do." Really, I can't keep up with this~

I carry along the plates of food with me. It seems everyone is waiting and hungry.

"Ei~ sorry for the wait. The meuniere is coming soon as well. It seems pretty tasty looking."

When I put the large plate on the table and turned around it was just as Miduchi came out with a plate on each hand and behind her the boy was coming along out of the kitchen as well.

"Fumo~~!!"

I heard the yell of the head chef.

Chapter 152: Valuable Item 2

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 28

After Miduchi carried out the peiramu meuniere and everyone's chopsticks that were reaching for my sashimi stopped. Of course, mine did as well. Everyone was done in by the smell coming from the peiram meuniere on the 20 cm or so plate everyone had. The waiters who brought it out couldn't help but stare at it as well.

To be honest, I thought it just a moment ago as well but I feel like I've smelled this scent somewhere before.

I tried to pull out my memories of the distant past and I think it was the dinner menu for my wedding reception in my past life. Foie gras with truffles. It's the scent of that made even stronger and deeper. Ah, it's the scent of truffles. So white sarenruji is a white truffle.

"Everyone, please eat it while it's still hot."

If you're going to say that then it's "everyone, eat before it cools down.." but no one was paying attention to the wording Miduchi used.

"This.."

"Ah..."

It seems that Bel and Gwine knew about it. Their eyes are wide as they brought their faces to the plate.

"Fumu!!"

"Oo!!"

Angela and Giberuti are twitching their noses at the scent. It seems like they're about to drool any moment.

"This is a good scent."

"This is.."

"Mwu.."

Zenom is smelling the scent with an ecstatic expression, and Toris and Zulu are bringing their noses close as well.

“Wun..”

Only Ralpha raised her eyebrows.

I thought it was similar to a scent I know that's made much deeper after waiting over two weeks. However, it's not grassy-smelling at all, it's a scent that increases your appetite considerably. I wonder how happy I would be putting this in my mouth? and it's a scent that amazing.

I took off just a bit full from the end of the meuniere and put it into my mouth after sticking it into the sauce on the center.

“!!”

I guess this is what they mean when they say you can't even say a word. After all if I were to open my mouth to let out a voice I feel like the scent would escape. I respected the head chef a bit for being able to raise his voice. There's no way I could do that. The refined taste of the flounder spreads through my mouth. There's no complaints about the taste of the sauce either. The stock of the flounder was done well as well and the vague scent from the wine and vodka adds to the complexity of the meunier itself. The sauce added on top of that made from the white truffle causes the center of the body to tremble from the rich scent.

Sorry, honestly speaking, I underestimated it, fish meuniere. Only after chewing a few times and I swallowed it down in no time at all but I want to feel the scent and flavor in my mouth for an eternity.

“Fu...”

I let out a sigh.

“Somehow this scent is indecent. But, it's delicious..”

Everyone excluding Miduchi glared at Ralpha who said something destroying the mood. Toris is licking his chopsticks with his forked tongue. Somehow those movements are indecent, that.

Stop it already.

“Hamu..Yeah, this is delicious. Wafu..What is it this. What indeed?”

While were still basking in the aftertaste of the first bite, Ralpa is devouring the meuniere down.

“I’m glad it matched your tastes.”

Miduchi said while smiling. However, no one is listening. We’re all focused on slowly eating the meuniere with a bit of sauce at once. Ah, everyone other than the reincarnated people are grabbing with their hands. While watching Ralpa aim for Gwine’s plate after she finished eating right away we just remained quiet and continued eating.

While dodging Ralpa’s chopsticks coming from the side, after Gwine finished eating her voice matched Bel and said to the waiter.

““Bring some bread. The soft and white kind.””

Oh~ so they intend to soak up the remaining sauce on the plate with the bread. Certainly that seems delicious as well. But, everyone other than those two are already wiping it with their fingers and sucking it off. Of course, I am as well. After hearing their words I couldn’t help but look disappointingly at my own finger. Miduchi’s was partially eaten but she slid the portion remaining on her plate in front of me.

After everyone finished eating the sauce with some bread and endured the torture of watching Gwine, Bel, and I finish eating, we all spoke at once.

““Tasty!””

”“It was delicious!””

““Is this sauce made from “white truffles”!?””

Bel and Gwine questioned Miduchi. After all that was the case. However, you two what kind of lifestyle did you have in your past lives to know about white truffles. We’re you high-class daughters?

“Yes. It’s called white sarenruji. It’s a type of mushroom grown in our country.”

It was then that the pork steaks that Zenom, Ralpa, Zulu and the slaves ordered was carried out.

“Ah, pork huh? Well then, please spring a bit of this on top.”

Miduchi took another bottle out of the pouch on her waist and filled a spoon of something black and finely chopped up over the pork steak of Zenom next to her.

Could this maybe be...

“This is black sarenruji made into fine powder. Please use it for the scent.”

Zenom carried an end which it was on into his mouth.

Zenom’s eyes went wide and he started breathing with his nose, in the next moment the remaining steak on his plate was in the hands of me, Toris, Bel, Ralpa, and Gwine. It seems Ralpa and Gwine moved from the other table. Zulu and the other three are sprinkling some of the black powder on their own plates. If I think carefully about it there’s a plate in front of Ralpa as well but no one noticed. She quickly returned to her own seat and then Ralpa poured a pile out of the bottle after Giberuti finished using it while chowing down.

This is delicious as well. Even though it’s just a pork steak putting a bit of truffle power on top makes it feel this delicious? The power of scents is amazing~ Ralpa and the three slaves finished off their steaks in no time at all. This is why people with no class are a problem. I can’t believe Zulu wouldn’t even give me a single bite though it’s simply unjustified resentment. Rather than that Zenom was pitiable.

“I’m glad you’re all pleased with it. In reality the way you’re supposed to eat it is slicing it up and adding a few pieces on a meat dish like in “France” or “Italy” though”

Ah, come to think of it I’ve seen something like a fillet beef steak with pasta and thinly sliced truffles on it before. At a place in Ginza they had something like a single slice of black truffles for 1,000 yen. The chef himself actually comes all the way out to ask “How many slices?” Putting on airs and saying “5..5 slices” with a trembling voice is nostalgic. Of course it’s my first time trying white truffles.

“Roze, let’s go and hunt some Roze!”

Bel turned her voice inside out while saying. Go and hunt you, they’re

monsters. Well if it's us right now then we'd probably be fine though.

""That sounds good.""

Zulu and Angela are looking up slightly while responding as if it's only obvious. Everyone who's eaten that before is nodding.

The remaining five peoples Seizuku poware came out. It was certainly delicious but after eating that...

I feel like the sashimi I made was a bit lonely. Of course I still ate it all though.

Particularly Giberuti was intent on asking how to create the sauce. He was considerably insistent on it.

After that, the party continued peacefully and I think they were somewhat able to accept Miduchi.

.....

Since Bel and Toris said they were going to go drinking a bit more at a different place they invited everyone, Zenom and the others jumped on that, but Miduchi and I returned to the inn with just the two of us. Sorry about that. I think I've already talked about most of the plans previously but since I thought a review was necessary and above all I wanted a quiet place to calm down and talk.

We started by returning to our rooms and after taking our showers, Miduchi came to my room. Hmph, as usual she has nothing but worn-out clothes. Even if she changes it's this. Ah, of course it's not like her clothes are just scraps. It's simply that her clothes are pretty worn-out. The dye has fallen, the color is getting lighter, while looking at her clothes across the table I made two cups of ice water. The water is something from the well. As expected it's hot after all.

"Was your older brother fine?"

"Yes, thanks to you it seems he'll somehow make it. Thank you very much. Also, I'll return the things I borrowed. First, your knife."

"Oh~"

Since she handed over my old favored knife with the chipped blade I took it. When I tried taking it out and looking at it the chipped portions had increase.

Well, it should be fine if I sharpen it.

“Next up, is this plate. My life was saved thanks to this copper plate. Though because of that it was damaged a bit..”

He~ I see. It's fine even if it's got a little bit of damage. I'm sure there's stuff like that as well. I wonder if she showed in that Lail Kingdom or whatever? No, I can't imagine that the influence of Marquis Webdos works in a foreign country so she must have showed it along the way. It's fine as long as she didn't use it for something weird..whaiit~!?

“Wha, what in the world is this! It's bent...A..ah..Thi..This much damage..”

There was a large cut in the center of the Marquis's plate and it was a bit bent. It seems like it was bent even more but it was fixed afterwards. However this, even though it's something valuable I was given by sister-in-law Shani..it was really something valuable. I never properly used it but, it's not that sort of problem. There's supposedly only a really small number issued.. There was a dark elf curling up a bit looking apologetic on the other side of the table after seeing my state.

“..It's fine. If this saved your life, then that's fine.”

I guess it's fine if I just think of it as sister-in-law saving Miduchi.

“I'm sorry..”

I looked at the top of Miduchi's head as she lowers it,

“Ah, it's fine. And, that is..”

I get caught up a bit on the words I was going to say.

“Yeah, it's about the madam right?”

Yeah.

“Just as she said at that time, she was already nowhere in this world it seems. However, the madam, no, I was able to talk somewhat with the spell “her majesty” left behind.”

“Huh?”

Since Miki said that pretty soon she would “die” so I knew about that and it

wasn't anything to be surprised about. However, I think I heard her say she talked to the spell that Miki left behind. What is this fellow saying? She must have noticed my confused expression, Miduchi explained it for me.

"The madam left behind a special spell in the end. It seems it was close to thought body and it was capable of talking with a considerable amount of freedom. Thanks to that I was saved quite a bit."

"I see.."

After that we spent some time as she told me what kinds of things happened in her home town. Though the methods to become an {immortal} or {God} still remain unknown. However, it seems that Miki was looking out for me.

Yeah, even if we used to love each other, for me it was even 16 years, and when it comes to hers it was a partner of several hundred or even a thousand years. Much less one side of them has become a {Demi-God}. I can't imagine it happening but no matter what I wanted to avoid becoming her enemy.

"..After that is..I guess I'll talk about it now while no one else is around. Tomorrow morning I'll have you show your power to everyone. After that you need to go around and buy you some clothes and necessities. It would probably be best to have Ralpha and Bel accompany you on that. We'll head to the capital before evening. It's necessary to have you made a pair of boots over there. That's why tomorrow we'll spend the night in the capital but we'll return after eating lunch. However, we'll tell everyone that we're going to remain in the capital until the day after tomorrow? that we'll be staying there until a later date. That's why even if we return we won't come here. We'll leave our horses at a different inn and on the night of the day after tomorrow we'll enter the dungeon. I'll talk about the details of it tomorrow on our way to the capital."

After hearing our schedule for tomorrow on Miduchi seemed to have some questions but it seems she shelved them for now. Things like this are just like her personality in the past.

"By the way, I have something I want you to look at."

"Hn? Sure, that's fine though you know."

I stood up from the chair.

“Yes?”

Miduchi looked up at me.

“Before that”

I took Miduchi’s hand from across the table and stood her up.

“Yes.”

She’s making a face like, where are we going to go?

“We have something to do right?”

I lift her chin up.

“Eh, ah.”

Katan, I heard the sound of Miduchi’s new sword hit the chair.

I put my arms around her body.

I’m sure there’s already no need for anymore words.

Punishment for the plate!

I grinned while grabbing the obi of her kimono that’s faded in color over time and pulled it.

“Are~”

Even though it’s punishment why does she seem like she’s having fun?

.....

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 29

【Blade Shadow Scimitar: Raidyuroufusutira】

【Orihalicon Steel】

【State: Good】

【Manufacture Date: 1/1/6672;21/3/6791;13/6/6862】

【Value: 1】

【Endurance: 625942】

【Ability: 210–260】

【Effect: Energy Drain】

【Effect: Raise.Hiding.In.Shadow.Rate】

【Effect: Raise.Magic.Recovery.Rate】

【Effect: Auto-Mending】

I guess this is what they mean when they say you can't close your open mouth. I thought it was strange since before but I wonder who in the world is writing the details of Identify and Status Open. I can already guess it for the most part though.

In any case, there's no mistake it's a sword with some terrifying abilities. It makes sense that my wife, a {Demi-God} had used it. The moment she pulled it from the scabbard there wasn't even any need to Identify it, I could feel it was amazing.

Unusually this sword had a ricasso to it. Between the handle and guard there's about 15 cm of ricasso with no blade and from there the blade stretches out in a refined arc. It's different from a normal scimitar, one of the characteristics of it is that the closer it gets to the blade it gets subtly thinner. I don't know if it's been tempered but the portions other than the blade are dyed black and it doesn't feel like something from this era but rather a blade that even feels like it's an industrial blade from the 21st century.

Hmph, you received something quite good.

I carefully returned the sword to its scabbard and gave that to Miduchi before saying.

"This is an amazing sword. I guess you could call it a magic sword. It seems that on a {clean hit} it can absorb one body level from the opponent. Though it doesn't seem to raise your own level. Around every one level you absorb it temporarily increases your HP by 5 . If you end up taking a similar hit while your HP is increased the absorbed HP seems to obstruct it so it seems you can endure an attack from Energy Drain during that time. After that it seems to have Auto-Mending cast on it as well so as long as it's inside of the scabbard it doesn't require any maintenance. And while you're holding on to the handle it seems that your mana recovery rate increases as well. Mana normally recovers about 1 point per 5 minutes but with this it seems to be about 1 point per 4 minutes. In addition it seems that while you're holding the handle it's harder to see you when hiding in the shadows of things as well. There's no need to pull it

from the scabbard for those things. It seems it's effective as long as you have your hand on the handle. Isn't that great."

Miduchi was surprised after hearing my explanation and made a strange expression like she was happy but at the same as if it was only obvious. By the way I wonder where you can find Orihalicon? Did she have an acquaintance of the Triton race or something? Or was it the people of Atlantis? It doesn't really matter but the details of the sub-window were considerably screwing around so they weren't of much reference.

This day Miduchi showed her true skills to the other party members without dissatisfaction. Her skill with the sword itself was weaker than me and still didn't match up to Zenom, but she was still plenty skilled and she showed the next highest power with spells after me. If she doesn't use the sword, while her skill with the bow doesn't match up to Bel, she is decently skilled with it as well and she showed quite the mastery with a wide variety of weapons.

Thanks to that everyone agreed with her role being the same as mine in shortstop and reinforcement. There's still a large portion of her {Common Language} that is kind of stiff but Bel is following up with her on that and it seems they're going shopping together at noon.

"Hey, Al. Did you contract with Miduchi?"

Ralpa called out to me. I thought there wasn't much point to contracting with my own woman at this point. A lover's contract? Though I don't have any intent on something like a lover. But, I see. It seems like it would be a good idea to do one for the time being.

"N, not yet. I'm going to make the contract documents today after this. We'll finish up the procedures for it right away and then head to the capital tonight to make her boots. Since I haven't shown my face in the company recently as well."

"Ah, so you're going to properly contract with her."

I don't know why but Ralpa said with a relieved face.

"Hn? Ah, well, yeah."

"N, then that's fine. I see, so you're going to do it properly.."

What is she saying? This girl. There's no way I could do something like treating her special. If you try to treat one person special when there's a low head count it's the source of discord. If it's daily necessities and things she needs for now then I'll lend her the money with no collateral but even that's plenty special. Although, it seems like she has plenty of money for now so there's no need to lend her any. Since Toris and Bel are here it's easy to forget but in the first place I'm in the faction that rejects romance in the company. They properly split up on and off hours and don't do anything like flirting on the job, not only are they calmly going about their duties but it seems like they plan to marry in the future so I've recognized it. Obviously I've already properly instructed Miduchi on the same things.

"That's only obvious right. Certainly she's my woman but I make sure to split things up that need to be split up. I have no intention of living in the same room as her either."

"Eh? Hmph..I see."

"Yeah, that's right. That's why you should get along with her."

".."

Ralpa turned around and started talking with Gwine about something. What's with this girl?

Chapter 153: Once Again to the Fairy Village

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 29

After our morning training, it seems that centering around Bel they're going shopping for Miduchi's clothes and other necessities. Ralpa and Gwine are accompanying them and together with the leader part Miduchi, the four of them disappeared. In addition it seems they're going to have lunch. I returned to the inn and started producing Miduchi's contract. The details should be fine the exact same as Ralpa and the others. If she reads this then she should know what I was trying to say.

I finished writing the three contracts in about 30 minutes and started my preparations to go to the capital. Even though I say that, it's just going to the fish dealer and paying in advance for some dried fish that I'll be coming to pick up tomorrow evening.

After that, in order to kill some time while Miduchi was shopping I started using {Divination} to study incantations of spells, I used the spell {Shield} a number of times, and was considerably engaged.

Around 4 pm the women finally returned. For the time being I had Miduchi sign the contract in front of them. After examining the contract for a short while Miduchi's facial color changed for a moment but she immediately nodded and said "this seems appropriate" before signing so I felt relieved. I'm sure someday someone will retort on it but it's best if that time is as late as possible and when they finally do we'll see what happens when we get there. It should be fine if I just make a face like I've only just realized for the first time and say "Ah, I guess so. Then should we revise it?" It's not like it's one-sidedly to my advantage after all. No, I guess it is pretty one-sided.

"Then, I'm heading to the company. If it's something like boots then they should be able to make them."

"Yes, I've understood it."

"It's not supposed to be "understood" there but "Understand"."

“I understand.”

The two of us each ride on our own horses and departed while being seen off by Ralpa and the others. While we're lined up swaying on our horses after we passed through the outer rim of the crater Miduchi started talking to me.

“..By the way Kawa..Al-san. Koloil-san is a good person isn't she.”

“Hn? Yeah, Bel is a good kid. She properly thinks things through on her own and doesn't mix personal and official. She's also good at reading delicate signs.”

“I got that sort of feeling as well. I wonder if she's an older sister kind of position?”

“N~ Well I guess around there. Though why?”

“She called out to me that if we're going shopping today she knows a good store.”

That's right.

“She promptly picked out small necessities and things like clothes, soap, towels, and such. That is..and underwear.”

Eh? You even had Bel pick your underwear? What's that? You can't even buy your own underwear? Were you that pitiful of a child?

“Ah, no. Of course I picked out the goods myself. But, even if it was the same thing she showed me cheaper stores with a better variety.”

Ah, I see.

“I see, Bel is pretty reliable so get along with her.”

“Yeah, that's true..But”

Hn?

“I wonder what kind of people Firefreed-san and Akdam-san are?”

“Ah..Those guys. It seems that originally the two of them attended the same high school. Not to mention it was a school for idiots. That's why they're still children. Did something unpleasant happen?”

“No, it's not like that's the case..I see. So they're children..”

“What is it, that makes me curious. What happened?”

“No, the two of them asked quite insistently about whether I planned to marry you.”

Miduchi’s face seemed to turn a bit red.

“Hmph, and, what did you reply to them?”

“..say.”

“Eh?”

“I can’t say.”

“Is that so. Well don’t worry too much about those two. Ralpa is“Eh? It was ignored? Isn’t that where you’re supposed to delve in deeper!?”

I mean, you can’t say it right? It’s not like I want to force you to say it after all, so it’s fine.

..However you know.

“You’re about as much of a child as Ralpa huh? It’s fine. You don’t need to force yourself to say it. I can imagine after all.”

“..So you can already imagine it..Was I that easy to read..”

What is she getting depressed over?

“It’s fine already at this point. I realized your feelings long in the past. It’s already fine if you don’t show reservation for anyone anymore.”

“But, the madam is..”

“Idiot, you, think about it more carefully. It’s certainly true that even now I like her. It’s not like we got a divorce after all. But it’s already been over 16 years since I hadn’t met her and if you look from her point of view, it was in the units of hundreds of years. Even you were 30 when you died. Didn’t you have a boyfriend you dated in middle and high school?

If I remember correctly, you said you had your first boyfriend in middle school or something? If you’re saying something like that then what about his position? I can declare it to you with confidence but that boyfriend only things of you as a memory of the past now and he’s probably doing well with a

different woman now. I had a girlfriend I dated when I was in high school as well but she's long since given birth to another man's child. It wouldn't be a surprise if she has grandchildren by now."

"Eh? I've never dated any men before?"

"Eh?"

"Never have."

I..I mean, you, I'm pretty sure I heard about it. In the past, when we were drinking at a bar, you said something like, "in the past I played around~" And you said the first time you kissed was when you were in middle school. I remember thinking that I had lost because my first girlfriend was in high school, and something like that...

Seeing me dumbfounded she must have remembered, Miduchi looked a different direction while saying.

"Ah..I remembered. Come..come think of it there was a person like that. Ta..Takashi-kun, I wonder if he's doing well~"

I feel like the name I had heard was Yoshio-kun or something like that..Is this that? An old man who talks about how they used to be a delinquent in the past? Did you blow up a story just to compete with me at that time...

"You.."

I just glared at her but Miduchi continued to look in a different direction.

"I mean.."

"Ah.."

"I mean, isn't it unpleasant..rather you should think about me! Try remembering it! Even though I was that gloomy when I entered the company! There's no way I'd have been dating someone! The only one who patiently kept pace with and changed me was you!"

Well that was my job? Even if my subordinate is something like that doing something about it was my job.

"Ev..Even I was courted a decent amount! Our clients, and when I went to a

class reunion, everyone I met, all said I was cheerful and beautiful! Even if I'm like I was popular! It wasn't just two or three people that asked me to date them."

Come to think of it I remember hearing about something like that. That's why I was happy at the time as well. To the point where I found it strange she didn't date them. I mean, she could pretty pick whoever she wanted. Before I noticed Miduchi had faced me.

"But, the person that I came to like, was married from a long time ago and I thought I had no choice but to give up, whenever I went to the company saw their face I couldn't give up and..the only thing I could do is somehow match the circumstances up, go drinking together, and say round about things...In the first place, recently every time you would ask me if I hadn't made a boyfriend yet..It was sexual harassment."

Ah sexual harassment huh? That's no good. But, as expected, the only person I said stuff like that to was you.

"Recently you, that was already over 16 years ago."

"It was just a few months ago to me! Since I only remembered it the other day. That's why inside of me Kawasaki-san is a 45 year old man!"

"..Is that so."

Now that I've seen your current appearance I can't even remember your face from the past.

"..In any case, during a time like if you suddenly bring up the topic of people you dated in the past, anyone would want to compete with it."

I wonder if they would?

"Isn't it a cute lie. I think it's generosity to just laugh and let things like that slide."

"Don't say that yourself.."

"That's why, up until now I haven't even once properly dated a man."

"I see"

“That’s why you’re my first person.”

“Thatsright..and, I already get it. It’s already fine, how bothersome~”

“So I’m, a bothersome woman...”

She asked with a uneasy expression. Yeah.

“..Ffu...I have no interest in the contents of what you were told by Ralpa and replied. You’re by my side right now. Isn’t that fine.”

“..Yes. It is.”

Don’t get bashful. With that creepy looking skin color. You’ll make me want to bully you.

“Ralpa you know, she’s one of the people in the party that I’ve know the longest but she doesn’t particularly have any interest in me. Since her head turns reasonably well she most likely is just thinking about her future while trying to leave an impression on me. Isn’t it just her trying to compete with Toris and Bel who are aiming for Marquis? She’s a good fellow and she has power but she’s still a child after all. I think of her as a precious friend as well though while her looks are reasonably good I don’t feel like I would want to date or marry her at all.

In regards to Gwine she’s still a relatively new member. However, since we’ve already been together for a year and a half I feel like I’ve gotten to know a bit of her. She’s the fickle type. At first she was after Toris. She probably just wants to find a person she likes closer to her and get excited over them. In reverse, it seems like her feelings are stronger of wanting to be raised up and be able to act like a Queen. For better or for worse she’s a high school girl. That’s why, no matter what you’re told you shouldn’t take too much of it to mind.”

.....

Just before the evening we arrived at Greed Company in Rombertia. Since I the owner showed my face both the Ryogu family and the Yotlen family came out to welcome us. It seems that the Ryogu family was just coming from the workshop. It was good timing.

“A dark elf huh? How unusual.”

Dianne looked at Miduchi with great interest while saying. Come to think of it Dianne is already 25 as well. She might miss her marriageable age like this.

“Dianne, do you still not intend to get married yet? If you don’t take a husband what’s going to happen to the Ryogu family?”

This isn’t sexual harassment. It’s a statements that’s only obvious fro a member of the lord’s family in Bakuddo. When I said that, I noticed not just Dianne herself but Rozural and Wendy were making vague faces.

“Hn? What is it?”

“No, Al-sama. That is, it’s very difficult for me to say but soon Ruku is coming.”

If you mention Ruku then, Rukkido.Faren huh? He’s the son of Jaddo who died in action in the past and the little brother of Whitney. If I remember right he was one year younger than Dianne. Just before I left the village he was in charge of the rubber.

“Eh? I see. So you’re going to marry Ruku. Congratulations then, isn’t that great.”

“Thank you very much. Once a child is born Dianne we intend to hand over the head of the Ryogu family to Dianne.”

Rozural said that while making a broad smile on his face. He~ So there’s going to be a female head in the Ryogu family. Well she is in a central role in regards to rubber production in Bakuddo so I’m sure it’s difficult to think that Dianne’s husband would take over at this point. Dianne’s face turned red while she seemed quite happy as well.

“Then, you’re going to do the wedding over here? Leave it to me. I’ll make it extravagant.”

I’ll make sure to plunder some celebratory gifts from the first and second knight groups. Ah, that’s right, if we’re going to do it then we should match it up with sister’s days off.

“Make sure you tell my sister about it. Also, that’s right, make a wedding outfit with this. It’s a celebration gift from me.”

I said that and gave Dianne a gold coin. I smile at them while they seem quite humble and,

“Don’t worry about it. If I don’t do a proper job then I might get killed by brother and father right? In the first place, isn’t it Dianne and Ruku’s day of central stage? Let’s make it flashy.”

and I said a joke to cover it up. I still haven’t forgotten. Dianne. You were the one who taught me that I can’t do everything myself. You’re my teacher as well. Let me at least do something like this. I’m begging you.

“After that is, our original business. I want to request some boots for her. Can you prepare them by tomorrow?”

I pointed at Miduchi who was behind me looking around curiously inside of the store while saying to Dianne.

“Ah, it’s alright. We just got our stock replenished last month by Farne-sama so if I adjust the size of one that’s close to her I can prepare one right away.”

“I see, then I’m counting on you right away. Rozural, Wendy, show me the recent sales records..”

After I said that we went up to the 2nd floor and they took out the account book. It sounds good to say it’s in order to properly manage things but putting it more simply it’s to regulate so we don’t sell too much. Greed Company is selling armor to the knight group and the unit price is extremely high so it’s certainly true armor is our main product but we’ve only just started business other than that this summer finally. We have sandals, boots, cushions the usual goods and then a sample of the water bed placed around the store. Soon after we opened the store we haven’t had any problems with places to sell. Whether it be the headquarters of companies of other nobles and of course we’re selling to the end users as well.

Recently it seems that members of the third and fourth knight groups occasionally show their faces in the store as well. Since I’ve given strict orders to protect the quantity of sales every four months we sell 10 suits to the first knight group and 1 suit to the second knight group for a total of 11 suits so our sales are stable. Recently I’ve been thinking we could double this in the near

future. I think it would be plenty to double it in about five years. According to older brother it seems that father and mother agree as well so that should be fine.

Other than armor we sell around 300 pairs of sandals, 200 boots soles for shoes, 50 pairs of boots, 30 cushions, and some suckling bottles in a quarter, and then we also sell close to 20,000 condoms to brothels. We can earn plenty of profit with just this and we don't have to worry about getting into a dispute with Webdos Company that we originally used as an proxy store as well. It's also an important that we're still selling some of the larger things like water beds, rubber cloth, floating devices, and rubber boats through Webdos Company as well.

After all we don't have a genuine transportation system like Webdos Company. The only things we're not passing through Webdos Company is the armor and condoms. There's plans to make even more important stuff later as well but there's no need to make these things in Bakuddo and it would be best to just make these in my territory later and I have no intention of easily selling them to other as well.

"The sales of sandals is quite high. I wonder if it would be good to raise the price...Let's change the sale price of sandals from 40,000 to 45,000. Since the sale of the shoes aren't great let's make them 99,8000 instead of 110,000. Rozural, did you manage to get the promise to buy soba seeds? I see. It's fine even if you add another 10% on to the price so buy them. Make sure you have at least 100 kg by the next time older brother and the others come. When you hand them to older brother make sure you tell him I want him to scatter them around an appropriate vacant lot.

If possible it's best in a place that's as far away from the current farms as possible. The flowers smell quite a bit after all, and they aren't particularly good on top of being difficult to eat unless you turn them into a powder but they're strong so if you just leave them alone for 20 years or so even without maintenance they should grow all on their own. They should be of use if there's ever a drought. Next up try to get your hands on some seeds of sorghum. Scatter these around near the side of the river. I haven't heard much about them but if you can find them then it's a bonus. If you can get your hands on

them then don't hold back in using money. It's fine no matter how much they cost. The only companies that might be dealing in them are Type-1 companies. In order to avoid being sold some fakes make sure you definitely meet with someone higher up. If you can't get an appointment then ask sister or someone from the first knight group."

The measurements of Miduchi's foot size should be done pretty soon. When I went downstairs it was just as a customer entered the store. Anna is carrying some tea out to the reception table in the center of the store for serving customers. I guess they must have just entered the store. The customer is a male gnome who seems wealthy. I wonder if he's a noble? Since there's only Wendy, Yotlen, and Dianne in the store right now and Dianne is taking Miduchi's measurements in the corner so it's all women. Since the only male staff Rozural came up to the second floor with me.

After seeing the restless face of the male customer who's expression suddenly got cheerful after seeing Rozural. Ah, this guy...

"Rozural, you go take care of it."

"Yes."

Rozural probably already gets it as well. He was just about to proceed over but Anna brought out some tea first.

"Welcome to our store, dear customer."

The 10 year old Anna smiled and slid the tea in front of the customer. She immediately brought the plate back to her chest and withdrew before Yotlen sat down across from the customer. I put my hand on the shoulder of Rozural who was about to step out and decided to watch over. The customers face was dyed in despair.

"Dear customer, what are you looking for today?"

Yotlen smiled humbly while talking to the customer.

"Ah, that is..uh, no..Fro..from my friend, I, I heard the reputation was good so."

Normally when the Ryogu family isn't in the store, she should be taking care

of things herself. I wanted to see how she deals with customers who've come to buy condoms.

"It seems that it's your first time buying here. Thank you very much. It's alright. There's nothing to be embarrassed about. Just in case please me confirm it but do you yourself intend to use it?"

"Eh? Ah, yes.."

"We sell them in packs of 10. The price is 15,000 Z per pack. How many are you in need of?"

"U, ah, o, on, no, two."

While he still had 1 finger held up it seems he desires two packs.

"Then, please wait just a moment. Hanna, bring two of number 25."

Yotlen turned around for a moment and then returned her gaze to the customer before smiling.

"Yeth"

Hanna replied with a lisp.

"Now, please have some bean tea."

"Uh, ah..Yeah."

After sipping the warm bean tea it seems the customer calmed down a bit.

"Are you newly married?"

"N, yeah, last month."

"I see, that's great. Our companies "Saya" have an extremely good reputation in the capital and we even sell them to the royal family. The quality is guaranteed."

"Yeah, it seems that's the case. I've heard that. My wife doesn't like the pi.. pig's bowels so.."

"Is that so? It's a honor that we can be of use then."

The 8 year old Hannah brought along a small wooden box.

"Hea~"

She bit her tongue.

Hannah turned red from embarrassment as her ears stood on end and tail lowered down then she lowered the wooden box on the table and quickly retreated to the back.

“In the worst case if the size doesn’t match up please say something. We’ll exchange them..Well then that’s 30,000 Z, certainly. Do you know the method to use them?”

After receiving the three silver coins from the customer Yotlen slid the wooden box in front of the customer.

“Umu, if it’s the pig’s bowels then I’ve used them before after all..”

The customer responded while reaching out for the wooden box.

“Is that so. Then, it’s something similar. Please be careful not to let any air get inside of them. Once you’ve used them once make sure you don’t re-use them and throw them away, after that please use a new one. In order to store them put the exterior of the pack inside of that wooden box with some ice water making sure no water gets inside.”

“Yeah, got it. Thanks.”

The man said that before gulping down the tea and then preciously carried the small wooden box out of the store.

Hmn, Yotlen sure has some backbone put into her treatment of the customers. By the way, what’s number 25?

“Yeah, since that customer was a gnome. I thought that SS size was good.”

Right now we’re producing five types of sizes, SS, S, M, L, and XL but I guess just saying them like that can be embarrassing. Though, how did she see through that he was newly married?

“Eh? I didn’t know. However, customers of that age range often try to cover things right?”

Is that so~

But, well, I guess that’s a relief. The timing she brought out the tea for the customer was good as well and with that I’m sure that customer was able to

release the tension in their shoulders as well. Come to think of it we're selling 20,000 of them, 2,000 packs every quarter? I thought that the majority of them were being sold to brothels like "Emerald Duke Club Reception Hall" but if the account book just now is correct "Emerald Duke Club Reception Hall" only makes up about 30% of the numbers. Even if you include the other brothels it still only totals up to around 20%. There were 400 sets that we're selling at a price 2,000 Z higher than the ones we sell to the stores. This cat-people widow raised an extra 800,000 Z in profits. I'll have to take another look at her wages during the end of the year assessment.

I handed Rozural one silver coin and five large copper coins and,

"Since I don't know the number give me M."

said that and without waiting for a reply grabbed one from the shelf and put it into my pocket.

Seeing that Rozural said in surprise,

"A,Al-sama. Could it be.."

and said that before looking between Miduchi and I.

"N, well yeah. I'll properly introduce you later. Since she's from the countryside her word usage has some strange places but just be lenient in that regard."

"Wa, yes, that is of course...However, I could have sworn..No, it's nothing at all."

"N, it's fine. I don't particularly think anything at all. I'm the second son after all. Even children..though I would be happy if I can have them..I think it's still far too soon after all. We'll get there when we get there. I'll somehow manage."

I dulled the conversation with words that can be taken either way, tomorrow afternoon, I said we'll have lunch together when we come to pick up Miduchi's boots and we left the store.

.....

Year 7444, Month 8, Day 30

"...i~wa~o~to~na~rite~ ko~ ke~ no~ mu~ u~ su~ u~ma~ ade~

Miduchi and I the two of us are singing the Japanese national anthem while holding on to the teleport crystal rod right after we teleported from the 2nd floor to the 3rd floor. Somehow it has an extremely surreal feeling to it. It's still 10 pm after all and a bit too early in terms of time. If it's no good unless it's a teleport crystal that's in the center then we'll have to start aiming for the teleport room on the 3rd floor from now, and in that case we might end up having to sing under the eyes of the public so we're testing it here.

Normally there's no way you could teleport with this sort of method. The incantation floating in the crystal rod to return to the 2nd floor is "midotto".

However, we were properly able to teleport. The thing that differed from up until now was that even after we teleported there's no teleport crystal in front of us. I see, even if you somehow managed to make it to this area with that method, if you can't clear past the {Snake Generator} into the fairy area then you'll just end up drying up and dying.

Miduchi and I, the two of us wait close to the entrance of the fairy village for the date to change.

"Ryogu-san and the others were quite good people weren't they."

Miduchi said looking into the air while sitting on a rock lined up on my left side.

"Yeah, their loyalty towards the Greed family is high. Their personalities are good as well."

"They lowered their heads to me, saying to take good care of you."

"Is that so.. That's getting quite ahead of things."

Miduchi looked in my direction while tilting her head and smiled while saying.

"Oh? you won't deny it."

"Did you want me to?"

"Not really...that's not..fufu."

Ah, come to think of it she has black hair as well. I wonder if it would be good to have her dye it as well?

“Let’s eat lunch while we can now.”

I took some sandwiches out my bag while saying.

“You tried to cover it up.”

“Don’t think you can eat some of the dried fish. I’m giving them all of them after all.”

“You covered it up.”

“Eat while you still can, here.”

“You covered it up~!”

I shoved a sandwich into Miduchi’s mouth and leaned back against the wall.

Chapter 154: Teacher, Mila Milais

Year 7444, Month 9, Day 1

After confirming the date had changed, Miduchi and I, the two of us stepped foot into the fairy village. While Miduchi was surprised I brought her along as we crossed over to the island in the pond.

“Karl! I brought along some fish!”

After calling out a response came from above the tree.

“Just as I wondering who it was, so it was you Al? Wait just a moment. I’ll head over now.”

After flying out of a hole in the tree Karl quickly flew into a different hole near the base and then came out soon after before calling out to his allies with a high voice “Pirurururu”. Several fairies flew over to Karl’s side before dragging the stove magic tool out of the hole in the tree. What, if you would have just said something I’d have pulled it out for you right away.

The stove magic tool which a number of fairies were dragging out was properly cleaned and it didn’t even have the oil from last remaining. I took a magic stone out of the bag on my hip and tried setting in the magic tool. A flame came out with no problem. I take out the grill that was in the same hole and then took then seeing me take the dried fish from my bag all of the fairies let out a cheer.

“By the way, I see you’re not alone today...Dark elf huh? So you’re Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol-san. Welcome, I’m Karl.Milais.”

Miduchi’s eyes went a bit wide having her name said without status open used but she remembered right away that I told her about the special skill Fairy Sight, so without panicking she was able to greet him normally.

“Ah, that’s right. I’ll call out Mila. She’s awake today.”

Come to think of it, I’ve heard that name before. If I’m certain she was Karl’s older sister. I decided to wait while grilling the dried meineiji. However, in a

matter of just 30 seconds Karl returned with a female fairy with long hair. If I see her from close by she certainly seems to resemble Karl somehow. Though it's just a feeling and I can't really tell. They're small after all.

"Now, Al. I'll introduce you. This is Mila."

Karl pushed the woman he brought along out while introducing her. She has the same honey blonde hair as Karl.

"I've heard that you're always bringing along fish. I heard from Karl. I'm Mila. Milais. I'm the head of this place. Also, since you've already come here more than twice I don't mind teaching you the method to teleport here from the 3rd floor. I'll teach you later."

Ue, come to think of it I did say something like that. I've already done it. Since Mila started from greetings I'll say it after I give my name as well.

"Ah, that is, as a matter of fact today we teleported from the 3rd floor. I heard the method from Lilus so I already know it."

After hearing my remarks Mila looked to the side at Miduchi and,

"For you to call Lilus-sama without honorifics.. I won't say anything to you, but do you approve of that?"

and she confirmed not with me but Miduchi. Come to think of it she was a {Demi-God}.

"There's a reason for it and her majesty has approved of him as well. There's no problem."

"Ho~ n!? For a {Demi-God} to have recognized you them self! Doesn't that make you quite the person! Let's see..Ho? N, you have two Unique Abilities I see..But I don't think it's to the point that Lilus would recognize over..Well it's fine though. Since you brought plenty of fish today as well. It doesn't particularly matter."

and said with a complacent smile on her face.

Eh? When I came at the start of May I thought I brought enough that you all couldn't even finish though.

"Since the fish that Al brings are delicious. Mila has still only eaten just a bit of

them.”

I see, then eat lots.

“Ah, I brought along a lot today as well. Feel free to eat. And, you know.”

“I already know. It’s about magic right? It’s fine since I’ve already talked to Mila about it. I think she knows more than me.”

Oh~ even though he’s just a Karl the talk is quick today. It’s a good trend.

“I’ve heard from Karl. If you’re fine with just the level I know then it’s fine to teach you.”

I’m saved that Mila is understanding as well.

“Yeah, thanks. Karl would you to Miduchi..Miduchi is referring to her but would you please teach her? I’ve already talked to her about the basics so please teach her something that you haven’t taught me. Also, Mila-san. I would like if Mila-san would teach me.”

Rather than being taught the same things at once it’s more efficient to have us taught separately and then teach each other later after all. Making it even more ideal, Miduchi can use all elemental magics and has quite a bit of mana as well.

She should be the best choice from my party.

.....

We spent almost an entire day and had them teach us quite a bit of magic. We took several short breaks along the way but each time we discussed it so that the details Mila and Karl teach us don’t overlap. When I was taught the spell {Regenerate} by Mila, I had a bit of hopes that I could fix the cuts on Miduchi’s face. Since Miduchi’s magic special skill levels are low she can’t learn any spells that are too advanced but even then there’s a lot of spells that I don’t know so it’s extremely useful.

This time Miduchi focused on learning spells that require a comparatively low level of magic but are still useful like, {Find.Trap}, {Detect.Snare}, {Perceive.Pitfall}, {Detect.Charm}, {Detect.Lie}, {Detect Life}, {Dispel.Illusion}, and {Dispel.Magic}.

I focused around learning magics that require a comparatively high level of magic skill levels like {Recovery}, Metal Glassification {Glass Steel}, {Suggestion}, {Charm.Person}, {Charm.Plants}, Disgust {Repulsion}, {Mass.Invisibility}, and Stupefaction {Fever.Mind}.

I stopped Miduchi several times along the way before she ran out of mana but I went without breaks. Incidentally just in case I tried confirming if there was a spell like {Identification}, but she hadn't heard of it. I somehow had predicted it but after all it seems impossible to reproduce Unique Abilities with spells, even if it's possible there's no mistake it's considerably difficult. That's great.

We were also saved by the fact that Karl gets right to the point when Mila is around. Honestly speaking, if Karl was on his usual rhythm I think the number of spells Miduchi learned to use wouldn't even have been half of what she did. As a matter of fact I had prepared myself for that. Since it was a pleasant miscalculation that I was able to talk normally with Mila as well my prejudice of the fairy race has just changed to prejudice of Karl him self.

"Fu~ I'm tired for doing things seriously for the first time in a while.."

Mila grumbled a bit while sighting but I really feel like lowering my head to her. I didn't think that she would really use this many different spell in front of me. After all the only thanks I brought was dried fish. Something like the good luck of being taught spells just for bringing along dried fish, it almost never happens. Not to mention I'm having her use the spells on me so it's big that I can actually feel the effects of them.

"Mila-san. Thank you very much. I'm grateful from the bottom of my heart."

I lowered my head while feeling it was only natural and said my thanks.

"Hn? It doesn't particularly matter. Since I haven't seen a person's face other than the fairy race these past 100 years or so. Furthermore if that's a big-shot that can call a {Demi-God}-sama without honorifics then there's no way I can't at least listen to their request for a day or so. In the first place, the one that came previously..What did they say it was again..compared to that one human male, you have almost nothing at all and seemed like you'd have quite a bit of trouble. Putting it frankly it's close to pity."

I was pitied...Though that's fine.

“In the first place unless it’s someone with a firm sense of objective then this isn’t a place that is so easy to come. It’s not as if there’s no possibility at all of wandering in here jsut by chance but since it’s something like once in countless decades it’s almost fine to say it’s impossible. Even if it was someone who just wandered in then they’ll probably try to harm us as well. The moment they try to execute it we all swarm and kill them though. As long as they’re willing to bring some gifts along from the second time on then it’s fine to do a bit of something.”

Thank god I only thought it..I was about to die there.

“Ooooo~!! I see now!!’

Miduchi let out a deeply impressed and surprised voice as if she understood.
What is it, really~

A, aaaaa! This bastard! What in the world is she doing!!

“Ahhahaha!! That’s funny! Being able to use it with a method like, isn’t Miduchi a genius!? I don’t think I’ve been this surprised in countless decades, no, in over 100 years!”

Her...newly..purchased...boots. The right foot of it has been reduced down to just the heel of it that’s being worn!

Don’t joke around with me now!!

That is you know..those boots are, something that Dianne put her greatest efforts into making!

If you treat them preciously then they’ll last a number of years.

Something like that you, did you cut them!?

Furthermore you even crushed them under the heel!

“Hey now..you..”

I’m sure that right now a vein is sticking on my temple and the capillaries in my eyes have burst.

Miduchi looks up at my with full face smile while still standing with her heel on the shortened boots and then kicks up her right leg.

“Dear, watch! “What~ is the weather~ tomorrow!!”

Ah~?!? Are you looking down on me!?

What used to be a boot flew from Miduchi's legs and landed with a po~n, before falling over on the ground.

Ah?

The moment she sent the boot flying Miduchi's right leg gave off a bit of light.

"Yes, here, tomorrow the weather~ forecast for the regional fairy village is.. rain~"

Seeing that Karl held his stomach and started rolling around in laughter. I reached the peak of my anger and was about to bring my hand to my bayonet but just kept watching. Magic..is it? Rather~ rain, you. Eh? It rains? Here.

"So that just now was the spell {Predict.Weather}..She used that with the incantation just now."

Mila explained it for me. After all that was a spell? Moreover {Predict.Weather} you say? I reflexively looked up at the ceiling. There's a shining stone ceiling about 100m above. Is the rain that's going to fall from there not well water?

"Hey..you.."

"No~ since it wasn't going well I tried investigating the incantation and~ laughed..What are you angry over?"

"Those boots..are huh?"

If I look closely they look similar but they're different. Ah, those are the cheap ones that she was originally wearing..I'm relieved.

"Ah, these? Karl taught me it. It seems it's best to use something as a catalyst when using the spell {Predict.Weather}. It seems normally you use something like a bonfire or a grass boat floating on water but it was too difficult for me to get the image of predicting the weather based on the way the grass boat sinks so I ended up cutting my previous boots. It's not like I have any wooden clogs after all."

"What? What are you saying? What language is that?"

Hohou~ so that's how it was. This old man was done in good by that one. Ah,

let's just ignore the winged insect. But, why did she bring along her old boots?

"No, umm. Since we went to the trouble of making some new boots, I thought of debuting them when we're all entering the dungeon together.."

So the ones she didn't wear this time were the new ones. Sorry for misunderstanding.

After that, I remembered I had one thing I wanted to try asking Mila about.

"Mila-san. Do you know any spells that can be used to process dirt or rocks and take out the metals?"

"Hn? There's one called {Transmute.Rock.To.Mud} but can't you use the lower rank magic of that? Don't you know {Quagmire}?"

"I know that one. However, {Quagmire} is a magic that can only change a portion of the ground to mud?"

It was a bit strange.

"Umu, since {Quagmire} is a spell that was made by restricting the functionality and simplifying {Transmute.Rock.To.Mad} after all. If it's {Transmute.Rock.To.Mud} then there's no restriction that you can only turn the ground into mud. You can change rocks and ores into mud as well. It's fine if you just change rock or dirt with a lot of metal minerals included in it to mud. Since it also includes water created with water magic inside of it, if you use the void magic selection to sort the water out at the same time you can easily crystallize single metals and take them out. If you use transformation at the same time then you can freely take it out the shape you want as well."

That's it!

"Oh~ is that so. Then would you please teach me that spell {Transmute.Rock.To.Mad}!"

I asked with the momentum of doing a dogeza. If you say it's necessary it's even fine if I give you one arm or leg. I've already learned {Regenerate} after all.

"I don't mind teaching it to you but.."

"Ha"

“It’s already impossible today. My mana won’t last. We’ll do it next time.”

“..I understand. Definitely next time...I’ll bring along a lot of even better fish.”

It was so disappointing that I couldn’t help it. There’s no way I can force her after all.

Incidentally the spell {Transmute.Rock.To.Mud} supposedly requires all of the magic special skills at least at level 8 other than wind magic. It also seems to eat a considerable amount of mana and even Mila who has about the same amount of MP as Miduchi can only use it twice. In that case, I guess that means it uses around 150 MP.

Mila looked at me like that with a lonely face.

“Everyone says that but what number is AI that’s actually made it here multiple times...There’s only been a single handful of them up until now. I’ll wait without holding my hopes up.”

“It’s fine for you to hold your hopes high. I’ll definitely come again.”

I grinned with a smile while saying.

“Hmph, do as you please..”

I felt like Mila smiled back behind her long hair.

I left behind the remaining fish and magic stones and then Miduchi and returned to the town of Baldukk in the middle of the night. We vacated out of our temporary inn and returned to “Boil Manor”. After one more day of slow rest, we’re entering the dungeon again. Just watch, I’ll show you we can clear the 6th floor this month.

Authors Note: (Translator: some notes on the difference between {Charm.Person} and Kuro’s {Charm}, the spell {Detect.Charm} can’t detect Kuro’s {Charm} only the spell {Charm.Person} or similar spells. Also Kuro’s {Charm} makes them listen to whatever he says but {Charm.Person} only gives the target a good impression like turning them in the level of good friends. They’ll still reject things if you say something unreasonable, not to mention the duration is super short.)

Chapter 155: Party-ization

Year 7444, Month 9, Day 2

Morning, after going running I took breakfast with everyone and started drinking some tea when a couple I've seen before and another couple I haven't seen a total of four people came asking for me. Since the places we eat breakfast at is limited to 4–5 places if someone were to seriously look for us it's easy to find us.

The couple I haven't seen before was just a matter of not having seen them but I knew their name and face.

The man is named Koritto.Rindobel, a 34 year old Laios and the woman is Meilia.Rindobel, she's a Laios of the same age and they're a married couple. The other pair is a Dog-people, Zemyunel and the female elf who was with him and didn't get lost Hisurura.Harurein. It seems that the Rindobel couple is the other pair of leaders from Zemyunel ins {Sun Ray}. Most likely they've come to offer thanks for saving Ginger and Binsu. They politely lowered their heads to me.

"Greed-san, thank you for saving our party members from a crisis this time. Furthermore, it seems to have been for extremely low reward..that is, we really were saved."

Meiria the wife of the Rindobel couple said. Does that mean the wife is the true leader?

It doesn't particularly matter though.

"No, please don't mind it. We only did what was obvious."

The Rindobel couple opened their eyes in surprise hearing my words but quickly erased their expressions and lowered their heads again.

"I see now, you're quite the splendid person."

"Yeah, it's just as we had heard."

Zemyunel proceeds forward and lowered his head as well.

“And then, it’s fine if it’s just a bit but could we borrow some of your time?”

“Yeah, that’s fine. What is it? Please take a seat.”

Now then, I wonder what it is about. The matter of the shower or the matter of cooperating. Or both. I exchange glances with the annoyouple, Angela, Giberuti, and Miduchi who were drinking tea at the same six person table as me had them move to the corner and then offered them a seat. The members of {Sun Ray} saluted the members who offered up their seat and then sat down. While I’m sitting on a corner edge the Rindobel couple sat in front of me but next to them is Zemyunel and then one seat on my side across from Zemyunel is Harurein.

“Since we finally left the dungeon yesterday night I’m sorry for being so late on the greetings.”

The husband of the Rindobel couple said that while lowering his head. Miduchi is talking to the waiter about something in the corner. Since Miduchi looked at me I lightly nodded. Miduchi is writing something on the table with her finger.

“No, it’s already something that’s past us, really please don’t worry over it..”

I shake both of my hands in front of me. I don’t know about you all but to us it’s already something in the past. Honestly speaking, I don’t think anything of it more than a bit of materials to let us have the advantage.

“And also, we were only able to rescue two people, one other we were too late for and had already passed away, the remaining one I wonder is still in the dungeon?”

I continued as if it was quite unfortunate.

“Putting aside Bogu who still hasn’t returned, we feel nothing but gratitude for even going to the trouble of carrying Yuriel’s remains out.”

Zemyunel said that lowering his head. That’s why I said, it’s already over. It’s already more than enough being thanked once.

“Ha..”

I shrugged my shoulders and lightly lowered my head.

“And then, that is..We also heard that you’re allowing us to use the shower facilities in the teleport room on the 5th floor as well. It’s a great help.”

Koritto said. And right after he faced his wife and nodded.

“Of course, we also intend to bring in someone to observe the facilities and make sure there’s no damage to them. The reason we came today other than to say our thanks was to report and receive permission for that.”

Meiria said that and lowered her head to me. Seeing that the other members of {Sun Ray} also lowered their heads. It was then that the same bean tea I’m drinking was carried out and placed in front of them.

I guess this is what Miduchi just ordered from the waiter.

“Well, please have some tea.”

After saying that I finally sipped some of the bean tea in front of me. The members of {Sun Ray} said “Thank you very much.” and started drinking some too.

“..Of course your welcome. Since it’s difficult to continue to maintain it with just us after all. Obviously please feel free to use it as you need.”

Yeah, it’s great that saving them for cheap change didn’t end up becoming a waste. Hearing my response not only the members of {Sun Ray} but the members of {Slaughterers} seemed relieved as well. Certainly there was also the possibility of a breakdown with {Sun Ray} as well.

“Meiria, we’re saved that Greed-san is a good person right.”

“Yeah, really.. Greed-san even though you’re young you’re quite splendid.”

“That’s why I said it right? He’s fine.”

Harurein cut into the conversation of the Laios couple saying that. Miduchi is looking directly over here.

“That really seems to be the case.”

“Yeah. It’s just as Zemyunel and the others said.”

After that we roughly exchanged information on our schedules for exploring the dungeon and they left the store.

I took one glance at the members of {Slaughterers} and then looked at

Miduchi.

Miduchi just lightly nodded. I see.

“Shall we change locations? Come to my room.”

I said that and left the store.

On the way back Miduchi secretly whispered in my ear.

“They were only lying about a small portion. The time when they called you a “good person” or said you were “splendid”.”

Hmph, as expected. I bet they just think I’m softhearted idiot brat or something. Though if it’s that then there’s no problem.

.....

When we entered our rooms in “Boil Manor” I told Zulu, Angela, and Giberuti, “We’re going to have an important conversation about magic. Keep an eye out and don’t let anyone near the room.” and only us reincarnated people and Zenom entered the room.

“Explain to everyone about your Unique Ability. It might be good to test it out as well.”

I said to Miduchi and pushed her on.

“My Unique Ability is called {Party-ization}. When I use this, a number equal to the level of my Unique Ability can be organized into a unit which makes it easy to get into contact with each other through me. Though the contact itself is one-way from my side but the members of the unit are capable of telling the direction and distance of other members, in other words it’s possible to comprehend each other’s locations. It’s valid as long as you’re on the same floor in the dungeon. Since my {Party-ization} level is 6 right now, excluding me up to 7 people, including me a total of 8 people can be included in the unit.”

Hearing that everyone showed expressions of admiration.

“Koloil-san, please put out your hand.”

Miduchi said that and Bel stretched out her hand to Miduchi.

“There’s only one condition on this Unique Ability. I can only use it on people

who recognize me as a friend. Please open your heart to me and focus on me.”

...

As a matter of fact I was worried.

If no one here had opened their hearts to Miduchi then the only one {Party-ization} could be used on is me. In that case it would be meaningless unless we split up the party in two groups.

I thought it would be best to wait for a bit for her to blend into the group and then it wouldn't be too late to make a decision on revealing it but Miduchi refused that.

“..Thank goodness. Thank you very much.”

Miduchi smiled as she was happy.

“..Ah..Yeah. I can tell. Certainly. This is, amazing!”

I put my hand to my chest and breathed a sigh of relief.

“M..Me, please add me next.”

Toris volunteered. Just the same way Miduchi touched Toris's hand.

“..Oh..So this is how it feels. Excuse me for a moment.”

Toris left the room. I'm sure he wants to test it out.

“Ah, Yeah. Toris is probably around the stairs right now? Ah, he's going down..”

If you think about the size of the building it seems surprising that you can tell right away.

“Me too! I want to test it as well.”

Gwine stood up. Miduchi smiled and took Gwine's hand.

“..Ah, aa~ thi..this is convenient. How far of a distance can you tell?”

“I don't know precisely but I think it's roughly 50 Km or so. The direction you can roughly estimate from an even further distance though.”

“Fumu, if that's true then even if we separated on the 6th floor we might be able to manage..Here, try it on me as well.”

Miduchi smiled seeing Zenom stretch his hand out and after taking his hand they exchanged glances.

“..Ho~ that Toris, he’s already all the way over there..”

Zenom made a wide smile while looking at Bel, Gwine, and Ralpa.

“Ralpa-san as well, here, please do.”

Ralpa approached Miduchi. Since Ralpa is an idiot and she’s fundamentally easy towards allies there shouldn’t be a problem. However you know~ For everyone to trust Miduchi this much already, isn’t that a problem?

“Yeah..is this fine?”

“Yeah.”

She took the hand Ralpa stretched out and they’re looking at each other.

...

.....

Hey.

Hey, it can’t be.

It can’t be, no, maybe that’s fine?

“..Sorry. Somehow it seems like it’s no good.”

“No way..please open up your heart to me. Please focus your awareness on me!”

Miduchi’s eyebrows raised up a bit as she was troubled. That’s why I said it. Though it was a much better result than I thought but in reverse for it to only be Ralpa alone...Though I did say if she was going to do it she should start with Bel or Ralpa.

“Just stop already.”

“But..”

Miduchi didn’t want to give up it seems.

“Stop.”

She finally let go of her hand. Ralpa said "Sorry." and returned to her seat. Bel, Gwine, and Zenom are looking at Ralpa. In reverse Ralpa is giving off a mood like she can't endure it.

"Ralpa, don't worry about it. There's no way it's that easy to become friends from the start. Frankly putting it I was against it. Though if you were to ask for the opposite reason. I thought that no one would have accepted Miduchi..These damn softies."

Zenom, Bel, and Gwine shrugged their shoulders.

"Softhearted, that's wrong. It's because she's an acquaintance of Al-san, and we're going to be together from now on.."

Even then Gwine made some complaints while looking displeased.

"Certainly it might be as Al said, we might have taken it a bit too easy."

Zenom said a bit awkwardly but I'm sure he's being careful for Ralpa.

"Miduchi, call Toris back. In a way everyone can tell."

After being told by me Miduchi hanged her head down disheartened and replied with a "Yes." Zenom, Bel, and Gwine flinched. Come to think of it, I'm, not in the party. It was a waste of MP while were in the fairy village so I had her stop it. Well, it's fine though.

"Ho!"

"Ah!"

"This is!"

Only Ralpa is looking uncomfortable. As a matter of fact if it went well on everyone I had intended to explain it as magic and have her test it on the slaves as well but it seems it would be best not to try it.

"I'll say one thing. Ralpa you didn't do anything wrong. Rather, I feel relieved there's at least one composed person in the group. Honestly, I even thought it would be a bit of a problem if Ralpa easily was able to enter the unit"

I take a breath and then continue.

"Ralpa, calmly seeing through things is a virtue. You've grown. I'm relieved I was able to confirm there's one decent person."

It's something to welcome that Ralpa was unexpectedly composed. I had intended to be looking at Ralpa with eyes filled with kindness but,

"Yeah.."

and she just said that without looking over here. This girl. I almost never do something like praising you.

"There's no way Miduchi could trust everyone from the start either right? Don't get depressed over it."

"Yes.."

Really these two, do you really like looking at your knees that much? Look over here.

Zenom, Toris, Bel, Gwine, and me. At the very least including Miduchi a unit organization of six people is possible. There's nothing to be so depressed over. In the first place I know Ralpa well. Though she does have some rash parts as well but fundamentally she's not that stupid.

"Now then, around where is Toris right now?"

"It's just as he's entering the inn."

"That's right."

"Yeah."

"I see, then once Toris returned the continuation..and, Miduchi can you tell Toris to bring some beans for bean tea?"

We need to test how much can be conveyed as well. Today should be good for experimenting.

"Ah, yes."

Miduchi is still making a troubled expression as she looks at me.

"It's no good. I think I was probably only able to convey to him to bring something along."

So nouns are no good? It might be no good unless we thing up some sort of code based on the things that can be issued. Come to think of it, she's used {Party-ization} until it reached level 6.

If it's just this level then there's no way she wouldn't know it.

“Hn, if we can understand that much then it’s fine.”

Toris returned right away.

“No~ this is really convenient. I can roughly figure out everyone’s location. If it’s this then even if we get separated in the dungeon it might not become a big problem.”

Toris is saying it while excited but after calling Zulu and the others into the room and I had him quiet down and take a seat.

“With this I think you’ve roughly gotten an understanding of Miduchi’s spell. And with that. Thanks to teaming up with Miduchi this time, we’ve finally reached 10 people. I think you already know but we can’t easily increase our members anymore than this. However, as expected I don’t think we’ll run into anymore so easily but if we can hit it off with reincarnated people then if possible we’ll increase them and if there’s a combat slave who can skillfully use the shield then I’ll definitely buy them. It’s not practicing in advance but while we’re exploring the dungeon tomorrow I intend to split our party into two groups.”

When I declared that and while everyone was surprised for the first moment they all quieted down and started saying “isn’t that fine after we increase them?”

“That’s no good. Even if I say we’re splitting up it’ll be you all and then me alone. And, I intend to gather up for the 6th floor and explore it with everyone. Starting from now we need to get used to as much combat as possible without me. I’ll leave the command of everyone to Zenom. Toris you act as the assistant.”

I said it as coldly as I could but as expected Zulu and Angela were fiercely against it. Saying “There’s no way we can leave master alone.” Since I figured one of them would try to stick to me I guess one person is fine. Since Miduchi is here as well, as long as they don’t try to do anything too unreasonable they should be fine.

“It can’t be helped. Then Zulu and Angela you two alternate accompanying me. We’ll meet up with the other 8 people in the teleport room of each floor.

When everyone has gathered together we'll teleport to the next floor. Zenom, Toris, proceed carefully."

After that time passed by as we went over the fine details and decided on the code for {Party-ization}.

Even during dinner both Ralpha and Miduchi somehow didn't seem very energetic. They were sitting in seats away from each other as well. I'm sure there's nothing but time that can resolve this. If she explores the dungeon with Miduchi a number of times I'm sure Ralpha will start to trust her.

I optimistically thought that while chewing a pork skewer and drinking some beer.

Chapter 156: Daily Life in the Dungeon

Year 7444, Month 9, Day 3

I watch as my allies disappear from in front of my eyes while holding the teleport crystal rod in the entrance of the dungeon.

After confirming that Zulu and I teleported to the 1st floor. Oh? We're quite a bit of distance away.

I confirm the map and check the route before Zulu and I started forward.

"Zulu, let's arrive there before them. We're hurrying."

"Yes!"

I've passed through it so many times, I know the 1st floor like it's my own yard. Since the completion rate of our map is high as well, since it's a route I know there's no need to worry about traps either. It seems that they're moving a reasonable speed as well.

We crushed five monster rooms (by the stink bug) and arrived at the center teleport room just before 8 am. Since we entered around 5:30 am that means we cleared in about 2 hours. After waiting for about 30 minutes and Zenom and the others arrived.

"After resting for about 30 minutes let's head to the 2nd floor. Zulu, alternate with Angela."

While we were taking a break a party I don't know teleported to the 2nd floor.

We cleared through the 2nd floor without problem before 1 pm and ended up waiting in the teleport room of the 2nd floor. If I think carefully about it I've only entered the dungeon alone with Angela, Zulu, and Miduchi. On our next break, it might be good to tell Zulu and Angela the rough details about everyone's Unique Abilities while we're in the dungeon. I remembered from Unique Abilities but I wonder what ever happened to the expansion ability on Toris's Scale at level 9? I feel like Ralpha's will somehow be useful though.

On the 3rd floor I teamed up with Zulu again and rushed ahead. Since we

were only taking the magic stones from the bosses of monster rooms we're quite fast. Just past 4 pm in the afternoon we arrived in the teleport room on the 3rd floor.

Today we'll camp here.

I managed to secure a place ahead of time. I tried asking Zenom and the others during dinner and it seems they didn't have very much trouble either. That's good.

Since Miduchi joined the group, I changed the rotation for keeping lookout. One person doesn't have to keep lookout each day and can sleep until morning the same as Giberuti. Since it was the first time I was the one who ended up resting. Though I've gotten used it, being in the dungeon still wears away at your nerves and along with that it exhausts your stamina as well so I fell asleep right away. Going off of the rotation Miduchi and Ralpa will end up keeping lookout together on the day after tomorrow.

It would be good if she can at least unravel Ralpa's caution(?) a bit but nothing will come of rushing it. It's fine even if it takes six months to a year. Rather if it takes that long then the other members who are getting the experience bonus effect from Unit Organization might catch up to how much extra experience Ralpa has.

.....

Year 7444, Month 9, Day 4

Without any particular problems we were able to arrive at the teleport room of the 5th floor. The thing I was worried about was in the case someone hits a room with an altar but in the first place they almost never appear (as far as we know there's only 9 rooms on the 5th floor) so it can't be helped getting too neurotic over it, is what I decided to think. Miduchi can't use her MP as efficiently as me but elemental magic level 5 isn't just for show. If it's a thickness of about 50 cm then she can freeze an area of about 8 meters in every direction. Putting aside the insanely strong special bosses of certain rooms, if it's just a normal room boss (though calling them normal is a strange way of putting it) or the opponents that come out in the halls then they're no

challenge. It uses 10 MP every time she uses the ice but as long as she holds the handle of the magic sword she can recover it in 40 minutes.

She can even use it consecutively making use of her large amount of MP. I doubt she'll fall behind so easily. We were able to establish that even if we split our party we're still plenty able to line up with the top teams.

Incidentally, with the increased number of members in the Unit Organization I thought I would be able to see the bonus to ability values with Identify but I wasn't able to see them. Since it's a proficiency bonus after all they don't seem to be the type that increases the maximum value.

One night passes and it's the next morning. Today I'm last on the rotation for keeping lookout, from 4 am to 6 am. My partner is Toris. I was woken up by Bel and Zulu as I rub my eyes and then wash my face with some cold water, then Toris and I took turns taking a piss in the hall. The trick to creating a good urinal is to create about one bucket of dirt ahead of time and have it sink in a bit. Use it as a reference for something.

Toris and I, the two of us are sitting with our backs to the teleport crystal in the center of the room while talking to kill time.

"Please leave Ralpa to me. Or rather please leave it to Bel to manage things. Rather than the surroundings saying too much it's best to let the two themselves settle things on their own."

"Yeah, that's right."

I know that. And somehow Bel has taken up the central position managing the women's side of things. In some meanings even the men occasionally are overawed by the strange force or pressure she emits as well. If we had everyone state their true feelings we'd probably all say, "It's seriously bad if you anger Bernadette.Koloil." Of course, it's not a joke but I think they really think that just as it sounds.

The source of her power is the God-like archery skills and the spells supported by an abundance of mana but I think what's really feared is her personality. While she has those lovely rabbit ears and a beauty which doesn't fall behind elves making it understandable she was Miss Campus, those glamorous curves that are characteristic of Rabbit-people, and a body which is tense from the

exercise. If you just look at her outer appearance it's plenty to be called close to perfect but sometimes the glances she gives to people outside of our allies are like ice. The words that feel like they don't have an ounce of mercy at those times leaves a strong rational impression.

Though it's not like she's really that cold, she's quite warm in her interactions with allies. Particularly her lover Toris she's all over. Though she does get distracted if he falls into danger as well. I've given Miduchi a simple explanation but since she hasn't gotten an actual feel for it yet she probably don't know Bel's true nature. On the contrary Ralpa knows really~ well. On the surface they might seem like nothing more than equal friends but I think deep below Bel has a firm hold at the base of Ralpa's tail.

Particularly since she didn't show those sorts of things on the surface much until we grouped up with Toris, but after they joined us I think Bel is the one who changed the most. I don't know if meeting him again was the chance, her disposition was originally like that and it just came to the surface, it's difficult to make a decision on but the "naivety" that I felt from her at the start the same as Ralpa disappeared.

Honestly speaking, even if it benefits my goal, for example if it was something like burning down an entire village, I think I would hesitate. I think I would devote all my consideration to trying to find a different method to arrive at the same result. However, I'm sure she would burn it down without batting an eyelid. If it was an outsider village. Ah, of course, I think she would at least give them a warning to evacuate.

"In the first place I had no intention of meddling in it. However, honestly speaking, I thought it would be pretty low in possibility that there would be difficult feelings between Ralpa and Miduchi. I thought the first one Miduchi would cause something with would be Bel. If they hit heads I thought some sparks would come off, but after something temporary they would get along right away."

"A dispute over leadership?"

Toris grinned while saying it. I'm sure he was thinking the same thing as me.

"Well yeah. But, I thought it would end up as anything conclusive. She may

look like that but Miduchi's carrying a variety of problems. She was 30 before she reincarnated but originally she never had that outgoing or forward of a personality, since it seems like a large portion of her problems were swept away right now the feelings of release are probably stronger. And even if we mention a dispute over leadership, what the leadership is regarding, I thought those two would realize the direction is different right away and wouldn't be a problem even if they did dispute it for a bit."

"I see."

You see? does he really get it, this guy? Well I'm sure he understands it reasonably though.

"Toris, learn as much as you can from Zenom. Since it's for your own sake."

"..Yes...That's true."

While we were talking about things like this time passed by.
It should be about time for Giberuti to get up and start preparing breakfast.

.....

Year 7444, Month 9, Day 5

"Alright, let's go."

Leaving Giberuti and the camp site, the nine of us grabbed on to the teleportation crystal. In regards to the teleport traps on the 6th floor I don't know which of {Find.Trap}, {Detect.Snare}, or {Perceive.Pitfall} might be effective but if that's a type of trap then it should get caught in one of them.

Just right it's an area that we've come to before, moreover, it's a path that has a forked passage we haven't gone down yet.

Just before the teleport trap that we had confirmed previously I'll have Miduchi use the spell {Find.Trap}.

"Miduchi, there should be a teleport trap pretty soon, use {Find.Trap}."

"Yes."

""Eh?""

Surprise.

“I can’t see anything.”

““Eh?””

Disappointment.

“Then, try using {Detect.Snare} and {Perceive.Pitfall}.”

“Yes.”

““Eh?””

Surprise again.

“I think it’s the stones? on both sides of the passage ahead of here. I can see one pair of something like that. I don’t think they’re more than 100 meters away.”

““Eh?””

Admiration. Shut~up.

“Miduchi can use spells to discover traps. I intend to learn from her as well. However, since all of the spells require elemental magics at level 4 or 5 it seems, so it’s on hold for you all.”

Occasionally there’s passages that stretch out straight ahead 1 Km or so in the dungeon. Though it’s only when we use the spell it’s big that we can perceive the traps that our in sight. If we’re in an unknown area then we can quickly and safely explore through it while just remaining cautious of the monsters.

This day we were able to fill in a single new area on our map. It’s the same results as usual. Though it felt like we were able to shorten the time feeling-wise. If everyone’s magic levels go up and they’re able to use these magics I wonder if our speed will increase even more? No, if I just learn them then I feel like that should be plenty to increase our pace.

Partially as an experiment Miduchi tried pouring mana only into the spell to detect traps. Along the way when her mana recovered I had her use it as much as possible. Even then she was only able to use it a total of 16 times. I guess it uses quite a bit of MP. However, thanks to that we were able to figure out a variety of things. How do I put it, if you were to ask the traps with a complex structure often get caught in {Find.Trap} and the simple structured traps get

caught in {Detect.Snare} and {Perceive.Pitfall}. Of course there are exceptions as well. Even though the pitfalls were a simple structure but for some reason they didn't get caught in either {Detect.Snare} or {Perceive.Pitfall}. Isn't it completely failing to live up to it's name?

Yesterday Zenom was removed from the rotation and able to sleep the entire night. Today is the day Toris sleeps all night. And, today is the first day Miduchi and Ralpa keep lookout together as well. It should be from midnight until 2 am. I'm the very first lookout. I keep lookout together with Angela from 10 pm until midnight. After everyone else took their showers I wait for Angela to come out of her shower while watching Giberuti clean up after dinner. Incidentally, it seems that Giberuti eloquently managed to receive the types of mushrooms Miduchi had brought along.

It somehow seems that Giberuti is still doing some kind of preparations other than cleaning up. He's putting lard into a pot and turning on the heat, creating a large amount of oil. He put a number of duck legs into it and after putting some powered black truffle in, he's stirring it up. I guess he's boiling it slowly over a low flame so it doesn't reach a high temperature? It's giving off a good scent. Ah, Ralpa is looking at the pot. Don't lose to your gluttony. Your time to sleep will run out.

"Master, what is Larry doing?"

"It's probably preparations for tomorrow. I think he's probably making confit."

"There's a strangely good scent for confit..Is it that mushroom!"

"Yeah, I saw him put some in just now."

I glanced to the side at Angela as she sat down next to me. Her red hair is still wet. Though her clothes seem a bit second-hand they're still neat clothes so she gives off a clean feel.

"It's a good scent right. Master chose a good person."

She closes her eyes and twitches her nose with an ecstatic expression while saying. Incidentally Giberuti is also spellbound with it. I think the tongues of my two mongrel's have grown too fat. However, these two mongrel's are too picky

with their food. It's not particularly like they say selfish things like this is bad or they don't want it but their attitudes when eating things they think are delicious is far too different from normal so it's easy to tell. The only ones that picky with their food than Giberuti and Angela are Ralpa and I. Ah, though I guess Ralpa is just a glutton. Putting that aside, just because he's cooking something delicious she says, "you picked a good person." it's like she doesn't care at all about his personality. Though I'm sure it really doesn't matter.

Around the time for us to switch shifts Giberuti finally finished his preparations and laid down. Thanks for your hard work.

We woke up Miduchi and Ralpa and Angela and I jumped into our blankets. It's in bad taste to listen in so I'll go right to sleep. Get along together, you two.

.....

Year 7444, Month 9, Day 6

We had to repeat teleporting twice but we finally teleported to an area we've never been before. Before we teleported Miduchi touched me, Zenom, Toris, Bel, and Gwine to create a party. She went to touch Ralpa as well but Ralpa refused with an apologetic face. Miduchi was making a miserable face as well. I guess it was no good.

While we were exploring I casually tried checking Ralpa's state but I couldn't see anything unusual. It's painful that we can't have secret conversations while in the dungeon. Of course we can whisper a bit so the details aren't known without problem but you can't hide the fact that you're secretly talking itself. Putting aside playing around and pretending it's a joke, if Miduchi and I were to start having a secret conversation I'm sure everyone would become conscious of it. It's definitely no good to try and talk secretly with Miduchi inside of the dungeon.

Well, it's nothing to worry too much about. I'm sure the only thing that will solve it is time.

This day we were able to fill in a considerably long course on the map.

Along the way, while we were having lunch I remembered the confit that Giberuti was making preparations for last night. Come to think of it, that didn't

come out this morning or in the lunch just now. Maybe since it's preserved food it won't come out for a while longer.

Tonight I'm together with Zulu from midnight until 2 am. The one excluded from the rotation is Bel.

.....

Year 7444, Month 9, Day 7

After being woken up for our turn on keeping lookout, Zulu and I sat down on the bench while listening to Ralph's snoring.

She's sleeping so comfortably. Since it pissed me off I tried poking her head. She went silent.

"Master, what would be the best way for me to refer to Chizumagurol-san?"

"Eh? Isn't it fine if you just call her however you please?"

"That is no good. If you're going to marry her in the future then it's strange to start referring to her as the madam now, and saying Midu~ritto-sama is, umm, isn't that being too familiar?"

He sure pays attention to some weird points.

"Then isn't Miduchi fine. The person herself said that's fine after all."

"However, it's not an abbreviation, but a simple nickname right? Isn't that rude?"

Even if you tell me something like that, I don't care. In the first place you're above in age so I think nickname or whatever is fine. Ah, if Miduchi and I were to get married then Zulu a part of my fortune could end up being inherited by Miduchi if I pass away. Since we'll have been together for quite a bit of time by then it might be difficult to suddenly call her master..or not really.

"Then just call her Chizumagurol like normal. In regards to honorifics...if you want to add one then feel free."

"I understand. And I know it's presumptuous but is it okay to ask one thing?"

"Hn, ah? What is it?"

I replied while moving my left leg on top of my right leg to cross them.

"I have no intention of commenting on master's decision but please take into consideration your lineage. An heir provides stability for us of the lower class."

"..That's rushing things quite a bit."

"What kind of things are you saying? We aren't doubting master's success at all. In that case then a proper heir is an important problem."

Ah, I guess so.

"You know, I'm glad you're willing to say that though. I still haven't even properly thought about marriage yet. And an heir, you, there's a limit to even too rushing things. I'm still 16 you know. Obviously Miduchi is as well."

"Eh.."

Huh? Did I say something strange?

"Isn't Chizumagurol-sama a dark elf?"

"Yeah."

"Master, if you don't know then please remember. If it's not with the same race then it's extremely difficult to have children. I won't say it's completely impossible but.."

Ah, so he was worrying about that end. Lilus mentioned that even if reincarnated people are of different races they can have children. Though I don't know if that probability is the same as two of the same race, or just a bit better than normal. I guess I never mentioned that conversation to Zulu. Something like if it's between reincarnated people then even if they're of different races, for a person normally living their life it's cheating quite a bit so I guess I remained silent on it. I don't think there's any problem even if I talk about it but it's not anything I need to talk about either.

"I'll think about something like that when it comes to that time. It's still too soon now. Rather than that what about you. Are things going well with the Laios sis at "Murowa"? If you say you want to get married~ then it's fine if I buy her. Of course only if that sis accepts it as well."

"No..No way, it's still too soon, for me as well."

No, it's not soon at all.

“Well if you ever feel up for it just say something, I won’t particularly be against it. However, children are still no good. Restrain yourself at least until I have my own territory.”

“Ah, ye..yes, of course.”

I’m sure this guy was trying to tell me to search for a human woman. Well it’s not a bad conversation however I don’t even have 1 mm of that kind of leeway right now. Ralpa? Don’t be an idiot. She’s a stink bug that was snoring like that until just a moment ago. Her looks might not be half bad but she’s so loud I wouldn’t be able to sleep together with her.

After that we continued keeping lookout until our time was up and after going back to sleep once more, I woke up to the breakfast Giberuti made as usual and then received a bento.

I don’t know if it was because she slept well but Ralpa’s mood was good from the morning.

Be grateful to my greatness, I fixed your breathing impediment.

.....

Once again today we chose an unexplored area to teleport into. We luckily managed to find an altar room as well.

We wiped out the gargoyles and the 10 summoned {Cave Drone Beetle}s and with high hopes peeked into the shrine.

【Humidifier】
【Beech Wood.Iron】
【State: Good】
【Manufacture Date: 7/9/7444】
【Value: 10000000】
【Endurance: 246】
【Ability: Air moisture 17.3g/m³ every one hour 5m³ production;180 value/1 day】
【Effect: Humidification of the surrounding air.】

..This, is it really worth this much value? I guess it could have some meaning for heating in the winter. For the time being it goes in the warehouse.

.....

Year 7444, Month 9, Day 8

Today I'm on lookout from 2 am to 4 am. My partner for today is Gwine. Today is the day Miduchi can sleep plenty. After picking up the role from Ralpa and Bel, Gwine and I started our lookout shift. We've been in the dungeon for almost a full week today, after we finish exploring today we're returning to the surface.

"Al-san. Is it fine to ask a bit of something?"

"Hn? What is it?"

"When are you planning to get married?"

Oh~ beard-san~ you too?

"..No idea. Something like that. Even if we do it will be quite a while in the future I'm sure. Well it's not like I don't get you guys being interested in it but I'm not in that much of a hurry and that was just Miduchi getting ahead of herself."

"Hm~n..but, why is it Miduchi-san?"

"It's not like we didn't originally know each other and she was in love with me since the past after all..I've been together with her for a reasonably long time as well, there's feelings too. She's been carrying along a variety of problems since she reincarnated until just a while ago. When most of those things we're resolved I guess we were just drawn to each other. Though there's times when she says weird things, she's fundamentally a good person. Try to get along with her."

Somehow I feel like I've had the same conversation a number of times recently. It can't be helped though.

"No, it's not particularly like I'm complaining about it. I think that I would like to get along with Miduchi-san as well.."

Yeah, please do that. It's a big help.

"Ralpa huh? Don't worry about it. It's not like Ralpa did anything wrong. Of course~ even I'm happy that everyone accepted Miduchi. However, even if it's

someone that I brought along, isn't it difficult to completely accept her before you get to know her at all? Ralpa was just calm."

"Do you seriously think that?"

..Isn't she misunderstanding something? Since Gwine is together with Ralpa the most I thought she understood Ralpa a bit more than this.

"That's right. Ralpa is a good fellow. We've already been together for over two years so that's only obvious though. My heart isn't so vast that I could spend two years together with someone who's unpleasant. But you know, don't misunderstand. The only one who Ralpa opened her heart up to from the start was you, Gwine. Whether it be me, or Bel, it's not like she got along with us like now from the start. Since there were the circumstances we met Bel under I think she tried to be careful to act kind but I don't think she suddenly opened her heart up to her. Though there's times when she says idiotic things as well, she's generally pretty level-headed."

".."

What is it, those eyes?

"I don't know Al-san anymore."

She got angry and is facing the other way. Ha~a, how bothersome~
..Orya.

I used the {Cantrip} pulling to lightly pull on Gwine's beard. It's still not long enough to braid.

"Ehi~!! Really, what are you doing."

"Gwine sure is kind. Ralpa is my precious, friend. Please think about Ralpa from here on as well."

I lowered my head to Gwine as she turned around and entrusted it to her.

"Even, if you didn't say it like that I would, Ralpa is my friend after all."

That's right isn't it.

On the last day the confit came out. For breakfast and in our bento. The confit that had been maturing inside of the hardened lard for a few days was extremely delicious along with the scent of black truffles. The bento had

sandwiches of lard with bits of black truffles mixed in spread on bread with confit in between as well. It seems pretty high in calories but if it's just this level of calories then we'll consume them in stamina.

Ralpha was delighted as she ate them.

Chapter 157: Family Time

Year 7444, Month 9, Day 9

Yesterday evening we returned from the dungeon and starting today we have three consecutive days off. Just as usual I went and did my running and just as I was about to head towards the dungeon I suddenly realized. If I think carefully about it I was planning to use this holiday to increase my mastery with {Find.Trap}, {Detect.Snare}, and {Perceive.Pitfall}. Though it's just forcing Miduchi to use the magic like crazy as reference in front of the appropriate traps on the 1st floor. However, there's no real need to pay money to go into the dungeon just to investigate traps with a spell.

I borrowed a hoe from an old commoner man who was doing farm work outside of the town and had Zulu dig a pitfall. I had Miduchi look at it and check the relationship of the traps while I practiced the two spells but the pitfall Zulu dug could only be seen with {Detect.Snare} and {Perceive.Pitfall}. We tried making a trap with grass that catches on to your leg but this didn't get any reaction from {Find.Trap} either. It's the opposite from the pitfalls on the 6th floor. Though I feel like this is more correct, I wonder why?

However, if it's like this then we can't use {Find.Trap}. No, since I've actually seen Miduchi use it right in front of me, it's not as if I can't use it but it'll take time. I wonder what they did during Karl's training? Since I found it strange I tried asking and it seems they practiced using something like a small crossbow with a string connected to the trigger. Hearing that I thought some extremely rude things like, "Eh? They're all naked, do they even have something like string." and "So they use tools."

Since there were trees and shrubs growing in the fairy village and if they can use spells that well then they could easily gather some metal as well. If I think about it like that then I'm sure there's no problem with making things like a crossbow or bolts.

For the first few times, I looked at Miduchi's state and once it seemed like there was no problem, I released Zulu and Miduchi, they can do whatever they please for today. After this there's no problem even if I'm alone. Close to lunch the number of times I had used the spell was over 100 and I had gotten used to it to the point where it only took a bit over 10 seconds to activate. I still have over 5000 MP in leeway remaining. As expected buying a crossbow just for the sake of practicing with a spell is...There's not that many of them but there's the {alarm} traps on the 1st floor as well. I guess I'll try testing it on that.

I returned to "Boil Manor" just in time for lunch and after putting on my protectors, since it was troublesome I just put my sword on my waist and after grabbing my map I left right away. I had some skewers for lunch at the entrance plaza and then entered the dungeon. I ended up having to repeat teleporting a number of times but I was luckily able to teleport into an area with an {alarm} trap. It took until close to evening but I was able to practice using the spell {Find.Trap} over 100 times. Of course, even if there's no trap it's possible to practice it. However, it's easier to understand if the result shows in front of your eyes.

The alarm trap from a glance resembles the pitfall. If you step on a large board camouflaged with dirt and an alarm starts ringing out from somewhere. The moment I used the spell {Find.Trap} the camouflaged board looked red. The appearance itself is the same as {Detect.Snare} and {Perceive.Pitfall}.

After eating dinner I learned {Detect.Charm}, {Detect.Lie}, {Detect.Life}, {Dispel.Illusion}, and {Dispel.Magic} from Miduchi. For the time being I've become able to use them but I need to properly increase the number of times. There's no choice other than to find the chance and practice them.

.....

Year 7444, Month 9, Day 17

Around 5 in the evening, when I returned from the dungeon there was a message at the inn. It seems that today around noon, when I was still inside of the dungeon older brother and the others stopped by the inn. After reading the message without eating dinner with everyone or changing, I just threw my

change of clothes into my saddle bag, piled it onto my horse and then flew off to my company in the capital. After all delivering condoms to the royal family is my job. I'm quite busy this month.

Everyone thought it was strange that I ran out of the inn in a panic so they asked the reason but when I replied that after older brother and the others arrive I have to go to the castle for deliveries, they all understood.

While I was gone to the capital, with Miduchi as the teacher, I had Toris, Bel, Ralpa, and Gwine learn {Detect.Life} and {Dispel.Illusion}. I particularly gave instructions that {Detect.Life} was important, when I gave a simple explanation of the effect everyone understood. Just in case I explained to Miduchi everyone's MP amount and the amount of MP the spell uses so I'm sure she'll be careful of running out of mana.

Furthermore, due reasons relating to the magic skill level even Ralpa and Bel can't use {Dispel.Magic} yet so this is on hold. Due to reasons relating to the elemental magic they have Toris and Gwine can't use {Detect.Life}. The only one that they were all capable of using was {Dispel.Illusion} which only requires void magic.

I arrived at the company around 6 pm in the evening. I rolled in while panting but it seems like I made it in time.

As expected of the war horse that older brother used. Though it was just around 10 km, it didn't make anything of the hills of the outer crater and arrived in a short 40 minutes.

It seems it was just as everyone was about to go for dinner. They were all in front of the company closing up shop.

"Sorry, I was late!"

"Hey~ staying healthy?"

A nostalgic face greeted me.

"I'm healthy. Quite lively. Father, mother, it's been a while."

"You've grown a bit taller."

The ones who came wasn't just older brother but father and mother as well.

It seems they felt guilty for just pushing deliveries on older brother lately. And since they already handed over the nobility to older brother, it's not good that the lord is outside of the territory so often, so from here on out it will be brother, my parents, or depending on the case even sister-in-law who is leading the caravan as well.

"Al, we're about to go for dinner. I need to reward the squires and there's the Ryogu family who have been giving it their best away from the village here in the capital as well. And since it seems that Yotlen and the others are working quite hard as well. I'm feeding everyone something good as my treat today."

Oh~ that sounds good! Come to think of it I can see Ruku's face as well. Dianne seems a bit embarrassed. I'm sure tonight will be quite fun.

"Hn, so Al came? Then it should be fine for me to go too right?"

Older brother opened the door of the company headquarters and stuck his face out. I had some sweat dripping down as I didn't understand the meaning.

"Yeah, that's true. Let's do that."

Huh?

"Then, since that's the case, I'm saved Al. We've carried all of the luggage into the storm. Make sure it's not stolen. I'm counting on you. And, our carriage and horses are at the workshop."

"A, Ah.."

Older brother gathered back up with everyone while making a good smile. It would have been good if I brought along Zulu.

"Al, don't make that sort of face. Endure it for tonight. Mill is staying overnight at the workshop. We'll come back later."

"Yeah.."

I should have brought not just Zulu but Angela as well.

Seeing everyone call my parents the master and madam, Yotlen and her daughters must have felt quite tense as they dealt with them. I don't know if they pitied jsut leaving me alone here, or they were just trying to show reservation on bringing three small children to a restaurant (probably) but they

said they would remain. However, I turned that offer down. If my parents are thanking everyone then it's only obvious that sister, brother, and myself end up helping out. It's not like tomorrow is too late after all.

Three hours later, it seems things ended as Dianne and the others returned. Since this is their home as well it's only obvious it would be strange if they didn't come back but I couldn't see Ruku. I was worried they might have gotten into a fight but it seems they want to let parent and child spend as much time as they can without outsiders before the wedding, or at least that was my parents idea. After Rozural heard the inn everyone was staying at I got on my horse and headed towards the workshop.

When I was about to tie up my war horse on the side of the pack horse and carriage in the back and,

"Who is it?"

and a sharp voice asking my identity called out. Oh, so you weren't asleep.

"It's me."

"Al?"

"Yeah."

"What's wrong? Weren't you inside of the dungeon?"

She asked a bit strange.

"I left this evening and received the message. And, I came over here in a hurry. Since it seems like dinner is over, it's time to alternate. I'll keep an eye out. It seems everyone is staying at "Perittsu". You know it right?"

"Oh, is that so? Then I'm going. Take care of things."

Show a bit of reservation...Though it's fine.

"Sister, what's doing on with the knight group for today?"

"Ah, since Whitney came after 4 pm, I had her wait until my job was over and I took the day off tomorrow. Commander Kendusu said it's fine if my parents are here and gave me permission. I came out with both of my arms open and waving."

Well, there's also the matter of the armor, I guess they couldn't help but go easy on her? I don't really know for sure though.

"I see. Then go ahead and go. I just saw their faces in the evening but sister probably hasn't seen them in quite a while. I think they'll be delighted."

"Yeah, see you later."

"Ah, we're meeting up tomorrow."

Sister got on my war horse and then started riding off, eh?

Change of clothes...

.....

Year 7444, Month 9, Day 18

After the night ends and the squires came to pick up the horse and carriage. I hopped into the empty load and traveled to the store. Everyone was already gathered at the store. After packing all of the boxes of armor into the load of the carriage we departed to make deliveries. Obviously I haven't forgotten the box of condoms either. During that time I finished changing and wore some neat clothes.

Just like usual we deliver the armor to the knight group and start taking measurements. During that time I went to deliver the condoms but the one who came out to deal with it was Morin. After all the King won't come huh? I'm sure he's busy so if you say it's only obvious that's true. What was unexpected was that Queen Molail hadn't heard anything from the King. Though we talked about recent affairs for a bit nothing seemed to have changed from last time at all. If he hasn't changed his interactions at all like I heard then that's fine, and something like that I'm sure even the Queen can do. I don't think there's any need to go that far for a person like me.

We quickly finished up the deliveries and then decided to go for some lunch. We took a different room from the squires at the store and just us five family had a meal together.

"Listen for a bit until the food is brought out."

Father said formally. What is it?

“On the 1st of this month Zetto and Becky turned five years old. Mill started her magic training just a bit after she turned five years old. I think it’s just right in terms of time. Once we return this time we’re going to start Zetto and Becky’s magic training.”

Ah, I see. They’ve already grown that much. Since I left the house when they were two and a half. I’m sure they don’t remember me anymore. It doesn’t even need to be said in regards to sister.

“There I wanted to make sure and ask Mill and Al first. The things you felt and the things that are best to be careful of, when you were first started training with magic, we thought if there was something it would be best to hear your opinions like this.”

That sort of thing huh?

“In that case..”

We talked for about an hour while having lunch with everyone in the family and I was satisfied being able to see my parent’s faces for the first time in a while.

“By the way, how long are father and the others going to be in the capital this time?”

I wanted to introduce everyone from the {Slaughterers}. There’s also the matter of the three slaves but also Miduchi as well.

“Yeah, we’re staying one more day for today but tomorrow morning, after we’re present for Ruku’s wedding, we’re returning home. However, it doesn’t seem like we’ll be able to stop by Baldukk. As a matter of fact, we stopped by Keel on our way here but it seems that early in the next year there’s another dispatch of troops. I was told they want to discuss it together with Farne on our way back..and at that time I’ll hand over my noble rank to Farne. There’s also the fixed date for that ceremony. Though we’ll end up putting off seeing the faces of your allies until the next time we come.”

“Early next year? Then I’ll probably be participating in that as well. Since it seems that Lord Kendusu is taking command..”

“Ue, so we’re going to be below Mill.. That’s crazy. I’m begging you to go easy

on us.”

“It’s not like I’m going to be the one taking command, brother. But, I see, so the Webdos knight group is coming..”

“I probably won’t go. In my place Shani will go though.”

..I’m sure Kuro and Mary will appear as well...However, if there’s that sort of circumstances then it can’t be helped. I’ll introduce them on the next occasion. I’m sure they’ll come again at the end of the year or the start of next year..or will they? If it’s early next year then I guess they won’t make it, even if they do it would just be for delivery of the armor, they must just drop off the luggage with me at Baldukk and then head quickly to the battlefield.

While getting roused up talking about the departure for the battle, if not just older brother but sister are going then I doubt there will be any casualties from Bakuddo so easily. If sister-in-law Shani is going then both her and sister can use {Cure Serious} and it might be possible that sister-in-law Shani can even use {Cure Critical}..I guess there’s no way that’s the case.

“Putting that aside, Al, it seems you’re putting quite a bit of effort into it. I’ve heard about it from Farne and everyone.”

The bearded face that was frightening in the face gently smiled.

“So you’re the number one adventurer in Baldukk? As expected of our son right. I’m proud of you.”

Mother caressed my head. Somehow I feel more happy than embarrassed.

“Yeah, what was it again? You’re being called that unpleasant name.”

Huh? You lookin’ down on me?

“It’s the {Slaughterers}. It seems they were called that because they kill every monster they encounter in the dungeon. Since all of the other adventurers normally just run around without fighting the monsters. It’s the perfect nickname for Al and his allies.”

As expected of brother..and I feel like I’ve heard that way of putting it somewhere.

“He~ so Al has a nickname. When adventurers are given a nickname it’s proof

of being first-rate. It's quite amazing."

"That's right. We never had something like that. I'm proud of you as well."

"I'm sure you're just happily killing some goblins right?"

This shitty bitch...

"There's no way that's the case. We're killing lots of bigger monsters!"

"He~ Orks or so? Or maybe gnolls?"

"Oh my, I would like to hear about Al's battle gains as well. What's the strongest opponent you've fought against up until now?"

Death=Tyrant.Kin...I don't have any proof. I guess the {Yellow Hand Roper}~ Ah, no, the {Flesh Golem} was pretty difficult as well.. the {Vampire} was only an instant after all...If we talk about the degree of how frantic it was, then the {Horned Bear} in the past was probably number one though...I guess anything is fine.

"The {Yellow Hand Roper} was considerably strong... If we had properly fought the {Vampire} things probably would have been dangerous."

""Wha!""

My parents echoed at the same time. It seems they know about it. I wonder if they've heard the name of it?

"Va..Vampire you say?"

Older brother is speechless as well.

"It's no good if you call {Vampire.Bats} as {Vampires}."

The idiot woman is trying to talk impudently but her eyes are swimming. Ehen.

"Al..after all you. Are you using magic seriously?"

"Nope."

I always have plenty of reserve as long as the ceilings are as low as they have been up until the 6th floor. Though at that time I might have to use magic with all my power. If I think about what would happen if I make a mistake in using it

then it's too frightening so I'd like to restrain myself though.

"How many different spells can you use?"

Sister asked with a serious face.

"That's my life line. I won't tell you, is what I'd like to say, but around 30 different types I guess. 20 types of attack spells, other than that, including healing type around 10 types."

If it's the ones I can use within 1 second at the standard levels, then up to cannon type I can use all attack spells. If it's up to 5 bullets then even up to {Trebuchet} type. If it's up to 5 bullets then {heavy catapult}. I can use them all with or without {missile} added. When it comes to {Azaheddo} type attack spells then I can use all of them standard ones known. {Lightning Bolt} and {Chain Lightning}, {Fire Ball}, {Ice Cone}, {Disintegrate}, then all the {Cloud} types with a decent amount of power in them I can use in about 1 second. I've only practiced {Grow Spike} up to 25 of them but I can use that in around 1 second as well...I've practiced {Anti-Magic Field} at varying levels a retarded amount so just the same as all of the healing types I can use them almost instantly. Of course, I can use the healing types on myself as well. In regards to the {remove} types I've practiced them quite a bit as well so I use most of them within 1–2 seconds. And, some high-grade spells that I really can't put into words as well. Even if we think of power and variations as different I think there's around 150 different types?

"..You, might be able to take on the army of the Kingdom alone."

"That's impossible. Even at best it would only go to around 100 people right."

Though I'm sure I can take out 1000 people plenty. If they gather crowded together in a small area then even more..

"Hi~ you really..Well it's fine. Somehow it's gotten idiotic. Even Marquis Dasurain only has skill levels that about the same as me.."

"Just like mother said, on days when I'm not always in the dungeon I practice spells as much as possible. And also..even with this I don't think it's enough. Since I don't have money it would be difficult to employ a large army, if my territory gets invaded then I'd have to protect it myself after all."

“Territory, you, what are you saying?”

Ah, only my parents, older brother, and sister-in-law knew. I never told sister about it.

“Mill, Al wants to create his own country. I gave him permission.”

“Eeh!!? Father, are you saying that seriously? There’s no way..”

“That’s the reason I’m earning the funds. I have a reasonable amount but it’s nowhere near enough. Also, I’ll just mention this but I’ve already talked with his majesty the King about this as well. His majesty made fun of me as well but I received his word that if I just pay money he’ll sell me the viscount ranking and an appropriate territory. He also said that as long as we don’t show any hostility from our side Rombert won’t be the first ones to attack as well.”

““That far..””

Everyone is surprised looking at me. I quietly looked back at Mill.

“Since I’ve already declared it to his majesty, even if it takes some backbone I intend to do it. No matter how many years it takes and even if I have to bite into rock I’ll make my own country. Of course~ right now I’m still just a simple individual adventurer. But, don’t they say that his majesty Rombert the First, Rogmokku.The.Pitviper, and the Wizard.King were originally just adventurers as well? I don’t think there’s any reason I wouldn’t be able to do it.”

Mill exchanged glances with me from head on.

“So you’re serious?”

“Yeah.”

“If you fail you might end up dying in a gutter somewhere.”

“Of course if I don’t have money or power then I’m sure that will end up being the case.”

“After making a country? What do you plan to do?”

“That’s only obvious. I’ll make it so it lasts as long as possible right.”

“What do you want to do making a country? What kind of country are you aiming to make?”

“I plan to rule over it as I please. It might end up like several of the small countries around there. However, what about that? I’m just making my own country because I want to make one. In order for as many people as possible to know that Alan.Greed was born and lived in this morn I’ll make my own country.”

“Do you have no ideals or dreams?”

“Ideal? Dream? Since sister is in the knight group directly serving his majesty you may have received that sort of education. It’s not like I particularly have any complaints with the current society. I don’t feel like there’s anything I want to correct or save. Or is it not allowed to make a country without that sort of noble ideal? Did his majesty Rombert the First have that sort of thinking when he founded Rombert Kingdom? Rogmokku.The.Pitviper took over Kanbitt Kingdom when it was that small of a country and made it that large. Don’t they say he was quite the cruel King that would even wipe out his enemies down to the babies. Even then it’s continued for over 100 years. Even to today. Of course I don’t want to behave cruel at all. Since it’s not like I want to leave behind a bad name for my cruelty after all. And I’m only having this conversation because we’re family. Of course, I do think that some kind of ideal or doctrine to advocate will be necessary. Well, just at the level of a heading.”

“Mill.”

“Wh~at? Father.”

“I’ve already approved of what Al is doing. Do you want to interfere with your little brother who’s desperately trying to cut open the path for his life? Do you only intend to complain to Al? I won’t tell you cooperate or support him but at least approve of him.”

“That is..I get that..but”

“But, what?”

“If it’s like that then one day he might get tripped up..”

“That might be the case. Thought that might not be the case as well. Dreams and ideals are themselves important. Depending on the time and case they act as something people will dedicate their lives for. However, as long as you can

prepare something else more important than that it's fine."

"What? Something important?"

"So you don't know..Farne, tell her about it."

"Yes, it's to protect the lifestyle of your citizens. In Al's case, since it's a country it would be his people. It means to create an environment where they don't starve, can peacefully give birth to the children who will carry the future, and raise them. Things like maintenance of laws and ideals or dreams that the majority will accept are next after that. Putting it simply a strong country. If you don't lose in wars then it's not so easy to starve. Since you can take reparations after all."

Honestly speaking, I was surprised at Mill. Or to be more precise with Mill, no, with the education that the Kingdom of Rombert provides it's direct knight group about the ideals and dreams of a "good" country. Though I think the only one offering this sort of advanced education is just Rombert Kingdom. Miki, hold back just a bit. By the way, the things father and brother said are things that are only obvious. They're probably universal no matter when the era or what the world it is.

Since living beings die if they can't eat after all.

And then, something like noble ideals are things you can't speak about if you're not living. Even Rombert Kingdom which is said to be the most abundant country out of the neighboring countries has famine that occurs somewhere once in every 10 years or so. I'm sure a lot of people starve to death as well. If it's other small countries then I'm sure the situation is even more serious. That's why Devas wants the Dirt Plains and why Rombert wants the Dirt Plains as well. They just can't seriously fight over it taking into consideration the damage taken from a large war, even if they win it's possible another country could invade.

If you're living in the capital or Baldukk you can live your life without feeling it too much but I'm sure even this very moment there's children and babies starving to death somewhere. Even in Marquis Webdos territory which is said to be comparatively wealthy in the Kingdom has villages that are poorer than Bakuddo was in the past. If it's a different territory then I'm sure it's even

possible some villages have collapsed. It's no different in how if a disease spreads around several percent of the people will die and there's even cases when the central pillar of a family is included in there. It's even simple to die just from appendicitis.

I might be able to save a handful of them with spells. It might even be possible to discover or develop a spell that can cure disease. If Miduchi and my child (though there's no plans for now), Toris and Bel's child, or if Ralpa, Gwine, Zulu, Angela, or Giberuti have a child that has as much mana as sister when they grow up, that might be the time the country shows it's true worth.

If I think about it like that then I might be able to create a country which can guarantee the lifestyle of it's people above and beyond.

Eh? Zenom probably won't have anymore children right...

.....

That night, after taking a room in the inn "Perittsu", Mill and I were naked in beds next to each other while looking at the ceiling and talking.

"Al"

"Hn?"

"Since I was told by father, well it's not as if I can't accept it so I'll recognize it. Though I feel like it was just explained away as well. But you know.."

Mill raises her upper body and looks at me with a serious face before continuing her words.

"But, even if you somehow succeed in making your country, Rombert Kingdom will end up a foreign country."

"That's only obvious."

"His majesty might have made a promise on it but there might end up being a war with your country. What should I do at that time?"

Since that old man spit out words like a King must abide by the things he says, so unless I do something considerably excessive I don't feel like he will go against it but it's not an impossibility.

“..That’s true. It would be the most convenient for me if you betray Rombert and come to my side I guess. But as expected I’m sure sister wouldn’t do something like that. Next would be to sabotage and not participate in the war. But, sister is in the first knight group. I’m sure it’s impossible..”

“..”

“It’s fine if you just come to take my head.”

“Hmph, rest easy. If it comes to that then I myself will help you as an assistant in suicide.”

Her chest is as pitiful as usual.

“Oh~ that’s scary~ Then I need to make sure that doesn’t happen while sister is still in active duty.”

I closed my eyes.

Chapter 158: Midway Point

Year 7444, Month 9, Day 19

Ruku and Dianne's wedding ceremony ended with no problems, father and the others departed towards Bakuddo. I saw them off on the road which splits towards Baldukk and then after passing the outer rim of the crater, I headed towards my inn. Now then, those guys better have learned the new spells, if even two members were able to learn {Detect.Life} then that makes it more difficult to be ambushed and you could say adds to our combat capability. We still haven't explored more than 70% of the 6th floor but I intend to aim for the 7th floor when we enter this week. Since our days off last until tomorrow as a substitute for training today I'll go to the dungeon and train with magic tomorrow as well.

I returned to the inn while thinking that.

I returned to the inn and after capturing Ralpa who was chatting with the manager in the lobby, I asked her the situation on them learning the spells and it seems she became able to use the spells that it was possible for her to use. However, it seems that it took a bit of time for both Ralpa and Bel to learn {Detect.Life}. I guess it's because they haven't used very many spells from the {Divination} system. The only ones normally used are {Detect.Magic} and the {Cantrip} {Magical.Detection}, something like {Sleep Cloud} requires all three types of elemental magic other than earth magic at a decent level on top of void magic at level 5 or higher so there's not many people who can use it in the first place.

I guess it would be best to teach her the spell {Divination} itself here. Since both Bel and Ralpa have reached level 4 with void magic they should be able to use it. Since there's not much good itself that comes from using incantations I didn't bother teaching them it but whenever they learn spells of the {Divination} system it might make it easier.

“Ralpha, come with me for a bit.”

I said that and Ralpha along to my room and after identifying her I knew it but,

“How much mana do you have right now? If it seems like you can do it then I’ll teach you a spell. It might have been better to teach you it before {Detect.Life} though.”

and said that before sitting on a chair.

“Eh? Yeah. I haven’t used any magic after using {Detect.Life} once this morning so I think it’s fine.”

“I see. Then it should be fine. The spell I’m going to teach you now is called {Divination}. This spell is a spell that lets you figure out the incantation of a spell you want know. After you use {Divination} you can figure out the incantation of a spell that fits within the amount of mana you have remaining and the duration it lasts. Starting out with {Light} should be good.”

.....

I spent a long time explaining the trick to using the {Divination} system of spells and how to knead the mana into it which I don’t completely understand myself and while it took some time for her to concentrate (it took close to 30 minutes), Ralpha was able to learn the spell {Divination} with no problem and figured out her incantation for the spell {Light}. Her incantation was the same as mine a strange incantation that makes no sense. However, I realized something huge that I had been overlooking here.

Ralpha started scratching her shoulder while chanting the incantation!
scratchscratch

After seeing the cup on the edge of the table that Ralpha made shine I looked at Ralpha with an expression of shock.

“Hn? What is it? Making that sort of face?”

“Oh..”

I couldn’t say anything.

“What is it? Were you surprised at how quickly I learned it? Am I genius?”

...No...

“Yo..you..just now..”

I point at Ralpa’s shoulder and said while she was confused.

“Just now, you scratched your shoulder while chanting the incantation right? Why?”

“Eh? Is that so?”

“Try using the incantation one more time. And do something.”

“No way, there’s no way I could do something..”

It seems Ralpa is surprised at what I said.

“It’s fine, try doing it. I’ll do it as well.”

“Yeah.”

“rira.machi.augu.banberudo.miruzu”

“tozu.borusu.nobun.keirechi.shiraku”

We both try moving our bodies while chanting the incantation for {Light}. I stood up and started running in place stamping my legs while waving my arms. Ralpa sat down on the bed and start moving her body, legs, and arms around like an octopus or something.

And I was dazed seeing the cups in a total of three places shine.

Li~es.

Seeing this result, both Ralpa and I were surprised and couldn’t say a word. Since I was already used to doing something while using spells so honestly speaking, if it was just me then I wouldn’t have been surprised. Or rather there’s no way I would have noticed it. However, even Ralpa was properly able to use the spell while doing the octopus dance. This, as long as they can properly repeat the incantation wouldn’t she be able to move while using the spell? Even though it was my secret technique that I went through that much trouble to learn this simply...Come to think of it, I just remembered this was the reason I tried to learn incantations in the past as well. It was in order to heal myself at times when I had taken wounds that made it impossible to

concentrate mentally. I was only use it to learn the way to use mana for the new spells Karl taught me. That was stupid of me.

I didn't think there was much meaning to using spells with incantations but as a matter of fact they were considerably effective. Toris and Gwine's void magic should reach level 4 pretty soon as well. If we include Miduchi and Bel as well then it would be big if we had a total of six people who can run while using spells. It's necessary to be careful to use the precise rhythm while trying to hold your breathing from being disturbed and moving but I doubt it will take as much practice as normally using spells while running.

Even if they can only learn one or two cure and attack types of spells, if they properly practice the incantations things should change quite a bit. It's not the time to be entering the dungeon. I need to drive this into them even just a bit sooner.

"Ralpha, you go to sleep and start recovering your mana already. I'm going to search for everyone."

"Yeah!"

After running out of the room I caught Miduchi looking through the goods at the general store and asked her if she know the location of the other three. It seems she was together with Gwine until just now. I had Miduchi search for Gwine while I tried searching the places Toris and Bel would go. I found the two of them in less than 10 minutes. They were flirting at the side of the lake to the East of Baldukk.

After returning to the inn and Miduchi was talking to Gwine about something on a chair in the lobby. I brought them along to my room. And then, I told them about the spell {Divination}. Everyone was surprised at once, I explained just how useful it would be and had them all learn {Divination} the same as Ralpha. This is good. If they practice it for a short while, I'm sure they'll remember the incantation right away and be able to use it.

.....

Year 7444, Month 10, Day 2

In the end, we haven't gone to the dungeon even once since then. Ah, no,

we're entering every day. However, it's just going to the 1st floor to practice incantations. Since Toris, Bel, Ralpa, Gwine, and Miduchi have a low amount of mana they quickly take breaks or return to sleep so it's no very efficient but that can't be helped. The only ones who go back to sleep are Bel and Miduchi. The rest of them have an amount of mana where they recover mana naturally faster without needing to sleep so they're just doing it while taking breaks. Zenom who came along as an escort is narrowing his eyes as he watches.

Since Toris quickly said, "If you can use spells by chanting the incantation then it's also possible to use a shield. I'll go buy one." so I had him buy a shield for Zulu and Angela just in case as well. Zulu is using a kite shield the same as Toris and Angela chose a small buckler shield. It will mean Zulu uses a two-handed bastard sword in one hand but he said there's no problem. Well if it's Zulu's power then he should be fine.

I'm just a bit of distance away from everyone who's recovering their mana trying to earn money to pay for the entry tax. However, after repeating it for two weeks everyone was able to use {Cure Light} and two types of {Arrow} spells. Since we picked spells which don't have very long incantations if it's just three types or so it's plenty to memorize. Bel managed to learn the incantation for {Cure Serious} in addition to those and Miduchi even learned up to {Cure Critical} and {Cure All}. For the time being this should be plenty.

"Oh God of Healing, I seek the healing of a small wound, I offer up my mana as compensation!"

That's Toris's incantation for {Cure Light}. It might be a coincidence but it's quite envious it's in Japanese.

"beku.nosu.nimuru.fon.saizu.ka.doren!"

That's Ralpa's {Flame Arrow} incantation. She's saying it while in a stance to block an attack with her {tomahawk}.

Yeah, if it's this then it's plenty.

"Alright, starting tomorrow we're going to get serious again. Let's aim for the 7th floor."

.....

Year 7444, Month 10, Day 5

From the day before yesterday until yesterday one of the slaves and I were were acting separately but for the time being I'll be acting together with everyone else on this 6th floor. This is fine until our levels increase a bit more. On our third teleport teleporting we entered an area that we hadn't been to before. We casually used the spells {Find.Trap}, {Detect.Snare}, and {Perceive.Pitfall} and spent until just past noon to reach the teleport room on the 6th floor.

In order to use this teleport room as our base from here on out, today I had everyone bring along quite a bit of luggage. As expected I didn't have them bring along enough materials to make a shower room but some new blankets and buckets, pots, and tableware, just bringing that along was the limit. Today I started putting down some dirt in a corner as we found a place we can relax for our beds, a place for cooking, and a place to put down the rubber sheet for a foot bath, just that took through the afternoon.

We were doing that until 4 pm but since we didn't have much materials in the first place we quickly ran out of things to do. Since we ran out of things to do other than chat Ralph started throwing a tantrum.

"Hey~ let's peek into the 7th floor for a bit. I've never seen an ogre and I don't know how strong they are right. Wouldn't it be more efficient to try fighting them once and then after returning spend our time thinking about how to fight them starting tomorrow?"

Hmn, that certainly sounds reasonable. In order to clear the 6th floor today I splurged quite a bit and used an excessive amount of mana but I still have 3,000 MP remaining. I doubt we'll fall behind so easily. In the first place, everyone other than me still has close to full MP. Even if we just leave it alone it'll recover in about an hour or so after all.

"Has Zenom-san fought against an ogre before?"

"Yeah, in the past, a while before I picked up Ralph..I found one once during my teens. It was a stray ogre though. It was considerably strong. It was when I was acting as escort for a caravan. Though we were ambushed in no time at all

four people were killed by just a single ogre...What about you Toris, have you fight one?"

"No, I've never fought one. I've heard that there are a lot of them in the direction of Kanbitt."

So Zenom's fought against an ogre before. However, for just a single one of them to defeat four escorts of a caravan...We should be even more careful than usual.

"Hey~ Zenom, around how strong was it? Do you think we can win against it?"

"Al, that's a foolish question. There's no way there'd be a problem for your magic. And, if it's me now then I don't feel like I would lose one on one. However, it might still be dangerous for Gwine to take one on alone."

After Zenom said that about her Gwine licked her lips once with her beard that's started to grow and after clenching both of her fists made a small guts pose while,

"I'll give it my best, hmph"

and said that in a small voice while putting some fighting spirit into it. Putting that aside, it's reassuring having Zenom who's fought against an ogre before with us.

"Since they're called ogres I wonder if they're like the demon ogres? I wonder if they have horns growing? There shouldn't be any problem with using the bow right.."

Bel said with a troubled face while confirming the condition of her bowstrings.

"I don't know what ogres are like either. However, according to what I've heard they aren't enemy for master right? Please finish them off with magic while we're holding things down in the front."

"It's just as Zulu-sama says. We'll hold down things in front so please take care of things."

My two combat slaves sure are carefree. Well I still think we can manage it.

“..Can I speak for a bit? I’m sorry to throw cold water while everyone is getting in the spirit for it but there’s something that everyone is forgetting about. In regards to the stray ogre that Zenom-san fought against in the past but ogres are often lead by an ogre mage. I don’t know what kind of feel the ogres that come out here in the dungeon of Baldukk have but depending on the case it might possible there’s opponents that can sue magic mixed in with them. We should be extra careful.”

Miduchi warned us with a composed voice. Though her usage of the word forgetting isn’t wrong. But, ogre mage she says? It uses magic?

“Since we can use the spell {Detect.Life} now it’s fine that we don’t have to worry as much about being ambushed. Certainly it’s just as Zenom-san said they have a height close to 3 meters with large bodies. In proportion to that they’re extremely strong in power as well and could be said to be powerful monsters but in reverse they have the weakness of being stupid. There’s even cases where intelligent Orks can tame them. Since they’re weak to their desires and have no self-control as long as we can find them first they’ll easily get caught up in simple decoys. However, even if we don’t get ambushed a group of ogres shouldn’t be underestimated.

Most likely, if even just 2–3 of them were to line up in the halls they could use magic freely from behind. Please think that the ogre mage will continue to attack with magic until it runs out of mana. And it’s only obvious that their instincts are towards food and sleep but even more than that they have a strong desire to torment things smaller than them. Ogre mages don’t have all that much self-control either but in the case that they run out of mana please think that that they’ll completely attack when they lose control.”

Uo, she sure is familiar with them. Come to think of it she was a walking encyclopedia. In addition when she said that they use spells I remembered but we still haven’t properly fought against an opponent who can use magic. Since I changed the {Vampire} to dust in an instant and you can’t really call that incident with {Bright Blade} a fight. None of them used magic that time after all.

“Mi..Miduchi has fought against ogres before?”

Ralpa asked while surprised.

“I have several times. Though it’s an amount I can count. In most cases we found them first and were able to ambush them so it wasn’t a large problem but at the start of this year, just like Zenom-san mentioned a caravan I was escorting was ambushed. It was a group of four ogres and one ogre mage. The escorts of the caravan was a total of 8 people including myself but one person died and a few people were badly injured.”

“Four ogres and an ogre mage you say...”

Zenom’s eyes went wide.

“If you managed to defeat total of five ogres at the sacrifice of one person, then aren’t they considerably weak?”

Gwine asked as if she doesn’t really get it. There’s~ no way that’s case~ right.

“While the number of elemental magics the warriors who were escorting together with me could use was less than me but all of them had an amount of mana close to mine. Even then one of them lost their life. They’re a powerful enemy.”

Everyone swallowed after hearing Miduchi’s reply.

.....

According to Miduchi’s explanation and if it’s just one ogre then it seems they’re not much of a threat. Zenom said he could win one on one if he aims for the feet at the start after all. However, if there’s multiple, a leader, or some kind of existence guiding them then they undergo a sudden change into a dangerous existence. If the leader has the same amount of intelligence as other normal ogres then it’s not that bad but obviously there’s individual differences in ogres as well. The representative of that is the ogre mage. It seems that the ogres in the surroundings obey the ogres who can use magic. Even if they’re foolish ogres, if it’s one that’s giving out orders in the back then it’s only naturally they’re less likely to die and live longer. If it comes to that then they get smarter as well. Or at least that seems to be the theory. A group being lead by an intelligent ogre seems to hide their large bodies in bushes and they aim for the ideal timing to ambush.

Furthermore, it’s an unpleasant story but there’s some sly ones among ogre

magicians as well and they precisely use spells to support their allies. It seems they make sure not to run out of mana while watching their partners' movements. If they see themselves at a disadvantage there's even cases where they run right away.

It seems that this won't go so easily. For the time being we should confirm our formation against ogres using Miduchi's opinion as reference. If they could use magic then I need to stand at the front. I'll use {Anti-Magic Field} to negate the spells the ogre mage uses while slowing the ogres for the other members. During that time if possible Miduchi and Toris will circle around and finish off the ogre mage with attack spells. Bel will support by shooting arrows through my {Anti-Magic Field}.

This time Zulu, Angela, and Toris have all prepared shields. If they don't think about trying to deal damage they should be able to endure a reasonable amount. I'll use {Anti-Magic Field} while identifying and once the ogre mage's MP gets low we can switch over to attacking. Of course, this is supposing it's the worst possible situation where we end up being ambushed. If possible I'd like to ambush them from our side and take them out with magic and bow. In any case, according to Zenom and Miduchi and they take pride in their extremely high physical strength and even if a skilled warrior takes one hit from their club it's enough to squash them like a bug.

If the place we fell to previously was the 14th floor then it would mean this dungeon goes down to the 13th floor. That would mean the 7th floor is exactly in the middle.

So everything up until now was just the tutorial huh? The real thing might start from here on out.

Chapter 159: Ogre

Year 7444, Month 10, Day 5

Close to evening, the nine of us teleported into the 7th floor. The 7th floor was a complete change from the 6 floors up until now. The width of the passage is over 30 meters and there's evergreen trees growing all over the place. The ceiling is far above and just like the fairy village there's light being emitted almost as if it's sunlight. It seems the walls which form the passage stretch up to the ceiling and you receive the impression of being at the bottom of a withering valley in the middle of the day.

Just from a glance the height of the trees and bushes are around 4–5 meters. It feels like they're different in each place as well. The ones closer to the wall seem to be taller. It's only obvious but the areas with no trees growing have clear visibility.

"How do I put this, that is..this is a surprising scenery."

Toris said while showing admiration. Ah, I see, if you've never been to the fairy village then this would be quite unexpected.

"It seems quite easy with it this bright."

Ralpa said while looking at both sides of the wide passage. The area around the teleport crystal is open and there's clear visibility. If you think about the fact that we've only had at most 30–40 meters we could see up until now then it certainly does seem easy. It gives off the impression that even if there was a trap or pitfall there's no fools who would get caught in it.

"If all of the dungeon was like this then it would be easy I'm sure but.."

Angela said while looking at the bright surroundings. Really though.

"Shi!!"

Bel gave out a warning. It seems she's closing her eyes and concentrating on her ears. I guess she picked up some footsteps. Her rabbit ears are standing on

end and twitching, they're changing angles and trying to catch sounds. Bel quickly opens her eyes and,

"It's difficult to tell since they're far away but I feel like I heard footsteps."

and she pointed ahead. I tried asking her about it previously but due to the location of her ears it seems it's difficult for her to directly put her ears to the ground.

"Shall we go to around that tree?"

Gwine fixed her grip on the spear and pointed in a direction. I wonder if she's saying it because it's easier to hear footsteps by putting your ear to an adequate tree? If it's the trunk of tree then Bel can put her ears to it.

"That sounds good."

Since Bel nodded everyone moved about 50 away towards the random tree that Gwine pointed at. The trees are thickly growing around here almost like forest.

"Al, how is it?"

Zenom called out to me while I'm using detection spells. Nothing that seems like traps are getting caught in the spells.

"I can't find any traps."

Hearing that Bel put her right ear to the trunk of the tree. She's bent her knees and it's almost like she's hugging the tree. During that time I'm using the spell {Detect.Life} to check the surroundings. I make an {OK} mark with my fingers and tell everyone that there's no problem before taking my bayonet from my shoulder.

"N..I can hear a lot of footsteps mixed together. The closest one seems to be from about 500 meters ahead. One..two..Ah, it might just be one."

After saying that she took her ear from the tree trunk and looked at me.

"Well, we originally planned to wait and see, so let's go I guess. Since it might be an ogre mage don't pass in front of me."

I said that and started walking. I advanced while detecting traps about 100

meters ahead. Around every 100–200 meters there's an area where there's no forest growing something like a separate wasteland. Though it's a bit too early to decide for sure yet.

And, before we left the forest I was able to find an ogre in a grasslands like are ahead of us. It seems like it's doing something but I wonder what in the world it's doing? While hiding behind a tree I'll looked out at it's appearance and it was quick to confirm. It's pushing around a single goblin. The goblin seems like it's frantically trying to run away but the ogre is enjoying itself using something like a thick tree trunk as a club to block it's path. Since it's my first time seeing an ogre, I guess I should use **【Identify】** while I can.

【

【Male/1/10/7414.Ogre】

【State: Good】

【Age: 30 Years Old】

【Level: 4】

【HP: 449(449) MP: 1(1)】

【Strength: 40】

【Speed: 10】

【Dexterity: 3】

【Endurance: 40】

Huh? What's with this absurd amount of HP. After reading the sub-window for their race and it seems they grow 1 HP per month while growing..In addition to that there's those physical abilities...If it stands up properly with it's back straight it should be around 3 meters I guess. Since it's hunched over it looks a bit shorter. Short and thick legs, long arms with bulging muscles that seem to be thicker than an adult males waist. It seems to have some flab but hidden below that is a body of muscle that almost looks like steel and their face is like if you were to take a Hobgoblins and make it even more fiendish.

Certainly if it's that physique then it's not as if I can't understand this absurd amount of HP, but even if I say that...It's level is so low..If it's level was high as well it would be a considerably good target worth a lot of experience points though. No wait, if I just have one person defeat this one then they should gain quite a bit of experience points.

and, it seems like there was some development in the situation while I was reading the identify window. The goblin that was being chased around let out a high pitched voice like “Gyoe!!” The ogre used it’s left hand which isn’t only the club to lift the goblin upside down by it’s leg. Just in case I tried using 【Identify】 on the goblin as well but this one was just a normal goblin with nothing out of the ordinary.

After grabbing it’s prey the ogre threw down it’s club almost as if saying, “no more need” but it hits own leg on the falling club. I don’t know if it hurt but it’s showing it’s back to us. It sure is stupid.

The goblin raises a scream.

“Now’s the chance.”

Saying that Miduchi sent a {Flame Javelin} flying.
Certainly it’s the ideal chance.

Bel, Toris, Ralpa, and Gwine are using attack spells as well.

All of the spell spells hit the ogre’s back. However, even then the ogre still has 200 HP remaining. It’s a monster~

The ogre turns around to here.
A shout is raised.
From the {Slaughterers}.

In front of the loincloth the ogre was wearing the small goblin with it’s legs spread out held by the ogre faced it’s head over here. I guess the ogre was raping the goblin. Come to think of it the goblin was female. The goblin seems to have died being penetrated by the ogre and it’s head is just dangling lifeless foaming at the mouth.

The ogre glared at us with an expression like “Who is interfering with my fun!” and after letting go of the goblins legs it leaned over to pick up the club it threw down.

Strangely enough the goblin was still stuck to the ogres waist just like that. I guess it didn’t come out...

I sent an {Ice Javelin Missile} flying and the ogre tried to shift it’s body to evade it but it slammed into it’s chest.
After that Toris’s {Stone Bolt} stabbed in, followed by a hit from Miduchi’s

{Flame Javelin}. When it's HP went minus the ogre made an expression of shock as it fell as if saying "unbelievable for me to die". AS expected it's finally come off.

Everyone is making a disgusted face. It's only obvious. I didn't want to see it either.

"Zulu, go finish it off and take out the magic stone."

There's no other option than pushing the disgusting things off on the loyal slaves. Or rather, in the process of taking the magic stone you can't not see it, I don't want to see something like a goblin that was raped to death.

"For it to take that many attack spells and still not fall.."

Toris said in admiration. It's an obvious attempt to change the topic but it would probably be best to jump on here.

"Yeah, it was surprising. Though if you see that physique then I feel like it also makes sense.."

and said that while glancing at Zulu's work from a distance.

"However, for it to take eight hits of an attack spell to finish it off.."

Angela whispered while counting on her fingers.

Certainly that's true. Though the damage of them was pretty scattered, if it's like this then I need to think about what's ahead. Since we started from an ambush this time all four attack spells were clean hits. If it was to block with its arms, legs, or club, or even further to just evade then there's no doubt it will be more troublesome. If there's a number of them and they charge in while taking on the attack spells and swing their clubs around the only one who can use spells at that point would be me. As expected something like chanting an incantation while evading attacks in the middle of combat is impossible. The best they could manage was chanting a short incantation while in the middle of running. Even then that's difficult. If you think it's a lie then try doing it.

The value of the ogre's magic stone that Zulu brought was just over 120,000. If we sell it then it'll be about 800,000 Z (8 silver coins). It seems like it'll be quite the profit but...

“I checked it’s status but it didn’t seem to have any magic special skills so that doesn’t seem to be the ogre mage we had heard about.”

Zulu said while handing the magic stone to me.

For the time being we’ve achieved our goal. I wonder what we should do?

“Since we just finished one off from a distance with magic after all..If possible wouldn’t it be best to directly take one on in combat?”

Zenom said. Wun, if it’s just one of them if we all surround it I think we can manage it though. If there were multiple of them or the ogre mage which uses magic was among them then it seems like it will be quite difficult though. However, Zenom boasted about being able to win one on one and Miduchi has even defeated five at once with less people than we have right now. Although, in Miduchi’s case since they were all dark elves with quite a bit of mana it’s difficult to make a decision on.

“I, don’t want to see anymore of that~”

Gwine said her honest feelings. Certainly the happening just now was shocking. I don’t think it’s unreasonable to get afraid seeing an ogre craving a female goblin smaller than Gwine. It should be considerably terrifying thinking about it in it’s place.

“Orks do even worse things. Do..Don’t get afraid of something of that level.”

Ralpa tried to cheer up Gwine with a weird way of putting it. But you know, I saw it right. You suddenly looked downwards. I can understand the feeling and I think it’s a normal reaction but the only ones clearly afraid are you and Gwine. Of course, Bel, Miduchi, and Angela the other women aren’t making very good faces but they aren’t afraid.

“Gwine, relax, it’s alright. I won’t let something like that happen. And Zenom and everyone else is here as well. In the first place, do you think I would lose to a monster at that level?”

I intentionally said it with confidence. If it comes down to it then it’s fine if I just bury it after all. Though it would be fine to freeze it the same as up until now as well.

“Now, let’s try taking on one more of them. If the next ogre is alone as well then we’ll try close combat. Let’s limit using magic to only when we’re injured. If there’s multiple opponents or one uses magic then I’ll finish it off.”

I drop the magic stone into the bag on my hip and smiled at Gwine. Even then Gwine’s frown didn’t recover but that can’t be helped. I’m sure it’s impossible right away.

.....

We continued even further ahead. Another 500 meters ahead, just before we entered one of the several forests in front of us I tried using detection type spells to confirm it was safe. And then there was some living creatures that got caught in my {Detect.Life}.

“Yeah, there’s some. Two of them. I can’t tell if they’re ogres though. They’re about 200 meters ahead.”

I said that and prepared my bayonet again. Hearing my words everyone took their weapons out of their scabbards. Ho~ even though I just said we’d only do close combat if the opponent was one but I guess they’re eager even if it’s two? Ah, or maybe they’re just hoping for me to finish off one of them. It’s fine though.

“Let’s go carefully.”

I said that and quickly stepped foot into the forest. The sensation of stepping on fallen leaves is good but there’s quite a bit of sound. Since the last one was engrossed in tormenting the goblin it didn’t notice though.

I hide behind the trunks of trees while advancing.

After passing through the forest, passing through a vacant area, and soon after we entered the next forest I discovered two ogres. The ogres noticed us right away and stood up holding their clubs.

“I’ll take the one on the left.”

After saying that I quickly made a telephone pole, added missile to it, and send it flying. The speed of the flying telephone pole is quite fast but since there’s still some distance if I hadn’t added missile it wouldn’t have been

difficult to evade it I'm sure. Seeing that I guess the ogre thought the same thing it's ugly face twisted sticking out it's fangs as it changed it's route.

However, there's no way it could escape the guidance with just that, in no time at all the telephone pole went through the center of it's stomach and it died. So one hit with the {heavy catapult} class is fine huh?

Just a bit in front of Bel Gwine stood on guard with her spear, ahead of that everyone else was standing with their weapons prepared. An arrow was fired from Bel's bow. However, the remaining ogre blocked it's face with it's left arm and there was no change to the speed of it's charge. It probably doesn't even think of the arrow sticking into it's arm as damage.

“Gebo~!”

While letting out an unpleasant battle cry it swings it's huge club down at Zenom the shortest one.

Zenom entered the range of the ogre while evading it and hit it in the lower leg with his {tomahawk} while running past behind the ogre.

The ogre was caught by surprise but it quickly changed it's feelings and this time set Gwine who was further in the back as it's target. It started charging again. Bel's arrow stabbed into the ogre's left shoulder.

Zulu stood front of the ogre with his shield while swinging his bastard sword blocking the charge of the ogre. As expected the blade that was a meter long looked like a threat in the ogres eyes. It used it's club brush the attack away and blocked it.

Making use of that gap Toris who was next to Zulu lowered his body and while evading the club he stabbed his long sword into the right thigh of the ogre. On the opposite side Angela who was holding a shield as well was used her broad sword to keep it in check.

Miduchi who had gone around Toris used her magic scimitar to cut even further away at it's right thigh. With a feeling of slicing she managed to cut deeply into it. While pulling the blade back she managed to cut it's right arm as well. That attack cleanly entered through the forearm and of all things it cut straight through the bone in the forearm from midway through.

I guess it didn't realize that, the ogre went to swing it's club but after realizing it couldn't it let out a dull yell with a mix of surprise and anger. I guess it finally started to feel the pain, it fell to it's right knee, and tried to pick up the club with it's left hand.

"Ya~~!!"

There Ralpa went around Angela and after jumping up at 1 meter she used both of her hands to swing her {tomahawk} down aimed at it's head. It was the ideal attack reading the timing but the ogre who tried to defend itself with it's club was just a bit faster it seems. However, receiving Ralpa's attack I guess the club was cut halfway through, or it broke, it's length had been reduced to half.

Angela stood in front of Ralpa as she landed covering her.

"Hmph!!"

Zenom cut into the ogres left leg from behind. While the ogres posture collapsed even more from there Bel aimed and crushed it's right eye with an arrow. There's a distance of about 15 meters between Bel and the ogre. It's plenty of range to be called point blank. There's no way Bel would miss her target.

"E~i!"

Gwine charges in and thrusts her spear. Taking the spear in it's stomach the ogre glared at Gwine with a loathsome expression but Gwine pulled her spear out with all of her power without realizing that. It's guts came out from the cut stomach. In pain it let go of it's club and in a panic the ogre brought it's left hand to it's stomach, where Ralpa who had fixed her stance smashed her {tomahawk} into it's face.

I reflexively felt a bitter smile come to my face.

"That is, a "baseball" swing~"

I guess Ralpa's attack to it's face was the deciding blow, after the ogre's movements got clearly worse Toris, Zulu, and Angela all ganged up attacking it from all sides and it completely died. It's HP went beyond the minus and it went to where identify showed it as "Corpse(Ogre)".

We collected the magic stones and returned to the 6th floor.

Certainly it was just as Zenom said, most of our members should be able to somehow fight them one on one. I'm sure even Bel as long as she crushes one eye can circle around to it's blind spot and slowly cut it down. However, after all it's not an opponent that can be underestimated. That first attack with the club that Zenom evaded, I doubt there's anyone who can endure it. Even at best it'd be a bone fracture and if they took it to the head I'm sure it'd be instant death. After all if there's a large number of them it would be bad. There's no doubt if the ogre mage that supposedly uses spells is mixed in then it'll be a considerably tense fight.

However, I overlooked Miduchi's attack power in close combat. What was that, magic weapons are amazing~ I didn't think it would go that far. If we can find one it might be effective to use it ourselves rather than selling it right away.

Toris, Zulu, and Angela still have some awkward parts remaining but it seems they've started to get used to the sheild and if we split them into groups of two with Zenom, Ralpha, and Miduchi as the front line, Gwine as the shortstop, and Bel backing them up with arrows then I don't think it will be that difficult for them to win against three ogres without taking any injuries.

It's necessary to keep an eye on things a number of times I'm sure but if it's like this then exploring the 7th floor might be considerably fast. The paths are quite wide so I'm sure the number of teleport destinations is less as a result of that. Even if there isn't actually less I still feel it's the same as if in essence there's less.

The dinner Giberuti prepared for us was delicious.

Author's note: Occasionally including some spells.

“{Find.Trap}” Divination

(All elemental magic Lv. 4, void magic Lv. 5, consumed MP 26 void magic double)

Discover traps that have a large number of parts within range of sight. Effective duration is an instant.

“{Detect.Snare}” Divination

(All elemental magic Lv. 4, void magic Lv. 5, consumed MP 26 void magic double)

Discover traps that have a low number of parts within range of sight. Effective duration is an instant.

“{Detect.Life}” Divination

(earth magic Lv. 1, fire magic Lv. 1, void magic Lv. 4, consumed MP 10 void magic double)

Detect living creates within the valid range of effect. Basic range is a radius of 100 meters. During detection if nothing is specified it will detect all living creatures with a body weight of over 10 kg. Living creatures only includes up to birds, mammals, and reptiles. It doesn't react to fish, insects, and amphibians. Effective duration is an instant.

Chapter 160: Omen

Year 7444, Month 10, Day 8

We've returned from the dungeon. Excluding the first day we only explored the 7th floor for three days but this should be plenty. Just as we had predicted due to the fact that the passages are wide and it's bright the speed of exploring seems to be considerably fast. Also, I'll just say this as well. We still haven't arrived at the teleport room from the 7th floor to the 8th floor. Though there's some forked paths up until now all of the destinations we've teleported into have been dead ends.

We still haven't encountered an ogre mage but including the three on the first day we killed a total of 29 ogres. They came out in maximum groups of four but as long as I use magic to finish off one or two at first, then if we focus them down we're managing them. I think we've gotten quite a bit used to combat against ogres.

Though really, you know ogres, they're idiots on the same level as goblins, so you can easily get them caught up in traps, or rather leading them around. We tried doing a variety of experiments but as long as we have some distance then we can seriously defeat them safely. Of course it's also fine to use projectile weapons and attack spells as well. Ah, freezing them in ice and burying them in dirt is no good. It's not that it can't be done but when I just tried burying their lower bodies it was impossible. Just like the Horned Bears in the past, if I aim to cover it's entire body and suffocate it to death then it's possible but if I don't go that far then they manage to pull themselves out with pure strength. Though suffocating them to death is fine as well if we do that then the only one who gains experience points is me.

The correct answer was. Drugs. All you have to do is smear some paralysis drugs on a throwing knife and manage to hit with it. And, then when it can barely move you can slowly kill it. The magic paralysis drug (it's almost like Dereonola who tried to rape Bel in the past taught me though) that I used

during my training of the spell {Remove.Paralyze} has taken a great role. We have Bel smear an arrowhead with plenty of it and then aim for their legs. If we run away for a bit then it's legs get numb and then if we put the same drug on the blades of swords then in a short while after cutting it the drugs will have circulated to the point where it can't do anything.

Incidentally the natural paralysis drug(I was surprised after hearing how it's made but it's the exact same as the one Myun taught me in the past) that can be made from the ingredients of Ganbi grass and green tree frog that Miduchi brought had almost no effect. The one that had the most effect was a paralysis drug that was made from some sort of mixture of the fluid secreted from the feelers of the {Scavenger Crawler} and magic stones. It's pretty cheap since the adventurers who use it are often ones who struggle against orks and hobgoblins on the 1st and 2nd floors. Since it was low enough that even the slave Derenola was able to buy it the sale price is at most 20,000 Z (2 silver coins).

I've tried using it on a number of different monsters up until now but there wasn't a monster it was this effective on. The {Cave Boars} on the 6th floor can keep moving around for 5–10 minutes even after taking it. It properly works on Orks and Hobgoblins but it's free to just freeze their lower bodies in ice. It seems that this paralysis drug isn't very effective unless it's against humanoid races. I found it strange why it wasn't used very often until now but since the only place {Scavenger Crawlers} are is the dungeon in Baldukk so it seems they don't circulate very often. Furthermore it seems there's a number of different mixtures for it but the cheapest one was the most effective kind. Just, if we buy too much of the stuff then the stock will run out quickly, and it'll seem suspicious.

【Paralysis Drug】

【Magic Stone.Alum.Scavenger Crawler Fluid.Ritto Leaves】

【State: Good】

【Manufacture Date: 7/6/7444】

【Value: 200/g】

【Endurance: -】

【Ability: Applies a magic-based paralysis when absorbed and inhibits voluntary movement.】

【Effect: Paralysis effect towards humanoids(most effective via oral intake)】

It looks like this with Identify but putting it frankly it's classified as a paralysis drug with a considerably weak effect. Recently whenever I bring in some feelers from the Scavenger Crawlers as thanks for buying them I buy a couple of different varieties of mixtures. If you rub them on the blade of your sword then they're about a charm and most of them don't work.

Furthermore, we still haven't found any sort special rooms like monster rooms on the 7th floor. Also, the only monsters we've encountered on the 7th floor were ogres and goblins. After carrying 29 ogres worth of magic stones into the magic tool shop and the owners eyes went wide in surprise. The average value price of them was 120,000. The sale price was 800,000 Z (80 silver coins) times 29 of them. That's 23,000,000 Z (23 gold coins). I wanted to combine them but I couldn't do it. After all the magic stones were only the size of the nail of a little finger, the color was light gray and close to white. It's impossible to combine them without a larger mother stone.

I only noticed after seeing the magic stone of the ogre but the magic stones of the ogres are all about the size of a little finger. The Horned Bear's was a lot bigger and the Death=Tyrant.Kin's magic stone was so large it's not even a comparison. Though in reverse when it gets to that size it's probably difficult to use since there's no way to fit it inside of a magic stone box on the average magic tool.

Since the total amount was large I was a bit worried he would refuse to buy them but he bought them with no problem. Certainly there are magic stones in the shop window that have sale prices of about 2,000,000 Z. Since the ogres magic stone is at best 1,000,000 Z it should be included in the goods he deals in.

With a smile on my face I gave out 46 silver coins to each person and Miduchi was surprised and, "Th..This much.." at a loss of words. Yeah~ buy whatever you like. I profited 20 gold coins after all. Furthermore, that's just from magic stones. It's a new record that's largely overwritten all of our previous records. Up until now our highest record was about 4,800,000 Z. We suddenly increased it by close to five times that.

We returned to the inn once and after leaving our bags and changing

everyone went to the usual “Murowa” to eat and drink when some young adventurers came to greet us after hearing the rumors. When asking them, what rumors? and it seems that the old man from the magic tool shop put up a sign saying, “Singular Ogre Magic Stones Mass Arrival!!” It seems that thanks to that there’s rumors that someone made it to the 7th floor.

.....

Year 7444, Month 10, Day 9

One day later, after finishing my usual running, it was a short while after we all entered the 1st floor of the dungeon to do some training with spells. Toris and I were 200–300 meters away gathering the magic stones from corpses of gnolls while recovering from mana. Since Miduchi and Bel returned to the inn about an hour ago to recover their mana, Ralpa and Gwine are close to the teleport crystal taking shifts as they train.

“Al!”

“Al-san!”

and I heard a voice yell for me. Since there’s some distance the volume of the voice itself was pretty low. Toris and I exchanged short glances before dashing off towards the teleport crystal right away.

It seems that a different party teleported in to the teleport crystal. Ralpa and Gwine are standing on guard against the wall with their axe and spear ready. The ones they’re facing are..a full party of 10 members.

Ralpa and Gwine made openly relieved expressions when they saw Toris and I run up. There’s no one among the party they’re facing off against that I recognize the face of. I wonder what in the world happened?

“Ralpa, Gwine, what happened?”

Toris called out to them but I quickly said over that.

“It’s fine some come over here.”

I said while approaching as well. However, for them to have their weapons ready, is this an explosive situation? In a hurry I tried identifying each of the members of the party they’re facing off against but there wasn’t anyone

particularly strange. Their ages are all in their teens. Almost all of them are the same age as us and a few of them are a bit older than that as well. If we sort them out then they're just men and the highest level one is 6. The lowest was 4.

It's difficult to imagine that these sort of {newbies} (probably) would suddenly attack the famous {Slaughterers} of Baldukk. In, which case I wonder if the idiot picked a fight again? How troublesome~

"Hey~ you all. I don't know what happened but those two women are our party members. If anything rude happened on our side then I'll apologize. Would you please forgive it?"

I said while calmly returning my long sword to my scabbard on the sword belt of my plain clothes. I don't have my armor or protectors on. On the bottom I have something like high-grade long underpants as underwear on and rubber-sole combat boots so if you were to go off my own individual sense then I probably look pretty strange. Toris has his shield with him but he's casually dressed in just a shirt and some pants as well. Of course, Ralpa and Gwine have their weapons as well but they're dressed casually as well.

They're dressed casually but..suddenly the blood raises to my head.

Ralpa's appearance was something like a kimono (yukata?) like shirt on the above part that opens on the front. She's wearing pants below that. Gwine is wearing an expensive button-up shirt and pants as well. Though everyone is wearing rubber-sole boots.

2-3 buttons from the that Gwine's shirt had been torn off. He must have realized that, Toris started yelling.

"Hey! You bastards! What is the meaning of this! What did you do to them!"

Seeing Toris yell with an tremendously threatening attitude not only did they not get afraid the adventurers just started grinning with unpleasant smiles on their faces. I looked at their equipment and was surprised, it wasn't just leather armor or even banded-mail and scale-mail, but there's even a guy wearing splint-mail. In just looks that appear strong.

"He~ what can you do with just four of you? We have ten people over here~"

“Since that Dwarf-sis’s spear is pretty high-quality, don’t damage it.”

“Hey, this elf’s shield and sword seem pretty high-quality as well~”

“I just saw this guys sword a minute ago but it seemed pretty expensive as well.”

“Ora~ you~ all. Obediently leave your weapons. We won’t particularly save you though.”

“It was true that you can rob all you want in Baldukk.”

“However, these guys, they spent so much money on their weapons that they’re just wearing normal clothes~ just clothes.”

“The dungeon you know~ is a place where poor people who can’t even afford armor will die right away you know?”

“Since it’s dangerous after all~! Gyahahaaha!”

“Ah~ It’s dangerous right!”

Ah, robbers right. I’ve comprehended it. They must be some idiots that washed down here from somewhere.

“Ah~, how bothersome~”

After saying that I froze all of their lower bodies in ice.

“Now then, Al-san, what should we do? They were saying something about robbing as they please in Baldukk though”

“Hey you all. I’ll put it obviously so even you can understand, putting your hands on these two women was a bad move. If these two were to seriously take you on the ones who die would be you all.”

“““Uuwa~ what the?”””

”“Hi...lc..ice..””

”“It’s cold!!””

”“It..It’s magic!?””

”“Sa..Save me~!””

“Hey, Ralpa, Gwine. What did they do to you?”

“Ah, since they suddenly teleported in we tried to open up the path for them but this guy suddenly started saying Gwine’s spear was high-quality so..”

Ralpa pointed at one of the guys frozen in ice while replying. The guy who was pointed at is saying something like, “n..no..”

“And then one of them grabbed around my shoulder and pulled it.”

Gwine starts looking for the buttons that fell off while saying.

“Hmph, you all, do you have anything to say?”

I turned and asked the adventurers and one of them opened his mouth.
Misseru.Beirun, 16 years old. Human, Viscount Beirun family fourth son. Level 5.

“Yo..You all, let us out right now. Now, cold...My..My old man is his majesty the King you know~!”

Don't lie, idiot...Though it might not be a complete lie. For example if the eldest daughter of Viscount Beirun is a beautiful young lady and if that eldest daughter were to run into that peerless King 17 years prior. Though back then it should have been before he inherited the throne but if it's that old man he might have done it. In that sort of case, since there's also the matter of reputation he might have been made into siblings of the eldest daughter when doing the naming ceremony.

““It..It's true!””

”“Misshi is his majesty Thomas's illegitimate child!””

I grinned and smiled and looked at Ralpa and Gwine. Just in case I need to say it.

“I don't know if it's true or a lie but they're saying this. Would you leave their treatment to me for a bit. Well~ it'll be no problem~”

And then I turned back around to the adventurers before continuing my words.

“Ah, I see. But you know. If it's the illegitimate child then you're not royalty after all. Now go to sleep. Good night.”

I said that and used the spell {Sleep Cloud} to put them all asleep without waiting for a response, then erased the ice.

“Well there's no need to go as far as killing them right?”

Since either way the only ones listening is our members I can say whatever I please. I thought that Ralpa and Gwine didn't have any intention of killing

them either. Both of them nodded.

“Since they won’t wake up for the time being, shall we teleport them?”

We carried all of them to the teleport room and forcibly had them touch the the crystal rod. Ah, this is annoying. We piled three of them on top of each other and had each of them touch the crystal rod. We gave it our best and tried to have seven of them touch it. Toris uses his left hand to grab the crystal rod and his right hand to hold a couple of their hands on it. Ralph, Gwine, and I are using both of our hands to hold another six of their hands on it.

When Toris chanted the incantation “botsufunku” to return he and seven of them were teleported to the entrance. Just the same way we teleported together with the remaining three. After returning to one of the small rooms near the entrance and Toris stuck his head out of a different room. We dragged along the three others and threw them all into a pile sleeping like corpses and then we slowly went out to the entrance plaza where the Baldukk knight group was guarding.

It was a party that entered the dungeon a short 10 minutes prior. Even the guards still remembered their faces. That was turned in under charges of robbery by the {Slaughterers}. Obviously we haven’t touched their wallets or equipment at all. If you check their status then you can tell they’re not dead right away and I explained that I put them to sleep with a spell and they took them in with no problem at all. They’ll ask if they really tried robbing someone at the knight group building when they wake up. I think robbery was 15 lashes with the whip right. Since it’s just attempted then maybe it’ll be a bit lighter?

I don’t know if they can endure 15 times being whipped but if this man who calls himself the illegitimate child of the country really is one, I wanted to know how the King would judge him. If he’s really a fake then when the knight group is interrogating him then I’m sure he wouldn’t use that lie. Even if he tries using that sort of lie, I think an even worse fate is in store for him though.

If he just orders lashings with the whip like that then there’s no particular problem. If he uses some sort of reason to make the punishment lighter or heavier, I just want to know that reason. From here on out, I might be able to use it as a reference for something. If he makes it far too light or something, or

even innocent, then what sort of reasons he used, it's some interest that's in pretty bad taste.

In the first place if he isn't dragged on the judgement day then I'm sure he'll come to my place to negotiate. In that case it wouldn't be bad to negotiate as well. Though I think that probably won't be the case. Though in my case I would be more relieved if he isn't punished in accordance with the law. I can make it into a favor after all.

.....

Year 7444, Month 11, Day 29

Our third day exploring the dungeon, we passed through the 6th floor and arrived at the teleport crystal room.

The time is 2 pm in the afternoon. It might not be half bad to go a bit longer and look around on the 7th floor for a bit.

We quickly advanced forward exploring the 7th floor and every time we enter the dungeon we bring back several tens of millions of Z in magic stones. In total since we reached the 7th floor we've earned just over 100,000,000 Z. However, let alone an ogre mage, there's no monster rooms, and obviously none of those strange altars either so we haven't been able to find any new magic tools or magic items.

However, that's in regards to the 7th floor and last week in an altar room that we passed through on the 6th floor, we finally discovered a magic item. Since the {Bracelet.Of.Dead.Body.To.Water} we found in August, it's our second magic item.

【Spear.Of.Piercing】

【Oak Wood.Iron】

【State: Good】

【Manufacture Date: 23/11/7444】

【Value: 1】

【Endurance: 15980】

【Ability: 190–240】

【Effect: Ignores the abilities of metal equipment(The abilities of equipment

other than metal, including ones with magic properties are applied normally).】

It's a rather splendid weapon. The abilities are high on it as well. Since the only one in our party using a spear is Gwine, I let Gwine use it. If it's someone who can use magic then they can certainly feel the mana from it using {Detect.Magic}. Against monsters as the opponent it's nothing more than a slightly strong spear but if it's used against soldiers in war then it should play a pretty big role.

According to Gwine it seems it certainly is a bit easier to pierce through with it. If we were to sell it I wonder how much it would go for? Since I've heard magic weapons and armor easily go for several hundred million to billions of Z, I'm sure it's worth quite a bit. In the worst case, it should be fine to sell it if we need some money.

.....

Year 7444, Month 11, Day 30

While holding the bento Giberuti made for us, everyone teleported into the 7th floor. After that we blew through ogres and goblins while proceeding forward and we arrived at the entrance of something like a plaza with a diameter of 500 meters or so. There's not even a single weed growing in the plaza. It's a dreary circular area like a desert. According to Ralpa it seems you can enter it from the eastern side.

This is the first time we've found a place like this since we came to the 7th floor.

I don't feel anything particularly strange looking at the plaza. Nothing gets caught in the spells for detecting traps either. Rather there's not even a single trap on the 7th floor though. We can tell there's four other paths like the one we took to reach the plaza. I don't feel like it can't be just a bit intersection but if we go off the theory of the dungeon of Baldukk then it should be correct to think of this as a monster room. However, nothing is getting picked up in my {Detect.Life}.

Up until now we still haven't arrived at the teleport room for the 7th floor the same as before. In the floors above this while there were obviously a lot of

places with dead ends but on the routes to the teleport room while there were more or less at times, there was always at least one monster room. If this is a monster room then that would make this area the correct path.

“This place..might be a monster room. Though it doesn’t seem like there’s any monsters but let’s move forward carefully I guess..”

After confirming everyone had nodded, we stepped foot into the desert.

Chapter 161: Worth

Year 7444, Month 11, Day 30

Ah, of course we aren't heading straight towards the center of the desert. We're just walking along the wall.

We entered this pseudo-monster room from the Eastern side, the 3 o'clock position, and then we're circling around clockwise towards the 6 o'clock position, the Southern direction as we proceed. Our feet sink into the sand and it's difficult to walk.

Everyone is remaining cautious as we proceed for a short while but no monsters in particular appeared or came to attack us, so maybe this isn't a monster room? and just as I started thinking that it happened.

In the direction of the center of the room the sand suddenly started rise and almost as if it was a mole's burrow it stretched out towards our direction. The speed is about as fast as an adult can walk. If we take into consideration that it's moving inside of the sand then it's an unexpectedly high speed. Since Bel noticed that ahead of everyone else she warned us.

"Look! Something is coming!"

Without hesitation I gave out the order.

"Spread out!"

This is strange, I just used the spell {Detect.Life} a moment ago. Even though that mole's nest seemed to rise up only a bit over 10 meters away from here I don't get why it wasn't caught in it. Obviously everyone in the party was detected by it. However, right now isn't the time to be bothering over that.

In any case, for the time being the opponent only seems to be one (it's one right?), it seems like it would be best to scatter out it's targets for starters and once it shows itself we can use spells to finish it off. I put my bayonet on my shoulder and stretched out both of my hands towards the direction the mole's

nest is approaching. It might be good to shoot it before it comes out but the sand might dampen the power. Ah, well, I guess it's fine.

"I'm shooting!"

After I said that I used the spell {Stone Heavy Catapult} and sent one telephone pole into the front of the mole's nest. Just as I hoped, the telephone pole that went flying at high speed stabbed sharply into the front of it and probably pierced through the target inside of the sand. After taking the hit from the telephone pole, the mole's nest which was heading towards Zulu suddenly rose up scattering sand all over as if it exploded.....

This is bad~ what the hell is that? It's deep red and purple outer skin seems to have a thickness of about 1 meter. On the end there's something like a circular hole or a mouth and there's countless small sharp blade-like teeth inside of it.

【

【Asexual/13/7/6925.Larvae Purple Worm】

【State: Stab Wound】

【Age: 519 Years Old】

【Level: 10】

【HP: 1390(1740) MP: 51(51)】

【Strength: 45】

【Speed: 7】

【Dexterity: 1】

【Endurance: 42】

【Special Skill: Highly Efficient Digestive System】

【Special Skill: Burrowing】

The damage from the telephone pole was roughly halved. In the first place, what in the world is that, it's cheating right!

Furthermore it's still a larva. What in the world would it be like if it turned into an adult!? Even if I freeze it I feel like it would break out. Once it reaches that size I feel like the matter of Strength really doesn't make much difference, really. However, I'm sure it's at least worth trying.

Attack spells starting flying from everyone soon and stabbed into the huge earthworm consecutively. However, it did almost no damage. Without delay I

started moving to the area where it's body seems to be and hardened it with a 5 meter cube of ice..ga~!!! It failed. Since it's an earthworm after all, of course it's body is long.

The huge earthworm brought out the rest of it's body not frozen from inside of the sand and started struggling around with it's frozen head. Simultaneously it started eating the ice from inside. From inside of it's mouth-like hole several smaller mouths appeared and they're biting at the ice. At the same time it's moving it's body forward through the portion of ice it's eaten. If it's like that then it's head will probably make it out again in another couple dozen seconds or so.

Something like a huge earthworm with it's head covered in ice struggling all over the place to try and get that off, it's too dangerous to approach. After all that ice has a weight of over 100 tons. If we were to get hit by that there's no way to survive. Thanks to the ice the level of attack spells everyone can use have become completely useless. However, we earned some precious time.

“Run past it!”

After hearing my orders everyone started running at full speed. I turned around while running but I could see it still swinging it's head covered in ice around in agony in the same place. Hmph, it seems it can't move backwards. And in that case, after it breaks the ice, it would either have to open hole to burrow in the sand or slide along the surface.

It was then that some electricity passed by my side cutting through the air aimed at the huge earthworm. Miduchi must have used the spell {Lightning Bolt}. Idiot, since it's close to pure water it shouldn't pass water almost at all. And, that's what I was thinking and was about to say something but the electricity Miduchi fired ran along the surface of the ice and arrived at the portion that wasn't covered in ice. It seems it properly did some damage.

When the huge earthworm took the electricity it started intensely squirming around and most of it's body that was in the sand came out. Cheers came from everyone. Then I'll hit it with one as well. However, using {Chain Lightning}. Furthermore I'll hit it with one with plenty of increased power! An even thicker blue electricity surged forth from my hand towards the area that wasn't

covered in ice. The sound of the air being violently torn echoes out as the sparks from the electricity cover the body of the huge earthworm.

The huge earthworm squirmed around even more violently but after taking electricity multiple times and the attack spells of the other members it just started convulsing and stopped moving.

It's HP is -84. The condition has changed to Death.

When I tried slowly confirming it's status and wow it seems it's lifespan is 10,000 years. 500 years really is just a small larva. Also, after all it seems they can't move backwards and the majority of it's body structure is made up of the digestive system and muscle. Since it has a digestive system that can even digest inorganic substances, something organic like a single person can be digested in roughly 12 minutes. It's eyes have degenerated but it seems it finds it's prey by detecting the vibrations that pass through the ground. I wonder if it's normally eating ogres and goblins?

Putting myself aside, a considerable amount of experience points went to Miduchi. Well her level was originally pretty low so I'm sure it would be good for her to level up some more. It took us three hours to find the magic stone. The magic stone was the size of an adults fist on the same level as the Death=Tyrant.Kin but the value wasn't that high. It's color isn't as white either. Though I say that, there's no mistake it's worth quite a bit. With identify the value of just this one is 3,070,000. I guess that means if we sell it then it would be over 21,000,000 Z. Out of the magic stones taken from just a single monster, excluding the Death=Tyrant.Kin it's the largest one we've found. I wonder what the Vampires was?

After that we proceeded down the passage to the south of the room(?) but once again it was a dead end.

We returned to the 6th floor heartbroken. Even I can tell everyone's shoulders dropped as they're worrying about it. In about 10 hours the room boss will revive. Though I don't think it's limited to just a {Purple Worm} next time so I can understand the gloom.

.....

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 4

Yesterday we returned from the dungeon and it's another three day holiday starting today. We couldn't get to that monster room since then. It's all just dead ends again. Since we predicted that the magic stone of the {Purple Worm} would sell more in a magic tool store of the capital, we haven't sold it yet.

During this holiday but it seems that Miduchi is going to confine herself to the dungeon together with Zulu and Angela to earn some experience and Ralpa and Gwine were getting excited about eating and drinking at a new restaurant that just opened up. Giberuti said he was going to do trial and error on a new menu so there's no choice but to leave him alone. Toris and Bel are back to flirting the same as usual so I didn't try calling out to them in the first place.

If Zenom didn't say he was going to sub-Baron Logflat's place then I probably would have confined myself to the dungeon as well. However, since Zenom is going to the capital I decided to go to my company in the capital while selling off the magic stone. I don't have any intention of staying the night but after our business is done we made plans to meet up at my store.

Zenom is riding Miduchi's horse and I'm riding my own as we split up ways at the entrance to Rombertia. I was planning to stop by the magic tool shop before going to the company and change it to cash but I thought again it would be fun to show off such a huge magic stone to Anna and Hanna so I decided to stop my Greed Company on my horse first.

"Ah, Presichent~ chank you for your works"

Hanna who was sweeping in front of the store managed to find me quickly and lowered her head.

"Ah~ Hanna, have you been well? I'll show you something good. Is Anna inside?"

I connect my horse to the stake in front of the shop and after taking off my bag with the magic stone inside I called out to Hanna.

"Eh? Something good? What is it?"

Hanna followed after me as I entered the store.

"Hanna! Did you finish sweeping?"

Seeing that Yotlen put both hands at her hips and warned her.

“Well it’s fine, I got my hands on a bit of something good. I doubt you’ll see it very often so pardon her a bit.”

When I calmed her down and Yotlen said with an apologetic face.

“No..if the president says that then..”

“And, where’s Anna?”

“I just had her go off to buy some lunch..I’m sorry.”

“Ah, I see. Then I’ll wait until she comes back. Give me some tea.”

After I said that I smiled at Kamnal who was looking over here while hiding in the shadow of a pillar from further in the store. Kamnal who’s still small is sucking his finger while making a face like “Who’s this person?” and looking over here. I sat down on the reception use sofa and called him over before he timidly came.

“Kanna, here, have some candy~”

I took a small bag of candy pieces that I purchased on the way out from my bag with the magic stone and after taking one out from inside I smiled and showed it to Kamnal and approached me. After letting him suck on one, I patted his head and Hanna seems to have made the bean tea.

“President, I’m sorry as usual.”

Yotlen lowered her head apologizing for the trouble but I just waved my hand and stopped her and

“It’s fine. If I can buy Kanna’s favor with this much then it’s cheap. Right!”

and said that while patting Kamnal’s head as he was in a daze with sucking the candy. I just remember my nephew Rentaro that I used to dote on in my past life. He doesn’t resemble him at all though.

“And also, Yotlen, I’m giving you a raise in salary for your wages starting next year. Yours will be 300,00 per month, Anna will be 130,000, and Hanna will be 100,00.”

“Eh? Thank you very much! I’ll give it my best effort!”

“I think you worked very well for this past year. But, as expected I don’t think there will be anymore large raises like this one for a while.”

After this as long as there’s no problem I’ll raise everyone’s salaries by 10,000 Z per year. Once Kamnal gets older enough that he gets counted in the individual tax and starts working I’ll employ him as well. If they have salaries of this level along with the savings from selling the store I’m sure they’ll have no problem living normally.

While we were talking about recent events Hanna carried out the bean tea. I thanked her and offered Hanna a piece of candy as well and she started licking away at it happily.

“I’m home. President, thank you for your work.”

While I was sipping at the bean tea Anna returned. It seems she went to buy some black rye bread. She did say it was purchasing lunch. As expected of Rombertia being the capital, there’s places cooking bread every day. When I lived in Bakuddo there was nothing like a bakery so every household cooked about a weeks worth of bread at once and from the next day on you had to bite into hard bread with all your power.

“Ah~ Anna, come over here. I’ll show you something good.”

I give Anna a piece of candy to suck on as well and took the magic stone of the {Purple Worm} out of the bag and put on the table.

“Ua~ it’s big!”

“This, is it a magic stone?”

“It’s extremely big right.”

“It came out of a monster we defeated in the dungeon in Baldukk the other day. There’s not many of them out there with this size right?”

I came to brag about it and in additionally,

“Check it’s status, even like this it’s a singular magic stone, isn’t it amazing?”

I said and held my nose high.

“It’s quite impressive..as expected of the president.”

Yotlen let out a sigh seeing the status. It seems like Anna and Hanna don’t

really get it. But, I'm sure they haven't seen a magic stone this large before so it should be a good experience. Though I don't know what kind of experience.

"By the way, as expected when it reaches this point I was worried about if the magic tool store in Baldukk would buy it. Zenom..That dwarf though, Zenom said if it's this large of a singular magic stone with this much mana in it then it might not be easy to set a price on, so I brought it to the capital. Yotlen do you know anything in that regard?"

When I said that Yotlen made a slightly troubled expression and,

"It's my first time seeing a magic stone this splendid and the ones I've normally used are small after all..I'm very sorry, but I don't know of any."

and said that. If I think about it then that's true. If you're just living normally you would see or use something like this...

"I see, well it's fine. I guess I'll try going to a big magic tool shop."

I finish drinking my bean tea before putting it back in my bag and standing up.

"After this, Zenom should come here. Since he's waiting for me offer him some tea or something."

After I said that I got on my horse and left the store.

.....

Magic tool shop {Splendor}. It's the largest magic tool shop in the capital. After walking through the entrance and as expected I could tell it's quite a bit different from the magic tool shops in Keel and Baldukk. The store interior was attentively cleaned and there's not a single bit of dust. The walls inside of the store are lined up with lightning magic tools that have high-class designs. Of course, there's also stoves of various sizes displayed and things like {steamers} or ovens for baking bread, {refrigerators}, {freezer}, {humidifier}, {air conditioner}, {dryer}, and various types of consumer appliance like things. Though I say that, they're not all the proper types like the ones we found in the dungeon.

The {refrigerator} here is the type which can only fit about four cans of beer and the {humidifier} isn't intended for a room but just blowing water vapor on

your face, most of them are just for aesthetic use or basically toys. About the only decent one I think is the {dryer}? I don't need it though. Those sorts of toy-like consumer appliance magic tools were boasting some considerably high prices. The reason why the security is pretty light is probably because there's only fakes in the displays I'm sure.

I briskly walk through the display area of products and after going to the counter further back I asked the shop clerk or owner or whatever to purchase a magic stone.

"How many is it?"

Since they asked politely, I'm sure the quality of their clients must be pretty high. Since the things they're selling are what they are after all. It's probably a store meant for nobles.

"Just one."

After I said that they definitely didn't look down on me but I could see their face was a bit disappointed.

"It's this. It's from a monster we defeated in the dungeon of Baldukk the other day."

I grabbed the magic stone from my bag and put it on the counter. It's the size of an adults fist and has a weight of about 1.5 kg, an exceptionally large one. The color itself is grey though. Seeing that the store clerk opened their eyes in surprise and started taking out the weighing magic tool.

"This is..quite large indeed. I'm sure there would be demand for it from our customers who make use of large scale magic tools. It's a splendid mother stone.."

and showed admiration.

"After all will the price be based on the amount of mana in it?"

and I asked that,

"Of course. However, if it's this large it seems like it could have quite a few merged together with it so there's no mistake it's worth more than just the value of it's mana. Would you mind leaving it with us for a few days?"

and said. Since there's no particular problem I nodded. In addition, while the store clerk was checking my status and taking memos,

“That magic stone is taken from just a single monster but will the value not get any higher?”

and I said that.

“Ho! It's singular with this size, and tint..it might take a bit of time to put a price on it. Please excuse me, {status open}..I see now..this isn't a matter of just mana. The only thing regrettable is that the tint isn't very good.”

I shrug my shoulders while,

“Well there's no problem if it sells for a decent price. Please take care of it for me.”

I said that and left the store.

Two days later, a messenger came to “Boil Manor” in Baldukk from {Splendor}. It seems the magic stone sold. The price was.. a bit over 56,000,000 Z. Magic tool shop {Splendor} seems to have profited quite a bit in a matter of just two days. I did too though.

It was the sale of a magic stone but since it seems to have sold as a work of art (if it's that price then it's probably as an art piece), so the luxury tax occurs on it but the profit is still big. When I told everyone about it they cheered. The bonus exceeded 1 gold coin per person (1,000,000 Z) after all.

I became a bit wiser thanks to this matter. Though I had predicted it a bit but it's been confirmed that large singular magic stones sell for a high price. I couldn't test it until now after all. You could say it's regrettable about the magic stone of the Death=Tyrant.Kin but if I really wanted to I could go and defeat a monster on the same level as it. Since it's frightening I don't want to go though.

However..the places which have money really have tons of it.

Chapter 162: Worry

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 13

Our exploration of the 7th floor is proceeding smoothly. It's so smooth that it's starting to seem frightening. We were able to gain a considerable number of magic stones from ogres this time and have gotten quite used to combat against them as well so if there's a small number even without me they can defeat them. As long as it's not a monster room, it seems they can manage the 7th floor plenty without me. Though as expected since the number of times we've entered the monster rooms on the 6th and 7th floors(though we've only seen one on the 7th floor) can't be called a lot in the first place it's still too frightening if I'm not accompanying them starting from the 6th floor.

It should be about a good time. The next day after we returned from the dungeon, I brought along a few allies and came to "Slave Store, Ronlail".

"Ronlail-san, have you still not obtained a slave that can use the shield?"

"Ah, Greed-sama, I'm very sorry. When it comes to a slave that can use the shield there really is only those who become prisoners from wars. Recently, they haven't appeared on the market...I'm truly very sorry that I've not been able to be of assistance to you..."

The madam said that and lowered her head. How troubling. Ah, come to think of it I heard from my parents that there's a dispatch of troops early next year. If a war prisoner comes along from there then they should arrive around early summer of next year. I have no intention of getting impatient but if possible while everyone is still young, I want to let them experience various things when their heads are still soft.

But, well I guess it's fine. In the two and a half years since we came to Baldukk I think we've passed through everything a bit too smoothly. Of course, we've experienced some considerable dangers a couple of days as well but in the end I'm sure it's because luck is on our side that we were able to make it this far

without losing anyone. After leaving Ronslail's store all of us entered a restaurant and after taking a table in the corner we ordered some tea and started talking.

The members here right now other than me is Miduchi and the irrit-ouple. If Zenom were to be included in there and it's the members we often gather in while spending our days off recently. Today Zenom is together with Ralpha and Gwine as they went to buy clothes in the capital. It seems that Ralpha is going to use him to help choose. Even though I say choose it's just the cloth though. Since it will take some time to finish I'm sure she intends it to be a Christmas present or something. That's why I'm grateful we can talk in Japanese today.

Ah, the clothing shops on Orth have places with pre-made clothes hanging up as well but when it comes to high quality goods after all they're tailor made. Though it's uncommon for commoners to buy tailored clothes. You could say that since we have quite a few clothes we're living quite wealthy lifestyles. That's why I know in most cases when you order some clothes from a tailor they're usually done in about two weeks. There's not a wide variety of cloth and most of the clothes you can have tailored is things like Kimonos from Japan. There's not much need to have them fit to the body like a suit.

Well, as expected we reincarnated people still have a bit of resistance to wearing a tailor made kimono as casual clothing. Hanging clothes like yukata's are often worn as casual clothing but after all western style clothes are more common. Sandals, pants, and a shirt that doesn't open from the front that you wear by putting over your head. Excluding the sandals those are the types of clothes that line up with yukatas as being common. Women are fine in either pants or skirts. Though since we never know when we'll get dragged into a disturbance no one really wears skirts.

"..and with that sort of feel. That's why a regiment often points to one type of the largest units of soldiers. Normally, at something or other station place there will be over one regiment there is what it means. A stationing place put easier is something like a base. However, since there's no naval ports or air ports, the old Japanese world of army base might be the most appropriate. I don't know about foreign countries but the American army doesn't use something or other base for their army stations but rather camp something or other right?"

Recently during our days off I've been using my spare time to teach them some basic military training. Since we've still only just started it's really just the basics. Ralpa and Gwine joined at first as well but they start falling asleep and can't remember it when I test them so they've already given up. It might be fine to teach Zulu and the others as well but one day I thought it would be good for Toris and Bel to gain experience commanding so I'll leave the slaves to them later. Since it's an important job for a commander to raise other commanders.

"..That's right. Normally there's a variety of different types of soldiers and they call these branches of the army but those gather together to make an army. When they gather these branches together and reach a point where they can deal with combat in any situation they call that group a division. A brigade is below that. A regiment is one more step below that. I don't know much at all about the wars from the era before the warring states era in the past. The only branches I know are cavalry, infantry, and archers. Though among the infantry there were spears-men and such as well. However, Orth has feel like it's even further in the past. If it was Japan then maybe about Kamakura? Ah, I guess it's better than that, I see. You sure are knowledgeable."

Unexpectedly Miduchi had a bit of knowledge about soldiers in the past. In some meanings she might be the most superior one in the {Slaughterers}. She knew a bunch of things about monsters that we didn't know as well.

"..Which~ is why, putting aside the rough tactics and large strategies most of the tactics I learned aren't really all that useful on Orth I'm sure. Since the weapons are too different. Ah, Toris, that's exactly right. It would come somewhat in handy if both sides had guns, explosives, and airplanes. Though if we're the only ones with them then I'm sure it would be somewhat useful as well but in that case using power to overwhelm is fine. This is the ideal. In the case where both sides only have bows as the projectile weapons then the tactics I learned aren't all that useful. Since normally tactics are devised by the characteristics and properties of equipment after all."

The tactics I learned are used during combat between armies where both sides have modern day equipment. Putting it frankly, when they're wearing plate-mail and equipped with a spear it's pretty useless. The speed of advance is too different and I'm not really familiar with the types of terrains horses can

pass through, it doesn't seem like a large scale urban combat would occur, and since there's no aid from tanks or airplanes after all. Of course it might be possible to apply them in some places but since the condition for them is the existence of firearms with high precision I'm sure there's not much room to apply them.

“..It's a weird way of putting it but if they have the same type of equipment that the members of the SDF have and equal numbers I'm sure anyone could win against the armies of this world. However, that is under the assumption that they know how to make use of that equipment. They might even be able to win under the commander of an elementary schooler from Japan. But, in the case where they don't have any knowledge, even if the greatest general from this world commands then they might end up losing to an army commanded by the worst general in this world.

If you don't know that you need to pull the trigger to fire a gun when it's all you've got and it's nothing better than a club. Even if you do know, if you don't know things like how to reload the ammo, the valid range, and how much damage it can do then you probably can't use it any different than a bow. And since fighting your enemy directly and cutting them down with a sword is seen as an honor, they might see fighting from a distance as cowardly as well.”

I was taught about the tactics of wars on Orth a bit by brother and in order to gain even more information about it I sent Kuro and Mary into the knight group have them learning there. Since they have the common knowledge a Japanese person should know as well, they should be able to calmly analyze the differences between modern day wars as well. Though I also feel like I'm holding my expectations a bit too high for them as well.

“Hn? Guns huh, guns are still a bit difficult.”

If I were to try and make them I'm pretty sure I can. The type that is a lot better than a matchlock even. But, as expected it won't go that easily. There's no hope in regards to something like mass production. Even when it comes to bullets if you don't make enough there's no meaning and gunpowder is necessary as well. Of course I'm still researching them though.

I think it will be once I start to make use of {Transmute.Rock.To.Mud}. Since it seems you can take out the metals that you're sorting in any “form” you like.

Let alone things like coils and springs, it should be even possible to make the small metal parts detonators use. I know the structure of simple guns but when it comes to the shapes of the small parts of a type-64 rifle then there's no way I could remember them. The type of bolt action gun that was used in a past world war by infantry should be plenty. It doesn't matter if it's a clip or a box, anything is fine but if I can make it function with a magazine then I'd have nothing more to say. Though regardless of what it is there's nothing I can do about it at the current point.

Although, if it's the types of small arms that I'm supposing, if I can just prepare over 50 of them and plenty of ammunition, along with rifleman who have been trained, and then if they have a few other small handheld individual firearms, then even if it's 5,000 people lead by the first knight group I think we could probably win while making use of just small scale magic. At the very least it should be possible to corner them into retreat before we take any large damage. Ah, I guess they call that winning.

In any case, these last few months, I've been using several hours on our days off to teach these guys the details of things I know that seem like they would be useful...There's no guarantee that I'll always be able to be on their side after all.

.....

That night, we intended to wait until Zenom and the others returned before having dinner but they never came back. Since Zenom is using Miduchi's horse and Ralpa and Gwine are using my horse, even if they just let it walk a bit and take breaks along the way it only takes 2-3 hours one-way. As expected when the time passed 7 pm it was pretty much pitch black outside. Miduchi and I were a bit worried but the three slaves and Annoy-ouple said "Ralpa and them aren't children and Zenom is with them. Even if we don't worry too much I'm sure they'll suddenly appear tomorrow. I'm sure Ralpa just drank too much and they couldn't control her so they'll stay in the capital tonight right?" and didn't seem very worried.

If it's said like that then it certainly seems true. It seems but even if she's like Ralpa is usually pretty careful about staying safe. Though she's always drinking it's never reached the level of drunkenness where she can't ride a horse. She should also know that the capital is different from Baldukk where everyone

knows the faces and names of the {Slaughterers} as well but...Well, certainly if Zenom is with them then there should be nothing worry about.

We ate dinner at a public restaurant called “Rasurun” which is famous for it’s chicken pies and even though everyone started late today since the usual heavy drinkers aren’t around we ended up finishing things early and returned to our inn. After returning to the inn, just in case I tried confirming it but Zenom and the others still hadn’t returned.

I returned to my room and when I was writing some stuff on the desk Miduchi came to my room.

“Hey, I’m a bit worried though..”

“It’s just as Toris said, Zenom’s there, I’m sure they’re fine. Wait just a minute, let me finish writing this.”

After I replied Miduchi made some tea and is sitting in a chair.

“Did, you already take a shower? That was fast.”

“No, not yet. Since I was a bit worried..I thought we might end up going out.”

“Hn? I, don’t reallylikedoingitwithoutshowering.”

No, it’s not to the point of hating it though. It’s manners to get rid of the sweat right.

“Really~ What are you saying! Aren’t you worried? Two young girls still haven’t returned you know?”

“That’s why I said, since Zenom is there it’s fine. In worst case there’s always my company as well, even if they end up completely broke there’s place they have to stay. In the first place, you said going out after this, but we have no method of transportation? Even if we were to go to Rombertia right after this about the only places I can think to check are my company and a brothel managed by one of Zenom’s acquaintances? There’s no method of finding them.”

When I said that and Miduchi seems to have accepted it.

“N, I guess that’s true..Then, I’ll go take a shower.”

She said that and left the room. Now then, I guess I'll go to a shower after I finish writing this as well. Ah, what I was writing just now is a letter to Bakuddo, or rather, it's more like an instruction document for production. Documents regarding my predictions of the demand in the capital from here on out. I wrote out the situation in the capital as much as possible as well. To the level that we won't get in the way of Webdos Companies business that is. I think if mother who should probably be remaining in the village sees it then she should be able to make the appropriate decisions.

I'm sure someone will come near the end of this month but if I write out the instructions on a letter before hand then I'm sure they'll be able to make preparations easier in the village then just by word of mouth. In the first place, even when they come near the end of the year I'm sure father or older brother won't be accompanying them. It's just my prediction but at the very least sister-in-law Shani will come together with the squires for the deliveries and then after packing the carriages full of supplies they'll head straight to the battlefield like that. They'll only make it back to the village by early summer of next year or so.

I finish my writing and drank the rest of the tea Miduchi left.
It was lukewarm.

Thinking I'll go and take a shower, just as I stood up from my chair Miduchi returned.

"Ah, sorry about that~ I'll go and take a shower really quick."

"N, it's fine. But, this inn, while the shower room itself is convenient, since there's only one on the first floor it's inconvenient you can't come out in just a bath towel."

That can't be helped right.

"Besides, I don't dislike your sweat."

"What are you saying, are you a pervert?"

"I'm fine as a pervert as well. Since it's only in front of you."

I see. If you're fine with that then that's fine.

.....

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 14

The next morning, I woke up before dawn together with Miduchi and while showering I also washed my face. In addition I finished off brushing my teeth and after returning to the room I grabbed the knit trash can on the side of the bed and took it to the small incineration furnace in the back of the inn to get rid of. Since most guests don't have much trash or even if they did it wouldn't be much at all so the brat of the inn gets rid of it when he cleans the room, but I mean, these past few months, some types of trash that I somehow don't want the brat to see have occurred. When I arrived at the place to throw trash away and there under the slowly brightening sky Bel was holding a trash can with a troubled expression.

Somehow it's difficult to look at each others face right? I didn't want to run into anyone either.

However, it can't be helped since we've met.

It would be strange not to greet each other as well.

"Morning."

"Ah, Good morning.."

Her face turned red from the embarrassment.

Right.

After we greeted each other I was looking in a different direction.

Since Bel moved away from the front of the incineration furnace I approached to throw stuff away as well. Since the lid of the incineration furnace is cast metal it's considerably heavy. After opening the lid I tried not to look inside while flipping over my trash can.

"..Four!"

It was seen. There's no tissues and paper is a luxury item. It's unthinkable to wrap them up before throwing them away.

"..More than."

"ha ha.."

Ah, really, pardon me from this. I can't do anything but make an embarrassed bitter smile.

"Miduchi-san, I'm envious.."

"ha ha.."

I see.

"Before it was even more.."

"..ha ha.."

"..We can't afford to lose."

I'm sorry for your loss.

Toris, I won't forget about you~

You were a good customer.

You should have been able to even beat that King in count in a single night.

Even if you return to being a good customer again starting tonight I'm pleased as well..don't die from kidney failure.

While still holding the trash cans we separated at the second floor. Bel and Toris are on the third floor after all.

Just as Miduchi and I were leaving the inn to do our morning run, Zulu and Angela came along and Toris and Bel had already finished their preparations. Toris was looking at me with a bad expression. Like I could care less about being criticized over something like that. Say your complaints directly to your woman.

Zenom and the others still hadn't returned by noon. It's just a mere 10 Km. Furthermore the road connection Rombertia and Baldukk is maintained well and safe. Even if you include moving through the town that only adds another 2-3 Km but I'm sure it's a distance that even the slow walkers Gwine and Zenom can cover in 3 hours.

While eating lunch together with Miduchi, as expected I've started to get worried. Without drinking any tea we finished our meal and returned on the way to our inn, we ended up running into Giberuti who was looking for seasonings so I called out to him and ordered him to call Zulu and Angela to our inn, and then we returned. It was confirmed that the annoy-ouple isn't eating lunch outside when they ordered something like a bento for two when we were all eating breakfast together. Even without worrying about it I'm sure we'll find

them stuck together in their room so it's fine to ignore them.

After telling Miduchi who was making a displeased expression to go and call them from their room on the fourth floor, I returned to my room and I changed into my armor and put the protectors on. I put my sword into its scabbard and that on my hip before descending to the lobby. I told Miduchi to put her leather armor on and come after properly equipping herself as well.

"Since I heard you called and.."

Zulu was waiting in the lobby. It seems Angela still hasn't come.

"Yeah, Zenom and the others still haven't returned. We're going to the capital after this. What's your plans for today?"

"There's no problem."

Zulu replied while still looking down. Don't lie. Didn't you just say last week that you match your days off with that Laios sister.

"Eh? Is that?"

"Yes."

Hmph.

"I see, then sorry but come with us to the capital after this."

"I understand."

Angela and Giberuti came running in after that. They must have noticed my appearance and serious expression, they kneeled in front of me like Zulu.

"Ah, Angela, sorry about today. Are your plans open for today?"

"There's no problem."

"So both of you no plans...Though that's fine you know..you come together with Zulu and us to the capital."

"I understand."

"Also, Giberuti, sorry but you keep an eye on things here. Stay here for today. If no one comes back by night then it's fine if you return to your inn and sleep."

"I understand..so you won't ask me if I have any plans for the day I see."

This fellow sure does say jokes to lighten the mood at just the right times.

“Che..Shut~up. Since you’re always buying new seasonings with your own money I was thinking of giving you a raise next year but I’ll stop?”

I said that while laughing as well but I took some silver coins from my pocket and handed them to Giberuti while saying, “It’s no good today but use some money on yourself sometimes.” It was just as Miduchi came down the stairs. Just as I told her she’s wearing her leather armor and a robe that goes down to her waist.

“I think that Toris-san and Bel will come soon as well.”

In a few minutes Toris and Bel came down as well. I told them that we’re going to meet Zenom and the others since they still haven’t returned and to go put their equipment on and then waited for a bit longer. I told Zulu and Angela to just go get their swords and returned them to their inn. When Toris came back down he wasn’t wearing his leather armor modified into banded-mail. It might just be my imagination but his facial color doesn’t look very good but his expression is lively and his eyes had a radiance. In comparison Bel looked a bit unsatisfied. Wring Toris out later to make up for this.

In another 20 minutes there’s a passenger carriage that goes to the capital. I don’t know if we can ride it with six people but if we can’t then we’ll leave behind Zulu and Angela.

Side Story 24: In the Case of Heiuchi Yoko (Age 17 at time of accident)

“No~ I’m glad I was able to buy it~ Thanks for accompanying me~”

In front of me Wakana said that to Misa as we got on the bus. I follow after Wakana and get on and then we all moved to the priority seats lined up on the front of the bus. I sat down next to Wakana, and after placing the obligation chocolate I just bought on top of my lap I exchanged glances with Wakana and smiled. It seems we’ll somehow be able to return to school by the time it ends.

Today is Valentine’s Day but Misa accompanied me, Yukino, and Wakana as we snuck out of school to go shopping since forgot to buy our obligation chocolate. Putting aside myself and Wakana, if Misa and Yukino who let alone class-wide, could be considered some of the cutest in the entire school disappear from before lunch I’m sure about now all the boys are going insane.

Today with Wakana, we laughed together that about now the boys of our class would be screaming in despair.

Wakana and I have known each other for a long time and we could be considered best friends. Since the time we were in elementary school when Wakana transferred in, we’ve always spent time together with the two of us. Today when Wakana saw that I forgot my obligation chocolate at school and was turning pale, she realized she was playing with my yesterday as well and got pale together with me. It was then that we realized Yukino seemed to have forgotten it as well and started talking about just going all out and skipping out of class with the three of us to go and buy some.

However, since it seems that Yukino didn’t have the courage to sneak out and buy some obligation chocolate herself, she invited Misa who’s shes on good terms with and the four of us decided to go together. It’s completely just an escape from class to accompany us for Misa but for some reason her expression seems bored. If you were to ask me, rather than Yukino who always has a prickly and sharp attitude, it’s easier to deal with Misa who while always looks

tired still acts friendly to anyone so I welcomed her accompanying us.

We bought chocolate at a department store in West Shinjuku and it's only obvious that we got back on the bus to return to school. I would be troubled if you criticized me for that but even if we didn't pick the bus we could have taken the method of riding the train to nearby station. Of course, it would have been a slightly round about way and the distance we would have had to walk would increase so I don't think anyone would normally pick that option but I'm sure the words about not standing in front of regrets are true.

Along with an impact of being hit forward from behind the last thing I remember is being sent flying passed the male student who was holding the leather handle in front of me and flying head first in the salary-man who was sitting on the other side of seats.

.....

Over six months passed since I was reborn, I've been able to grasp an outline of the situation. Since I occasionally see the appearance of my family in comparison to others I've understood that I've been born into something other than human. Obviously I can't accept it though. Since there's these sorts of children living here I'm sure it's only obvious this isn't Earth. It seems that there's people living in the neighborhood as well but after seeing a person with animal ears growing I knew that this wasn't Earth. I might be an idiot but even I can understand that much.

It's that, that. What was it again? The people who come out in the movie about throwing a ring into a volcano somewhere. Their heights are short but their feet are the size of a normal adult human. The people who's heads are the same size as normal humans as well. Ah, really, it's on the tip of my tongue up to here. Well it's fine. In any case, it seems I was reborn as child who doesn't get very big even after I become adult. It seems I'm the youngest child in my family and above me there's an older brother and sister. Other than my parents, my grandmother and grandfather are living with us as well. Grandfather and grandmother both still look to be in their mid-40s and look young.

It was around then that I started to get used to my strange body. There were

6 digits on each of my arms and legs. Of course moving them individually is possible. Just from a glance all of the rest of my family seems to have six as well so I guess it's not all that unusual.

My families job is agriculture and during the field work I'm laid down in a hollow tree near the fields while my older brother and sister are working. Obviously I was able to look around outside but just as I imagined it was a lifestyle like people far in the past. It's only obvious since there's no electricity, gas, or water services. All of the field work is done using sickles, hoes, and human labor. The farming people of Japan that I saw on television would always use various machinery but it seems that there's no sign of things like that here.

.....

One such day, a bunch of people came to our village. I can somehow hear a word I'm not used to like Devas or something. In the language that's normally spoken I can somehow hear English-sounding words mixed in so recently I've been able to understand the meanings a bit. Somehow it seems that the enemy is coming to attack this village so these people came to protect the village. I wonder if they're something like the SDF?

However, the people (supposed they're the army) that came to the village treat the people of the village like slaves and yell at us. It seems we're even handing over all our food. My parents said "if we end up occupied by Rombert then it'll be even worse" while enduring it.

That sort of lifestyle continued for a short while. I guess one or two months? Even if the start with the army people was like they still had some amount of control and they didn't act too arrogant, but recently it's gotten severe. They've started to be violent towards young women while they're in the middle of field work.

Next door there's a 14 year old girl named Mary with rabbit ears growing but around dinner the army people stormed into her house and were rough with her right in front of her family. I got chills hearing that. What a frightening world. I wonder if there's no police to arrest or judge them?

However, I don't know why but there's almost no damage to my house. I was able to confirm the reason for that a bit later. Among the army people who

came to the village was my father's little brother, in other words, my uncle. Thanks to that relation it seems that we didn't have food stolen and mother wasn't treated violently. Both my parents and grandparents were pleased with the good luck but I couldn't help but feel uneasy.

I mean, after that they repel the opponent who's coming to attack (I couldn't even imagine something like them failing to repel them), there's no doubt our family will be resented by the rest of the villagers. People recognize those who are as unfortunate as themselves as allies and they might offer a hand to those who are more unfortunate than themselves but it's only obvious to envy those who are more fortunate. Particularly, since it was just because of the reason that our relatives were in the army the fact that we received those leftovers I'm sure the other people of the village won't not feel envious towards us.

Even if, we had a relative in the army that entered because we predicted a situation like this, there's no way anyone would show admiration for such insight. It would be stranger for no one to think "They managed to do things well." or "Why just their place." I'm sure if I was born in a different family and found out about this situation I would think the same as well.

It seems that father's little brother is named Karodo. I've been lifted up by him a number of times. He has darkish skin that's burn from the sun but somehow I feel like he resembled grandfather, grandmother, and father so I felt he was my uncle. However, occasionally he makes a sneaky expression so in the end I couldn't help but realize he's one of the army people that is violent towards other. Just, towards us three siblings he showed a true smile. Thinking that this person is protecting our family I smiled back as best as I could. Seeing that uncle Karodo made a soft expression as well.

I'm begging you. Uncle Karodo. Please protect us.

.....

It was a morning after another month or so had passed. There was an uproar in the village. We were inside of our hollowed out tree as usual while I was held by mother making a scary face. The entrance of the hollow tree was sealed with woven mats and it was tied from outside. The one who sealed it with mats and tied it up from outside was father.

I can hear something like the hooves of horses and battle cries from here and there. I can hear screams and shouts as well. My older brother and sister got afraid and are crying while holding on to mother. Mother is crouching over sealing their mouths. I guess that Rombert or other has probably come to invade. I was so scared I couldn't help it either but I tried to bite down with my teeth that haven't properly grown out without making a sound. If I can't control my feelings here and let out a cry then mother and father's efforts could be wasted. Also, it's only obvious, but the fear of being killed if we're found by Rombert made me do that as well.

Mother is holding both my older brother and sister while repeating "It's alright, it's alright. Calm down." like a chant. She's repeating it in a whisper almost as if she's telling herself. Hearing that I was strangely able to calm down as well. It's probably because the screams have stopped as well.

.....

I don't know how much time passed at all. Just ten minutes, several hours, or it felt like it might have even just been a few minutes but as expected that's a bit too short. The screams have almost completely stopped. I wonder if they were able to repel them? I wonder if the frightening dispute has already ended?

It was that sort of time, I felt like I could hear uncle Karodo's voice. It seems like he's talking about something but I can't hear the details. Sometimes I feel like I can hear a voice enduring pain as well. And the sound of flesh being hit as well. The sound gradually got closer. It seems that it's not just uncle Karodo.

"Ehe..mister, it's over here..there's a good woman.."

"Hmph, I see. Well if her appearance isn't good it's just a matter of killing her."

"Mister you're a Halfling as well right? Then a woman of the same race is somehow better right.."

"That's only obvious.."

What is it? What in the world is uncle Karodo saying? Inside of the dim hollowed tree, I could tell mother's face was pale and stiff from inside of the basket.

I could hear the sound of the mats sealing the hollowed tree being forcibly pulled off.

Uncle Karodo who was missing his right arm from below the elbow looked in with a twisted face. He's heavily injured! Uncle Karodo was immediately kicked over by another man and made a voice like "Gebu~" A different man wearing some considerably polished lather armor looked inside.

"Hi~!!"

Mother embraced my older brother and sister and crouched in the corner of the tree to escape from the man. Due to the suddenly fear not just my siblings but I couldn't hold back crying out as well. The man glared at mother from the entrance and then left and instead put the end of a spear inside towards us.

"Hey, woman, it's troublesome so come out right now. If you don't then I'll kill this brat!"

The man from Rombert said that threatening mother.

"Sister-in-law Myure! It would be best to listen to what he says! If it's just like that then you'll be killed!"

I heard Uncle Karodo's voice. Mother's face was stiff as she tried to go even further into the hollowed tree but obviously she was already at the limit. It's just the voices of my older brother, sister, and me crying out.

"Shut up~!! There's already no more use for you! With that arm you're useless as a slave as well. Die!"

The man pulled his spear back from the entrance and thrust it to his side.

"Guwa~!! Th..that can't be..isn't that different from what you"

"I said shut~ up right!"

"Ga!!"

I stuck the blood-stained spear back into the hollowed tree.

"I'll count to three. Come out. I'll make you into a slave. If you don't come out right away I'll kill those brats. One."

"Ple...Please wait. I'll come out right away! That's why just my children!"

Mother screamed in a panic.

"Come on, hurry up!"

Carrying my older brother, sister, and me who was still in the basket as we cried my mother left the hollowed tree.

The man holding the spear was a short child the same as father.

He made a creepy expression as if he was assessing mother and stuck the spear over while saying “lower the brats on the ground”. Mother said “Please just my children!” while screaming but the man just ignored mother’s words.

“You’re my spoils from this fight! There’s already no choice but for you to become a slave! I’ve been telling you to lower the brats already, now~!”

The spear stretches out and stabs into my chest.

“No~~!! Chumin!”

That was the last word I heard that I could understand.
I felt the cold yet hot end of the spear stab into my body.

Side Story 25: In the case of Hotta Hiroki (Age 27 at time of accident)

(Ah, my hips hurt...The sun is bright...not, it's cloudy.)

Last night after bringing several female fans into his house and engaging in all sorts of lewd activities Hiroki put his guitar case over his shoulder and is standing at the home of the train station. Nearby a young salary man is complaining to an older middle-age salary man who seems to be his superior.

(You're loud~ these rotten ry-man)

Hiroki is the guitarist and sub-vocals for a somewhat popular indie band. Along with his good looking face he and the lead vocal each make up half of the popularity of the band. He's never been troubled by money or women in his life until now. Since the past even if he ignored them women come to his side and he never has problems with having enough if the women give money to him.

Today he has a recording at a studio in Shibuya. Since it would be bad if he's late he left his apartment just a bit early. After confirming the time on the clock of the home platform and it was just the right time for the high speed train to come. He should be able to arrive 30 minutes before the estimated time.

After boarding the front car of the high speed train that slid into the platform and just as he guessed there were seats open. He took an open seat and then raised the volume on his music player. The woman sitting next to him was making a displeased face but Hiroki didn't pay any mind of that putting his guitar between his legs to hold it.

(Here, this melody is good. After all rock needs to be British)

While listening to the beat that comes in through his earphones Hiroki moves his fingers to match the rhythm. He closes his eyes and naturally started to match his feet to the rhythm as well.

When he received a sudden large impact and looked down his guitar looked like his lower body.

(Eh? Why am I floating. Ah, my body?)

Hiroki who was cut in half and sent flying from the material miraculously still had his earphones in and his music player continuing to play the British rock beat.

.....

(Ah, shit!! I'm not in luck.)

Hotta Hiroku, now known as Sajes. Bastral gripped the broken handle of the hoe while picking up the head of it and then walking in a slow pace towards the the house of the governor. Sajes was born as a cat-people serf in the eastern part of Rombert Kingdom's territory directly controlled by the King. In terms of reincarnation range it's almost straight in the Northeast. After that, while Sajes was still young he and his family were moved to a pioneering village in the Southeast of the King's direct territory, since then he's been engaged in cultivation.

The Unique Ability he was born with is 【Resistance(Temperature)】. According to the God he met in the past it seems that any degree of temperature that would cause burns or frostbite harmful to his body don't have any effect. Although, since the sensation still remains while it might be possible to grab a piece of burning charcoal but he can feel the heat, and even if he wanders in the mountains in winter for as long as his mana lasts he could last in a snow storm naked but it doesn't change the fact that it still feels cold. However, since it automatically protects his body from unexpected dangers (though mistakenly grabbing something like a burning rock is pretty unlikely) it's not so useless that it can't be used even when forgotten.

“Master, the handle of the hoe broke. I'm very sorry.”

On the side of the governor's house he went to the side of a man putting effort into his combat training and lowered his head. This commoner elf that's in his mid 30s is Sajes's owner. At the same time he's also one of the squires that serves Viscount Benkusu who governs this Rockfall village. After the squire took one glance at the broken handle and he said, “it can't be helped, until we can prepare a new one ask the head slave for a different job” and then returned to training.

Since it couldn't be helped he started pulling weeds which the head slave told him.

He was given a wooden stick the next day for a new hoe handle to exchange it with. He ended up shave too much away in top of the hoe and failing with it. He ended up being hit by the head slave but this was his own mistake.

It can't be helped. After receiving a new stick, this time he was able to repair(?) it without failure.

.....

Occasionally the army passes through Rockfall village. Whether they're going to the battlefield, returning, or maybe just moving to a completely different location. Sajes couldn't tell at all but it doesn't make much difference, since Sajes was forced to move from the village he was born in during his infancy as well. Consequently, he hasn't taken even one step out of the village since then so he doesn't know where the road in the middle of the village goes or what kind of places are beyond that. He only knew the rough shape of this Rombert Kingdom he's living. It's plenty to know that this area around here wouldn't become a battlefield unless a major war starts.

Of course, Sajes wanted to know various things when he was a child as well and he had an appropriate amount of curiosity. However, in the few years before they were forced to move he found out that his entire family is slaves and went into despair, then when he found out the conditions to escape it and the value of money he completely gave up. Since he already knew the method to look at status he thought he would just end up being found and brought back right away even if he runs.

In the first place, the more he got to know this world of Orth where he started his new life, he found out that being a slave isn't all that bad and was able to completely give up. Of course that's just on the surface though. He's been getting along well with Catherine the second daughter of a different slave house that moved in last year. She's got a considerably good looking face for a Cat-people and her disposition is good as well. Her age is just right at the same age as him.

Sajes started to think, (it might not be half bad to get married to Cathy, have some children and work in the fields). It didn't take much time at all before he

started to talk to her between farm work and have lunch together with her. The first time he embraced Catherine, kissed her, and came on her stomach he couldn't help but think preciously of Catherine. This was the first time in his life he felt like this including his past life.

(Ah, up until now I hadn't felt like I had lived much of a life but I guess I was born for the sake of being together with Cathy. She's my first "woman".)

Catherine's owner is a different person. In order to marry her, Sajes must prove to his owner that he's a "useful" and "skilled" slave. It doesn't particularly matter even if it's Catherine's squire owner who thinks they "want Sajes" as well. Since Sajes is a second son things like his family name or headship didn't matter from the start.

Sajes thought that the fall of his 16th year and started working hard that it was quite a difference from before.

He started taking action before even being told by the head slave and somehow even managed to make an old thresher that he remembered. After finding out about that his owner praised him quite a bit. Even the governor viscount Benkusu praised Sajes over the thresher as being the greatest achievement since the founding of Rockfall village, in reward he was given 250,000 Z (1 gold Shu) and a pair of chickens. It seems that Sajes's owner the elf squire was given some gold coins at the same time as well.

"Sajes, you can relax in regards to Catherine. Including the reward from this time by this time of next year I should have enough money so I'll somehow negotiate over her. In exchange, have lots of children."

After hearing the words his owner said Sajes was deeply moved and even kissed his boots. They're ultra high quality rubber-sole boots that the squires of the village were given by the army last year in exchange for the trouble they caused when passing through.

(I can't go to war like the squires-sama but I'll lay my roots in Rockfall village and make this village wealthy. For the sake of Cathy and our children..)

.....

However, it was around November near the end of that year, the situation

underwent a sudden change. A couple of travelers on horses stopped by the village. One of them was a well-dressed human man and the other was a tiger-man with a large build. The two of them were young warriors with fearless expressions and hope shining in their eyes. The time they appeared was close to 4 pm when night was close. The two of them went to viscount Benkusu to receive permission to stay the night and then started preparing a camp in a vacant space.

Sajes happened to pass by there. This vacant space is often used by a unit of the army so it's considerably wide. It's not unusual for caravans of merchants to stay there either. Sajes tried to pass through with his eyes looking down in order to not be rude to a guest of the village but the two young warriors called out to him. I wonder if they want some water from the well? It's troublesome but it can't be helped.

"Did you call for me? Traveling knight-sama."

There's no way of knowing if they're knights without checking their status but there's no harm in saying a higher rank. When Sajes obeyed respectfully while approaching their side with his head down so as not to look at their faces the two young warriors were surprised and raised their voices.

""Are you Japanese!?""

Sajes was surprised hearing those words as well. After raising his face and looking closely at the two, their hair and eyes were black. And there's no way of mistaking those Japanese facial features.

"A, ah, yeah.."

He was so surprised Sajes choked up on his words.

"Do you understand Japanese?"

The young human warrior approached Sajes and asked.

"Ah, yeah, it.. it's my first time speaking it in a while but, of, of course, I understand."

He stammered a bit but the two young warriors recognized Sajes response in Japanese while nodding.

“Excuse me for a moment..{Status Open}”

The human man said that and grabbed his hand before checking his status. Since Sajes had already met God he knew that there were Japanese people somewhere as knowledge but he didn't think he'd meet them.

“A slave huh..Nomu-san, how much do you have on you?”

“..Fu...So we thought the same thing. I have about 2,000,000 Z (2 gold coins) in leeway. Etou-kun, what about you?”

“Che..please don't underestimate the family of Count Faruerugaz. I have plenty of money.”

The two young warriors joked about that before facing Sajes again.

“I'm Nomura Koukichi. This guy is Etou Shoji. What's your name?”

The Tiger-man asked the first question.

“Ah, Sa..Sajes.Bastorasu..ah, No, Hi, Hiroki.Hotta, I mean. I'm Hotta Hiroki.”

“Hotta-kun huh? We were thinking of freeing you from the slave social standing but how about it? Of course we won't demand something like you returning 100 times to us so you can rest easy. It'll take the form of you being released as a Free Person but as long as you return the money we bought you with later then that's fine.”

Nomura lifted the edges of his mouth in a manly smile while saying.

“We're heading to the capital Rombertia after this so you'll only truly be released after we get to a temple in the capital though. If you can become a Free Person then it's possible to move around as well so I'm sure if you start some kind of business you should be able to return the money pretty quickly. It's the friendship of people from the same place, I think we can lend you a bit of funds as well.”

Etou had a somewhat soft expression as he explained it.

(Wh..What was that!? Freeing me from slavery? Are they really talking about that sort of dream-like story? I'm certainly a serf but slaves are expensive? They even cost several million Z...and they just mentioned having 2,000,000 Z or so didn't they..)

Sajes wasn't able to keep up with the story that came out of nowhere. He just kept blinking in shock.

"No..No way..you're just saying something good..saying something like that before knowing what kind of person I am..how can you trust me."

"Yeah, that's true. We don't know what kind of person you are. If you're a good person or evil person. In the first place if you became a slave from committing a crime even...We don't know anything. However, you're the same Japanese right? Isn't that enough of a reason?"

Etou said that while smiling.

"Hotta-kun. If you say you can't trust us then we won't force it on you. It's fine if you do as you please."

"Nomu-san, you're saying those sorts of things again...I'm sure that even he isn't satisfied as a slave...Hotta-san, I can understand those feelings of not being able to trust us when we suddenly appeared. However, don't they say with chances, the Goddess might have bangs but there's no hair in the back? I think it's more intelligent to grab the chances when you have them. Otherwise, do you have some sort of attachment to your family?"

"It's not that I don't have..any attachment towards my family. And I also have a woman I promised to marry next year."

(That's right, there's no way I can trust them. They could sell me some other place after buying me before they release me. If that were to happen I can't do anything.)

"So you have a woman..However, aren't there as many women in the world as there are stars in the sky? Isn't it fine if you search for one again? And if you still have regrets isn't it fine if you just profit after becoming a Free Person and come back and buy her? If it's a serf woman from the villages around this area they wouldn't exceed 2,000,000 Z I'm sure. Even in your case you'd be around 3,000,000 Z right?"

(These two..I'm amazed they can say 3,000,000 Z so lightly.)

Sajes was so shocked he couldn't say anything. His wages are 1,100 Z per week (11 copper coins). It doesn't even add up to 70,000 Z in a year. Even

without using any of it, it's questionable if you can save up 3,000,000 Z in your entire life. Though there's still things like raises in pay and the gold Shu he received previously, so if you save up while young then for the most part it's still possible to buy yourself back in your 40s. However, there's no mistake it's an amount so large that it's unthinkable.

"That much money, if it's a Japanese like you then I think you should be able to earn it right away though.."

"Hotta-kun. Can you read and write?"

"I cannot."

"I see. However, something like the letters you shouldn't have any problem with learning right away. You can do things like calculations fast as well right? Since the level of civilization on Orth is low, there should be business opportunities rolling around all over the place...How old were you when you died?"

"Ah, 2..27."

"In that case it's plenty. Unless you were an elementary school student or something there's no problem. As long as you have money that is. And, right now we can prepare enough of that money to buy you. Since we properly want you to return it after we release you we'll have you write a loan document but I have no intention of taking interest. Though I guess there's no culture for interest either way."

Or to be more correct it's not a matter of culture but rather the era. It's the basics of the era of financing. Adding to that, things like interest are a common technique from major companies since far in the past. This young Tiger-man warrior just doesn't know.

"Re..really..."

"Yeah, it's true. It's some sort of fate that we met a Japanese here. You don't need to worry about us deceiving and buying you and then selling you to some more for an even higher price. Though even if I say that, it's a statement that doesn't guarantee anything at all."

.....

In the end Sajes was bought by the two young warriors, Rodrick and Fio for 3,000,000 Z. Rodrick used a bit of the authority of his status as the eldest son of Count Farueregaz to push through negotiations. He made the promise with Catherine that after becoming a Free Person who would definitely make a profit in business and then return to buy her. As expected the two of them wouldn't go as far as buying Catherine as well. Since he was asked about his Unique Ability, Sajes responded honestly. Since he thought there wasn't much meaning in hiding it.

“Hmph, 【Resistance(Temperature)】 huh? It resembles my 【Resistance(Virus Infection)】.”

“I somehow thought it but it seems there's several types of 【Resistance】 Unique Abilities.”

“What kind of Unique Ability does Nomura-san have?”

“Mine is the so-called 【Valiance】. It has a feel like when you can temporarily show super strength during a time of danger.”

Just like this, on their path to the capital, the three of them exchanged information up until now.

According to that and it seems that Rodrick and Fio were on the same first train car as Sajes. Rodrick was 30 and of all things Fio was a 90 year old elderly man. The two of them just received formal investiture as knights from the knight group in Count Faruergaz's territory and after retiring they started on their travels of Orth. Rodrick decided to follow after Fio leaving his house without inheriting the head of the Count family it seems. I see now, if they're knights then I'm sure they have some money and Rdorick is the eldest son of a County family. It's only obvious they would have enough money to buy Sajes.

Since Sajes had lived his life up until now at the bottom of society as a slave the two of them seemed to be dazzling. Even though we were all reborn after the same accident, I wonder what the difference between them and myself is, as he started to feel miserable but after giving it more thought he remembers cursing his fate in Japan for not being born in a rich family as well.

“Hotta-kun. Nothing can be started by lamenting the differences in our birth. Certainly I'm grateful to God for being born in a family of commoners. I really

had good luck. Even Etou-kun was born close to the highest ranking on Orth. That's why we don't know the troubles of a slave. Of course before entering the knight group I lived in a remote village as well so there were a reasonable number of them nearby that I know. I'm sure there were quite a few troubles as well. Even troubles that we can't even imagine. However, there's no meaning in sulking over those things. What's important is how you can overcome that. We're not doing anything more than helping out with that a bit."

"That's right, Hotta-kun. I was only a little bit older than you when I died but I was a salary man and had a wife and children. There were troubles that you a bachelor wouldn't know for even me. Even though I was in that situation I was suddenly the son of a noble. Of course there's no comparison to a slave but nobles have troubles as well. Up until I was forcefully thrown into the knight group I hadn't left my house since I was reborn. There was even a time I was really jealous of the second son and later of a commoner family that has a reasonable amount of freedom...Though after hearing there's monsters I got scared and was grateful I was a noble though."

The two of them seemed tremendously strong in Sajes's eyes. They were attacked by a group of goblins once while traveling along the road. While still riding their horses the two of them wiped out the goblins in no time at all.

(Even though you say that..born as a commoners and nobles, being trained in the knight group, and you have money as well. That's why you have plenty of confidence. I have nothing at all..)

Reading Sajes's feeling Rodrick said something.

"The value of people isn't decided by something like directly strength or how much money they have. It's whether or not they're enjoying their life. It's weird saying this but before you met us even you had some things you enjoyed in your life right? After all you had a woman you were thinking of marrying right? There was a time where you were enjoying yourself right?"

(Certainly it enjoyable. I had a reasonable amount of hope and prospects. I started to think a life of just living was quite wonderful.)

"Of course, strength and money are important. You're pretty much guaranteed freedom in society for as much range as those two last you. When it

comes to the lifestyle of a serf in Rockfall village, putting aside strength, I think just having a bit of money is plenty. You could have lived a reasonably enjoyable lifestyle. However, I think there's a lot more enjoyable things in the world as well. If you're a Japanese then you should know that. That's why we wanted to forcefully pull you along."

(So that feel like they sold me a favor huh...And, no matter, how I think about it, it's a favor.)

Sajes had already imagined that there was things more happy than the small happiness he had already grasped. He knows that there's differences in values between people as well but just a short while ago Sajes had given up on escaping the life of a slave and was about to be satisfied with the results of the small happiness he was chasing after. Get married as a serf, have children, raise crops. He didn't feel anything to be ashamed of there.

(However, I want to make Cathy "even more" happy. Fio said there's as many women as there are stars in the sky and certainly that's true. There's as many as there are stars. however, my star is Cathy. If possible I don't want to let her do harsh farm work like she is right now. I want to let her eat delicious things and live a life of comfort. Even our children would be born as slaves. They might end up being sold to someone we don't accept. Though if it's the character of that squire elf who was my owner then I'm sure that wouldn't happen, for as long as we're slaves the possibility isn't zero.)

Sajes thought about various things while swaying on the horse behind Rodrick. He started to really feel that desires towards life had been born in himself.

.....

Finally the three of them arrived at the capital Rombertia. It was the evening of the year 7444, Month 12, Day 12. Since it was already late they decided to take an inn first, have dinner, and then go to release Sajes as the temple tomorrow.

They entered a random restaurant and ordered some food and alcohol. It seems that up until arriving in the capital, Rodrick and Fio didn't drink any alcohol to remain vigilant. Furthermore, it seems that the capital was their

objective for the time being so they said they intend to look around here and there while staying in the capital for a short while. Sajes was offered some alcohol as well and drank his first alcohol since he was reborn. Both the alcohol and food were good enough that it numbed his tongue.

(It's my first time eating something this delicious. I want to let Cathy eat some as well..It's the type of food you can only eat a couple of times in your life as a serf...In the end I feel it might have been best I trusted them. After all people from the same place are something to be appreciative of.)

The next morning, after opening his eyes in the inn, Rodrick said he was stopping by the royal castle before going to the temple. Sajes was surprised but it seems that he has an older sister separated in age that is the fourth wife of his majesty the King. Rodrick was laughing about the fact that it's rude to come to the capital and not greet his older sister the Queen. In addition Fio accompanied him since he said he wanted to see the castle. Sajes was invited as well and while he was interested in the castle, he was worried that it might cause trouble for Rodrick if a slave like himself came along so he decided to wait at the inn.

Two hours later, Rodrick and Fio returned. The two of them were considerably excited. It seems it was an extremely magnificent castle. Hearing that Sajes though, "Since it was a rare chance maybe I should have seen it?" but he doesn't know any of the manners and his clothes are cheap and worn-out. After all he decided to think it was the best choice not to go.

All three of them went together to a temple on the edge of the capital. There's a large temple on the side of the castle but it seemed pretty packed so they gave up on it.

"Since there's a population of over 200,000 people in this capital, I'm sure they're doing the naming ceremonies of dozens of people every day and things like the releasing of slaves are performed as if they're only obvious. And according to what I've heard they make the currency as well. There's several temples along the edge of the capital so let's go there."

They decided to go with Rodrick's pick. After arriving at the temple and being made to wait for about 10 minutes it was finally time for them to undergo the

ceremony to release a slave. Various things were confirmed before the ceremony. Of course there was the proof sale for Sajes and a simple explanation about the individual tax for Free People. It seems that he can get a more proper explanation from the government office after this though. After the ceremony completed and Sajes used his trembling right hand to touch his equally trembling left hand and said “Status Open” to confirm his Status. Rodrick and Fio were smiling as they watched that Sajes.

“Ro..Rombert Kingdom, Duke Rombert Territory Registered Free Person..Certainly..u..Wu..”

Being freed from the slave standing and made into a Free Person, Sajes shed tears as he was overcome with emotion.

“Congratulations, Sajes. With this you’re no longer a slave. You’re free.”
“Sajes, enjoy your life. No one can order you around anymore. There’s no need to be bound to a single place as well.”

“A, ah, Th..Thank you. “Thank you very much.” I’ll never forget the debt I received from you two in my entire life!”

“Wa ha..But as expected this isn’t our treat. Return it to us one day.”
“If you do forget it make sure it’s after that.”

After this the three of them are going to eat some lunch and then produce the loan document for Sajes. Rodrick ended up paying all of the 3,000,000 Z payment to purchase Sajes. Rodrick also agreed to offer Sajes another 2,000,000 Z to start a business with.

They ended up taking a considerably early lunch, went to a scribe to produce the loan document, and then after receiving an explanation about the individual tax from the government office they finished up his official registration as a Free Person. It seems there’s a penalty if they don’t register within a week from the change of his status so they wanted to get it done as soon as possible. Fio was talking about something with an official of the government office but after a smile appeared on his face he gave the OK sign to Rodrick. Seeing that Rodrick started grinning and smiling as well. Sajes had no idea what it was about at all.

After that, under the premise of celebrating Sajes’s new life they went off to a brothel. He read the actions of Fio at the government office just now. He must

have been introduced to a brothel with a good reputation. Sajes tried to refuse because he has Cathy but was forcefully brought along. I'm Sure Rodrick and Fio really just wanted to go. It can't be helped, since Rodrick says it's his treat, I guess this is socializing as well.

.....

"Hey, Rodrick. It was the best right..I should have made it three hours instead of two.."

The last one to appear in the waiting room of "Emerald Duke Club Reception Hall" was Fio as he said with a loose face.

"Ah, really..I was made to realize the greatness of these {condoms}. I wonder where we can buy those?"

"Oh~ I want some as well. I forgot to ask.."

"Wu..It was good..It was far too good..Cathy, I'm sorry..but, it was good..Is this heaven?"

It's something he noticed these past two weeks while traveling with them but whenever the two of them speak in Japanese Rodrick uses honorifics towards Fio and acts politely towards him but whenever they speak in the {Common Language} they speak on equal terms and call each other by their names on Orth.

The three of them started walking together towards the exit.

"Ah, just a moment..Excuse me but where can we buy those "condoms"?"

Rodrick called out to a boy who was cleaning up the entrance and asked.

"Huh? What's a "condom"?"

The boy responded with a strange face.

"Eh? If you say "condom" then there's only that right? Those things made of rubber used as a substitute for pig's bowels."

"Ah, the Saya I see. In that case the manufacturer has a monopoly on direct sales through the Greed Company in the capital."

Rodrick politely asked the location of the Greed Company. Sajes was watching

over that quietly at first but he suddenly realized something and started thinking with a serious expression.

(I'm sure those condoms would sell. Since it seems the price is only 1.5 times more than pig's bowels, there's no way they aren't selling..and, in that case things like the bowels of pigs and sheep might be leftover and..since they don't need any processing like condoms, wouldn't it be possible to buy them dirt cheap...this is)

“But, right now they should be pretty close to running out of stock. Last month when we went to purchase them they already didn't have much remaining stock and were sighing over how troubling it was. Though since we have a contract with them there's no problem for us. It seems right now they only sell to people who have a letter of introduction or the bag as proof that they were repeaters who have bought them since the past.”

“Eeh..That's troubling. Hey~ this brothel is using a lot of them right? Wouldn't you split up one bag of them with me? It's fine if I buy it.”

Rodrick tried hanging on. Fio is nodding as well. Sajes though it's wasteful spending though swore in his heart to go and buy once again after he releases and marries Cathy.

“That's impossible. Since our customers have increased recently even we're pretty limited in how many we have.”

“Then, would you write an introduction letter? This guy is the eldest son of Count Faruerugaz. Isn't he of the standing to be worth an introduction letter?”

The boy politely lowered his head and apologized.

“I'm very sorry customer but I cannot do that. If we were to write introduction letters for all of our customers then the stock of Greed Company would disappear in no time at all. In the first place, we're profiting quite a bit thanks to those Saya. We can't do anything like deceiving the Greed Company. However, I'll tell you one good thing. It seems that Saya are always given out as an extra prize for the {Dog races} that are sponsored by his majesty the King. It seems that they were just hosting them today as well. How about going and testing your luck?”

Right away Rodrick and Fio asked the location of the {Dog Races} and then dragged along Sajes who wanted to go take care of the procedures to register a company.

.....

“Uoo~! Come Rabidori! Come!”

“Strike! Come for me!”

“Shit! I can’t get a hit!”

“I missed as well!”

“Brutish! Come already~~~~!”

“Mathew! Show some guts~~!”

“Ei! Next!”

“Not yet, it’s not over yet!”

“Avalanche! Go for it!! Overtake them~!!”

“Burglary! Give it your best~!”

“Guha..so it was no good.”

“This, sure is difficult.”

Fio and Rodrick were yelling while holding a dog plate with the number eight branded on it. The only plates that the condoms are given out as extra prizes for cost 100,000 Z (10 silver coins) each. There’s no other choice than winning but it seems that if you manage to went back over 10 times that 1,000,000 Z (1 gold coin), then as an extra prize you get one bag of condoms as well.

Incidentally there’s a regulation where you can only purchase one dog plate per {Dog race}. Though those sorts of regulations are often ignored for the small sum dog plates but when it comes to purchasing the expensive dog plates they properly check your status so if you really want to buy multiple of them you have to gather some people but for a race that occurs once every 20 minutes they close the deadline three hours ahead. The rough odds are posted up but after they close the deadline the sales are totaled and five minutes before the race starts the latest odds are changed. In the end it’s a system where the bookmaker profits.

In order to purchase a dog plate after the deadline has already been reached

you need to pay a bit more to negotiate with someone who's already bought one. There's some people making a living as hawkers and if you pay them some money they'll find a dog plate for you to buy.

"Hey~ Rodrick-san, Fio-san, you two have already spent more than 500,000 right? Let's give up already. It seems that they'll sell them after they get more stock."

Sajes was saying that while he only bought two cheap dog plates with low odds and both of them hit the mark. They were the cheapest plates at 100 Z (1 copper coin) each (the rates were 2.5 times and 3.2 times so he profited 370 Z). He only bought them because it couldn't be helped being together with them.

"Sh..Shut uph~! I need to make back the portion I've lostnya!"
"If we withdraw here we're not men!"

(Ah, these people, they're the type that ruin themselves on gambling huh? I wonder if they liked pachinko?)

"In the first place, there's no way dog plates with those sorts of rates would land right? Have you actually done "horse racing" before? It's only obvious that the stronger dogs have lower rates."

"It's my first time gambling."
"Me too. In the past I gambled with the fate of my "company" but it's my first time at this sort."

(Isn't this the typical pattern for beginners.. I can't watch anymore.)

"However, it seems that once in every ten races there's a rate of over ten times."

"Ah, it seems the highest rate for today is 3.5 times. If we manage to take it then it will instantly turn things around."

"Then if you go off of probabilities isn't there no way to lose?"
"It's that sort of calculation, Rodrick, you're sure clear on it~"

Sajes was so amazed he couldn't say anything but the two of them are his patrons. In the first place, if you really wanted some condoms if you paid all of the money you've used up until now you should easily be able to buy some. It seems they're sold for 15,000 Z at that Greed Company or whatever but if you

say you're willing to pay 10 times the price I'm sure someone would sell.

"The two of you, let's stop already! This is impossible!"

There's no way for a dog with over 10 times the odds to win that's why it's odd are over 10 times.

Suddenly Sajes remembered.

(Come to think of it, it's something I thought about in the past. I'm sure their feelings have completely returned to being brats..)

Sajes grabbed on to both of their necks and dragged them out of the grounds for the dog races.

"We should go try going to Greed Company first right. If we negotiate we might be able to get them to sell some, isn't going there several times and becoming familiar more important?"

"Ah, that's right. The blood ran to my head after the first time I lost so I forgot myself."

"Rodrick, so you too as well..The blood ran to my head after I lost for the first time as well.."

While pushing forward the two of them with their heads down Sajes was walking through the edge of the prosperous district towards Greed Company while the two of them had their shoulders dropped.

It was just then.

"Hey, your scabbard hit me!"

A Laios man who no matter how you look at seemed like a Yakuza raised a loud shout. It seems that Fio's scabbard hit the scabbard of the Laios man's sword. Several other men who were surrounding the Laios raised yells and starting cursing as well.

"Ah, sorry about that."

Fio replied un-energetically but the Yakuza wouldn't overlook it. He started picking a fight to pay some money. Obviously Fio and Rodrick have no intention of paying money for that sort of reason but from Sajes's point of view they just lost even more than that in the dog races, so he was worried even though they

might just overlook us if you hand them a silver coin.

“Hey, what are you doing in the middle of the road? Disappear you hoodlums.”

A middle-aged dwarf with pink hair and a beard and quite a bit of force to him butt in. The man brought along a young human girl with long gold hair and a dwarf woman with short yellow green hair and beard. The two women had light fearless smiles on their faces as well but when they faced Sajes and the others they smiled.

When the three of them saw that woman’s face they all stiffened up.

No matter how they looked at it this dwarf that appeared doesn’t seem Japanese. His face doesn’t look like that of a Japanese person as well. All of his fundamental parts are those of a “pure dwarf”.

Since both of the women he brought along had blond and yellow green hair, from a glance they seemed like people of Orth as well but the faces they smiled over here with were clearly those with characteristics of a Japanese person.

“You’re Japanese people right? We’ll save you.”

The human woman with long gold hair said in Japanese before preparing her weapon from behind the dwarf.

“If you leave it to these two then there’s no problem.”

The dwarf woman isn’t holding a weapon but she’s opening and closing her hands that are hanging down.

“She drew her weapon..Nma, there’s no mistake! B..bro, these bastards..No, these people are the {Slaughterers}! The..They’re a bad opponent..”

“Ah..I..I’ve seen them before as well. That woman, she’s {Ball Crusher}.”

“The..Then that pink hair dwarf is Firefreed-san huh...”

“Ah, if you already know then things are quick. Hey, you Laios brat, it’s fine if you want to fight but we’re adventurers from Baldukk. Since we’re always up against monsters. Even if we do you guys in the same way we can’t go easy on you?”

While the dwarf is threatening them he spins his {tomahawk} around in one hand and the color of the Yakuza's faces changed.

"Ja..Japanese..."

"Just now, that was in Japanese right?"

"I heard it as well, that face is.."

"However, to be saved by a woman is.."

"Umu, it's pretty uncool."

"Is it the time to be talking about something like that? Is it fine not to back them up?"

"Ye..Yeah."

"O..Oh~"

While these three were talking about something like that the dwarf and two women said something to the hoodlums and they yelled "we're~ very *sorry*" while running off into the crowd.

.....

We all entered a restaurant in front of us and we're sitting around a six person table. For the time being we started off with greetings. The three of us were surprised that blonde human woman was the daughter of the dwarf but once we heard that she was an abandoned baby and the dwarf picked her up and raised it made sense.

"Hmph, is that so. But we've already accepted it after all so it's fine."

The woman with the long hair dyed gold, Ralpa replied. Sajes thought she was cute but since it's unrelated right now he remained silent. The countless years of slave nature that he's used to restrained him from making any statements without permission.

"Even if you say that...it's possible you all could have been deceived by that man with that contract you know?"

Fio continues his persuasion.

"Umm, if it's "Japanese" then Zenom-san doesn't understand so could you please speak in the {Common Language}.."

The dwarf woman with her hair dyed yellow green, Akdam cautioned to Fio.

All three of them felt something was a bit off seeing a female Japanese person's face with a beard growing and they were trying not to look at Akdam's face as much as possible.

"No, it's a problem for you two. You two are already adults right? You should decide things about yourselves on your own. Isn't it fine in Japanese."

Without paying any mind to it Fio continued in Japanese. Ralpa replied while making an unpleasant face.

"We don't keep anything hidden from Zenom and it's not necessary. If you're going to insist on talking in "Japanese" anymore than this then we'll return."

Hearing that the ones who panicked were Fio and Rodrick.

"I.. I got it. We won't use "Japanese" anymore. Listen to what I'm saying."
"Please relax, we just want to save some "Japanese" women who might be being deceived by someone."

The dwarf Zenom who was remaining quiet whispered something to Ralpa.

"I don't really get the conversation but wouldn't it be better to call Al?"

"Nn..It's fine. Even if we don't rely on Al for every little thing.."

Seeing that Akdam said to the three of them.

"Please excuse us, we're going to have a bit of a secret conversation so, we'll go talk over there for a bit."

After they moved to a different table they started arguing.

"It would be best to make more reincarnated people into our allies."

"I understand that but you know.."

"That's right, it would be best to call Al-san."

"But you know, since it seems like those two who seem like knights will be around for a while are fine, but that..what was it again? The former slave Cat-people said he wants to start business so he can buy the person that's going to be his wife right. Compared to the knights he doesn't seem like he'd be useful in the dungeon but Gwine, even you are properly fighting against monsters now right, I'm sure there's a good chance that person could end up like that as well."

"That's true. However, I think it would be better for Al to do the negotiations."

"I think the same as Zenom-san as well. If you want should I go back and call for him?"

"That's no good. Since Zenom is an adult I want him to remain with us and both Gwine and I are Japanese after all. We should remain on the place for negotiations. And it's irritating always leaving things just to Al. Let's show him that we can negotiate things just all on our own."

"Hmph, then you get scolded by Al."

"I'm against it you know."

"..In the worst case, even if we struggle with the negotiations Al will probably come looking for us on his own tomorrow...If it gets dragged into tomorrow let's borrow a place at Greed Company."

"In the end.."

"We'll just be relying on Al-san again.."

"It's fine, let's finish things on our own right away! I'm sure Al will wipe our asses for us!"

It seems that their discussion has finished.

Fio and Rodrick were licking their lips with serious expressions. Sajes is pretending not to have any interest but was pretty interested. Since it seems that among their allies there's someone who manages a company.

Chapter 163: Responsibility 1

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 14

The passenger carriage arrived at the capital around 3 pm. For the time being, in the case there's some kind of trouble they should either show their faces in my company or leave some sort of message there. We walked on to Bell road towards Greed Company and we noticed the abnormality when we were just about to be able to see the company. There's four horses connected to the stake in front of the store. Oh~ I wonder if there's some nobles here? and thought that for a moment but two of those are Miduchi and my own horse.

After all they were here. However the remaining two are considerably good war horses as well. One of them seems to be wearing a harness far more expensive and extravagant than my own. And then I noticed it right away. Yotlen and the others are sitting in a daze on the bench against the wall of the store in front of those horses. Something seems to have happened...Since Yotlen and the others don't seem to be in a panic it doesn't seem to be anything dangerous.

"Since Zenom-sam is together with them as well I'm sure it's nothing too strange though. Ral..it would be good if she didn't do anything stupid though.."
"Huh, it's just Reira-san, Anna-chan, and Hanna-chan right? I wonder if Kanna-kun is still inside?"

Bel and Miduchi are saying but I somehow don't get it. The reason I can't see the Ryogu family must be because they're in the rubber workshop or maybe they're in the store but if I normally think about it at this time they're probably at the workshop. In that case then, Yotlen and the others must have been shut out.

"..In any case let's go."

Just as Toris said nothing will start unless we go. When we approached the store, Anna and Hanna noticed us. It seems that the two of them are wearing pretty thin coats but since the sun is still out at this time even though it's winter they don't seem to be trembling from the cold.

“Ah, president, thank you for your work.”

“Presichent~ thanch for your wrosch.”

“Oh~ what’s going on? Why are you all outside..Yotlen, are our members here? Did something happen?”

Normally the wooden door in the front of the store is left open to make it easier for customers to enter. But today that door is shut.

“Ah, president, thank you for your work. That is..this morning, soon after seeing off the Ryogu family to the workshop, Firefreed-sama and the others brought some guests..Since Firefreed-sama’s daughter said they have something important to talk about so..Did the president not know about it?”

The mother of the Yotlen family, Reira replied while looking a bit cold.

“Ha? I have no idea. Guests..What kind of people are they?”

When I said that and Anna replied from the side.

“Two people who seem like knights and one person who seems to be an attendant.”

What in the world is that? When I looked around at everyone they were making faces like question marks were floating above their heads.

“What Gwine together with them?”

“Yes, Akdam-sama was together with them and the six of them are talking inside.”

Yotlen replied to Miduchi’s question.

“Was the one who instructed you to close the door Ralpa?”

“Yeah, somehow, it seems like they had an important conversation that they didn’t want anyone to hear about so only when a customer comes, we should get permission and then we can enter. She allowed me to let Kanna sleep on the second floor.”

She replied to Bel’s question without pause. Certainly, I’ve sent out notice that Zenom and the others are employees of Greed Company as well. If I don’t do that then putting aside the sub-Noble Toris and the slaves, the commoners and Free People will be troubled in various ways by taxes. They’re something

like senior employees to Yotlen and the others. If they're given instructions then they probably can't or it's difficult to oppose them.

"How do things look in regards to the discussion? Are they yelling at each other or anything?"

"They don't seem to be yelling at each other but..occasionally I can hear some loud voices."

According to her reply to Toris's question it seems the situation isn't very dangerous. Though it might be just a bit serious, there are times when your voice can get loud just from talking normally as well. And it might be a laughing voice as well.

"In any case, it would be best to just go inside and ask what's going on first."

After saying that I casually opened the door and stepped foot inside.

Zenom and the other two along with three strangers were sitting at the reception set in the center of the store glaring and talking to each other. Around the round table from the left was Zenom, Ralpa, and Gwine, and then from the right side there's a male human knight looking guy where high class clothes, another Tiger-man who also seems to be a knight in the center, and then on the side a Cat-people man who's outfit is pretty shabby and looks like an attendant sitting down. Since we suddenly opened the door and came inside 12 pairs of eyes looked at us.

..This is unexpected. I see now. Reincarnated people huh? Furthermore three of them even. Since Zenom is here I guess they couldn't speak in Japanese, so I'll forgive them on closing Yotlen and her daughters outside of the store. Though I can't accept it.

When Toris and Bel took a deep breath about to say something behind me, I raised my right hand and stopped that before briskly walking to the side of the reception set with the attention of the six of them on me. Other than Miduchi I can feel the presence of Toris and Bel who's statements I stopped following behind me. It seems Zulu and Angela are outside the door.

I lowered my head to the three I don't know and after putting in just the words, "Please excuse me in the middle of your conversations." and I looked at Ralpa. If you were to ask why and it's because Zenom and Gwine's expressions

were saying, (we tried warning her a number of times. I'm sorry it ended up like this.) In addition Ralpa's expression was (Ah, so he's already come?) Not to mention she's avoiding eye contact with me.

"Ya~ Ralpa. So you were in a place like this. I was worried about you."

and I said with as kind of a tone of voice as possible. Hearing this not just Ralpa but Zenom and Gwine were surprised. I'm sure that's the case.

"However, I'm glad you were safe...Now then, you know what you need to do right?"

This time I said it as kindly as I could as well.

"Eh? Ah...that is..I'm..I'm very..sorry?"

Ralpa quietly said that while looking up at me with just her eyes.

"Yeah. And then?"

"A..Also, I feel sorry that we didn't contact yo"Hey, show it in your actions. If we could settle things with just sorry then the police wouldn't be necessary, this brat!?"

"Uhi! ye, yes!"

When I yelled angrily at her the idiot girl jumped up from her chair and went into seiza on the floor of the other side of the table. Since Gwine moved her legs after sitting down on the sofa where Ralpa was just warming with her ass and then while I was taking off my helmet I looked at Gwine who was still sitting to my right. When Gwine noticed my glance she suddenly stood up and went to seiza next to Ralpa as well. Next I glanced at Zenom but it was just then when Miduchi brought a chair out from the back and after placing it next to Zenom she said "Zenom-san please sit over here" and then took my helmet from me and backed off. I wish everyone would be able to show this much care.

Toris sat down in the place Zenom was sitting, Bel sat down in the place Gwine was sitting, and Miduchi went into the back. It seems she intends to do something like acting as a tea server while making use of {Detect.Lie} from an appropriate place. It's fine to leave Miduchi on her own.

During that period, the two people who seem to be knights made shocked

expressions and the attendant looking male either didn't originally have much interest I guess, or he was more interested in something else, he was even more surprised than the other two while looking at our faces. Yeah, they have no faults it seems.

"First off, please let me apologize for suddenly appearing and causing any confusion. I'm very sorry for the trouble."

When I lowered my head and simultaneously Toris and Bel on my sides lowered their heads. Zenom looked pretty uncomfortable but endure that much for today. As expected I can't have you seiza.

"It's nice to meet you, my name is Alan.Greed. I'm the president of this Greed Company and also the leader of a group of adventurers in Baldukk called the {Slaughterers}."

I said that and introduced myself. Soon after that Toris and Bel continued introducing themselves. Including me all three of us stretched our arms across the table. When they confirmed each of our status in order they started introducing themselves as well. Furthermore, when we were introducing ourselves it's only obvious we said our names from when we were Japanese but they started with introducing their names from when they were Japanese. Somehow you know~ I guess they're that sort of people.

Around the time introductions had ended, Miduchi came out with the tea she was making and introduced herself as well, and for the time being everyone had finished the introductions on the surface. Obviously during that time I was identifying the three of them.

【Rodrick.Faruergaz/11/11/7444 Rodrick.Faruergaz/7/12/7428】
【Male/14/2/7428 · Human · Count Faruerugaz Family Eldest Son · Count Faruerugaz Knight】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 16 Years Old】
【Level: 5】
【HP: 87(87) MP: 11(11)】
【Strength: 13】
【Speed: 16】

【Dexterity: 12】

【Endurance: 13】

【Unique Ability: Resistance(Virus Infection) (Lv. -)】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic(Lv.1)】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic(Lv.1)】

【Special Ability: Wind Magic(Lv.1)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.2)】

【Experience: 27235(28000)】

I see, 【Unique Ability: Resistance(Virus Infection)】 indeed. It seems reasonably useful. Let's see.

【Unique Ability: Resistance(Virus Infection); defends against all types of parasites that have a length of less than 1mm and weight of less than 1 gram. Regardless of how many organisms invade the body with just a single use of this ability it's possible to definitely annihilate them all. However, it's limited to parasites the user is consciously targeting. Consciously targeting said parasites refers to being suspicious of any infection or invasion by any sort of organism, parasite, bacteria, virus, plant, or animal, that might cause a change in the condition of the body. There's no need to directly identify the target organism. In other words, if the user is conscious of a stomach ache and that stomach ache was being caused by the infection or invasion of some sort of organism then when this ability is used it makes it possible to kill those organisms within the body. It is also possible to think of it as applying several points of damage to the HP of each of those individual organisms. Therefore bear in mind that this ability does not have any effect on parasites or infections with which the user them self is not aware. Furthermore, the level of this ability is no purpose other than for convenience.】

It's not just a reasonably useful one, it..it's a considerably enviable ability.

【Fiorentso.Hirosukol/9/6/7444 Fiorentso.Hirosukol/18/3/7429】

【Male/14/2/7428 · Tiger-People · Hirosukol Family Third Son · Count Faruerugaz Knight】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 16 Years Old】

【Level: 7】

【HP: 105(105) MP: 21(21)】

【Strength: 17】

【Speed: 20】

【Dexterity: 15】

【Endurance: 16】

【Unique Ability: Valiance (Lv. 7)】

【Special Ability: Night Vision】

【Special Ability: Strength】

【Special Ability: Water Magic(Lv.2)】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic(Lv.1)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.2)】

【Experience: 54632(60000)】

【Valiance】 it says? Somehow it sounds incredible. Since both his Unique Ability level and his MP are high, it's probably safe to think that he knows how to make good use of it.

【Unique Ability: Valiance; for 3 seconds per level of this ability the abilities of Strength, Speed, Dexterity, and Endurance are raised to their current ability values. During the duration of the effect the maximum value of HP is also raised the same amount as the level, but the current remaining HP isn't raised up to that value. When the duration of the effect completes in proportion to the amount of motion taken the level of fatigue felt by the user will be the same as normal and the muscles will build up the same amount of fatigue.】

Hmn, I guess it's an ability that's like the advanced version of Laios's 【Instant Speed】. Though that one only increases the values an equal amount to the level of the user I think it was. In the case that their body level increases, particularly in the case of a reincarnated person (no matter how I think about it there's no way anyone other than me would reach over level 30 though. If you were to take on Death=Tyrant.Kin everyday then it might be possible but who would do something as frightening as that) and the duration of the effect this one seems like far bigger of an advantage. However, with this I was able to gain an answer to a problem I hadn't been able to prove. After all it seems that people aren't normally using their physical ability values to their limits. That means that it's difficult to tell how physically strong someone is based on just their physical

ability levels.

【Sajes.Basutorial/13/12/7444 Sajes.Basutorial/4/7/7429】
【Male/14/2/7428 · Cat-People · Rombert Kingdom Duke Rombert Territory
Registered Free Person】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 16 Years Old】
【Level: 3】
【HP: 69(69) MP: 4(4)】
【Strength: 9】
【Speed: 16】
【Dexterity: 10】
【Endurance: 10】
【Unique Ability: Resistance(Temperature)】
【Special Ability: Small Magic】
【Special Ability: Night Vision】
【Experience: 7251(10000)】

For some reason I can't Identify his Unique Ability. I can somehow imagine the details itself but I wonder why I can't identify it? I guess that means this Free Person named Bastoral has never used his Unique Ability before? However, in the past when I met Ralpa I was able to use it on her. I wonder if it's a similar type to my Gift of Natural Talent? No idea.

"Now then, Kawasaki-san. There's something I would like to question you on though.."

After we finished introductions, the Tiger-man called Hirosukol sitting in the center properly looked at me while he started talking.

"Ah, please excuse me on that but I'm not Kawasaki now. Since he's already died, would you please call me Greed?"

When I replied like that the three of them in front of made surprised faces and then Faruerugaz and Hirosukol didn't seem like they accepted it but Bastural was nodding while making a face like he understood something.

"Please excuse me. Well then, Greed-san. Yesterday we were surprised when we encountered Firefreed-san and his daughter together with Akdam-san by

chance. Since we met several Japanese people at once, I don't think there's any unreasonable with that though...After hearing their conversation it seemed that there were even more Japanese people and they said you're acting as adventurers? Since we too..though I say that it's just Hirosukol and myself but since we're also aiming to become adventurers we were interested in it, and since Firefreed-san's daughter enthusiastically was suggesting it to us I tried listening to her story."

Faruerugaz said that. He~ I thought Ralpa was being persistent about it but it was them who bit at it? Well I can understand wanting to not let them get away when you meet another Japanese person. However, since Ralpa and them had three people and even if they can't leave themselves they could have said something to the Ryogu family or Yotlen about getting into contact with me so I won't forgive them so easily. On the contrary if these three were trying to interfere with them getting into contact with me then I'm sure Ralpa and the others wouldn't have apologized so obediently and gone into seiza.

"And then you know, I heard something very interesting in the conversation we were having with them. Since we've been talking for a number of hours already including yesterday, I'll just stop with the roundabout way of putting it. I'll say it to you right to the point. It's in regards to the details of your contract with Firefreed-san, his daughter, and Akdam-san. I wanted to hear if you had any sort of excuses to say in regards to the details of that sort of contract. And also, what's being carried out right now, that is..I also wanted to hear about this "corporal punishment" as well."

Huh? What is this Tiger-man called Hirosukol suddenly saying? Bel and Toris are also making strange faces as they exchange glances across me.

"First off, let's go over things in order. You suddenly interrupted our conversation and without properly listening to their opinion you yelled angrily at them and forced them to sit on the ground. I can't imagine that this is very good for the education of those girls. In my memory I thought that things like "corporal punishment" were forbidden except for on the spot in places of education like "school" though.."

"Ha.."

Really what in the world is this guy saying?

“And then, I also feel that this contract is far too unequal. Although, I’ve been explaining to Firefreed-san and the others about their contract a number of times since yesterday but we’ve just been repeating ourselves. Did you “brainwash” them or something?”

“Huh?”

I let out a slightly strange voice. Putting aside the unequal contract, brainwash he says?

I stopped Bel and Toris who were about to lose their temper.

“Also, as a result of the various conversations I heard from them since yesterday, I can’t help but feel that they’re heavily dependent on you. It seems like you’re deceiving them quite skillfully but as Japanese people we can’t shut our eyes to the fact that young girls from our home land are being bound by a contract like this, is what we were thinking.”

“Ho..”

I’m sure I’m making a bitter smile like expression.

“Now, Ono-san, Nishioka-san, please stop that “seiza” and stand up.”

Hirosukol called out to the two high school girls with even affection shining in his eyes. Hmn, it might be because I, because we are former Japanese people but for them to have a personality where they come cutting in from the front using a sound argument from a Japanese standpoint. Incidentally, Zenom has no idea what is going on, and is making a face like it’s all incomprehensible but he also doesn’t seem to find it amusing at all. Though I don’t find it amusing either.

“Ral, Gwine, I won’t forgive standing up at your own convenience. However, if you want to stand feel free. But, if it comes to that then I’ll slap you back down.”

Bel quietly said that. Ah~ scary. Without Bel even saying anything Ralpa and Gwine didn’t shown any sign of standing up so isn’t it fine. Faruerugaz and Hirosukol are both looking at Bel unamused. In comparison to that Basutorial is looking at Bel with a bit of interest.

“Hirosukol-san. It’s your own convenience for you to think what you wish of us. Please feel free to think that way. However, isn’t it strange for you to be making complaints about the policies and decisions in someone else household? The two standing at the doorway right now are slaves that I own. I have a slave in Baldukk that acts as a porter as well. The Cat-People mother and daughters sitting outside in the cold right now are Free People but just the same as the Firefreeds they’re in an employment contract with me. Do you intend to force the common sense of Japan on them as well?”

Well, I can already imagine the answer he’ll give.

“Yeah, I wanted to talk in regards to things like that as well. I don’t have any intention of denying every aspect of the social structure of Orth. There’s slaves, there’s nobles, it’s this level of civilization. It’s only obvious that there’s differences in social standing. What we want to say is..I guess so, it seems like when you passed away you were in your mid-40s and a splendid salary man wasn’t it? And then those two are high school students, and don’t they say those two are college students? I just can’t tolerate an existence like yourself, making use of their lack of knowledge to force an unequal contract on Japanese people and those of Orth.”

Come to think of it the only one who has experience in Japanese society was Miduchi. I see now, so there’s that sort of method to attack as well. This, sort of attack point where I’m deceiving young people who don’t know anything was a bit outside of what I was expecting. If Kuro was here then the high school students would increase by one and since Mary seemed to have been a housewife I’m sure her knowledge on contracts isn’t all that different from a college student, is probably what he would say.

“I see, so what you’re thinking is that, I’m deceiving young people with no knowledge and taking all the profits for myself is it..that’s certainly one way of putting it. However, when it comes to deceiving youths with no knowledge, let alone “brainwashing”, I take offense to that being said. Also, while you keep mentioning an unequal contract but I haven’t encouraged an unreasonable contract on anyone even once. In the first place, I don’t know what portion of our contracts you’re referring to as unequal. Since we had all signed the contract after reading and accepting the details on it.”

“How about you give up playing dumb already? I’ve already heard the rough details of the clauses on it. I can’t help but think that you’ve made them believe some impossible lies and are using young people to earn a profit.”

Ah, depending on how you look at it that might seem like the case.

“Bufu”

Toris burst into laughter.

“Most likely, isn’t it that? The place where it said that you have to listen to all orders other than those relating to your own life? When I first read I questioned it a bit as well but now I understand it.”

When they heard Toris’s words Faruerugaz and the others were nodding but when they heard the final “but now I understand it” they looked at him with a doubtful face.

“Oh? Then is it the compensation? I’ve already been employed by Al-san for over two years but my base pay hasn’t gone up, I guess around there?”

You, Bel, didn’t you accept that. 200,000 Z (20 silver coins) per month is less than that of squires in a knight group but with just that you can live your life plenty well. Of course the lifestyle we’re living right now is impossible though. Look, they didn’t try snapping at that point as well right?

“I can think of several other things as well but for starters it’s probably that there’s no regulations to the clauses, otherwise the methods to settle issues in cases that aren’t assumed. If we were to go off of the common sense of Japanese then it would be the good faith clause, or it’s normal to have a special clause added where the people signing the contract discuss things to make decisions. However, this isn’t Japan and the laws of Japan aren’t applied. It’s fine as long as the employer makes the appropriate decision.”

From behind me, Miduchi pointed out while leaning against a pillar in the kitchen.

“..I can’t agree with that opinion but well I guess that’s fine. However, there’s something even more crucial missing.”

Hirosukol looked at Miduchi while saying.

“That is”

When Miduchi was going to continue her words, Hirosukol interrupted with his own words.

“You are..Shiina, no, you said you were Chizumagurol-san. It seems you’re the newest one among them but aren’t you someone related to him? I would like for you to remain quiet here.”

I lightly put my right hand on my left shoulder and stopped Miduchi. Well if they were living as a proper member of society then I’m sure it would be the first thing they notice.

“Was there anything else again?”

“Since I don’t really remember everything down to the fine details after all..”

Bel and Toris were saying in a whisper.

“Greed-san, wouldn’t it be better for you to say it yourself?”

“..The contract can only be cancelled when it’s renewed..once per year. If it was Japan then it would be in conflict with the labor standard laws. However, this goes the same for me as well. I can’t fire them either.”

“Ho? You said it quite honestly..”

Hirosukol opened his eyes in surprise and said.

“I could have sworn you would remain quiet until we pointed it out..”

It seems it was unexpected for Faruergaz as well. I mean, you two seemed to have already realized right. Then there’s no meaning in remaining quiet.

“Shall we listen to your excuses?”

“Excuses? In regards to what? I haven’t done even a single shady thing at all though”

I flatly declared it.

“You bastard! What are you saying! You tied them up with an unequal contract, forced them to listen to whatever you say, that sort of scumbag motive will” “I’d like for you to stop right there.”

When Hirosukol started yelling angrily Angela appeared behind him and

interrupted. Zulu is still standing around the doorway without moving an inch with an expression of anger while just looking over here.

“We won’t overlook anymore statements that insult our master than this.”

Angela stated with a tone of voice like ice from behind them.

“...It seems you’ve earned the loyalty of your slaves who don’t require a contract..”

“Angela, step back, stay at the entrance with Zulu.”

“However, “It seems I’ve caused you some worry. It’s fine. Step back.”

While glancing to the side at Angela as she reluctantly stepped back I politely lowered my head to Hirosukol.

“I’m sorry for any rudeness caused by my inability to discipline my slaves. Please forgive me.”

I lowered my head and looked back at Hirosukol.

“Now then, this is the continuation from just now but you said I’ve tied them up with an unequal contract. Since it’s an employment contract I’m paying them compensation. If that compensation was insufficient, then just as you said that would be unequal I’m sure. However, if they can’t accept their compensation, then the person them self should negotiate with me. I haven’t even once closed the window for negotiations.”

“Mu..However, isn’t that compensation of 200,000 Z per month too low? Even the squires of a knight group receive more..”

Ah, if I remember correctly the weekly pay of squires in the Webdos knight group was 43,000 Z. That’s 215,000 Z per month. Isn’t that only 15,000 Z different? It’s enough for one bag of condoms. They’re without a doubt soldiers though. They even go to the battlefield. They’re even ordered some dangerous jobs like as scouts or decoys right? As expected there’s nothing like I thought about a bit previously like ordering them to go sell their bodies to earn some money or letting me test out the fit of new types of condom though. Just like a knight group wouldn’t order that I obviously wouldn’t either, I think.

“Whether or not their compensation is too much or too little, I think that’s

something only I and the person them self should decide though? Obviously from the standpoint of a manager I want to hold back the individual wages as much as possible. It's only obvious that it's that much better for me the lower their wages are. However, I'm sure my employees would like to receive as much more as they can. If they're doing the same work then they should want even just 1 Z more. I can understand this. If they can't accept the amount I've offered them they should either negotiate or in the first place I think it would be fine to conclude the contract."

"So you intend to insist that it's limited to their own responsibility.."

"That's only obvious. Though they're originally high schoolers, it's already been over 10 years since they were reborn and lived on this Orth, you can't call them children in regards to consideration of advantages and disadvantages right."

Though I think that things like feelings and the emotional aspects returned to an appropriate level for our bodies but it's not like we lost our knowledge and we didn't lose the ability to think about things based in that knowledge. It's not my responsibility in regards to things that are related to their original knowledge and ability to make decisions.

"That's sophism."

"Please feel free to say whatever you want."

"..Well then, what do you think in regards to the fact that there's no good faith clause?"

"I don't think anything at all. It's just as she just said, it's fine as long as I can make proper decisions. Even then if they offer me any objections or make suggestions for a different decision then I'll take them into consideration."

I point at Miduchi with the thumb of my left hand over my shoulder while replying.

"How do you intend to take responsibility in the case that your decision is a mistake?"

However you know, your way of calling me went from "anata" to "kimi". I'll overlook the "kisama" you used just before. While I'm acting politely you're

acting so arrogantly. Even though you're just a commoner you sure can speak your mind. Ah, I guess he was a kishi-sama was it? But when it comes to things regarding knights it shouldn't have any relation outside of the knight group. Come to think of it we never asked how older they were when they died. He might have just been older than me. Not that it particularly matters though.

"If you're going to point that out, then if they accept that I'll deal with it appropriately."

"..You sure have quite a bit of confidence."

"If I didn't have confidence I wouldn't do something like hire people and explore Baldukk. It's dangerous after all."

If a person can't have confidence in their own decisions then they should just leave those decisions up to someone else. Being able to see through that person is a splendid talent as well.

"However, for you to have them accompany you into the dangerous dungeon for just a mere 200,000 Z..It seems that you're unusually paying bonuses as well but since I thought it was rude I didn't ask the amount. How many months worth are you paying? I don't mind even if it's just the amount from the summary of this year."

Why would I have to say something like that? Well from their point of view then I'm making innocent (though even when they died in their late teens it might be going too far calling them innocent) children undertake dangerous jobs and they intend to be the adults punishing the evil adult sipping up all the profits. The reason why they're trying to ask every little detail is because whether it's yesterday or today they probably want to confirm there's no conflicts with what they heard from Ralpa and the others. Also, since there's no custom like giving bonuses on Orth so it's understandable that he would find it strange.

"It isn't a bonus given matching up with the balance sheets like a "company" in Japan. It's "commission" payment that's given out in proportion to the amount we earn when we enter the dungeon that time. Last month we entered the dungeon a total of three times and..How much was it in total again?"

"Umm..Including our wages I don't think it reached 2,000,000.."

Ah, since we didn't count the fact that we found the magic item {Spear.Of.Piercing}. I guess it's around there.

""“Huh?””

“Even if you exclude our wages it's 1,720,000 Z.”

Miduchi supplemented it. You, is it fine for you not to remain quiet? However, I'm amazed you can remember that.

“Currently we're entering the dungeon in 9 day cycles. Consequently we enter the dungeon 3–4 times in a month before returning. It's only obvious but on the months we go and return 4 times our income is even greater. We're often receiving bonuses in proportion to the earnings from magic stones and on the occasions of finding gems and magic tools we also receive a bonus from the sales of those.”

Bel supplemented an explanation as well. Yeah that's right, that's exactly how it is. I glanced at Ralpa for a bit thinking she didn't tell them something like that.

“I mean if I were to say the amount then they'd be able to calculate how much we're earning. Father said it would be better to remain quiet about the precise amount until they enter the party and sign the contract with Al..”

Ralpa said while pouting with her mouth. Certainly that's true but it's not particularly anything to hide from reincarnated people so it would have been fine even if you said it. Even if they don't enter the party it's fine as long as they don't become my enemy. If they were interested in investigating if they just listen to the information from the magic stone dealer then there's countless methods to investigating something like our rough earnings.

However, the conversation shifted to an unexpected direction here.

“Is..Is that really true!? 1,720,000 Z in just one month!? Please hire me! I'll do anything!”

Basutal who hadn't said almost anything up until now suddenly approached me with an intense momentum and lowered his head rubbing it into the table.

Chapter 164: Responsibility 2

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 14

I was a bit surprised at Basutral who suddenly came out with his desire for employment, right now isn't the time to be interviewing him. However, I can't just ignore him without saying anything either.

"Please raise your head. Umm, this is just a simple confirmation but what sort of relationship do you have with these two Basutral-san?"

Since I want to avoid something like headhunting their attendant. Faruergaz and Hirosukal were looking at Basutral with bitter faces but didn't say anything. Basutral is hesitating whether it's okay for him to open his mouth when someone interrupted from the side. It doesn't need to be said but it was Ralpha.

"It seems that person was a slave. Last month these two bought him and after bringing him to the capital they released him into a Free Person."

He~ well since they're reincarnated people I'm sure they had that much leeway, if I were to meet Basutral when he was a slave then I'm sure if I had the money at that time I might have done something like that as well. However, whether or not I release him would depend on if he was born a slave, or fell to being a slave as a result of a crime or being unable to pay his taxes, I'm sure I would investigate things like that first.

"Is that so..That is really..Well conversation regarding employment we should do again at a later time, if possible I'd like to discuss it."

"Pl..Please do!"

I calm down Basutral who is frantically lowering his head to me and returned the conversation to where we were.

"Well I feel as though I'm paying compensation that corresponds to our earnings..However, in regards to the amount of that compensation, putting aside the person themselves I don't think you as an outsider have any right to speak on it, is what I think though.."

I try to smooth over my expression to appear as earnest as I can while talking. Next to me Toris and Bel are nodding as if to say that's right, that's right.

"..I see, certainly it seems you're handing them a reasonable amount of compensation..I can accept that they're satisfied with the compensation like they were saying."

"Is that so? I'm glad that you were able to comprehend it."

"However, I still haven't received an answer I can accept in regards to limiting them on their freedom to quit or obligating them to obey orders other than those that relate to life and death. Furthermore, there's still a portion that is lacking as well. There's no arbitration clause. When a dispute occurs between the persons concerned, how do you intend to settle things?"

Is this guy an idiot? It's not like this is Japan, even the country and individual territories don't have their laws posted out in the open. The only time they have something like a jurisdictional court is the day of judgement but fundamentally they only deal with criminal incidents. Things like civil cases the only way is if a noble was to hire a high ranking noble to judge on it or or a high ranking noble has the King make the judgements.

Since I'm barely within the realms of sub-Nobility, if I cry to him then Marquis Webdos might make a judgement. Since I can't rely on the King right now after all...If I remember correctly the King made a judgement on it, right, your Count Faruregaz family and the Rodairl family or Crocodile family or whatever Marquis families debt problem from 300 years ago right? I can't do anything but sigh.

..In the first place the one who suggested making employment contracts the source of this problem was Ralpha. It's something I found out later but something like an employment contract no one in this world uses them. Even when we were talking big about it to the scribe when we passed through Doran on our way to Baldukk they just looked amazed at us and every time I bring them in to the government office of Baldukk the officials look at me with faces like "Is this guy an idiot?" It's not something I started doing because I wanted. I just got on the boat because I thought I should make use of whatever I could.

"..Fu~ ..I see, then I'll start in order from the places which are easy to respond...First off, in regards to the arbitration clause but have either of you

entered into a contract for some kind of dealing with a merchant on Orth before?”

“Never.”

“No. But, isn’t something like including clauses assuming a dispute of contracts between parties involved only obvious? Even more so without the existence of something like a good faith clause, if the decision is left to the employer then I think it’s even more necessary to maintain the fairness of the contract.”

“I see. It seems that the two of you were able to make it up to being knights so your territory..I’m sure you have experience taking part in the enforcement of punishments and the security for days of judgement in lord Count Faruerugaz’s territory..Yeah, that day of judgement. When it comes to minor crimes that they may use of that as the model and the lords of small towns and villages judge in a similar way. Ah, I already understand that you know that’s only obvious. When it comes to crimes that are publicly known or serious offenses it’s common for them to be transported to the capital of a large territory right? And, the place where we’re using as a base is Baldukk in the direct territory of the royal family. If there was some sort of dispute it’s possible to appeal that to his majesty the King or the governor. I guess that’s right. If a problem were to occur that I’m not paying compensation owed then they could make an appeal like that and obligate me to pay them their compensation. Up until here is fine right?”

I’ve somehow started to get tired of trying to cover things up with a serious face. However, just acting like it’s troublesome here and acting carelessly is meaningless as well. I need to tense myself up I guess.

“What I want you to remember back to here is the opposite. There’s no penalty clause. Regardless of whether I’m properly paying them their compensation, in the case that they refuse to obey my orders, or even if they were to cause any damage to me there’s no provisions regarding penalties in those cases. It’s a strange way of putting it but even if they were to just leave as they wish on their own and say that I fired them then I have no method of trying to get them return by making a claim using the contract as a shield.”

He’s making a face as if he wants to say he had already realized that. Well, he pointed out that many flaws in the details of the contract after all. It would be

strange for him not to notice so it's only obvious. When I glanced to the side Bel and Toris were making strange expressions like they were surprised. Ralpa's mouth is wide open and Gwine is somehow making a difficult face. It should be fine to ignore the seiza group.

"Certainly, if they were to claim that it's my mistake that I didn't include clauses such as those then there would be no helping it. Putting it frankly while I was in the middle of writing it, it just got too troublesome as well. However, isn't it lacking too much in fairness to one-sidedly criticize just me their employer?"

"..In regards to that I had intended to mention it later. However, we were trying to properly hear the details of the contract, I think it's almost exactly the correct details of the contract we heard. It seems there were 10 provisions in all."

Was it 10 provisions again? I also feel like it was 8 though...I wonder if I'm remembering incorrectly?

Well, it's fine. While I was twisting my head Gwine told me.

"I think they're probably referring to the differences between Ral's contract and ours in regards to the first months income and learning magic from Al-san. Since mine was different in that regard."

Ah, was that how it was? I don't remember things down to there. It's already something that's finished after all. And it's unrelated to things from here on out. I just replied with an, "I see." to Gwine and nodded.

"And, it's about time I'd like to hear your true intentions. Since yesterday it seems that you all have been talking about various things with the employees of my company, Zenom.Firefreed, his daughter Ralpa.Firefreed, and Gulinelle.Akdam. Ah, there's no problem at all what they talk about on their own days off. And then you all heard the details of their employment contract and thought that contract was something unfair and felt a problem with me their employer. Since things like that are of no concern to me they don't matter at all."

I took a sip of the tea that's completely become lukewarm.

"However, after worrying about my employees who hadn't returned after one

night, when I came rushing to the capital, just when I finally thought I met them in my company, I was told they were talking to three people I don't know since morning, and when I hear even more and take a good look those three are former Japanese people. Well, this is fine as well. However, inside of a building that I own, you complained about the punishment I gave out to the source of our worries, moreover you start going on about how I'm deceiving or just using my employees, much less being blamed for "brainwashing", you're driving us into a situation where you might end up putting a crack in our splendid relationships. Though I think the cause of that is you all who up until now had absolutely no relation to us just sticking your nose into our business.."

Ralph turned pale. You sit over there and reflect.

"Certainly when it comes to someone from the home town, furthermore if it's thoughts in regards to young women being made victim to something then this is fine as well. However, with what right do you have to speak in regards to the details on our contracts?"

When I spoke up to there I was staring right into the eyes of Hiroshiro.

"That itself is only obvious. However, first off it's certainly true that it seems I need to apologize. I'll apologize for coming to a decision while still lacking information, speaking out in matters I had no right to, and one-sidedly blaming you. I'm very sorry. Please forgive me for that rudeness."

Oh? He apologized quite honestly. I just shrugged my shoulders and accepted his apology.

"However, while we were too hasty in our decision based on the little information we had we certainly felt some women from our home town were in danger. No matter what we just couldn't overlook that. Still more, what we found out from that limited information was that their employer was another Japanese person as well. We misunderstood that another Japanese person was preying on other Japanese. I'm very sorry for any trouble we've caused you."

Hiroshiro lowered his head considerably easily. Though it felt a bit too much like an excuse...Hmm.

"Well, it can't be helped if we just keep talking endlessly like this here. It should be about a good time. Then how about we solve things for once in

regards to leaving the job. It's fine if I cancel everyone's contracts right here and now on this spot. Of course, I've already paid the wages for this month the other day but going off the payment schedule I won't say anything like returning that."

I looked around at everyone surrounding the table before continuing my words.

"If anyone wishes I'll cancel their contract. We'll burn the contracts after returning to Baldukk. Of course, that includes the ones we've left with the government office as well. If there's anyone who wishes for that just say something."

Everyone remained quiet after hearing my sudden declaration.

"..There doesn't seem to be anyone. Then that's fine."

I returned my glance to Hirosukol again. He's making a grim face as if he bit into something sour.

"Regardless of the fact that you pointed out that many faults in the contract no one seems to be interested in canceling it. That means they've accepted it. Well then, I would like it if you restrain yourselves from having anymore more to do with our internal circumstances."

After I declared that for the first time since I sat down on the sofa I leaned back and slowly crossed my legs, put my right elbow down on the arm rest with my hand out as if I was making scissors from rock, paper, scissors and then tilted my head to the side. Miduchi ran up without delay and placed a jelly bean in between my fingers. It doesn't close things as well when it's not a lit cigarette but after biting the edge of the jelly bean with my teeth and replenishing my sugar levels on it.

I don't know why but for some reason Hirosukol and Faruerugaz were making slightly envious faces while watching. She pays attention quite well right? After handing Miduchi the rubber balloon with the jelly beans in it and it seems the two of them in front of me were still following after her with their eyes. Judging from the angle of their eyes are they looking at her ass?

Certainly since she has elf blood mixed in here facial features are extremely good looking and her proportions are quite good for a 16 year old as well but I

can't really say they have the best interests being accepting of that skin color. Putting aside the large scars on her face, the blue violet color of her almost looks like a corpse.

"Well then, Basutorial-san. In regards to your matter. It seems that you wish to be employed by this Greed Company but.."

"Yes! I'm begging you! I'll do anything I'm told! Please, hire me!"

When the conversation changed Basutorial approached again. I wonder what Faruergaz and Hirosukol think about this? I guess I'll confirm it for once.

"Ple..please wait just a moment. Faruergaz-san, Hirosukol-san. He's saying these sorts of things but is there any problem with that? If there is some sort of problem then I won't continue this conversation though"

I took my eyes off Basutorial and looked at the two of them before Faruergaz started replying dryly.

"..There is no problem. We just couldn't look on idly as a Japanese person lost themselves in the slave social standing. We just wanted him to start up some kind of business and save him. Of course, we intend to have him repay us for the expense though"

I see, then there doesn't seem to be any problem. Hearing that Hirosukol nodded as well. But you know, I get your feelings and what you want to say, but you two, both of you are pretty cruel. That means that people who weren't reborn, just normal people born on Orth are unrelated and you don't think anything of them right? The thing irritating me isn't that way of thinking. I feel like I can understand the way of thinking itself, since even I think some things similar to that as well. What I was thinking is that I'm amazed you say that so openly in a place where not just Zenom but Zulu and Angela might be able to hear it as well.

Well, I guess it just means that everyone is different in how they think and feel about things. Even that line just now, depending on the person who hears it, they might get warm feelings thinking they're kind towards others of the same home town.

Well, it doesn't particularly matter though.

“If, you would like to be employed by this company, then in that case in regards to the expenses that Faruerugaz-san loaned to you, it would be fine for me to take over that loan as well.”

After all I'm using them young'ens to make a serious killing. I should have the right to at least say much sarcasm, and I thought that much but didn't say it. I'm sure I would just be warned by Miduchi or Zenom later that I went too far either way.

“..However, it's just as you heard the employment contract for our company is full of holes. Since the current employees who have signed on to that contract seem fine as is that's one thing but it seems strange to force that on a new person being employed...and before that what do you intend to do to be useful to us? Incidentally, we already have plenty of shop assistants and there's no problems with our deliveries to frequent customers. Since that's the case, it's only obvious but we would hire you as a security member, and have you enter the dungeon together with us though..”

Doing something like using a reincarnated Japanese person to tend to a store, it's too much of a waste that there's no way I could do it. From what I just identified just now it doesn't seem like he would be useful at all but since he's still young if we train him for several years, since he's a man shouldn't he end up still better off than Gwine? Currently I'm paying 2% of the proceeds(not the profits. Since I'm the one paying for the wages every month, the taxes to enter the dungeon, the tools we use in the dungeon, and the food we normally consume. Even though I say that the interest rate on the proceeds is something like 99%) to each of the six people as a bonus. Going off the proceeds that means I'm paying 12%. Since I thought that 20%, or even depending on the case up to 25% was within the permissible range, there's no problem with increasing our numbers a by a bit more.

There's no problem with it but I want to hold back how much I pay as much as possible. Simultaneously I also have to make sure the members who have been around for a while can accept it as well. If it's someone like Miduchi who has exceptionally high skills then it's easy to accept but in his case, he was a slave until just the other day it seems, and even his level is appropriate for that. It's difficult to treat them the same from the start.

“Gu..At .. at first I’ll do anything even if it’s carrying luggage! I’ll even put in the effort to learn how to use a weapon!”

“Have you fought against a monster before?”

I’m sure he hasn’t though. Just in case.

“That is..No I have not. But, I’ll do it! I need to do it. Definitely, I’ll definitely earn some money and..”

He~ It seems he has some sort of objective as well. Though he might not eternally end up as one of my subordinates but it’s still much better than guy with no goals at all. Earning money, is an extremely easy to understand and splendid goal. The problem is whether or not that’s just him speaking big. In regards to that it’s one thing that won’t get caught up in {Detect.Lie} as well.

“For the time being it was be things like learning how to use a weapon and training, those sorts of plain things I think? Also, inside of the dungeon the things I, and your other seniors say are absolute. We won’t forgive opposition or refusal. Since time passes while arguing and danger gets even closer after all.”

It’s my first time saying this line. However, it’s a necessary line I’m sure.

“That’s only obvious! Please order me to do anything!”

I looked at Basutoral’s face for a short while and confirmed that he was seriously looking over here, then looked at the faces of Ralpa, Gwine, Zenom, Bel, and Toris. Well, I guess it’s fine.

“I understand. Basutoral-san, I’ll hire you. In regards to your treatment we’ll talk about and decide on it separately.”

While Basutral was making a worried expression he changed to a full face smile and thanked me while saying, “I’m looking forward to working with you!” Ralpa let out a sigh of relief in the corner of my vision. She’s probably relieved that her movements weren’t a complete waste. She’s an idiot as usual. You. It is quite the achievement you were able to pull in a reincarnated person. Though it’s still a different matter from whether or not you properly got in contact with us.

“Now then, Faruergaz-san. How much were the expenses it cost to free him? I’ll take over repayment of the loan.”

It was when I said that.

“Ah, would you please wait for just a moment? From the circumstances, the ones who released him were us but I still think we’re properly responsible for looking after him. In the first place, you’re talking about challenging the dungeon but obviously that’s dangerous right? Since there’s quite a few young women as well, isn’t it dangerous in a variety of ways?”

That’s right. It’s dangerous.

“..That’s precisely why it requires absolute obedience for following orders and a reasonable amount of compensation. I thought that you were already able to understand that but..”

“I feel as though I’ve already understood that. However, even though it’s a friend who we’ve gone to the trouble of getting to know, just remaining quiet and watching them step food into a dangerous place like that is..doesn’t sit well with me.”

..I really can’t do anything more than just look at him with my eyes half closed.

“Hirosukol-san, I’ve been listening quietly since a while ago just now but what in the world is it with you? Acting so arrogantly. Starting from the beginning up until now our Greed has treated you politely. Even though there’s no obligation to explain anything to you two? Things like because we’re former Japanese people or not those types of things don’t matter at all.”

“Stop, Toris.”

“No, Al-san. I can’t remain quiet any longer. There’s also the matter of disciplining Firefreed as well. He said something about “corporal punishment” but that sort of stuff is our internal problem. Certainly it’s shameful but if you didn’t discipline her now, when are you going to discipline her? She caused us to worry that much. The reason doesn’t matter. She had plenty of methods to get into contact with us as well. The problem is she was negligent on that. Regardless of whether it’s right in front of strangers things that need to be done

should be done. It's something that's necessary for Ral's sake as well. To Al-san rather than something like his relationship or the impression he gives you, it's proof he cares far more about Ral's life from here on out. In the first place, calling something like "seiza" corporal punishment, it was so funny I thought the tea would come out of my nose."

Yeah, all orders other than those that have to do with life or death are absolute obedience right? You've signed on to the contract as well right? Adding to that, this is quite a bit more embarrassing than forcing Ral and Gwine to seiza you know.

"In the first place, saying this and that about Japanese people, aren't you embarrassed of yourselves at this point? We're already no longer Japanese people. All 39 of us died together in that accident. From here on out for countless decades we're going to live in this Rombert, this Orth. Certainly the way of thinking of trying to help people who are bound by an unreasonable contract is splendid. I don't think it's something that can be done so easily. Since in actual fact you saved the slave Basutoral-san as well. But even in that case, what is it, with that sort of arrogant way of speaking."

"Hey, Toris."

I need to stop him already, and thinking that when I was about to open my mouth, Bel reached from the other side and grabbed my left arm, Bel's face was ice cold as she looked at Faruergaz and Hirosukol. Oh Koloil, you too? But you know.

"Toris, apologize for your rash remarks already. Hirosukol-san is a knight of Count Faruergaz. Furthermore Faruergaz-san is also a knight and the eldest son of the Lord and Count."

"I'm truly very sorry I said something so cheeky. Please forgive me."

After being strongly told that by me Toris went silent and then lowered his head and apologized.

"I'm really sorry about our young ones, they were quite rude to you."

Ue~ it's like the type of line some Yakuza boss would say.

Rather we were originally adventurers and it's not all that different I guess?

“Please don’t think too badly of him for it.”

I said that and lowered my head.

“However, please think carefully over the things Kalstalan just said. Somehow it seems that the two of you still have quite a bit of the disposition of Japanese people remaining. I think that disposition is quite splendid.”

I said that and smiled. I was surprised at people still acting with the values of modern day Japan but it’s the fact that there was a person like that. Rather, I even think it’s quite amazing they managed to live for 16 whole years on Orth while still maintaining those sorts of values. Since there’s a person right in front of me who was saved by that.

“Certainly it’s just as Kalstalan-san said. It was rude of me. When I’m talking with Japanese people, it seems I can’t get rid of the habit, I’m really very sorry about that. Please excuse me.”

Hirosukol said that and lowered his head. No, it’s fine.

Chapter 165: Responsibility 3

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 14

“..I feel as if scales are falling from my eyes. I’m really very sorry for saying something so embarrassing. Certainly that’s true. I was lacking the thinking, “when you enter the village abide by the village”. I apologize. I’m sorry and have no excuses.”

Faruergaz sincerely apologized as well. Though it’s common for Japanese people to easily lower their heads even if you retort to them even just a bit but on Orth that’s not a virtue or anything at all. I need to stop around here.

“Hirosukol-san, Faruergaz-san. Please raise your heads. I already understand your feelings.”

I raised my back from leaning back into the sofa and smiled. Let’s change the topic.

“This just my own personal interest, so if it’s inconvenient for you two then you don’t need to reply but..do the two of you have any friends other than those in this place?”

I think they probably don’t though. Ah, please don’t misunderstand. Just now they referred to Basutorial as a “friend”. Even though I’m sure their relationship doesn’t go beyond one month. I just was wondering if they didn’t know of any other Japanese people. The reason I didn’t ask them directly, is if possible I didn’t want them to know that I was trying to gather Japanese people as well. After all they still haven’t become my allies.

“Friends, huh...I, don’t have any..just these two.”

“I..have one that isn’t far from being called that in my home town. A fighting friend who’s two years older than me.”

Faruerugaz said lonesomely and Hirosukol said nostalgically. As expected I guess there’s no other people. This can’t be helped.

“Though it wasn’t our intention to, we were able to gain this new life to live. It would be good if you can make a lot of friends.”

It would feel bad if it's just that.

"If you have as many chances to interact with various people then I think you'll be able to gain more chances to touch on various ways of thinking. It's some kind of fate that we met here. Would please include me in the group of friends of you two?"

I first stretched my right hand out to Faruergaz.

"Eh? A, Ah. Yeah, of course! Of course that's the case, Greed-san."

Faruergaz grasped my hand and then even put his left hand over that while saying.

Next I stretched my hand out to Hirosukol as well. He grasped my hand just the same.

At the very least with this our relationship shouldn't get dangerous anytime soon. It might be naive but for now I should remain satisfied with this. After all, putting aside the initial misunderstanding, they called my dream a "grand lie that can't be done". At the very least I'm sure they can't empathize with it and they don't have the type of mentality to believe in the fantasy story that is the country I'm trying to make. Whether for better or for worse they're Japanese people after all.

However, it's not as if I've given up on including them as my subordinates. In terms of future potential I can only imagine Hirosukol as being in the same position as my current allies but I desperately want Faruergaz. Even if I have to use this and that methods I want to get my hands on him. I think it's necessary not just for his body but to take quite a bit of time to train his mentality as well but other than my magic, while most likely it would be difficult to deal with, he is the only thing that could come close to a tactical weapon. In terms of pure power his might even be superior to my magic. If I gain any sort of confidence that he won't fall for me then it's to the point where before he goes somewhere far away I need to make sure to definitely kill him.

"Now then, putting that aside, for starters there's the expenses that Faruergaz-san lent to Basutral in order to free him. How much was it?"

"In terms of cost to release him it was 150,000 Z to the temple, 3,000,000 Z to buy him. Other than that, he had intended to start up his own company so

other than I lent him 1,000,000 Z in order to obtain a company license, and 850,000 Z to get it started up.”

Ha? 3,000,000 Z? Though he’s an adult male, that’s quite the price for a weak Cat-people brat. It should be at most 2,500,000 Z...I’m sure he must have been overcharged. How pitiful.

“What about interest?”

“I didn’t intend to take it, right now, I’ll bring the loan document.”

Faruergaz said that, stood up from his seat, and went outside. So it’s 5 gold coins. I can accept 3,150,000 Z of that but the rest I’ll have him pay back right away excluding the expenses of his daily necessities. I’m sure he still has some cash on him. That’s fine but I think I probably only have 2,000,000 Z in my wallet right now...I don’t normally walk around with that kind of large sum on me... and, this was my company. I’m sure there’s at least 5,000,000. Since I knew there was around 10,000,000 laying around for buying seeds and grains and such to import to the village and such. Though anything other than that is in a borrowed locker in the government office.

I stand up from the sofa as well and after passing by Miduchi’s side I went up to the second floor. I entered the Ryogu’s bedroom at my own convenience and then opened the hidden drawer, after just grabbing 5 gold coins I returned. The currency was separated and wrapped up in different cloths. Thinking it was Rozural and Wendy’s methodical side I made a small bitter smile. In addition to returning I went further in the back of the first floor, grabbed a piece of paper from the warehouse in the back yard and then returned with a contract use magic stone.

Faruergaz returned at almost the same time as me. I placed the display money 5,000,000 Z on top of the table and talked to Basutorial.

“Basutorial-san. There’s 5,000,000 Z. Please use as much as you need.”

Matching it up with the money he currently has on him, I thought he should probably pay off his debt on his own. And, huh? Huhuh? Why are you taking all of it? I want to praise my power of will for keeping the surprise from showing on my face. Basutorial just lowered his head to me once and returned all of that...Faruergaz is using status open on each of those to confirm them. After he

confirmed all five he tore up the loan document. Ah, well when it comes to silver coins there's so many of them you can't be bothered checking the status of all of them right. When it comes close to 2,000,000 Z then they end up like a pile of useless small change..though I guess you can't call silver coins useless small change.

However, in comparison to what I was thinking Basutoral isn't intending to open his wallet at all. Not just that he's looking back at me.

"Is there something?"

This isn't a marriage interview. Return the money. You have some right?

"Umm, is it fine not to write a loan document?"

Eh? No, of course I'll write one though. Ah! I see! Sorrysorry. I'm sure he needs to buy a weapon and armor and various things as well. I had completely forgotten.

"Ah, of course I intend to write one but I had intended to add a postscript to the contract. Would it be better to add it to the loan amount?"

"Umm, I have a bit of a request in regards to that but.."

"Hn? What is it?"

I felt that Basutral's timid manner of speech was unnatural.

"Another 2,000,000, no, could you please loan me another 1,000,000? I know it's shameless of me but could you please?"

Hoe? 1,000,000 on a weapon, 500,000 — 600,000 on some leather armor, 200,000 on his expenses for the time being, so I thought the 5,000,000 was fine but another 1,000,000? Does he really want equipment that expensive? Putting aside a magic weapon and my handmade sword, there's not even anyone among our members who use weapons that high quality? Though recently our armor has gotten pretty decent. Ah, come to think of it Angela's broad sword was one that was around 5,000,000. If I think about it like that then excluding me, the greatest equipment in our party is two suits of banded-mail and a high quality broad sword used by a female slave..It's laughable.

"Hn..is it fine if I ask what the use of it is?"

Since I'm lending some money it's only obvious from a Japanese standpoint to confirm the usage. I really want to know as well.

"N..There's a woman I've promised to marry in my home town. She's a slave as well but I want to buy her. Since the individual tax of a slave owned by a Free Person is 1,000,000 I'll release her soon after and get married though.."

Yes? Hey, wait just a minute. I looked at Faruergaz and Hirosukol in order. They were seriously nodding. It seems that what this guy is saying it true but as expected that is...

"..Basutorial-san. That's unreasonable. No, I'm not saying it because I don't have the money. Just as I said just now the dungeon is a dangerous place. Putting it quite frankly it's even possible for you to lose your life this year. Are you telling me to take on anymore risk than that? In the first place, after you buy that woman how are you planning to prepare your own equipment and weapon? Just in case I'll say it but even infantry use short swords and spears have market prices of around 700,000 — 800,000 Z, and leather armor is only a bit cheaper than that? The expenses for daily life for the time being are also necessary."

When I said that Basutorial choked up on his words. I'm sure Faruergaz can't say anything in regards to this either.

"Please endure it for a year or so. I'll say it frankly but there's no way to give you the same treatment as my other members from the start. Please think that you're starting from the reserve troops. However, it's fine if you take this as a promise but if one year later you're still splendidly alive then while luxuriously is impossible, I'm sure you'll have earned enough to buy your wife, properly pay both of your individual taxes, and be able to live on that...Where is your birth village? If you're worried then six months later if you're still working properly it's fine if I buy her as well."

Somehow I'm not satisfied with this. Am I an idiot? Is this some sort of charity company that hires people from the same home town who are troubled with money~? This, no matter how I think about it I'm paying more than I get back in returns. It's only obvious that my orders are absolute obedience right. After all if we're doing contracts then I should properly think up the content. The

contract can be on equal terms but it's only obvious that the details change based on the power relationship between sides~ If that wasn't the case places with subcontracts in Japan wouldn't be crushed. Somehow it's all just become idiotic.

"This is the greatest compromise I can offer. If you can't accept this then I can't hire you."

I won't say any complaints about not being able to employ him at this point. If he complains about refusing to increase the loan amount then I can't deal with that. If it comes to that I'll seriously throw him out and if he can't return the money I'll just turn him into a slave again from the debt.

"..I understand. I'm very seriously for saying something so impudent at my own convenience. I'm looking forward to working with you."

"Yes, I'm also looking forward to working with you. Well then, let's go and buy a weapon and some armor right away. We need to take a room for you at an inn as well."

When I said that I ordered Zulu who was standing at the doorway to let Yotlen and the others inside.

"I'm sorry about suddenly intruding in on you. Also, could you tell Rozural that I used 5,000,000...and, I guess it's fine, I'll tell him directly on my way back. Also, use this to feed something warm to Anna and Hanna."

I gave her an adequate amount of 2–3 silver coins and then lead everyone out of the company.

"Umm, Greed-san."

I put my helmet on and just as I started to put my gauntlets on my hands Faruergaz started talking to me. Ah, I need to properly mention it to Miduchi and find out where you guys are lodging. There's no way I would give up so easily on two Japanese people, even more so when they're knights at that.

"Hn? What is it?"

"Is it alright for us to go to Baldukk as well?"

Eh? Do as you please. Though that's even more appreciated for me as well.

Ah, come to think of it they did say something about watching over him. Even if it's only for a short while if you two are going to follow along with us at your own convenience then it saves me the trouble of watching you.

"Yeah, I don't mind. Ralpa, Gwine, stand up. Let's go. Zulu, Angela, go to the passenger carriage and take some seats."

I guess their feet went numb, when the two of them stood up they were staggering and when I was glancing at them from the side Bel poked those legs emitting a gya~ scream from the two idiots and then I was called out to again.

"And also, I have a request but.."

What is it now, really. I have no intention of hiring you two for the time being. Since it seems troublesome.

"That is~ I..I want you to sell us some Saya but.."

"In..In reality we just came because we wanted to buy some Saya."

They said it with a voice so low I almost couldn't hear it.

Eh? Really, just stop it already. There's young children here after all. And so you were customers?

"Yotlen, is there any Saya still remaining?"

I tried asking in a low voice and it seems that while the stock is extremely low there still is some. However, it seems the only things remaining are SS and XL sizes. The rest is just made of the stock for brothel companies that we've already exchanged contracts with and our free stock is zero. Since it couldn't be helped when I told them there's only super small and insanely large sizes remaining they were disappointed.

"If you'll come along to our inn then I can share a bit of S and M sizes but.."

Of course it's the M size I use but there's also the M size I provide Angela with and the S size I sell to Toris, so I obviously have secured a reasonable size of stock at the inn.

For the time being we all packed into the passenger carriage, Miduchi and I, the two of us rode to the workshop on horseback and after I told Rozural and Wendy that I suddenly had to use 5,000,000, we chased after the passenger

carriage.

Author Note Spell:

“Detect.Lie” Divination

(All elements Lv. 3, Void magic Lv. 5, Consumes 22 MP void magic double)

Choose one target and when that target speaks a lie it can be detected. The lie isn't based in fact. It points to whether or not the target intentionally spoke with intention to deceive. If the person them self believe in it then it's not a lie. The reverse magic is {Conceal.Real.Intention}.

When this magic is being used, the judgements will be based on the level difference of the user.

Chapter 166: Long Term Exploration

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 14

Once I returned to my inn I got to producing Basutoral's contract right away. It's fundamentally the same as everyone else but I also included the following clauses.

- .Settings for a trial period (of course, as long as I don't accept it the trial period continues forever)
- .Specifying the conditions for providing of bonuses (During the trial period it's 1% of the "magic stones" we obtain and sell to a dealer)
- .Regulations for quitting (Requires agreement from both sides. In reality it's no different from before)
- .Regulations for days off (Only days I recognize in advance)
- .Retention of secrets (He has an obligation to hide any secrets he finds out on the job)
- .Regulations for penalties (Putting it simply if there's any inconveniences caused to me over something)
- .Good faith clause (just as it sounds)
- .Adding money to the debt (Though this is a clause just for Basutral)

Ah, days off? The paid days off are only for women. If I use healing magic when symptoms of an illness start to appear then they recover easily so there's no sick days. Of course in urgent situations it's possible to withdraw from them at any time. Yesterday was a good example. Also, in regards to the penalties but obviously if there's a delay in wages for the employees then I'll pay an interest that both parties agree on. Furthermore, the payment date is the same as usual up until now the 1st day of each month but if I notify them advance I can change that to a later date. Since we might be in the dungeon.

Well, it's like a small version of a real employment contract. Honestly speaking, there's still plenty of things missing but for now this should be fine. Adding to that in regards to the compensation with the trial period concludes but I've decided it's the same as everyone else 2% of the "magic stones" sold to

the dealers. Eh? Even then it's unequal and dirty? I wonder about that? Since it's not written that I won't pay anymore than that, if his work is good then I'll pay additionally.

Even with this I'm compromising quite a bit. For example last months bonus was 1,720,000 Z (172 silver coins) but since we didn't find any magic items, ores, or special treasures so even if he was just sticking with us like a parasite it comes out to him receiving 860,000 Z. No matter how you think about it, it's paying too much.

However, to be honest as I was writing it up I started feel discontent with the other conditions than that as well. In the first place, why do I have to bother writing a contract every time. I'm probably the only one doing something like this in all of Orth. In the end we have to use our blood and magic stones to make the seal as well so it just adds pointless expenses as well..it's all that stink bug Ralpa's fault.

While I'm doing that, Miduchi is leisurely laying on my bed filing her nails, Toris and Bel are probably flirting like crazy in their room. Ralpa and Gwine should be out accompanying Basutorial on his shopping. Since I let the two slaves return to their inn together with Giberuti I have no clue. I wonder if Zulu is lowering his head to his girlfriend?

The two knights who followed along tried to take a room at the same inn "Boil Manor" it seems but since there was only one room open they ended up staying at a different inn nearby. Of course I had Basutorial stay in the opening room. After hearing it was 5,000 Z (50 copper coins) per night Basutorial's eyes seemed like they would spin and he tried to refuse it but I said that even though he needs to save money I won't accept a seedy lifestyle and forced him to stay here. With this he'll be even more desperate I'm sure.

Zenom? Since Zenom came to apologize honestly to me for causing us to worry I accepted his apology. Around now he's probably getting tipsy on the shitty expensive vodka and dried neisun (herring like fish) he bought on the way back. When I finish writing this I plan to train with magic for just a bit and then drink some good alcohol as well.

When Basutorial returned from shopping, the two knights said they would act

as witnesses to the contract, so surrounded by the {Slaughterer}s and some onlookers we read out the details of the contract and it was safely signed by Basutorial. No one touched on the compensation portion but several members of the {Slaughterers} grinned like they realized it. That's right, since you all are the so-called successive generation. Your treatment is different. You don't have any complaints right?

.....

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 15

When I appeared in front of the inn while yawning and yesterday I mentioned it so just like a former slave Basutorial woke up before us and he was waiting together with Zulu and the others. Ah, this is bad~ come to think of it I forgot to prepare this guys shoes... It's troublesome, for the time being I guess I'll just let him use my spare sandals. Along with Basutorial who's wearing my sandals and enjoying the comfort of them, we went for our morning running at 5:30 am while it was still dark and chilly out.

After running for about two hours, we had some breakfast, and it's finally time to start training using wooden swords and spears. Since I made sure to tell Ralpha and Gwine yesterday, I made sure we had a weapon prepared for Basutorial. It's a spear. Since it will take a bit of time for his armor to be made. The same as usual we went to the vacant space at the edge of the town and there were already several pairs of adventurers training. After choosing an appropriate, place where no one will interfere with us we started our training as well.

First I had Gwine instruct him on the way to properly hold the spear. Today he'll just learn the thrust and in addition it would be good if he gets used to the weight of the spear. When the rest of our members were training Faruergaz and Hirosukol came along to take a look. Just in case I invited them yesterday at dinner but they refused while a bit embarrassed so I'm just leaving them alone.

They're looking at our training from a bit of distance away. Since we're in the middle of training we just nodded to them and are ignoring them. Two hours after we started training. Around 10:30 when we decided to take a break for a short while, Faruergaz started talking to me.

“Greed-san, is this sort of training sufficient for adventurers?”

“Eh? Yeah, fundamentally we just continue with this sort of training.”

When I said that he made a slightly surprised face. Ah, that sort of thing. Older brother said the training of the knight group was quite a bit different from our training as squires in Bakuddo as well. Since we’re more adventurers, or rather, we’re completely adventurers after all. I’m sure if you don’t know it would be surprising.

Ah, that’s right, the main school of swordsmanship in Rombert Kingdom is Fogen Style which the founder is said to be George.Rombert the First. It’s not much different from most styles of swordsmanship I know and shows it’s true value in one on one combat. I’m sure the original source for it is Kiichi Hogen right? However, right now this is the so-called western swordsmanship that incorporates a combination of the shield and the sword, so I really can’t imagine that the source makes use of a Japanese katana. This is close to just being my imagination but since George Rombert the First shouldn’t have had something like a Japanese sword, I think he probably completely abandoned his sword style that made use of the katana once. Isn’t it just that he left behind the name?

“Since we’re not fighting against “people” as the opponents in accordance with the path of a knight. I think it’s completely different from the training of the knight group. Of course, we include a portion of that but things like swinging and some level of the forms are training that each individual can do in their spare time.”

Things like training against people or armies are just a waste of time right now. Rather than that it wouldn’t be too late to do it after earning some money, buying a territory, and then starting it. It’s more frightening to be killed by monsters before then. Everything you’ve built up until now will become useless. Ah, I guess it’s just like this that swordsmanship styles change?

After hearing my words they nodded with expressions like they understood, while watching over the two of them started doing something.

The two knights were quite surprised at how even when we take bruises or cuts all over our bodies we just repeated healing magic and kept going with the

training while enduring the pain. After all more than half our members can use magic. I'm sure they saw our status when we were doing introductions yesterday but since Toris, Bel, and I are nobles they didn't say anything but they were considerably surprised when they were introduced themselves to Gwine and Ralph it seems. Also, while they said that we have quite a few members who can use magic, it seems they remained quiet on the fact that all of our magic skill levels are pretty high level.

When it comes to healing magic that can't be used unless you have over level 2 of elemental magic then it seen as "somewhat advanced", they were shocked that all of us who can use magic could use it. Idiots~ it's too soon for you to be surprised~ What Bel is using isn't {Cure}, it's {Cure Serious}. Furthermore, what Miduchi just used was {Cure All}. Ralph and Gwine can't use them but Toris, Bel, and Miduchi use {Water Arrow} while training after all. Even if it hits there's no damage so it's just a matter of enduring the cold.

"Hobgob!"

When I give out the command the ones who take the roles of the villain attack with some level of formation. This side has to try and have their front line go on the defensive. If you were to say the opponents endurance level is 2 for convenience sake, then you need to hit each one of them with one attack, and then you can't go in to finish them off until all of the targets have taken the first hit, before timing it up as you finish them off all at once. Of course there's rear support as well, when Miduchi, Bel, or I act as the rear support for hobgob it's troublesome. Of course we end up being the first ones targeted though.

"Goblin!"

Everyone only focuses on the opponent right in front of their eyes. In terms of tactics it's the easiest one but when I take on the role of goblin it's hell for the opponent. The estimated endurance level is 1. Eh? When I'm the goblin then of course I go easy with my attacks but I evade like crazy with my full abilities. In the end it comes down to one vs many and I lose though.

"Ork!"

It's not to the level of hobgoblin but we take on some level of formations and cooperate. However, all of our attacks end up large blows with all of our

strength. I think I'm better off since hardened rubber has more defensive capability than leather armor but it still seriously hurts to get hit. If I were to swing with all of my power then I might seriously break something so obviously I go easy on them. Everyone is already stronger than real orks after all.

"Ghoul!"

If you take an attack from the villain role then you have to stop moving. They can't move again until Miduchi or I touch them. Since Miduchi and I are always in different groups or both take on the roles of monsters, whenever Miduchi or I are in the role of the adventurer side then the ghoul role has to move to aim for Miduchi or I who are in the rear as much as possible. It's cheating though.

"Gnoll!"

The gnoll role is where everyone uses a spear. Since their physiques are a lot better than real gnolls, it's pretty difficult to approach a 2.5 meter spear. While the front line is holding out the rear has to quickly land some attacks. Obviously, the gnoll role members can evade better than actual gnolls so while their estimated endurance level is only 1 when more than half are killed they retreat so it's difficult to finish them off.

Other than taking on the roles of monsters we team up in groups of two or three and increase our cooperation levels like this, and also train in dealing with attacks from multiple enemies at the same time. It's a bit painful that we can't train against idiotically huge wild boars, ice monsters, and ogres. But, that can't really be helped. Ah, if the opponent is alone then there's no need for anything like formations or that crap. You just surround them and beat them from every side and it's over.

In the first place when it comes to a single absurdly strong monster (like the {Larva Purple Worm} that came out the other day) they don't appear a second time so there's no method of training for them. The closest thing to them would be me but in that case it would just be using spells to make water something or other and a lot of running around so there's not much meaning in it, and while we're doing something like estimate endurance levels while cutting in with wooden swords, if Bel, Miduchi, and the other 8 in total are behind them there's no way I could deal with them all alone. A while back we tried doing it

just once, while playing around I tried taking them on seriously but by the point I had defeated five of them my estimated endurance levels were already below 2 and I lost.

Just like this another two hours had passed by in no time at all and since it was 1 pm we finished up our training and went to eat some lunch and rest in preparation for tomorrow.

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Year 7444, Month 12, Day 16

After eating breakfast we head straight to challenge the dungeon. As expected Faruergaz and Hriosukol can't accompany us into the dungeon. I didn't invite them and in the first place I doubt they have the right equipment for entering the dungeon.

While it was still dim out we arrived at the entrance plaza and the same as usual it was crowded with parasite adventurers, merchants, and guides.

"Hey, it's the {Slaughterers}."

"That female slave, the other day I saw her at "Kisshu". She was bringing around a good looking guy..I'm envious..how impudent of her.."

"Shit, why is it just those brats.."

"Ah, Bel-chan, Kaweeeeiii~ I want to stick it in between..ha~ha~"

"Huh? There's 11 of them!"

"Wha? What are you saying..It's true!"

"Kalstalan-sama..the second, it's fine if I'm the second so I wonder if he won't be my partner..He seems so strong.."

"Yo~ Ral, next time you return let's go drinking again!"

"Ah, Greed-sama! Please don't forget us Boton siblings! We're useful, we are~!"

"Hey, what does this mean? Gwine-chan's hands, are they small?"

"So it was true that a Dyurou had entered their party.."

"Dazu! Give it your best!"

"Greed-sama, me, please include me in the {Slaughterers}!"

"No, please put me in! I can be more useful than that brat!"

"The brats have increased in number again."

"After all it's Firefreed-san, he's so cool, I look up to him.."

“That armor, it’s the same kind the first knight group is using, I wonder where you can buy it?”

“Yeah, isn’t it something that leader’s older sister gave him under the table, they’re really dirty bastards.”

“Oh? Gwine-chan, did she change her spear..”

“Are they going to split their party up? Are you serious..Amazing~”

“Your information is behind~ They’ve been splitting it up since a while back. Since I saw them when I was camping on the 2nd floor the other day.”

They sure are loud~ However, Zulu, you know, what ever happened to holding pride in your family name...In the end I guess you didn’t get into a fight with that Laios waitress. Well it’s fine. I’ll raise your wages a bit next year.

Since it’s the first time I thought of letting Basutorial get used to the dungeon on the lower floors first but after all the same as usual, I decided to do things normally. I’m sure Basutorial wants to earn money quickly as well so even if he has to overdo it a bit to get to the lower floors, I think it would be best to let him finish off some ogres who’s HP has dropped below 100. Just in case I said that to let Basutorial have priority over killing the monsters Miduchi freezes.

Just the same as usual I cleared through each floor in a group of two shifting between Zulu and Angela, and had the remaining 9 of them proceed forward. It was a bit slower but we reached the teleport room on the 3rd floor the same as usual today and then got some good rest. Basutorial was a bit excited from his first day in the dungeon.

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Year 7444, Month 12, Day 18

The problem is the 6th floor. As expected it’s a bit scary starting here. Since it couldn’t be helped I had Basutorial remain on standby in the teleport room on the 5th floor, the 10 of us cleared through the 6th floor, we left Giberuti in the teleport room there, and then we returned to the 5th floor. Since by chance there was no one from {Sun Ray} I’m sure he was quite lonely.

After we picked up Basutorial who was left all alone deep in the depths of the dungeon on his first and was on the verge of crying from the anxiety, we were

finally able to reach the teleport room on the 6th floor again around 10 pm. Since Basutorial still doesn't seem to be used to the dungeon our speed of advance is a bit slower. It can't be helped though.

We all sat around eating the dinner Giberuti prepared for us and then went to sleep.

For the next seven days starting tomorrow (Since we plan to take a long and proper break for the end of the year holidays and we have Basutorial this time as well, we brought along quite a bit of extra food. After all we weren't slower just because of Basutorial.), we need to make sure we earn quite a bit from the ogres on the 7th floor!

Chapter 167: Motivation

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 19

Starting today we're really challenging the 7th floor in a full group of 10. After taking a shower, I started organizing our combat potential a bit while eating breakfast.

The first one, me. Capable of both front line and rear support. It's safe to consider me the cornerstone of the {Slaughterers}. Since it's my assessment of myself it might be too generous but I think if I were to be excluded they're only just a bit better than the other top teams. If Miduchi were to be excluded as well then they probably aren't a match for the top team. Though I don't know the true abilities of other top teams so it's just guesswork through.

The second one, Zenom. Since he can't use magic or projectile weapons he specializes in the front line. However, his true skill is high and other than me he's the one I can trust the most on the front line. His specialty is to find openings in the opponent and damage them a bit at a time while fighting persistently.

The third one, Miduchi. The same as me, she can do both front line and rear support. Well she's like an inferior version of me. But in terms of synthesized abilities she's without a doubt the next after me. If she gets used to the missile spells then I think Miduchi alone could compete with the other top teams. Up until then she's a mana tank with a lot of direct attack power. Even though I say that it's big that she can use attack spells in rapid succession.

The fourth one, Ralpa. For the most part she can use magic but she's still technically a front line attacker. In terms of close combat on the front line she's the fourth strongest in the {Slaughterers} but including her Unique Ability if she can just make an opening in her opponent and land a single heavy blow then the situation could make a complete turn around with how much explosive power she has hidden away.

The fifth one, Bel. Since she specializes in the bow and magic she's rear support. Just in case she can also hold her own reasonably well on the front line

as well. Since she has more mana than an ultra first-rate sorcerer if you look are synthesized abilities including spells then it's not incorrect to say she can exceed Zenom. If Miduchi and I were to be excluded the way Bel is used is critical.

The sixth one, Toris. Since he started to use the shield he's become more focused on the front line. Since he can use magic as well of course rear support is possible as well but in that case in relation to his MP he's just about average for an adventurer magician. If he can just raise his magic spell skill levels a bit higher than along with his diligent personality he should be able to grow quite a bit.

The seventh one, Gwine. Rear support. Or rather, she's situated between the rear and the front in the middle. She's started to become skilled at making good use of the gaps the front line creates and thrusting her attacks in there. It has no relation to her combat abilities but her Unique Ability might be the most important from the dungeon. I would like for her to be able to go around the battlefield and keep an eye out for when the enemies are aiming at the rear and keep them in check while reading the circumstances of the whole. If she could do that then she'd change into something completely different.

The eighth one, Zulu. Front line. His close combat skills are about the same as Toris. Thanks to holding a shield he's also gained a defense UP. Since he's also pretty loyal he was charming but recently...I guess this doesn't matter at all.

The ninth one, Angela. Front line. Her close combat skills are the same as Bel, you could say she's above Gwine, but one step behind Toris and Zulu. Thanks to holding a shield she's also gained a defense UP. But it seems like she forgets the existence of her shield often.

So we're including Basutorial into here huh...Since we're having him use the spear in terms of position I'm sure he'll protect (?) the middle like Gwine but for the time being he's probably useless. If I were to think of it in terms of combat potential, even Giberuti might be better right now. But, his level went up by 1 in just the time we cleared through from the 1st to 6th floors and is 4 now. In just three days he gained 3,000 experience points. Starting today, if he can earn 1,400 — 1,500 a day for the next seven days on the 7th floor then I'm sure his

level will go up once more.

I crunch away at some salad with cabbage as the base while looking at Basutorial's state as he has a pale face and doesn't seem to have much of an appetite. Last night the moment we brought him to the camp, it was like his tension was cut and I remember his state laying down from the fatigue that had built up over the last three days. They must have read my worry, Zenom and Miduchi called out to Basutorial.

"Saji, eat properly. The real thing starts from today."

"That's right Saji-san. If you don't properly eat then you won't be able to move when the time comes."

"Ah? Eh? Yeah, I guess so...However, I wonder why? Even though it's this delicious I don't have any appetite..My feelings are pretty worked up? After all, we managed to obtain that many magic stones."

One our way up until here we made close to 200,000 in value in total. If we sell them to the magic tool shop then it's close to 1,500,000 Z (150 silver coins) in magic stones. This guys share is 1.5 silver coins.

"Starting today we'll be getting our hands on a lot more magic stones with an even higher value. It's not the case to be sprawling around. Now, eat a lot and build up some stamina."

Miduchi said that adding oatmeal to Basutorial's bowl. Basutorial raised a weak smile but even then he uncomfortably put his spoon into the oatmeal. I remember back when I was in the JSDF, I graduated from SD college and when we had an integrated training session with candidates from regular colleges and some other places we had to do a march of over 80Km over an obstacle course, everyone felt like they were going to die. It was harsh even on the JSDF members who had trained and had a reasonable amount of stamina but I'm sure it was far harsher on them.

Even when I was appointed as a 3rd lieutenant and assigned to my station, one of my subordinates Ebara, ended up becoming one of the Northern shortstop CWCT "R" Ranger insignias and I couldn't close my mouth thinking he was some kind of monster from his stamina. Ah, it's my first time remembering Ebara in a while. I'm sure he's feeling like I or the normal candidates of the

colleges did back then. If I hadn't retired then the next year I had a recommendation to take the "R" ranger course as well..supposed to do that.

"Basutorial. It's only exhausting for the first 2–3 months. Even if it's impossible to force it down."

It's a battle of stamina and mental strength for adventurers in the dungeon. After all during our descent into the dungeon this time we walked close to 25–30 Km on the first day from the 1st floor to the 3rd floor. I'm sure the actual time spent isn't even one minute each but there's combat along the way as well. Even if it's the same 30 Km as a road it's completely different from escorting a caravan. The distance you have to walk the next day is shorter but you have to walk through a nest of undead monsters, and yesterday we had to walk 7–8 Km while being afraid of teleport traps and huge wild boards. Since Basutorial had only taken part in farm work up until now putting aside stamina wise, I'm sure it's pretty harsh mentality wise.

That's the reason why our meals this time are oatmeal and eggs, various things that are easy to digest and still have quite a bit of nutrients. We brought along a reasonable amount of meat as well but the amount of meat itself isn't all that different from when we normally enter the dungeon. The amount of meat per meal has decreased a bit.

"It's alright. There's no way I could leave any of this delicious stuff leftover!"

Hidden behind his words, Basutorial has a stiff smile on his face as he carries the eggs and oatmeal into his mouth like a machine.

.....

..I guess around here we should have lunch. Thinking that I gave the instruction to take a break inside of the forest on the 7th floor. Today's lunch is something like minced chicken meat over soba. Though I say chicken meat over soba it's really just chicken meat cut into small pieces. It's flavored with salt and seasonings and and has a bit of soba flour kneaded into it. It has a bit of olive oil added for scent as well so it's a splendid meal. Then as vitamin replenishment there's one tangerine as well. Since fruits are quite the luxury item enjoy it as you eat.

Since we normally don't put anything sweet into our mouths while tangerines don't sell well in Japan from how sour they are these ones taste considerably sweet. And then, it's the plot to make everyone forget their exhaustion naturally.

"Saji-san, I've been saying it since before but when you thrust in with the spear you need to twist it. Since the bodies of ogres are durable. Even if you just stab them they won't get any weaker. Just like this, you have to twist it in while stabbing in. If you do that the wound opens up even more and a lot of blood comes out."

Gwine is making a pose of stabbing the spear in and twisting it while teaching Basutorial. Wu..she sure has grown..this old man is happy. It's quite the dangerous growth though.

"I did that though..the muscle of the ogres is too hard that I couldn't twist it.."

"That's why you have to aim for the junctions in the muscles and thrust it there. If they seriously tense their muscles then there's no way to pull it out after all."

Toris added from the side. Certainly, regardless of whether it's the arm, thighs, or stomach if you go too far with stabbing then it's not easy to get back out. Though since she's a dwarf and her level has gone up quite a bit I think Gwine could do it with her grip strength. Recently Gwine's upper arms have become something amazing.

"Well, I'm sure things won't go well from the start. I think it's fine if you get used to it over time."

Ralpa says common sense while peeling a tangerine. I guess so. That's exactly right.

"However, everyone sure is amazing..Even though there's a lot of women..I've started to think I'm pathetic."

"Oh my? Thanks. But we really aren't much at all. The amazing one is Al-san."

Bel..I'm happy you're saying that but if you praise me too much I'll get arrogant so stop it. And I think it's true that everyone's gotten pretty amazing. We had a good pace going today and managed to defeat a total of 8 ogres in

three battles in the morning but the only time I had to help was the time there were 4 of them. Since we noticed them first before they started moving I took 1 out and then before they got over here I killed just 1 more. Even if it's two ogres at a time you all can fight without danger.

“Saji-san, it's fine if you don't take it to mind so much. It's just as this person said in the morning, you'll quickly make up to where everyone else is. Just get used to it slowly without being impatient.”

Miduchi said that before throwing one of the chambers of the tangerine into her mouth. I heard the sound of her biting into a seed. I'm sure it was bitter. She made a pathetic face and then hid her mouth while spitting it out.

.....

We defeated 7 ogres in the afternoon and that was the end for today. I can't stop the smiling in front of the 15 magic stones. The total identify value is 1821450. That's over 12,500,000 Z if we sell them. Roughly the value of one ogre is about 100,000 — 130,000, the magic stone that has the highest demand is the ones that are worth around 1,000,000 Z sold at the magic tool shop. If it's put inside of a lightning magic tool that's about that of a 40W light and the average family doesn't waste it then it will last for about 30 years but if it comes to a bar or place that works through the night using them as lightning then this level will only last about a year. Stoves consume even more. Compared to those I'm sure the refrigerator that has a low hourly consumption rate but has to be left on through the day consumes them at an amazing rate.

That's why other than the really high class stores they only use at most one or two lightning magic tools and if they have two of them they're basically mid-range stores. Even that “Emerald Duke Club Reception Hall”, putting aside the waiting room, it uses lamps for the individual rooms you play with the prostitutes in.

Since refrigerators that use ice houses are common the demand for ice from an ice maker is pretty high as well. Magicians who can use water and fire magic at a high level can earn a bonus to their income by selling ice to an ice dealer (around 1,000 Z per 1 ton). In order to sell it at a practical level you need to use at least 8 MP and since it's just elemental magic so the amount of experience

point gained is like two digits of less than 1 point (the higher the magic level goes up the more difficult it is to gain experience while using only elemental magic) so it can't really be called a very profitable part-time job though. At most a retired former adventurer will sell a couple tons every day.

Since the technology of using airtight methods in refrigerators is extremely crude they usually just wrap around 40–50 Kg of ice in a cloth into a normal two door refrigerator (they have ice inside of small durable doors) but in the summer it only lasts about 2–3 days and even in the winter it melts in about 2 weeks. Since the temperature it refrigerates at is around 10 degrees it's no comparison with the abilities of the refrigerator magic tool.

Since there's circumstances like those and just because the capital is right next to Baldukk, it's a grateful thing for us since the demand for magic stones is high. If it was the capital of Marquis Webdos territory, Keel and such places are too far in the remote regions so I'm sure it wouldn't be like this. That's why if it's not a place with a lot of nobles, rich people, and bars then you can't sell a lot. So you could say we're contributing to the amount of time the stores in the capital can do business.

Also, I only found out about it recently but in regards to that magic stone powder you use when making contracts. If you prepare a lot of that. Then you mix a minuscule amount in with the normal compost you use when making fertilizer, rather, and it seems like you can somewhat increase the amount of your harvests over the overall planting area. The ratio is something like 0.001%. If you're making around 1 ton of compost then you would usually mix in about 100 grams or so (putting the labor aside it's about 50 goblin magic stones, with a value of about 70,000 — 80,000 Z to make that amount) and mix that.

When you're making this fertilizer you dilute it down about 10 times and then when the seedlings of the wheat are around 15 cm or so you dilute it another 20–30 times and spread it around the seedlings without putting it directly on them. It seems the way to use the fertilizer is the same as normal agriculture. By doing this it seems you can increase the harvest amount by close to 5%. This is big because 1 ton of compost can be used for about 1.5 hectares of field.

Last year when I found out about this even though there was only 10 days before older brother comes, I ended up writing a letter home from how excited

I was. It seems to be the latest research results of over 100 years of the country's ministry of agriculture. Toris happily wrote a letter to his home the same as me but Bel just said one word of Hmph, and lost interest and Toris and I were daunted by that attitude.

We all took dinner together and since the amount of food we have is limited we watch as Ralph's request for seconds is rejected by Giberuti while talking with Miduchi about our earnings so far this time.

After that took some showers and drank some tea while resting and taking it easy, then went to sleep early in preparation for tomorrow.

.....

"..The trembling still hasn't stopped..I..I'm scared.."
"Since it's your first time it probably can't be helped..I was scared my first time as well.."

In the middle of the night, I opened my eyes hearing some whispering voices. I guess I'll go and take a piss? My body is saying it doesn't want to leave the warm blanket but when I became aware of it I feel I have to go. It can't be helped..N? Japanese?

"Th..the sensation of stabbing monsters won't disappear.."
"You don't need to worry about it so much.."
"Yeah, I understand that. I intended to understand it..but.."
"Well, I understand your feelings. If you think you can sleep then it's fine if you do. It would be good if we could prepare something warm to drink but since I can't use water magic..I'm sorry."
"Ah, no, it's fine. I doubt I can fall asleep so easily, I'm just happy you're willing to listen to my story."
"Is that so..Then that's good though.."
"I need to earn some money..after all..I need to earn it and then go and pick up Cathy.."
"That's right, give it your best."
"Yeah, that's right isn't it. I give it my best to earn and then I'm going to get married. I'll make her happy.."
"I'm jealous of your wife."

“Wa ha...I still haven’t married her, it’s too soon to call her my wife. But together with everyone, I’m glad I was able to meet with people from Japan... Being freed from being a slave, even being given such a good job..”

So it’s Basutorial and Gwine who are on lookout? Today Zenom and I are on the last lookout and they were before that so it should be between 2 and 4 right now.

“Even though I’m sure Faruerugaz-san and Hirosukol-san aren’t bad people either. I wonder why Al-san didn’t invite them..”

“That’s right. Since I’m in debt to them as well I think it would have been reassuring to work together with them but since it seemed like they were knights, Rodrick, Faruergaz-san is the eldest son of a Count, and since it seems that Hriosukol-san was originally quite the older person as well. Since something like that happened at the start, wasn’t it difficult for them to lower their heads maybe..”

Oh, so that Tiger-man knight was an elderly person, that explains why he had that way of speaking. I’m sure everyone around him looks like brats and he couldn’t help it. Adding to that I’m sure his feelings have gotten younger so I’m sure it’s not unreasonable.

“By the way, what you guys mentioned before..that is..in regards to making a country but..”

“Yes?”

“Honestly speaking, I don’t really get it..Please don’t take this the wrong way but I feel like my hands are full with what’s in front of me so I can’t think that far.”

“If I think about Saji-san’s current situation then I’m sure that’s the case. I don’t think it can be helped.”

“That’s why, when Fio and Hirosukol-san said something like it can’t be done, or that you were being deceived I couldn’t say anything. Of course, if you think about it with common sense I think it’s impossible. But, I don’t think it’s completely no good right..”

“What do you mean?”

“I mean, this is a world where there’s no bombs or airplanes and the wars are only at the level of the warring states era right? Isn’t it possible to do depending

on how you go about it? is what I thought. Since I'm a boy as well.."

"Hn~ I don't really care either way. I think Saji-san would understand but my parents were killed by monsters, and since I wasn't sure what to do, I thought it would just be no problem as long as I can earn money.."

What are you saying..in a place like this. Rather than what should I do about taking a piss. It's gotten difficult to get up. Since I'm enduring it partway through I can't care to listen too much.

"Right..you have to start off with being able to eat or else things don't start... Ah, that's right, is it really true if we sell the magic stones from today it's 10,000,000 Z?"

"If they're at that size and color with 15 of them then I think so?"

"Ku...alright..In just a single day that means I earned over 100,000..That's amazing~ it's really like a dream."

"If you give your best you can double the amount I think."

"That's right! That. It's really amazing..If it was 200,000 every day then that's 6,000,000 in just a single month. I can repay my debt and buy Cathy..not just that I could become a rich person after that I think.."

"..As expected staying on the 7th floor every day is unreasonable.."

"Is that so? I mean, Al-san was able to make it through the 6th floor with just him and a slave the two of them right? Even today it was amazing~ Didn't he take out an ogre in just a single attack..Isn't it simple?"

"That's true but that person is special. Everyone, is frantic. In the first place your feelings won't hold out. Even this time, since we have the new years holiday after it's something like preparations for going to the 8th floor and on but if I were to speak honestly I think it's going to be quite exhausting from here on out."

"Ah..sorry..that's right isn't it. I, wasn't useful at anything...All I did on the way here was stab monsters that Miduchi-san froze and made it so they couldn't move..And I'm just finishing off the ogres that everyone's weakened..Not to mention I'm getting scared over that..even though there's girls as well.."

"It can't be helped since it's your first time..Even on my first time we didn't come down this far, since Basutorial has come down to the 7th floor all of a sudden. I don't think it can be helped that you're afraid."

Mufu...My bladder feels like it's going to rupture. Going off their conversation I think it should be fine for me to get up pretty soon? I guess?

"U~n~"

I made some noise while rolling around in my blanket to show I've just woken up and then left my blanket and rushed out the room. When I entered the passage and was sure they couldn't see I went pigeon-toed and trembled while somehow moving to the place where there was dirt. Of course there's no time to waste so I started pulling my pants down on the way. Right as I arrived at the toilet it was time to drain the dam.

....Fu...

I shut away my son who's recently started to vaguely show his head from the end recently and then washed my hands before returning to the room.

"..Good~ morning~ what time is it?"

"Good morning, Al-san."

"Go..Good morning to you too."

I said it while seeming tired and put some beans and boiling water into my flask while preparing bean tea for three.

"It's around 3:30."

I hand out a cup to Gwine while responds. What the, so there was still 30 minutes left before my shift?

"So I guess it's about time to shift..I'll go take a shower after drinking this.."

Since Basutorial is pleased as well, we need to earn. Of course, in order to achieve our objectives.

Chapter 168: Prime Mage

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 23

The fifth day since we arrived on the 7th floor. Exploration is proceeding smoothly. Even though I say that we still haven't arrived at the teleport room to the 8th floor yet.

Honestly speaking, including myself everyone is feeling a bit impatient about this situation. Even though we've filled in over 50% of the map of the 7th floor. Even then we still haven't found the route to the 8th floor. We've tried discussing it with everyone but other than the fact that deep in a monster room seems suspicious, we couldn't think of anything else that could connect to the 8th floor.

After we defeated that huge earthworm, I'm sure we made a mistake on the route we advanced down...Since the time was what it was, it's regretful that we couldn't explore down all of the split paths after that time. Even though the 7th floor is considerably easy to remain cautious on, even I don't want to camp out in a place other than the safe area here.

In any case, in the four days up until yesterday, we earned 10,000,000 — 15,000,000 Z (10–15 gold coins) in magic stones everyday. Basutorial is smoothly building up some experience as well. Since we're earning quite the high amount, even though we still haven't found the teleport room to the 8th floor everyone's morale is high.

Particularly Basutorial since he's getting used to the atmosphere of the combat and a sharp light has appeared in his eyes. The fact that he's progressively giving it his best is good but honestly speaking I feel like he's got some dangerous insecurity building up in there as well. After all it's certain that Basutorial isn't as strong as the other members.

Even if I say he's getting used to the atmosphere of the combat, it just means he's stopped flinching, and it's definitely not like his combat abilities have increased. Since everyone already understands that, they're souring their words

while telling him “be careful” every time something happens.

Since his might gradually increased and when Basutoral started to get more progressive at first I thought it was great, with this the foundations are complete for him to become a new member and put my hand to my chest in relief but since around yesterday I’ve started to feel a bit uneasy about it, and I even had to give him a considerably strong order not to get full of himself and go out too far on the front line during combat.

This is just my imagination but I think that Basutoral is in ecstasy over the fact that he can really get his hands on an amount of money that could blind you. Obviously at first he was nervous, doubtful, and felt a gap in the abilities of those around him so he was shrinking back but after he realized that there’s some difference in the abilities between the {Slaughterers} and the monsters, his feelings have been swelling up.

I don’t particularly think that itself is anything bad. I’m sure it’s necessary at first to be saved by your surroundings and gain some experience. In any case, he needs to put in effort himself and train, and then make sure he increases his skills as well otherwise sooner or later it’s obvious he won’t be able to keep it up, as long he’s not just an idiot once we return to the surface and he has time for his head to cool down he should be able to understand.

We managed to defeat 17 ogres between the morning and afternoon of this day as well and we returned to the teleport room on the 6th floor after obtaining magic stones that exceed 14,000,000 Z . We all chatted while eating away at the pot of thinly sliced pork roast Giberuti prepared for us.

Around the time the stock disappeared from the pot we added some barley without the husks into it and waited around 15 minutes after putting the lid on. Finally we put some eggs on top and it comes out as egg gruel, we blow away at it to cool it down while eating it. Other than the fact that there’s no fish stock it’s a menu that Japanese people would generally prefer so it received praise from all of us. Even a western stable pot meal can taste pretty good.

Just like this when you’re eating it, while barley is different from wheat which is difficult to eat unless you make it into a powder, its clearly different from rice but if you eat it while it’s still in grain form it’s quite good is what I’m always

thinking. Although, on Orth since things like the water wheel and individual grinders entered households the habit of eating whole grains is rapidly going out of fashion, most people prefer wheat which tastes better when changed into a powder compared to barley. Like Zenom, when he first met me he made fun of barley as something only the poor and slaves eat while still in grain form. As expected he hasn't said anything like that recently though.

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Year 7444, Month 12, Day 24

Around four hours since we teleported into the 7th floor. We found several dead ends while continued to explore. And then, we finally encountered a new monster room. Unlike the previous monster room with the huge earthworm, this time there's thickly overgrown trees around the room. Consequently I don't think the boss of this room is that flashy earthworm. As expected if that huge body is in the ground of this floor it shouldn't be able to dig so easily with all the tree roots.

Even in the off chance it really is the huge earthworm then it's lucky for us. We can just fire attack spells at him from a distance while he can't move properly and safely finish it off.

Around 100 meters in distance from the monster room we had a simple strategy meeting. Even though I say that since we don't know the opponent, including the number. There's no way of making a plan.

"Bastuoral, you remain here..I guess so, remain hidden in the thicket behind that rock. No matter what happens don't move from there."

"Wa, yes! I understand."

When I ordered him to remain on standby Basutorial was a bit disappointed but he obediently obeyed. Everyone not just me has told him that the bosses of monster rooms are completely different from others. Adding to that, while we freeze the monsters in the boss rooms on the 6th floor and easily kill them to get through pretty often, when it comes to freezing the ogres on the 7th floor he knew they could easily break through it.

Excluding ogres which have already been injured and weakened somewhat, in

order to freeze an energetic ogre you have to cover them in a huge amount of ice that they can't break through. A bare minimum of level 6 water and fire magic is necessary. Even then it requires several times more MP consumption as well. Without pouring in an excessive amount of MP in order to be able to solidify them in one hit it's pretty much impossible without at least level 7 water magic.

Rather than something like the powerful opponent that is an ogre, there's an even more powerful monster ruling over the monster room we're about to charge into on the 7th floor is what we're saying. If we have someone slowing us down it's possible the combat could develop into something harsh. Since everyone's lives are depending on it no matter how discontent Basutorial might feel I can't permit him to participate in the combat.

After taking the bags everyone's lunch is packed into Basutorial hid behind the rock I told him to. Each person's bento is about 500 grams, even if you include the rubber cloth it's in I doubt it's over 3 Kg, but I want to make sure we're as light as possible. Well, reflecting on previous times everyone still has one day's worth of preserved food and a flask in their bags as well so we aren't completely light.

"Since we don't know what will be there. We're going with {Arrowhead One}. However since the 7th floor is wide. Everyone open up around 7–8 meters in distance."

{Arrow Head One} is a formation where I'm at the front, on the right behind me is Zenom, behind him on the right is Angela, on the left behind me is Ralpa, behind her on the left is Zulu. Toris is situated in the middle behind Zenom and Ralpa as shortstop, behind him is Gwine to follow the whole of us. Then even further behind that is Bel and finally Miduchi to support us and remain cautious of anything from behind. Also, when it comes to combat the picture of an arrowhead changes a bit to more like a zigzag while moving. When it comes to charging into a monster room, since I'm standing at the front rather than attack power it's a formation that's focused more on defensive power. The number decides who stands in the front.

Incidentally Miduchi wanted to name a cross shaped formation the {Imperial

Cross} but since no one other than the person herself could understand the meaning in that strange formation we rejected it. Since the rear of a cross shape is the safest so she tried to say that we could rest easy and fight but since the front ends up being in the most danger it takes even more resolve to fight. It's so obvious I thought it was idiotic.

We have plenty of formations with the {Arrow}, {Wedge}, {Wing}, {Trail}, {Line}, and {Circle}. Since it's not like we're leading an army into war. Incidentally, in the case of combat in the dungeon, in most cases the formation this time isn't very useful.

When it comes to beating a few number of opponents from every side then {Wing} or if it comes to goblins and gnolls a number of opponents in the passages then taking into consideration shifts between the front line and rear the {Line}, if we're surrounded by an army of {Giant Spiders} in a room then we use {Circle} as well. When scouting things out while moving through the vast passages of the 7th floor we use {Wedge} and the person at the front uses the spell {Detect.Life} though.

In any case, we went into the formation {Arrowhead One} and I used the spell {Detect.Life}. And then we advanced forward 100 meters towards the room once we arrived at the entrance of the room which has a diameter of about 500 meters I used it again. There's no detection of life within the effective range of the spell. It was when we made use of hiding behind the tree trunks as we continued ahead another 50 meters or so. I detected something with the {Detect.Life} spell I used again.

The direction is the center of the room. Since the trees are in the way I can't gain enough sight to use identify. In any case I need to communicate it. I raised my left hand in the air and gave the sign "discovered something". Several seconds later I pointed my finger in the direction ahead where I discovered them. Most likely everyone tensed up in preparations seeing that. I hold my bayonet in my right hand and hang my left hand down at the ready to use attack spells whenever needed as we slowly moved closer to the objective.

I've already confirmed the number of the targets. There's 12 of them. Even if they're just ogres it's an absurd number of them. Internally, I'm thinking, maybe

I should just freeze everything all at once and suffocate them? with how many of them there are. However, it's not decided the opponents are ogres yet. Just like that we remained vigilant and approached to within 100 meters away. We were finally able to recognize the appearance of the opponents. After all it's ogres. Though I still can only see five of them I'm sure those are ogres. I tried using identify on the ones I could see and they're definitely ogres.

If I know they're ogres then there's no problem. Then, taking into consideration the distance they can move before they freeze, I'll freeze them in ice that's over 200 meters in every direction and 25 meters high. If I use level 8 fire and water magic 8 times then it should be plenty. Thinking that, it was just when I gave out the sign warning that I was going to use an attack spell to ambush them. The ogres who were quiet up until then suddenly started to get noisy and move into combat formation. There's already no more time to spare! Simultaneously as I gave out the sign I started to concentrate in order to use level 8 water and fire magic which this is only my second time using myself.

Ah, by the way the first time I used it was in the past on our way to Baldukk, I just tried making a bunch of dirt towards the ocean with earth magic. After that is when I'm practicing using the attack spells of the {Trebuchet} or {Cannon} levels. In terms of the pure amount of the element that I'm making with elemental magic of this high of a level this is only the second time. I can't even guess how much of the element I could create if I were to use the highest level 9 of elemental magic so I still haven't tried using it even once.

A moment after I started concentrating, water suddenly started to burst forth from the ground of the effective range I had established it and then in no time at all it froze over. Just as I originally planned in front of me there's a block of ice that covers an area of 200 meters and is 25 meters high.

"What..is this..."

"Al-san.."

"This is..really amazing.."

"Ma..Master.."

"Ue~ and you still have plenty of mana after this..If you were to just flood Erurehei everything would be over."

Everyone made expressions of surprise and admiration at the tremendous

amount of ice that suddenly appeared in front of their eyes..and also let out voices of fear. Yeah, in terms of volume it's roughly 1,000,000 m³. It's a bit smaller than the Tokyo Dome. I'm sure there's no one that wouldn't be surprised suddenly seeing this much ice appear in a few seconds.

"Since there was 12 of them..I decided to take things safely."

Though the ice I created with magic has a high level of transparency, I can't see far into the ice is where the ogres were so I can't identify them. Since it can't be helped I'll have to use the spell {Detect.Life} a number of times before I can rest easy that they die..Ah, if I just identify myself and check the experience points then I guess that's fine.

Since it seemed like it would start to get cold near the side of the ice right away we all returned back down to the road and grouped up with Basutorial. Obviously Basutorial went speechless seeing the mountain of ice as well.

"Let's take a short break. How about we drink some tea?"

As expected it's a bit too soon for lunch. If we rest for about 15 minutes then after I confirm they've suffocated we can slowly erase the ice and gather the magic stones. Hn? One of them died. My experience increased by around 5,000. I saw the instant the experience points increased while identifying myself through the identify-use hole I have opened in my glove on my left hand. I gained a couple hundred experience points towards fire magic as well. It might be possible with this my fire magic level will reach MAX as well. I put some boiling water into everyone's flask and make some tea as we all sit in a circle.

"However, Al-san. I'm always being surprised but is your mana really fine creating that much ice?"

"What are you saying Toris, if it's Al then it's only obvious he's fine."

"Eeh..Ral you've seen this much made with elemental magic before?"

"Hn? In the past on our way to Baldukk I saw him create dirt towards the ocean but I don't think it was much as this time? Or was it?"

"Yeah, I was pretty astonished that time as well but I don't feel like it was as much as this time..However, it's quite amazing."

Zenom and Ralpa, and the annoy-ouple are talking while looking up at the ice.

“I don’t like this, it might be a bit cold..”

“It’s because Gwine doesn’t eat enough and doesn’t have any meat on her bones. Though it seems that your physique has gotten a bit better recently, it would be best if you eat even more.”

“Maruso, if you say it that doesn’t sound like a joke. However, it is certainly true that Gwine should eat more and properly build up her body. She’s still too thin for a Dwarf.”

“Please stop with that, Zulu. Even though I already feel like I’m building up too much muscle recently..my abs have started to get ripped..even though I’m a girl..”

“Oh? I have a {six pack} as well. But in my case it’s difficult to build up muscle and on top of that the the fat builds up quickly, so I’m jealous of Gwine who doesn’t need to diet..”

“I’m jealous of Miduchi-san..Rather are you picking a fight? Even though those sort of ideal proportions are absolutely impossible for me..abominable elves..abominable bunnies..”

“But can’t you dress yourself up with your beard Gwine. Since I have so many breasts my shoulders get stiff..”

“Maruso..that’s not something to be jealous of. Also I’m just becoming defiant with the beard..”

You all..Stop saying such pointless things and show more admiration for my ice..Look, open your eyes even wider in surprise and look at it. Even though such great results are right in front of you..Well whatever.

“Umm..Al-san, is it fine if I ask something?”

“Hn? What is it?”

“After all that ice is magic.. right?”

“Yeah.”

“If I can learn magic as well will I be able to do that much?”

“I wonder? I think it depends on your effort but it also depends on how much mana you have..”

“I said it previously but when I tried magic training in the village it was no good..”

“Since it seems that it’s 1 in 10 after all..But, I think if you properly train with magic you’ll be able to use it.”

“Rea...Really?”

“If that wasn’t the case I wouldn’t have included you on the contract. I think that all of us reincarnated people should be able to use magic. After all everyone I’ve met other than you were all able to learn magic.”

According to brother it seems that Mary was able to use magic as well. I don’t think it’s mistaken to think that all of us reincarnated people have the elements to use magic. Most likely this is also one of the advantages of reincarnated people as well.

“Alri~ght, I’ll give it my best!”

“Yeah, keep with it.”

I glanced at myself and used identify again and my experience points have increased quite a bit. My maximum MP increased by 1 as well. Just in case I tried opening the sub-window for fire magic and just as I expected the level increased and it changed to MAX. Since it was 12 ogres, a total of over 5,000 HP so I think that’s only obvious though.

After that I used the spell {Anti-Magic Field} to erase through the ice like a tunnel up to where the ogres are frozen and we gathered the magic stones. And then while I got it was just 12 ogres but that seems to have been a mistake. It seems that while they’re the same ogres there were two of them mixed in that had magic special skills. The levels of their skills were 3–4 so they were about the same as a normal magician but if we had tried properly taking them on the front things could have gotten difficult. If we were to be ambushed then heavy injuries, or depending on how things go we might have even had to prepare ourselves for casualties...

Including the one we entered from there was five paths stretching out from the monster room. I wonder if one of the remaining four paths is the right answer for being connected to the 8th floor? No, if that’s not the case then we’ll be troubled. We tried picking the direction that seemed like it leads towards the center while advancing and we managed to arrive at the teleport room to the 8th floor.

Just this place has a ceiling that’s a bit over 10 meters and the interior isn’t all that different from the usual dungeon. Strangely enough the tunnel leading into

the teleport room only had a width and height of about 2 meters and were far too narrow. In the first place monsters shouldn't be able to approach from within 100 meters of the surroundings so I think there's probably no meaning to it but since there's zigzags five times leading to it none of the light from outside reaches into it.

It's still around 4 pm. The time is a bit early but since it's a good cut off point I guess we should finish things up early for today. In the first place today this time, no, this is the final exploration day in the dungeon for this year, in other words the day we finish things up. Tomorrow afternoon we have some training but starting the day after tomorrow until January 5th of next year we have 10 consecutive days off. Since we made quite a bit of profit and we were finally able to discover the teleport crystal for the 8th floor our morale went up quite a bit. That's why, since it's also Christmas, around tomorrow night we should feign it's the last meeting and doing some merrymaking might not be bad as well. Since today is Christmas Eve I'm sure Ralpa and Gwine will drink either way.

When we returned to the surface a cold rain was falling and even though we were feeling pretty good it made things feel kind of bad. The entrance plaza was considerably quiet as well and had a slightly lonesome atmosphere. Since we had been exploring the dungeon for 9 days already we just kept stretching ourselves out in the rain.

Chapter 169: Rumors 1

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 24

After leaving the dungeon we went straight into the magic tool shop. We handed our spoils that is the magic stones still in the sack to the owner and requested him to assess them. The magic stones from the 1st to 6th floors we merged into a total of three magic stones but the ogre magic stones from the 7th floor as still in their original form. Including the merged magic stones we have a total of 98 of them. I'm sure it'll take quite a bit of time to measure the weights. It might be best to prepare ourselves for it taking over an hour.

It's troublesome and I'd like to just leave it to someone else and return to "Boil Manor" but unless there's some kind of special circumstances I prefer that everyone is here when confirming the sales of magic stones. Since it directly relates to the payment of bonuses. The exception is magic stones like the {Larva Purple Worm} the other day or magic items. And then this time the newcomer Basutorial is here as well.

Zenom and I sit down at the chairs next to the counter and the rest of the members are standing but this can't be helped.

"I'm sure this time will be a new record.."

When Zenom whispered to himself and after hearing that everyone else started chatting.

"That's~ only obvious right. After all it was 95 ogres! It was worth staying on the 7th floor for six whole days. Right, Bel."

"I guess so. As expected I'm a bit tired..Rub my shoulders later."

"Ku...Bel-san..Stiff shoulders..Is that sarcasm.."

"Gwine, you really..you pay too much care to things like that. Rather than that I'm hungry, I want to go drinking already."

"Ral..like a human like you could understand my worries but..I'll drink. I'll drink everything.."

..Let's just ignore these guys.

“I wonder how much it will be? If each one is about 800,000 and there’s 95 of those. Then there were three of them between 300,000 and 800,000 right?”

Miduchi asked me.

“Won’t it be around 80,000,000? I’m sure it’s a new record.”

The total identify value was 11,628,258. If you roughly multiple that seven times it’s around 81,400,000. In just a bit more it would have been 81,500,000 but that can’t be helped. If you cut off the fractions then 2% of 81,000,000, 1,620,000 Z (162 silver coins) is the normal bonus and Basutoral’s bonus is 810,000 Z. Furthermore, there’s almost no need to worry about the value being assessed incorrectly. The identify value of a gnoll’s magic stone which is about 2,000 and is a mother stone is roughly 11 grams. Since the weight of a 0 mana mother stone is 10 grams so the comes out to 1 gram = 2,000 value. Since the scale magic tool that the magic tool shop uses for assessments is extremely precise it should be able to weigh down to 0.001 gram. I’m sure there’s some margin of error but you could say it’s within a permissible range. Really Toris’s Unique Ability somehow..doesn’t have much chance to shine.

“8...81,000,000..in other words, 810,000 Z..In just..9 days..Without taking 10 days 810,000 Z..This is..So this is an adventurer..”

“Don’t misunderstand, Bastuoral. This is only possible because of master. It wouldn’t go this way with other adventurers.”

“It’s just as Zulu-sama says. In the first place you haven’t properly worked this time. It’s no good if you forget that.”

“Ye..Yeah.. of course. Zulu-san, Angela-san. I already know that...Just, that is..I was just a bit surprised.”

“If you know that much then there’s no problem. Maruso don’t bully him so much.”

“But, Larry, since he said it like a normal adventurer..”

“No, Giberuti-san. Thank you very much. That’s right isn’t it. It wouldn’t go this way for normal adventurers right..I had intended to understand it from hearing everyone’s story but I’m surprised once again.”

When the assessment of the magic tool owner finished, and it came to purchasing, as expected he wanted to have some cash on hand for the new year so he proposed only buying half of it. The remaining magic stones he’ll buy once

again after the start of the new year so we ended up receiving the payment for half of, 50 of them, and then I paid the bonuses to everyone other than the slaves. Since Basutorial gets his as a deduction from his loan I just gave him 1 silver coin. Tomorrow I'm paying the wages of 200,000 Z so it's plenty to live on.

I placed the money and magic stones in my locker in the temple and after catching up with everyone, we went to eat dinner like normal before returning to the inn.

I'm sure Ralph and Gwine were tired as expected so they returned together with us.

.....

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 25

Even then we still don't wake up at a time that's all that different from usual, together with everyone excluding Zenom and Giberuti we go running. After that, in the morning I started making an alphabet text of Orth's letters for teaching Basutorial letters. It's something like the notes of an elementary schooler. I'll at least treat him the cost of the paper this time. During that time, it seems that Ralph and Gwine are trying to teach Basutorial magic. Those two, they're surprisingly good at caring over others. Ah, obviously they're trying to use the commonly known method for teaching the {Cantrip} {Magical.Detection}.

If I'm correct, they're using Gwine's magic spear. It's only obvious but if you can properly use the {Cantrip} {Magical.Detection} then you'll be able to detect the fact that an item is a magic item. Since it doesn't consume any magic stones I guess magic weapons and things like that are useful for acquiring a magic skill...Though about the only one making use of such a luxurious method is probably only about you in all of Orth, Basutorial.

We all gathered together in the vacant space at the edge of town and had lunch using the remaining food we had leftover from what Giberuti prepared for the dungeon before starting our training. It's our last job of the year, once this over we have plans for all of Greed Company, the adventurer department to go merrymaking at a restaurant. It turned into training with more fighting spirit behind it than usual. It would be boring to get injured before our last

meeting so I got some chills while commanding over the training. Only Basutorial was in the corner practicing defense with a spear. It's just the forms but right now his abilities are too low that he just ends up slowing everyone else down while training with the other members.

"Ya~ Greed-san. You all seem quite lively."

Before I noticed Faruergaz and Hirosukol had come to see our training. They looked out for the timing we were on break and called out to me. I returned the greeting.

"We've decided to challenge the dungeon of Baldukk as well. We came to offer our greetings on that end."

Eh...what did he say? All of the members of the {Slaughterers} couldn't hide their surprise hearing that.

They've started noisily talking away.

"As a matter of fact to check things out we tried entering once the other day."

Yeah I see, and then? What happened? Ah, me? this time is 80..I'll shut up.

"We were able to get a feel that we can somehow manage it on the 1st floor. Of course, I'm sure it's nowhere near you all but the two of us were able to earn 260,000 Z."

Ho~ that's quite amazing. By the way, did you enter with just the two of you? Do you not have any other allies?

"Eh? It was just the two of us. If the opponent is low in numbers then something can be done about it."

Hey now, didn't you just have good luck? If it's on the 1st floor then it's not strange for goblins or gnolls to come in groups of 20 at a time. If it's just the two of you then taking on a group of at most 4–5 orks or hobgoblins is easier I'm sure.

"Ah..is that so? We only caught sight of orks and hobgoblins.."

That's what they call being lucky. Unless you're considerably skilled you should at least gather four people or more.

Depending on the case hiring a guide is good as well, if you go to the entrance

plaza in the early morning there's a lot of people recruiting allies.

"Or, rather, if you're entering the dungeon I suggest you gather some information. While the maps are incomplete, for the time being you can buy them for the 1st to 3rd floors, even when it comes to an experienced guide, it costs a bit to hire them but there's a that can be learned from them. Unless you pick a serious failure of one I don't think you'll lose out."

"I see, a guide huh? Rodrick, we were able to hear something good right."
"Yeah, that's right. Fio, shall we get right to hiring one? Around how much do guides usually cost?"

"If it's just the 1st floor then around 100,000 Z for one day. Other than that there's also the entrance tax and including the guide in for a share of the items obtained within the dungeon is pretty common."

"" ..They cost quite a bit.. ""

"Well it's a business for them as well. It's not like they always have jobs after all. When it comes to the top class guides it's said they can heard 1,000,000 Z in a month off of just guide fees. The unpopular guides can't take customers at all so if you try negotiating with them you might be able to get them cheaper but it would be best if you don't place your hopes too high. Even among them it seems that they can't do {dumping} in order to prevent the price from collapsing."

"Is that so? We were able to hear various valuable things. Thanks."

Fio lowered his head while thanking me.

"No, you're welcome. Well then we still have training left."

I said that and returned to training.

"Alright, then let's go..First of Zenom, Angela, and Gwine. Let's go with hobgob for everyone else I guess?"

Be careful. Don't die.

.....

After training, we washed away the sweat and then went to have a party at

the usual high class restaurant “Dorureon”. Since there’s 10 days off starting tomorrow, the expensive food and alcohol are being consumed in mass. Hey, it’s already easily exceeded 300,000...Isn’t this going to reach 500,000? Though I was prepared for it.

Before the alcohol starts circulating around I paid the reincarnated people 200,000 Z for their wages, Zulu was 80,000 z including his 10,000 Z wages, Angela was 70,000 Z, and finally was Giberuti’s 40,000 Z wages. Furthermore, as a Christmas present I gave everyone a towel as usual. No matter how many towels you have they’re nothing to be troubled over. The new members from this year Miduchi and Basutorial thought it was a part of the bonus but once they realized the other reincarnated people had prepared shirts, hats, and gloves they started to panic but since everyone wanted to see that they remained quiet it seems.

I did too though.

“Really, wouldn’t it have been fine if you had told me..”

Miduchi expanded her cheeks while complaining to me and Bel,

“Ah, I see. “Christmas” huh..I completely forgot about it..But, I, still don’t have that kind of money..”

Basutorial is saying that while depressed but his expression seems quite happy so he’s probably enjoying himself.

Around the time one hour had passed since the start of the party, our stomachs were getting full, after this we just finish off the remaining food while drinking.

“Bastuoral. How was your first time in the dungeon?”

“Eh? Yeah, since that was my first time..In any case I was just frantic..However, everyone is quite amazing. Though Al-san feels extraordinary but everyone else seems extremely strong as well..Even though there’s quite a few women, it’s really quite something.”

“Well I’m sure that’s about the case for the first time. Make sure you properly train on your own during this holiday. I’ll test you on it after the holiday is over. If you remain the stay forever then you’ll never escape the trial period.”

“Of.. Of course! I’ll, do it! I’ve already promised with Gwine-san for her to teach me the spear tomorrow morning after all!”

“I see. It’s good that you’re enthusiastic. Then I have one more present for you. Study the words with this. I wrote down the “Japanese” next to it as well so you should be able to do it even alone. If you don’t know something then just grab someone and ask.”

I said that while handing him the awesome me’s handmade “Alphabet Practice Book *Ragudarios Language Basics Version*”.

“Eh? This..is it all handwritten..I guess that’s only obvious. Al-san. Thank you very much. For you to go this far for me, I’m really happy.”

It’s just that I can’t stand for my subordinates to remain illiterate so don’t mind it. Though it was troublesome, since I thought there might be cases like this from here on out as well so it’s good to have a copybook and then I thought to have this guy do it.

“By the way, what does everyone plan to do during their days off? Around the day after tomorrow someone should be coming from my home town to the company so after that I think I’ll be in the capital for the rest of it though.”

“N..I’ll be rolling around in the inn. Also, if you’re going to the capital say something and I’ll join you. I want to greet sub-Baron Rogflat and do some shopping as well. Recently I’ve been hooked on smoked fish..”

When Zenom said that Ralpha opened her mouth as well.

“Then I will as well. I’m sure father’s clothes are already done as well... Gwine, let’s go shopping for clothes or something.”

“Yeah. That’s fine. Since it’s the occasion I was thinking of going to a liquor store. It would be nice if they have some rye vodka.”

That, don’t they call it {Rye.Whiskey}?

I think it was last year. I caught a glimpse of it in the capital but it had an insane price of 200,000 Z for one bottle so I hesitated on it.

“We’re going to the capital on New Year’s day as well.”

“What time was it again?”

“It’s on the edge of the second road at 10 am.”

It seems that Toris and Bel applied for a carriage tour around various spots in the capital. Is it a heart bus? I want to try riding one of those types of things once as well.

“We’re remaining on standby at the inn.”

Zulu said that.

“Don’t worry about things during the days off. Go out and play.”

I’m sure you’ll just be hanging around “Murowa” right? This is a conversation that’s like the usual ceremony. This guy, if I were to say, “I see, then so I can call you out at anytime don’t move” I wonder what kind of face he’d make? But I like how Zulu always says something like this.

“Umm, I am..”

“Yeah, I’ll give you some tomorrow so come over.”

Angela is requesting for some condoms. That’s quite the degeneration. Though that’s fine. I would be troubled if you get pregnant after all. Stretch out your wings as much as you like.

“I want to go to the capital as well. Please let me stock up on some new seasonings.”

“Got it. I’ll call you when the carriage comes.”

Giberuti seems to have nothing in his mind other than developing new menus. If I think about it carefully this guy is probably using more money than Zulu’s wages. Though this doesn’t particularly matter either.

I confirmed everyone’s plans and we returned to the party again. Miduchi? She’s together with me. There’s no way she’d have a day off.

.....

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 26

We put in a reservation an appropriate cheap inn from 12/30 until 1/2. It’s necessary to go to the fairy village again to learn spells during the holidays this time as well. It might not be too bad to bring along everyone else as well but there’s not much meaning to it unless they can use all elemental magics, and

have them beyond a certain level as well. That idiot Ralph might bring along some alcohol and end up harming a fairy as well. I guess that's saying too much huh?

I made a reservation with the dried foods dealer and paid in advance.

Furthermore, when I sent Miduchi out to scout things before going running, it seems that Faruergaz and Hirosukol have hit it off with some weird two person group of men and the four of them are entering the dungeon together. Since the two of them received investiture as knights and they have more skill than the average adventurer around there. And they're reincarnated people so even if their levels are a bit low I'm sure they can somehow manage.

Miduchi and I spent the morning going over our education plan for everyone from here on out, then after that we had lunch and we found Angela wandering around town seeming bored so the three of us entered the dungeon and I had Angela and Miduchi earn some experience.

Other than Miduchi, the three slaves and I had dinner at "Murowa" while we roused things up over the topic of Zulu's woman.

"Hey Dazu, grab the salt for me."

With his face red Zulu is embarrassed as he says "Please just forgive me already." His woman is working again today as well but since the store is pretty packed she's moving around busily.

"Come to think of it, it seems the judgement day is in the middle of next month."

Angela said while biting into a boiled pig leg. Come to think of it, there's been no negotiations or contact at all on that.

"Ah, that's right. Once the date has been confirmed I'll make it into a day off so don't worry about it."

The judgement days are one of the few amusement days for the people of Orth that only happen a couple times in a year. Though it's the ideal time of business for restaurants but other than they usually close for business and a bunch of stalls appear like a festival. It's only obvious when it comes to the punishment of criminal offenses but since judgements are also made on civil

cases that are highly talked about there's a lot for people to enjoy with it.

In any case, for the average person who doesn't have much to look forward to the days of judgement feel like a festival. Since it's cruel to steal this from them I make sure to match our days off up with them. This morning a messenger came from the government office saying we might need to appear as witnesses so I already knew about the judgement day next month. Normally they give notice of them in the entrance plaza and government office around 10 day ahead.

"Once again this time master and Kalstalan-sama will need to appear as witnesses right. We can't miss this."

Giberuti said while carrying a spoon of porridge with bacon and spices into his mouth. Among the slaves this guy is the one who learned how to use tableware the fastest. It can't be helped that Zulu and Angela still can't use the chopsticks but they don't even use spoons very often. Since Zulu was originally a commoner I thought he could properly use tableware but it seems that a poor squire family in Devas doesn't use anymore tableware than plates and bowls.

"It's my first time seeing a judgement day so I'm looking forward to it a bit."

I'm sure Miduchi is just looking forward to it since there's all sorts of stalls lined up like a festival. It was then that a voice butted into our conversation.

"Oh~ isn't it the {Slaughterers}? Is it fine next to you?"

I was surprised when I saw the one who was speaking. It was the {Verdure Brotherhoods} Virhaima and {Black Topaz}s Anderson, the two of them came in together. Tension ran through the members of the {Slaughterers}. The only one who didn't get tense and is the same as usual is Miduchi who has had almost no contact with them but she seems to have figured it out from the way everyone's expressions changed.

"Of course. Please take a seat."

I said that while wondering why these two are? and was suspicious of it. Could it be they hear the rumors that the {Slaughterers} and {Sun Ray} were cooperating together and they plan to team up as well?

"It seems that business is booming for you quite a bit recently."

Old man Virhaima started talking to me.

“Yeah, thanks to you, we’ve been able to smoothly increase our earnings.”

I reply while not showing any openings. I said it with a sociable smile on my face.

“You’re going to the 7th floor right? It’s quite something. Even though everyone was much cuter when we first met..In no time at all we were overtaken.”

Anderson laughed while saying as she pulled out the seat and sat down.

“Stop with the cute, Anderson. We were suddenly overtaken as well and now these guys are the top earners in Baldukk.”

“N..Well, I guess that’s true.”

“Yeah, just look at this impudent face. He’s already long past the edges of adventurers. And even one that we’re no match for.”

“Certainly..recently my party members have been saying we should earn the same way the {Slaughterers} do through magic stones as well. It’s quite troubling..”

You two are first rate because you’re properly holding them back and still earning steadily. If we were to end up clashing in the dungeon I can’t imagine us losing but if we were to get ambushed there’s few opponents where I’d have to prepare myself for some sacrifices. Particularly {Verdure Brotherhood} and {Black Topaz} are the strongest contenders for that.

“Beer and a bacon fry. Make it crispy and include some eggs as well.”

“I want some beer as well. After that do you have suggestions?”

“We’ve got some good keirui today.”

“Then that. Please deep-fry it.”

“I understand.”

The two of them gave their orders to Zulu’s woman who came over before facing me again.

“..By the way Greed-san. I’ve heard some rumors but..”

Look here it comes.

“Rumors? What is it about?”

“Don’t put yourself on guard so much. Did you all start cooperating with {Sun Ray}?”

I thought it was something like that.

“We didn’t start cooperating with them. We just made a promise to jointly manage the facilities in the teleport room on the 5th floor.”

I said that while drinking some beer.

“..Is that it?”

“Yeah, that’s it. Is there anything?”

“It’s different from what I heard..Hisu was saying they had teamed up with you all.”

Hisu? Hisu..Hisurura.Haruirein huh?

“He~”

Well, in regards to taking showers on the 5th floor and things like that you could say we have teamed up maybe.

“Well, a warning, or maybe not quite that far. Since this is something that is related to us as well but I thought we would tell you just in case. Probably, but I think that eventually they’ll try invite you to enter the dungeon with them. The leaders the Rindobel’s made use of that in order to take in members from other parties and made {Sun Ray} bigger like that.”

He~ is that so? But I wonder how that connects with them getting bigger?

“They start off by just giving a larger share when you go together with them. Just like that let them relax and get a good grasp on the people who seem useful before trying to headhunt them. I had one person stolen away in the past as well.”

“There was one from my place as well. Although, the guy who was pulled out is already dead.”

I see now.

“I see, thank you very much for the valuable information. I’m grateful. However, I don’t understand why you would give me such a warning. Wouldn’t it be more convenient for you all if we were to be weakened?”

“Ha!! Don’t misunderstand. We greatly welcome you {Slaughterers} getting weaker but more than that we want to prevent {Sun Ray} from growing.”

“Well, if you were to say it then that’s true. It seems like {Sun Ray} is showing their face on the 6th floor as well but they’re struggling quite a bit. The 5th floor is still splendidly one of their hunting grounds. If you all who have gone off to the 7th floor were to fall back down to the 6th or 5th floors then it would be a bother as well.”

Yeah. If it’s that sort of reason then well I guess I can understand it.

“However, something like headhunting members for a top team, I feel like it would be impossible with an average share though..”

“That’s where they get dirty. First off they pull them in with money but the guys who are swayed by that they slowly pull them in and then at one point they propose going together with them to the temple. Since it seems they have some kind of special route, they say that you can give offerings faster.”

Hohou. A special route indeed. Incidentally there’s conditions to giving offerings to the temple. When it comes to the naming ceremony, marriages, sales of slaves, or release and things like that they request offerings unconditionally. Though it’s a fixed amount. Well, that’s something like a handling charge and to be more correct you can’t call it a offering I’m sure. Other than that there’s something like a offering box and it’s possible to give an offering there but once again they only allow small amounts there and even at greatest it seems you can’t offer more than 1 silver coin. It’s free for you to wish for something or pray for something there.

This offering is important. The times when you can give offers are roughly once in a month, only the days when the master moon {Karutari} reaches it’s full moon, otherwise the night of the 17th when the sub-moon {Neitari} is in full moon just those sorts of 77 day cycles. Though as an exception New Year’s day is different but there’s almost no people who give offering then. Since it’s not like there’s anything good that comes from it. Only the first 100 visitors who

come to the temple on the days of full moon can give offerings and their status is checked.

It's not allowed to line up several days ahead in order to aim to be one of the first arrivals. It's necessary to line up the moment the sun starts to set on the day itself. It's said that if you break this then you'll be hit by lightning but this is just a rumor. After all it seems no one has ever been hit by it before.

And then, it seems that you're given a wooden tag. Similar to how currency is made this wooden tag is made so it can't be counterfeited. If you can collect 10,000 Z worth of them then you can exchange for it a slightly larger wooden tag that has some magic cast on it. At this point the status of the person who received the wooden tag is branded into it with some magic process. If you collect 100 of these then you can exchange for an even larger wooden tag.

If you're in possession of this large wooden tag and it seems just once you can have healing magic used on you unconditionally. It doesn't seem like a priest, or minister, or bishop or whatever uses it on you, but rather only those who have the wooden tag are allowed into the main temple building and there God directly uses a healing spell on them supposedly. According to what I've heard this healing spell is believed to be {Cure All}. In other words it doesn't matter how heavy of an injury it is in just one spot you can have it almost completely healed.

There's no adventurers who wouldn't want this. Since there's not many people who can use healing spells at this high of a level after all. In the first place if you were to search for someone who has all elemental magics then it's not like you can't find them but after they have all of them it's also necessary for all of them be above level 5 as well. Even if you were seriously injured and one breath from dying if you can be brought to the temple right away at the very least there's a possibility you could be saved.

The moon of Orth, {Karutari} reaches a new moon right matching up perfectly with 60 days. In other words, for it to match up with the primary moon {Karutari}'s full moon you only have six chances in the year. The sub-moon {Neitari} is even less with 4–5 times in the year. Even if you pour 10,000 Z into each one of those chances in order to earn the 1,000,000 Z worth wooden tag it would take 10 years.

Since the person them self has to be the one to do it, it's a precious item that even among nobles it's said not many people have them.

Normal people just think that's idiotic and can't be bothered to do something like that. Something like heavy injuries don't happen all that often after all.

Ha~han~ That {Sun Ray}, that Rindobel couple, so they were those sort of people...

Chapter 170: Rumors 2

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 26

After returning to the inn, Miduchi and I tried thinking about the trick behind the Rindobel couple of {Sun Ray} in regards to the wooden tags, or talismans, well I guess they're fine as God notes.

Idea 1. This is something anyone can easily think up I'm sure.

1. Employ people. It's fine if they're poor people or vagrants. The more you can get the better the advantage. To make it easy I'll say 100 people.
2. Hand all of them 5,000 Z on the day of a full moon and have them buy a God note.
3. By the second full moon 1,000,000 Z in God notes will have been gathered.
4. Have the adventurer take them to the temple and exchange it for a large God note and that's the end.

I'm sure it would be fine to split them up between multiple temples as well. Just, since it's necessary to hire people I'm sure the expenses would jump quite high. If you think about the time they're all tied up it would be safe to say it requires over 50% more than the normal cost, depending on the case there might be people who run away with the money as well. Before that there's also the matter of the same person coming to exchange a large amount of God notes and getting scolded..well I'm sure it's not something that they'd be praised over but it's not like they're doing anything wrong so it's possible they might accept it without problems as well. Though it might be no good. In either case I don't think it's something that would get them hit by lightning over. On reserve.

Idea 2 is the advanced form of the above. It's probably unlikely but if it was me I would do or aim for this.

1. Turn it into an organization. It would be ideal to create a branch in each place. 10 places for convenience sake.
2. Hire people. Once again the more the better. 200 people for convenience sake.
3. Have these 200 people patrol around between the branches in each location

(to make it harder to determine their identities).

4. On nights of the full moon have them buy 5,000 Z God notes from the temple nearby.
5. Whenever it's appropriate have someone gather them and go (this would be the adventurer).
6. Get a large God note.

It might be fine to do some kind of business while letting the people carrying luggage along during their travels around. However, if you were to use this many people to start some kind of business I feel like you'd end up profiting more from the side business and that would end becoming the principal occupation. Adding to that it costs an absurd amount of money for the initial investment and maintain contact between the branches would be difficult as well. Unless it was someone on the level of our Toris or Bel in terms of trust being left as the heads of each branch then it's clear that it would collapse sooner or later. Well, I guess this one's no good.

Idea 3. Is this the frontal attack?

1. Gather money.
2. Bribe a priest of the temple, hand them over 1,000,000 Z and get a large God note.
3. Get hit by lightning together with the priest, the end.

It's no good. Rather~ if it was someone that could be bribed them I'm sure they wouldn't make it as priests for the temple in the first place.

Idea 4. In the case {Sun Ray} really has a secret route.

In this case..well isn't it fine? If they aren't being hit by lightning then I'm sure there's no problem and rather I think it's actually amazing for them to have found it.

Thinking about it like this any ideas other than 1 seem pretty unlikely to implement. Even if it's idea 1 then they must have quite the ability to manage an organization to put it into practice. However, both Miduchi and I are thinking that it's none of those. If there's no money, no power, and no mana, there's no choice other than to use your head to try and strengthen your party. Well, putting it simply it's fraud. It's necessary to prepare a number of real God notes and show them. If you have some money then it's something that can be done

I'm sure.

In the case that Miduchi and I were in the position of the Rindobel couple then, in any case we'd save up some amount of money, of course we'd buy some ourselves as well but buy out the people lined up at the temple on a full moon. You can say you'll buy the 5,000 Z God note for depending on the case 10,000 Z. I'm sure there's some people who will jump at the chance. Since they're a couple of two I'm sure they can act separately. If they repeat it for about six months then it could be possible.

They continue to hold on to those without exchanging it for a 10,000 Z God note. There's no need for it to be 1,000,000 Z worth of them. It's fine if it's just an adequate amount. These end up being the display notes. And, then they talk to an adventurer who seems like they're lacking brains.

"With a special underground route we can get our hands on a God note that normally takes 10 years in just 1 year."

"Since it's an underground route we can't reveal it to anyone. Since the lightning is scary."

"Eh? You want one too? It can't be helped. It's special for just you."

"However, it'll take over 1,000,000 Z."

"That's only obvious right? Even the other side is overdoing it by giving them to us."

"Since you seem pretty intelligent, I'm sure you already understand that it costs a bit in reward right?"

"Any way~ that level of money, if it's our party then we can earn it right away."

"Ah, don't tell anyone about this."

"Also, make sure you properly visit the temple. God is always testing your faith."

"Alright, you take the one on the right and you take the one on the left."

"Ah, so one of them was killed huh..That's unfortunate."

"He never went to visit the temple last week. I'm sure he died because he was lacking in faith."

"Alright, you go in from the front, you circle around to the back of it."

"No one seems to be looking. Since the opponent is weakened..die!"

"Mwu, how unfortunate. If you're lacking in faith this is what happens."

“Umu. Shall we tell you the proper method to visit the temple..first stop with all luxury.”

“That’s right, your faith is recognized through honorable poverty.”

“Gebo~!! I..I was somehow saved.”

“See, if you properly honor God then you’ll be saved on the verge.”

“Got it. All of the things we find in the dungeon I as the leader will act as representative and make offering to the temple.”

It’s considerably forced but probably something along those lines.

If you pay money then we won’t get them for your right away, but rather we can shorten it down to within one year. Is the key point. As long as the other side can accept it then two years or three years is fine as well. During this time, you just have to work them hard and kill them off somewhere appropriate than that’s fine. If their abilities are too high and the couple alone can’t finish them off then they can just really give them the God note. If they can make some display notes then if they get serious they might really be able to gather enough for one in one year?

If they go to the temple to do offerings during the process for these then it’s easy to cover up as well. Depending on the case it might be good to make it like a developing religion as well. If they end up doing it for a long time some people might start to notice the trick. If there’s someone they can trust then they might include them as a subordinate as well. If they’re no good then the couple can kill them off. If it’s inside of the dungeon then it won’t leave any proof. If they just say “they died because they were lacking in faith” or “their eyes were blinded by greed so they must have entered the dungeon alone” then I’m sure some people would believe them as well. Even if they don’t believe them it’s not like there’s proof. Even in the cases of those people, if they hit them in the face with some money they might sway, if that isn’t the case then after all you just finish them off in the dungeon as well.

In any case, if they have at least two other subordinates like that than themselves, then even if someone else enters the party there’s no one left to deny it.

It’s obvious. Since you’re lending your back to them in the dungeon. If you carelessly deny things then it’s pretty clear that you might not get any support.

It's fine if they're suspicious at first. If they just show them something like examples a couple of times then I'm sure the simple people of Orth with almost zero level for the standard of education would believe it. Eh? There's no one who would actually believe things like that? If you think it's a lie then try going into the backwoods of Africa or the Amazon and take a look. There's plenty of people out there who could seriously get afraid believing a person with a T-shirt and a cellphone are some kind of spirit or demon.

The most superior merchant on Earth is the guy who invented God. Or at least there's a saying like that but as expected it seems the Rindobel couple are both quite intelligent. It's a disgusting way of doing it but if they have several allies who they can firmly trust then I also recognize it as an effective method. Well thinking it's disgusting is just my own personal feelings. The people themselves are accepting of it and if they seriously believe in it then even if it ends up killing them you could say that's their happiness. Putting aside family or relatives, it's not something for me to stick my nose in for the sake of complete strangers.

I'm sure Virhaima and Anderson feel the same. I don't know what kind of things the members of {Verdure Brotherhood} and {Black Topaz} were seduced by but if they've only built up enough of a relationship of trust to leave the party over that then it's only obvious it's the responsibility of the leader. It's the same for deliberately working a member to death or leaving them to die. It's not like I've gotten any proof or seen the actual thing. I think if that Rindobel couple manages to amass a certain amount of wealth then they plan to disappear as well.

"Hey, is there anyone in the {Slaughterers} right now that seems like they could headhunt..I guess there's no way there would be."

After taking a shower and getting refreshed while she was covering her face in a handmade steaming towel, Miduchi said with a mumbling voice.

"There's none. There's no more profitability to just a healing spell, and the only one seems like they'd fall over for money is Basutorial, but I'm sure he doesn't have enough skill for them to call out to him yet. When it comes to slaves unless I accept their sale then they can't even hold freeing them out as bait so it's pretty unlikely. In the first place it would be strange for reincarnated people not to realize they're suspicious but..I don't know about Faruergaz and

Hirosukol.”

“Eh, aren’t they fine? I don’t think they would get caught up in that sort of thing though..”

“I’m sure they wouldn’t get caught up in it but I can’t ignore the possibility they leap into it of their own free will..Since it seems they have a strange sense of justice after all..”

“Ah..”

“In the first place it’s only my imagine whether or not they’re killing off their members. It wouldn’t be strange if they really made an organization to gather the God notes as well. In that case I’m sure the spell {Cure All} would certainly be attractive. Honestly speaking as far as I know other than Mila and the others, there’s you, me, the Court Sorcerer people. Ah, it seems that something or other healer in the capital can use it as well. It seems there was one in Baldukk as well but they died 10 years or so ago from old age.”

“Hn? When it comes to Dyurou’s there’s around 30 people who can use it I think..The first class Rank 1 warriors or the retired rank 1 warriors though.”

“In any case there’s not a large number of them. If it comes to normal adventurers then..even if I weren’t able to use all elemental magics then I’m sure I’d want it pretty desperately as well. If it’s just one person then I might hesitate but if it’s a two person group then my feelings might expand a bit and I just follow along. After all there’s no mistake it’s effective.”

“If you put it like that then it’s certainly true..”

That steaming towel, seems like it feels good. Maybe I’ll make one too.

“..If I was in the position of the RIndobels then..I would frantically try to gather God notes in order to take in Faruergaz and the others. If you can get the eldest son of Count Faruergaz behind it then it would make it seem even more credible. And, before things become troublesome throw him out of the party. Since that way it would be better for publicity.”

Alright..and, something like this...Ah, this is nice. I’ve had a pimple on my right cheek since last week.

Once my pores open up maybe I’ll crush it...Being young is nice. Worries like

these, it's been decades since I last had them.

.....

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 27

First thing after waking up in the morning I thought about going running but I returned to the inn and after taking a shower used a condom with Miduchi. I'm sure there will be some more supplies around today. There's no need to get stingy with them. After that I was going to go and have some lunch together with the Dyurou and when I went down to the lobby Gwine and Ralph were glaring at us with an expression like gooey mud. Brats should be energetically playing kick the can outside. There's no cans though.

We return to the inn and started doing maintenance on our swords and knives in the narrow back yard. Below the chilly midwinter sky, I'm putting my sword to a whetstone while Miduchi is beside me sharpening her knife. It's a high quality whetstone produced in Kanbitt that cost 20,000 Z.

I think it when just past around 2 pm? The brat of "Boil Manor" came into the back yard searching for me.

"Greed-sama, you have a visitor."

I thought it was about time but they arrived right on the expected date. As expected of sister-in-law Shani.

When I went around to the front and the carriages from Bakuddo were stopped, both of them were loaded to the brim with luggage. One coachman, two guards. One war horse. Other than the war horse and the knight riding it, it's the bare minimum number of people.

"Ya~ sister-in-law Shani-san."

I called out to the yellow-green haired woman who was trying to lower some kind of luggage from the load.

"Al! It's been quite a while! I heard about it but you've gotten a lot bigger!"

Sister-in-law Shani-san is as beautiful as usual, she called out with a hazy light smile. All of the squires of Bakuddo are also greeting me as well. Right now, my height is around 175 cm. For a male human it's about average. Since I'm still

young I think I'll grow a bit more.

"I would like to offer my congratulations for becoming the first wife of Viscount Greed in both name and reality."

I joked like that while making an exaggerated greeting. I'm sure brother has already been handed over the Viscount title quite a while ago.

"Really. Thanks. Also..it's difficult to say but today we're going straight to the capital like this. We don't have much time to waste.."

Sister-in-law Shani said her thanks while her expression clouded up and she said apologetically.

"Yeah, I already heard. You're dispatching to the front line right? I've already prepared things like food and supplies in the capital. But, you're going to stay the night at least right?"

"Yeah, at least that much. Thank you, Al."

Sister-in-law said that while smiling.

"And also, sister-in-law, I'll introduce you. She's Miduchi, Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol. She's one of my party members and..my important, woman. Miduchi. This is my sister-in-law. She's my older brother's wife, Shanleid-san. I call her sister-in-law Shani-san."

When sister-in-law heard my introduction as a bit of blood ran to my head, her eyes went wide in surprise but she quickly smiled and stretched her hand out to Miduchi.

"It's nice to meet you, Chizumagurol-san. I'm Shanleid.Greed. Please call me Shani."

Miduchi's light blue cheeks went bright red as she grasped sister-in-law's hand and greeted her.

"Ah, it.. it's very nice to meesch you too. I'm Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol. Pl..Please call me Miduchi as well."

What's with the meesch. Don't bite your tongue.

"Also, sister-in-law. In regards to the lord Marquis Webdos's plate that sister-

in-law lent to me but thanks to it I was saved. Really thank you very much.”

When I said that and lowered my head, Miduchi who was standing beside me started lowering her head rapidly as well. Yeah, no matter how much we lower our heads, there’s no such thing as too far. In your case.

“Then, sister-in-law, after this I have a number of people accompanying us to the capital so I’ll go call them. Please wait for just a short while.”

After I said that I went to call Zenom, Ralpha, and Gwine from inside of the inn. I called out to Zenom who was laying in his room, since it seems Ralpha and Gwine were having a fashion show in their room I stopped it by knocking on the door and calling to to them, then when I was walking down the stairs towards the lobby, Miduchi came inside the inn carrying a small box. What is that?

“Ah, that is, it.. it seems it’s the promotional.. ru.. rubber she said. She didn’t seem embarrassed at all..I was the one who got embarrassed..”

“Hn..Place it on the side of the bed..”

When I went outside sister-in-law was already on top of her war horse. I told the brat to prepare Miduchi and my horses as well and then the brat and I started putting the harnesses on them.

“Al, where’s your armor?”

“Ah, this area is fine. It’s not necessary. It’s fine as long as I have my sword...I also have my magic after all.”

Come to think of it sister-in-law is properly wearing her protectors and even has a spear on the side of her war horse with her arms complete. Since she’s going to the battlefield after this, I guess you could say it’s only obvious but I’m sure one of the big reasons is there’s no space in the carriage for her armor.

“That horse, who’s is it?”

“Ah, it’s Miduchis.”

“Hm~n. I want her to ride behind me. Someone else can ride the horse as well right?”

Eh? Why? Of course~ in my party the only ones who can’t ride a horse are ..Basutorial and I doubt the slaves can either. After that we’re all riding them on

our days off so everyone can ride and trot on them.

“It’s fine, let us talk between girls.”

“Ah, yes..”

Miduchi came back.

“Ah, Miduchi-san. You ride behind me over here!”

“Eh?”

I nod to Miduchi who is surprised suddenly being told that and I focused on dealing with the squires who are talking to me. When I glanced to the side Miduchi is frozen solid from the tension.

“Al-sama, do you intend to marry with that person?”

This fall when older brother succeeded the title of Viscount, along with that Sean ended up taking the title of Head Squire as well and he happily came up to me saying that. Bekkuwiz.Aizensaid who was the Head Squire up until then is past 50 and retired as expected. I guess you could say it’s only obvious that Sean.Tinba was chosen as the next leader because of his high level of skill and popularity to back that up. I’m sure if it’s Sean he’ll be good at supporting brother.

“Hn, I still don’t know but, well, for the time being...I wanted to introduce her when father and the others came last time but there was no chance to let them meet..”

“She’s quite the beautiful person but she’s an elf right? Is everything fine?”

The squire Reynolds said while worrying. He’s the eldest son of Beckwiz and the elder brother of Enbert the one who oversees rubber production but since Sean is higher in skill I guess he couldn’t become the head squire. It’s something that can’t be helped.

“Well, we’ll get there when it comes to that. Things will happen as they do. Don’t worry too much about it.”

“She’s the person that Al-sama chose. There’s nothing to worry about her at all.”

Jamie said trying to encourage me. Jamie is the squire Renritto families eldest daughter, she has an extremely belligerent personality. It's only obvious but she's quite skilled as well. The reason these three were added as escorts for the deliveries is proof brother is paying extra attention to sister-in-law Shani's safety I'm sure. Of the squires that serve the Greed family they're some of the most skilled three.

"Ah, Jamie, thanks."

"Uhya~ sorry for the wait~ Ah, Sean-san, Jamie-san, it's been a while!"

Ralpa and the others finally finished preparations and came out. What is it what that Uhya~ That's embarrassing.

"Sister-in-law Shani, from the left there's Zenom.Firefreed. And then his adopted daughter Ralpa.Firefreed, on the far right is Gulinell.Akdam. They're all my important allies. Everyone, this is my sister-in-law Shanleid.Greed."

"Nice to meet you all. I'm sorry to greet you from so high up place but I'm Shanleid.Greed. I've heard about everyone from Farne. It seems that Al is always in your care.."

She greeted them in order starting with Zenom, then Zenom and Ralpa got on Miduchi's horse and Gwine is riding behind me.

It's time to depart.

"She sure is a beautiful person..I can look up to her.."

Gwine was praising sister-in-law Shani from behind me. Of course that's the case. She's my bro's bride after all. She's good-natured and kind to everyone on top of that. I can't say it out loud but it seems she's amazing at night as well~

Sister-in-law Shani is somehow having a pleasant conversation Miduchi. Ralpa is skillfully leaning her back against Zenom while enthusiastically talking to Jamie.

Around the time started to get dark at 5 pm, we arrived at the edge of the capital Rombertia. There's no street lights but we can still barely see the ground and once we enter the capital there's a lot of stores that are open through the night. We were able to arrive at Greed Company without a problem. Zenom and

the others are staying over one night and then it seems they'll go to Baldukk on the passenger carriage tomorrow. After exchanging words to meet again later in the holidays they disappeared into the dusk of Rombertia.

I introduced sister-in-law Shani to the Yotlen family who was watching the store and while waiting for the Ryogu family to return we carried the luggage inside the store. Unexpectedly it seems that Dianne was feeling ill and resting on the second floor. Everyone got excited thinking she might be pregnant but Yotlen said she was just recovering from the cold and tranquilized it. Since Dianne is taking it easy and resting her husband Ruku is looking after her on her side as well, since that left an opening for dinner today, we decided to have the Ryogu couple and Yotlen mother and daughters come along to the restaurant as well. Older sister had already departed to the battlefield.

That night, when we took a room in a hotel Miduchi shyly pulled out a rubber pack.

"Umm..Shani-san gave it to me..She said it's new.."

After taking that from her, my eyes went wide from the slightly different sensation from usual.

"He..Pu..Th..This is~~!?"

Is it really okay? Using this..Is it really okay!?

I look between the thing in my hand and Miduchi's face.

Miduchi's cheeks quickly dyed red from the blood rushing to her face.

This, is there still more left?

Eh? All of the ones brought into "Boil Manor" were this...*swallow*

The rubber protectors being delivered this time was 11 suits of armor in all. 500 pairs of sandals. 500 pairs of shoes. 50 pairs of boots. 4,000 packs of condoms. And then, another 100 packs in the small box Miduchi was handed. There's another 100 packs of a different type as well. Starting this time every 100 packs of condoms were inside of a small box the size of 15x15x20 cm that has the emblems of Bakuddo and the royal family branded into it.

"That is..Since we have them on hand let's try using it and then sell it to

somewhere is what she said..”

“O..Oh..but, is it really okay?”

I swallow my saliva again while my nostrils flare up as I ask.

“I..I mean..ah, it seems the rubber fields have increased by one again..since they’re moving one around towards producing these so there’s no problem..”

Miduchi takes her shirt off. She’s embarrassed as he hides her chest with one arm but since it can’t hide all of them they’re coming out from the sides.

“Oh..I..See.”

I take my shirt off as well.

“I..I don’t mind using the normal kind either but..but, if possible we need to..cooperate after all, right.”

While sitting on the bed Miduchi is turning bright red as she uses one hand to take off her pants and then moved to her underwear.

“Yeah, if we don’t test it out, then we won’t...won’t know what it’s like..”

I’ve long since taken my pants off. I bite the edge of the rubber package open and took one out while slowly putting it on.

“Uhy~ this is amazing~ This. Look at it.”

I put my hands at my hips and showed Miduchi in an imposing stance.

“Really~ don’t show it to me.”

Miduchi looked in a different direction before crawling into the bed.

.....

After bullying Miduchi with the new type of condom I was normal. Or rather the sensation of using them was better with normal condoms. That, the only one who feels better is the woman.

While we were on the way to make deliveries at the castle and I was tired from lack of sleep I tried asking sister-in-law, “That, who is the one thought of it?” and I was told “We both thought of it.” with an unconcerned face. I sarcastically said “Make sure you manage them in a place where Zetto and

Becky can't reach" and sister-in-law laughed.

Miduchi pulled sister-in-law to the edge and thanked her while bright red.

However, as expected of brother. In this short of a time with no hints at all for him to arrive in this territory..so this is a true genius. And then, sister-in-law as well..she said they both thought of it together..It might still be difficult to call it complete but...There's no way I'll be a match for them in my entire life.

When I called out the Queen, Becky came. While talking about random things for a bit along with the usual deliveries I casually handed her 10 packs of the new model.

"Hn? This is?"

"Ha...It's a newly developed product. Please feel free to closely confirm it."

I knelt down in the pose of a retainer while saying with a quiet voice.

"..Wha!! Th..This is..What in the world is this! This is? Studs?"

"I'm very sorry for putting this so frankly but rather than the man that is making use of it..rather than his majesty, the woman..it's something developed putting emphasis on your highnesses. We would be grateful if you would try it out."

"Th..This sort of thing..Is it really alright?"

Becky said while seeming a bit worried.

"Your highness Rebecca. Of course they are. I've already tested them out myself. The rubber protuberances along the outer surface are properly fastened on it so there's no need to worry about them being lost in the middle of action. It is extremely favorable with women. Just, due to problems with strengthening them the thickness of the Saya itself has increased a bit. For the man that is..if you were to ask it is more mentally satisfying that is larger."

Hearing that Becky's voice seemed a bit more excited.

"No, not in regards to the quality..Th..This really can go in..But, I..is that so..For the men it's mentally..and for the women..It..It's fine for you to leave."

Ah, along with the quality it's not harmful to the body at all either. It's okay. I

can guarantee that.

But, the sensation might not be okay. Uhihi.

“Ha..please tell his majesty to use as he sees fit..Well then if you’ll please excuse me.”

Chapter 171: Observation

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 28

We finish up making deliveries and it was when we were taking measurements for next time. When I returned from the inner citadel to a room in the outer citadel where the measurements were being done the squires of Bakuddo were politely taking measurements of the sizes of people from the knight group. Reynolds was helping Rozural with the male knights and Jamie was helping Wendy with the female knights measurements. Sean was writing down the sizes Rozural and Wendy spoke out while sister-in-law Shani was smiling and overseeing that.

Miduchi seemed bored on her own but from a slight distance away she was restlessly looking around the castle with interest. When I went to Miduchi's side she started talking to me.

"Hey, this place is amazing..It's even larger than the largest lobby in Lail's royal palace and the ceiling is reasonably high as well..It really has the feeling of a castle.."

What is she saying? While I'm confused since I heard something strange she continued talking.

"Really~ Rombert's castle is amazing. The roof is gilded as well and there was some castle towers as well, this is the "outer citadel" right? It's really big and the inside is extravagant as well.."

"That is, since it seems Rombert has the highest national power around this area after all..I'm sure they would make the castle huge. I don't know about other countries but I'm sure they aren't as big as here..Most likely it's on the level of "Osaka Castle" or "Edo Castle"."

"Ah, if you put it like that..if I remember correctly Osaka Castle had gold leaf used for it's roof tiles at first as well..Did you already know?"

"Yeah, I've heard about it. I thought the same thing the first time I saw it."

It seems the measurements are almost over. The only one remaining for

measurements is the Wolf-people of the second knight group, Viscount Rakkusu. I can't afford to be standing around here. I get Miduchi to help me out as we count the money. I pay sister-in-law Shani the cost of the rubber protectors and then sign the proof of sales before handing it over.

We were able to finish up the deliveries without problem and able to take orders for next time as well. After this we just need to return to the company once more and fill the empty carriages with the provisions and military supplies I had prepared in advance and we're done.

.....

"Then, sister-in-law. I'm praying for your fortune on the battlefield."

"Thanks. Miduchi-san, please take good care of Al."

"..Wa, yes!!"

After all the provisions, spare underwear and such, and military supplies were packed away sister-in-law and the other four in total from Bakuddo village's Dirt Plains dispatch task force departed the capital of Rombertia.

After I went to the government office to finish paying the luxury tax and then returned to the company again, I started organizing the stock that sister-in-law and the others carried in last night in the back yard. It seems that Dianne has recovered quite a bit as well and wanted to help me out but I just used the spell {Cure All} on her in exchange for her feelings and chased her back up to the second floor before taking care of the job with Yotlen and Miduchi.

After we finished up most of the jobs, Anna put on some bean tea for us and I spent a short while staring at the account books for the company. Rozural and Wendy went to make deliveries of condoms we received to the brothels we're in contracts with and Ruku returned to the workshop to repair the goods that need repairs that were brought in. It left an impression on me when Yotlen happily said, "Since we've restocked on Saya I'm sure it will spread around in rumors by the day after tomorrow and things will get busy." Ooh~ just like that continue increasing our profits.

"Ah, that's right. I don't think it will happen right away but in the case that the royal family sends forth a messenger saying something like hand over the new

model of Saya then hand them this. Also, the remaining portion can be offered as promotional goods. Don't sell them to stores but rather only give them out to individual customers without taking any money. If they say they want some more than investigate what kind of price they would pay and how many they would be interested in buying. It's fine if you don't take money that time as well. Limit the other party to older men who are either rich or nobles. Fundamentally I'll leave it to you who you hand them to but only good customers who come a number of times. There's no need to hand them to a single person over three times. Limit it to just twice."

I said that while handing Yotlen the box of studded condoms (97 packs remaining) and I decided to return to Baldukk once before evening. There was something I was bit curious about as well.

When I returned to "Boil Manor" and Zenom and the others had already returned to Baldukk. Since Zenom was sipping away at some expensive looking alcohol and already bright red as he ate some smoked fish so I quietly closed his door. Ralph and Gwine seem to have gone out drinking. It seems like Toris and Bel are off somewhere as well, while he was in his room alone, he was practicing writing down notes until a piece of paper changed pitch black, and even then without getting bored of that he laid some sand out on a plate before practicing writing letters with his fingers, I caught Basutorial in the process of that before going to eat dinner with him and Miduchi.

"No~ it was easier than I thought. Thanks to you, I've already completely gained confidence that I can remember the letters."

Bastuoral happily said while smiling. If you can speak it then without much trouble it's pretty easy to learn the letters. That's great isn't it.

Together with Basutorial and Miduchi the three of arrived at "Rosun" in about three minutes. We made plans to eat dinner together with the slaves.

When we arrived at "Rosun" and the three slaves had secured a table in the back and were waiting.

We each ordered our own food and beer before starting a report meeting.

"And, how did things go?"

I asked Angela who was drinking beer as well. It's not like they're big but her

four bowl shaped breasts stand out in the thick beige color shirt. The bottom two seem a bit small. Come to think of it there's no brassieres. It seems that some noble women of the upper noble rankings have started to use them but since they're all something made at specialty stores I heard from Bel in the past that they're not so easy to get your hands on. I wonder if she already bought one?

"Yes. I think it's most likely the same as yesterday but just as I heard from Miduchi-sama, I was able to confirm them entering the dungeon with the same group of two the day before yesterday. They came out before noon and after returning to their inn, neither of them stepped even one foot outside. It seems like they're having meals carried into the inn as well. When they came out of the dungeon yesterday, both of them were walking in a strange way so I think it's most likely an injury...They didn't enter the dungeon today and most likely they're confined to the inn other than meals."

"I see. What about the other group of two? Were you able to grasp their tail?"

This time I asked Zulu.

"That is..I'm very sorry. I wasn't able to gain any positive proof. At the very least as far as Larry and I could tell we weren't able to confirm any contact with {Sun Ray}. Since they returned to their inn from the dungeon yesterday it seems they haven't taken a step outside. I think that this side was injured as well. However, if they were to meet inside of the inn then we can't tell."

Certainly that's true...Since it seemed like Faruergaz and Hirosukol could use magic, I'm sure both of them can at least use {Cure}..and maybe Hirosukol could barely use it huh? In that case it's probably difficult for their wounds to fully heal in just one day. Even if they keep using {Cure} while resting they're probably prepared for it to take a full day and it's unlikely the adventurers who entered together with them are skilled at magic either.

If it comes down to Hirosukol being the only one who can use healing magic and furthermore it's only the spell {Cure} then..I can't remember Hirosukol's MP but it was at most 20–30 so if all of them were injured, then he used it 1–2 times on each to close the wounds before retreating, after that using {Cure} a

number of times over a while in the inn. While enduring the pain. And in the first place if Hirosukol were to suffer a large wound then I don't think he would be able to use magic. The only one who can manage that is about me.

Ah, since they've learned the incantations then my party members, as long as it's not such a large injury that causes them to panic I think they can use it. In any case, those sorts of special cases aren't worth taking into consideration.

"Hn..I see. Then Miduchi you take the Faruergaz pair tomorrow and Giberuti and I will take the adventurer pair. Even though they're injured, if they were able to walk on their own feet then they might be able to heal themselves with magic by tomorrow."

I doubt that the Faruergaz pair will split up and act on their own so one person as lookout should be fine. I want to make sure my slaves have some days off as well. However, I don't know the two adventurers that they've supposedly hit it off with. Miduchi just saw them from a distance and obviously doesn't know either. The only ones who know are Zulu and Giberuti who saw them come out together. Giberuti..has quite a bit of free time even when we're in the dungeon so pull the unlucky number at times like these.

""I understand.""

I listen to the reply of the slaves while carrying some of the meat stir fry I ordered into my mouth.

"Al-san..I'm very sorry."

Bastuoral lowered his head apologetically.

"Don't worry about it. I'm just curious about the movements of some people I've made a connection with."

Ah, really this is annoying. Isn't it already fine to tell Giberuti about things regarding the reincarnated people? I guess it's still too soon. It's certain that I want to at least keep an eye on things for a year before making a decision. There was a chance so I bought him but the reason was because he didn't look at Bel in a weird way, and mostly just that. Though he was actually a pretty amusing fellow.

.....

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 29

I finished off my running in the morning and after buying some sandwiches Miduchi started to seclude herself to her room in “Boil Manor” right away. The entrance of the inn that Faruergaz and the others are staying can be seen from the window in her room. Since our faces are already known to Faruergaz we can only keep an eye on the entrance of their inn. I don’t think there’s any need to follow them. But, just in case, I have Miduchi observing them. Since Miduchi herself said following people was her specialty and since I thought that was actually the case as well. Even in the case it develops into combat, as long as she doesn’t get ambushed, I doubt there’s anyone who can injure Miduchi.

Giberuti and I sat down in an open restaurant across from the inn where the two adventurers are staying so we can sip some bean tea and chat while observing it. It was just as we were eating some roast duck with eggs over oatmeal for lunch.

“Master, one of them came out. It’s him.”

Giberuti caught my attention. When I looked at the target and it was someone I don’t know. Sannose.Kumiru. Human. 21 years old. Level 11. His level is reasonably high for his age. He’s wearing some reasonably durable leather pants and a cotton kimono above that. Completely normal plain clothes. He’s holding his flank down and every step he takes his face turns into a frown. His HP is over 20% gone. After all it seems they were injured. He walked over here with some unsteady steps and entered the store where Giberuti and I were relaxing away in.

“Give me some sandwiches. 8 of them. The ingredients can be anything but limit the doubles to two. Also, put some bean tea inside of this.”

After ordering from the waiter like that he looked down with a pale face and a cold sweat breaking out.

“..That will be 680 Z.”

He handed the waiter money while saying “I’ll come and pick it up in about an hour” before Kumiru left the store. I think I should follow him here. I signal to Giberuti with my eyes and after leaving a silver Shu on the table I counted to 20 after Kumiru left the store and then left following after him.

Since Kumiru is staggering along while holding his side I'm sure his vigilance is distracted from the pain. He isn't paying any attention to me while I'm following him from about 10 meters behind. After walking for about 10 minutes Kumiru entered a store. It's a store that deals in drugs. I wonder if he's going to buy something for the wounds. After about 2–3 minutes he finished shopping and after reading his mood when he came out I started concentrating. I've practiced a reasonable amount against Miduchi but it still takes about 10 seconds for the spell to complete and requires concentration. Taking the duration of the effect into consideration I used about four times the normal mana to extend the duration.

After Kumiru left the store and started staggering my way I intentionally bumped into him and while he was crouched over I stretched my hand out while apologizing and finished the spell. My current level is 24. I used Identify to check the sub-window of Condition while using the same spell on Miduchi and was able to confirm the success rate of the spell. If there's this much of a level difference between us then I can succeed at 100%.

When his hand reached out for my mine, the moment we met eyes..I caught him.

"Is it you, Sanno? Sannose.Kumiru?"

I called out to him with the tone of voice of bumping into an old friend in an intersection.

"A, Ah, Hn...What the so it was just you? Don't scare me like that, ouch."

"Ah, it's me. Sorry about that, it's been quite a while right~"

"Yeah..that's right."

Kumiru doesn't hold any doubts about it even though he doesn't know my face at all. If he's an adventurer then I thought he might know my face but..Since I don't have my rubber protectors or helmet on. Additionally I'm not even equipped with a weapon right now. He might not be able to tell. Or maybe this is also an effect of the spell {Charm.Person}? Either way is fine.

"What is it? Is your condition bad?"

"Hn? Yeah, I screwed up in the dungeon the other day. I had a guy I was

exploring with use {Cure} on me but it's still far from completely recovered."

"Here, show it to me."

"Eh? Why, I don't want to."

"You idiot. I'm saying I'll use {Cure} on it. Or did you already forget that with your sponge head? {Cure} is my specialty."

"Ah? Eh? Ah, was that the case? No, that's right wasn't it. I'm begging you, do it."

I pulled Kumiru to the edge of the road and after he pulled up his shirt I saw the wound. There's a mark remaining where he was stabbed in the ride front side with something like a spear. There's still some pink flesh showing around the wound but the skin still hasn't stuck together. I quickly used {Cure Critical} on it.

"O..Oh, as expected. I feel like it's gotten quite a bit better. I'm saved."

Kumiru said like he was really happy.

"We're friends right? Don't worry about it at this point. But you know, I feel like my mana is about out thanks to that. By the way, are you still teaming up with that guy? That, what was his name again?"

"Ah, Ruttsu huh? That's right. And we've also made two new allies as well. Of all things both of them are knights of that Faruergaz Knight group! Even more so one of those is the eldest son of Count Faruergaz! We've been exploring together with them for the past few days!"

Since it got a lot more comfortable Kumiru smiled while he started bragging.

"He~? That's pretty amazing~ I guess that means luck is coming your way. But then why did you get that kind of wound even though two knights were with you?"

"Yeah, just listen to this. It's certainly true that since they're knights they're used to the army. They're young an strong~ But you know, it was completely obvious how much of beginners they were.."

"He~ What does that mean?"

“For starters their movements are completely those of amateurs.. They’re just walking around like normal. Ah, they’ve finally started to walk around without making noise and remaining cautious. And then, just because they can use magic they’re underestimating the dungeon. Just because it’s a little bit dark they use the spell {Light} right away..If it’s like that, it’s like telling the monsters to please come and aim for us.”

“That is quite..”

“Well, even then there’s some good points as well. If that wasn’t the case we wouldn’t party with them.”

“Ho?”

“The commoner knight can even use healing magic. Even yesterday, even though I was done in by a gnoll in the dungeon, Ruttsu and Rodrick-sama...Ah, Rodrick-sama is the eldest son of Count Faruergaz though. In any case I started bleeding while being protected by those two. After that I somehow managed to stand up and we defeated about half of the gnolls before they ran away and after we gathered the magic stones we made a run for it. We earned about 50,000 per person but since everyone was injured. We ended up having to push the dungeon on hold until next week.”

“I see. But, isn’t it great that you made some good acquaintances?”

“Ah, but, after all your {Cure} is completely different. It’s no surprise you brag about it. I bet you can make a living as a healer.”

“Idiot, you, did you already forget? Isn’t it you who told me I could earn in Baldukk?”

“Ah, that’s right, that is how it was wasn’t it..I said it?”

“Really your head sure is like a sponge Sanno.”

“No, sorry~ sorry~”

“Then, I’m heading off, stay well.”

“Ah! See you again. I was saved today!”

Kumiru and I split ways there, I took a detour around before returning to the restaurant where Giberuti was on standby.

“Master, just now that person returned and after picking up his food went into the inn.”

“N, got it. It seems that he went to buy some medicine for his and his partners wounds. I don’t think they’ll move anymore today but it might be possible the guy from just now will move. However, it should be fine already. Let’s stop here for today. You’re free to do whatever you want.”

I had Giberuti go back and then I spend a bit of time thinking while on my way back to “Boil Manor” but I wasn’t able to arrive at the conclusion that Kumiru and Ruttsu were connected with {Sun Ray}. I wonder if there was any movement on Faruergazs end? It’s definite that Hirosukol can use the spell {Cure} but as long as he isn’t deeply wounded then it’s possible he can use healing magic today.

Well even then I think it will take quite a bit of time for the wound to completely heal so they might be resting for another couple of days, with this I’m sure they’ll have been given some things to think about for a bit and wait carefully until they’re completely healed and make even more thorough preparations before entering the dungeon next time.

Chapter 172: Counting Your Chicken's Before They've Hatched

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 29

After returning to “Boil Manor” I went to Miduchi’s room and asked the state of things with Faruergaz and Hirosukol for today.

It seems that they left once around noon and returned in about an hour as well the as Kumiru. It seemed like both of their walking postures seemed more normal again so it’s fine to think they’ve recovered from most of their injuries. If they aren’t idiots then they’ll wait a few days while keeping an eye on things and if possible offer to heal Kumiru and Ruttsu or offer some kind of assistance to them.

If they just go straight to the dungeon without doing then I don’t care anymore...It should be fine to just ignore them. Is it okay? No, I guess it’s no good...However, if they’re reckless then I’ll be troubled later on...

In any case things are already fine for today. I thought of taking a warm shower before dinner so I went towards the shower room when I just happened to run into Toris as he was coming out. Then I guess Bel is using the other shower room that’s in use. Suddenly I remembered so rather than taking a shower I invited Toris to my room, I decided to give him the honor of being a monitor for the new model of Saya. Well the other day, I already tested it on Miduchi, and I’m sure my older brother and sister-in-law have tested it plenty as well so I can already guess but for me it was the light feelings of trying to help the pitiful Toris out a bit.

“Al-san, did you return? Weren’t you going to be at the company in the capital for this holiday..”

“Yeah, I intended to be but since I got my hands on a new product this time. I needed to give it to you in a hurry, thinking that I came back in hurry though it’s just for tonight.”

“Ha~ And, what is it?”

I opened the wooden box on the wide of my bed and took out one package and handed that to Toris.

“Al-san..This is..”

He touched the rubber pack and after confirming the contents Toris said with a bit of restraint, while his eyes went wide and he seemed a bit drawn back from it.

“Yeah, it’s a product that is just as you can see. Have you used one before?”

“No way, there’s no way that’s the case.”

He replied in a panic while shaking his head. Fumu, I guess he was just an innocent college student, well I guess you wouldn’t normally use it. And, even including my previous life it was my first time using it not too long ago as well so I can’t say anything about others though.

“Well, I guess that’s true. But you know, this should become a great ally to you. Since the problem of molds still hasn’t been solved in regards to that the studs aren’t designed into one. They’ve been added afterwards. That’s why in order to prevent them from escaping and in order to strengthen the main part it’s made a bit thicker than usual.”

“Is..Is that so..But, did you really just go out of your way to return in order to give me this...”

It seems like Toris can’t understand as he’s sending me a dubious glance.

“Well the quality just as you know isn’t worth comparing to the cutting edge technology of Japan so it can’t be helped. Although..”

“Although?”

Toris’s expression is saying, what in the world is this person talking about? What does he want to say? those sorts of feelings are clearly showing.

“I’ll say it once more. The main body of it has been created a bit thicker!”

Zubishi!! and I pointed at the rubber package on Toris’s hand with my finger.

“..Ha!! I..I see..It’s that sort of thing! In other words, the sensitivity falls a bit for the male side right!”

Umu. I'm saved that he's quick to understand.
Honestly, it's not the type of product I care for much. Miduchi and I are reasonably seeking each other but it's limited to within common sense levels. However, oh~ Toris, your woman is different right? Since I don't think it's good to step too far into your private lives, I didn't say much at all up until now but I had realized it.

After Toris joined our group two years ago, during the start you two were happily doing it but..you, recently you seem even more energetic during the times were in the dungeon right? I can roughly guess it based on the Saya consumption rate but recently the number of times per night has decreased hasn't it? The other day my desires exploded by chance and then the next morning I was seen by Bel but as a matter of fact I felt bad about that.

Three times in one night is something that can be done because we're young. However, even then for you do manage that every single time must have been quite painful. During the start when you were managing 6-7 times every day I even secretly respected you. Around the start of this year, I'm sure it was in order to try and drop the sensitivity but you tried using the pig's bowels but ended up causing some pain for Bel from your past inexperience right? When I found out about that I felt a bit lonely thinking I wouldn't be of any use to you anymore but even then I thought that couldn't be helped in some ways.

While looking at Toris who's eyes are sparkling with understanding, I cross my arms with a grave expression and nodded to him.

"Well, just test it out. Try using it. You might be able to open up a new door in your life?"

"U..Al-san..I...I..Kku, thanks. Thank you very much!"

At first he was looking down with his eyes on the rubber package but as he raised the level of his gratitude he properly looked up at me. I could feel the flames of hope burning brightly in his eyes.

Umu, I'm saved he's so easy.
Rather~ I couldn't even imagine he would be moved so deeply.
Was it really that painful..I put my hands on both of Toris's shoulders and nodded before saying.

“If you try using it and think they’re good then treat me to a meal later. It’s not worthy of being thanked over every little time.”

During dinner of that day Toris was in a good mood all on his own and Bel just looked at that with a strange face. Miduchi, the three slaves, and I ate. I don’t know about everyone else. I’m sure they’re all eating on their own.

.....

Year 7444, Month 12, Day 30

After waking up in the morning without doing my running, Miduchi and I switched over to the inn that we had put in reservations for. I went to the dried goods dealer and stocked up on a large amount of dried fish and then after the two of us put on some hooded robes we entered the dungeon early in the morning. We can kill time on the 2nd and 3rd floors until later while Miduchi earns some experience towards her magic skills.

I had a strange sort of confidence that Faruergaz and the others wouldn’t move today or tomorrow. I’m sure there’s no Japanese person who would want to enter the dungeon on New Year’s Eve or Day. Particularly those two who have the sensitivity of Japanese people remaining strongly and there’s the injuries as well, starting today until past New Year’s day they should carefully proceed with preparations before entering the dungeon again. In other words, I’m guessing they won’t move until at least the day after tomorrow. Depending on how things go they might not even move until the end of New Year’s Week.

It’s completely unknown if Kumiru and Ruttsu have any relation to {Sun Ray} but even if they do the best thing they could do for now is some sort of unnatural intervention so there’s other choice than to leave things be. Well I think there probably won’t be anything. There’s nothing more to do than periodically confirm their survival.

We spent the day putting priority on time efficiency where I freeze the orks on the 3rd floor and have Miduchi finish them off using magic without collecting the magic stones.

After noon, until evening we wandered around the 2nd and 3rd floors until just like last time we teleported from the 3rd floor to the fairy village area on

the 2nd floor, and then rested in shifts in front of the area where the entrance to the fairy village appears when the date changes.

And then midnight.

““Congratulations and happy new year!””

For the time being we finished up our New Year’s greeting and then put our hands on the door to enter the fairy village before going inside.

.....

Year 7445, Month 1, Day 2

Yesterday night, no, I guess it was early this morning? When Miduchi and I returned from the dungeon we went back to our temporary inn and without waiting for morning we checked out right away and then used the spell {Light} to travel along the road as it was still dark on our way to Rombertia. Since we had been away since the end of the year in order to learn some new spells, both of us were mentally exhausted so when we arrived at the capital we just took an appropriate inn before falling over into bed without the energy to take a shower. I think the time had already gone around to 4 am in the morning.

After we slept for as long as we pleased until close to noon, we had some food, and then as exercise to help digestion we ran for about two hours along the riverside. We returned to the inn, took a shower to get refreshed, and then Miduchi and I exchanged glances in our room. We both couldn’t hold back from breaking out into laughter. After laughing together for a few minutes and then this time we both reached a similar thought as our faces got serious enough as if we were glaring at each other. Furthermore, Miduchi was making a face on the verge of crying.

“The one I learned it doesn’t matter how much time it takes until it activates so there’s no point in hurrying to practice with it. However~ even though I spent that much time I was only able to learn one spell..This, is a considerably difficult spell.”

“I still need to practice the four spells I learned this time...But, honestly speaking insects are..”

The only was able to learn a single spell this time.

It doesn't even need to be mentioned, the spell {Transmute.Rock.To.Mud}.

Compared to that Miduchi was able to learn four this time.

Summon Bugs, {Summon.Insect}

Summon Bug Swarm, {Insect.Plague}

Clumsiness, {Fumble}

Communicate Intent: Plants, {Speak.With.Plants}

Quite a few of those spells are reasonably valid.

Now then, what's important here is the spell I learned this time {Transmute.Rock.To.Mud}. This spell can change rock into mud. Putting it simply, it's safe to consider it the advanced version of {Quagmire} which can be used to create bogs. It's an extremely high level spell that requires earth, fire, water, and void magic skill levels all at least at level 8. The bare minimum MP required to use it requires using earth and water magic five times, fire magic once, and void magic eight times, for a total MP consumption of 152 points. And with that it makes it possible to turn any type of rock that's roughly 1 m³ into mud.

Up until there it only seems like a spell that would be useful for tunneling through a mountain or when cultivating new land. According to teacher Mila the reverse spell of {Remove.Petrification} is called {Flesh.To.Stone} and there's also the method of transforming the target from stone into mud with this spell then washing them away into a river or ocean so they can never return to normal again, that sort of extremely brutal method of using it seems to exist as well but that sort of thing doesn't matter at all.

If you transform rock into mud, then use the void magic sorting on that mud to sort out whatever you like from it, then if you use the void magic transformation it's possible to take it out in whatever form you like. This is huge. It's possible to take out refined, crystallized metals in the form that is "just as you can imagine". There's not even a need to specify things for a bolt that's 5 mm in diameter, with the screw height of 0.7mm, and a length of 5 cm. All you have to do is imagine a bolt in that form. And, then when it comes to a nut that matches that bolt, you can take the nut (included in that rock) out in whatever metal you like.

Let me repeat it even easier to understand. I have a certain rock. And, I use

the spell from just now consecutively. Iron, Chrome, Molybdenum I take out everything I can from it. Then I use the spell to make that into an alloy. Then I use this spell on that again. That time, I coil it to the right, have it rotate around about this much, with an inner diameter of about this much, external form about here, and I think up the image of a perfect gun barrel with the life ring carved into it and created from Chrome.Molybdenum Steel. And, then just the same as that with lead, if possible with tungsten or anything else but if I make a bullet that matches the gun barrel like I made last year, or, from some brass that was made syrupy in the same way I make a cartridges of just the right shape to match this magazine, or things like that I can make them just as I imagine in my head. Even the types of small parts that a detonator requires are simple.

Putting it frankly, it eats a shitload of MP so I'm sure that no one other than me can properly manage it.

After that if I can just use the nitrocellulose I experienced with in the past then smokeless gunpowder should be fine, if I mix in some plasticizing agent and wax as an anti-combustion agent at about 10% then that should be plenty. There's still the problem of safety remaining but if I increase the amount of wax while experimenting with it then it should burn all on it's own so easily. It should be able to reach the level of a weak bullet, then if there's problems with the firepower while it'll increase the weight a bit I can increase the size of the shell by just a bit. It will deteriorate at a more intense rate but it's not like the modern day armies where I have to keep it in storage for up to three years after producing it.

I already knew from the start that something like preparing a massive amount of guns is impossible because of issues related to the gunpowder. If I were to same something extreme, then it should be fine as long as the quality is guaranteed for a few months after it's produced. In the first place, in a situation where I can prepare a large quantity and make use of them, guns are just like a supplement to me. Rather than that the fact that I can make things like pachinko balls or nails of the same quality in large quantity is even more important.

If I buy a distillation device (or make one is fine) and distill Pyroligneous acid

to make a lot of methanol. If I just leave that alone and let it undergo oxidation then I formalin should be created..I think, if I remember correctly. It'll end up burning some MP but I use the magic sorting to take it out as well. It's possible to sort out ammonia from piss and decaying corpses. If I can get formalin and ammonia to react then it's possible to create Hexamethylenetetramine. And then, I've already confirmed it's possible to create nitric acid of high purity when producing nitrocellulose with magic. If I mix up Hexamethylenetetramine with high purity nitric acid inside of a something like porcelain that can resist high temperatures and get them react then that should be able to make Trimethylenetrinitramine crystals..I think.

Ah, Trimethylenetrinitramine refers to RDX. It's poisonous but as long as you don't eat it then it's fine. It seems it's sweet so I need to keep it away from Ralpa though. If I harden this with wax then it's composition A, it requires me being able to make Toluene, but if I mix it with TNT 6:4 then it becomes composition B. If it's mixed with a plasticizing agent like clay 9:1 then it's the so-called composition C.

If I can put conducting line soaked in nitrocellulose or a metal wire stuck in it that reacts to a reasonable {Lightning Bolt} then I can create a bomb. If you surround it with a lot of pachinko balls or nails then I'm sure you can increase the damage even more. Of course, I'm sure the quality wouldn't reach the level of those made in a Japanese factory but that doesn't particularly matter. The various kinds of additives aren't absolutely necessary. Some of them prevent the deterioration over long term storage, or raise the efficiency of it, make it easier to use, it's fundamentally just things that make it easier to deal with it.

In order to prevent the soldiers on the ends that don't have a properly level of education from discharging it on themselves, would be the largest portion of the goal. In my own opinion I'd just be fine if I could make something like a large version of the JSDF's anti-vehicle mine. Either way I don't have any intention of letting anyone else use them. After that if we had several people who could use a smaller version like claymores then I think that would be plenty. If I could make something like a wire fuse that would be the best but I'm sure it would be difficult without electricity. Ah, maybe I could make one in combination with the lighter magic tool. Though I'm sure that would make it a

bit larger.

However, while these would require some schemes in order to make use of for attacking, they'd be ideal for defending.

Well, at the current stage, it's quite literally counting the chickens before they've hatched though.

But, I'm sure this will become a large power.

However, inside of the inn I don't want to try practicing any of the spells we learned this time other than {Fumble}. I think we'll just go take a look around various places in the capital for a change of pace and get some rest today.

.....

Year 7445, Month 1, Day 3

We spent the entire day at the company chatting with the Yotlen mother and daughters.

Reira's ability to deal with customers is splendid.

And Anna is doing a good job as well.

We sold 11 packs of condoms.

.....

Year 7445, Month 1, Day 4

We spent all of today chatting with Yotlen mother and daughters as well.

Hanna thinks that as long as she's mimicking her older sister than she's doing a good job. It's charming.

We sold 13 packs of condoms.

Reira gave something or other sub-Baron a sample of the new model of condoms.

.....

Year 7445, Month 1, Day 5

We continued chatting with Yotlen mother and daughters at the company until noon.

We sold 5 packs of condoms during the morning.

I haven't done anything other than running these past three days.

Since we're entering the dungeon again starting tomorrow we returned to Baldukk.

I'll give it my best starting tomorrow.

Author's note: there's some portions intentionally left out this time avoiding breaking explosive production laws, but please think that the protagonist properly knows them. I wonder if it would be best to cover them up with omissions?

Chapter 173: An Unfortunate Father And Son

Year 7445, Month 1, Day 15

Faruergaz and Hirosukol haven't gone to the dungeon since then and together with Kumiru and Ruttsu they've been gathering information, buying tools, producing preserved food (mixing dried meat in with wheat flour dough and baking until it's harsh, it's sold but it's cheaper to make yourself. I think Kumiru and Ruttsu probably taught them) and that sort of stuff. It appears that all four of them are in good condition again.

They came to see me a number of times and asked various things as well. I just honestly answered everything I asked without hiding anything and while I might be thought of as meddlesome I even taught them some things they didn't ask.

The possibility that people you thought were allies could betray you. Betrayal, it's an expression that has various meanings behind it. If you just go off the literal meaning then you could take it as someone who starts disputes over the method of splitting up portions, otherwise in a broader sense it could include those who don't protect the pre-decided rules. And also, I told them they're probably lacking in combat potential as well.

He listened to most of it honestly but when it came to the parts about being betrayed or lacking in combat potential they made a vague expression like they had accepted it or didn't want to accept it. Well I think it's best to carefully think about the things your seniors tell you and come to your own conclusion.

By the way, we returned from the dungeon January 11th but by the time we returned from the dungeon it seems that they had already given notice of the day of judgement. Since there was no notice of it through the New Year's holiday I let my guard down and right as we tried to return to our schedule of six days in the dungeon followed by three consecutive days off, there was this. If it was just as planned then we were supposed to return to the dungeon again today. I think it would have been great if they started announcing it a bit earlier.

Since it can't be helped just complaining, in any case Ralpa, Gwine, Toris,

and I head towards the plaza in front of the government office. The other members aren't victims or witnesses this time so they aren't accompanying us. We entered the government office and after telling the official we came to appear in court, when I asked it seems that the predicted time for us is around noon. We went back outside once and I was able to discover everyone around the center of the plaza at a location which is kind of vague for watching with a goza laid out drinking tea so we joined back up with them. It seems that the areas in front which are better for watching were already taken by other onlookers.

Just before 9 am the governor of Baldukk came out to give greetings with one of the megaphone magic tools that's said to only exist in a few locations including here and the capital, it seems that there's a total of 46 cases of crimes and he declared that the punishments would be enforced if they accept their crimes during the public trial. And then, the King entered the platform soon after and the judgement began.

Before the judgements started, I thought I met eyes with the King once but when I saluted it was ignored. I thought it couldn't be helped but one day I'll make it so he can't ignore me, while lining up with the witnesses, then I crossed my arms and sat in a chair. From stingy larceny to injury, murder, and a case of arson that happened a while back they're gradually given judgement and the punishments are enforced on the side of the plaza.

And then, just as the official had predicted, just before noon when the sound of the whip is still ringing out from the edge of the plaza, Ralph and Gwine the victims (since it's treated as a criminal case accusers don't exist) were called up, and the judgement begins. The ones dragged out on to the judgement place were the suspects, Misseru.Beirun and 9 others. Now then, your majesty King Thomas Rombert the Third, I wonder what kind of judgement you'll show me?

Misseru.Beirun and the other suspects had their gags removed but they didn't say anything. I guess they can't say anything until given permission. In that case then it seems they at least have some amount of common sense.

The King who was on the platform receives the paper the crimes and suspects are written on from an official in the knight group the same as others and with a flat voice that didn't give off any sort of feeling read it out.

“..like this the charge is the crime of attempted robbery and if it’s recognized I impose the sentence of 10 lashes with the whip on the suspects Misseru.Beirun, including Rihyaruto.Oigen....Romeru.Biurkuride. Suspects do you accept your crimes and submit to the punishment?”

Ho...10 times for attempted robbery is a bit heavy. If I remember correctly actual robbery that isn’t attempted was 15 times so you could say it’s quite heavy. Since attempted robbery is a fit case for today, there’s no way of checking if it’s a valid punishment. In the first place, past precedents are used as somewhat of a reference it seems but it’s not like Japan where it depends on a doctrine of past precedent, and the one who maintains supremacy the King and embodies the national law itself has the final say in it.

“Fa..Father, we di“Shut your mouth, who’s your father! Just now, I add to the charges of the suspect Misseru.Beirun. False statements as well as contempt of royalty. I myself stand witness. The punishments of three lashes with the whip, including decapitation and the head will be showed above the prison gate are included.”

Mu, that illegitimate child (?) called Misseru seems to be quite the idiot. If he had just obediently accepted it then it would have ended at 10 lashes with the whip...In the first place, it was already over the moment he was so brainless that he couldn’t even understand that blood relationships aren’t taken into consideration at all when it comes to the enforcement of punishments.

In the Kingdom of Rombert where multiple husbands and polygamy are accepted there’s no way something like an illegitimate child would have any rights. However, putting aside the charge of contempt of royalty, I don’t think anything up until now was a false statement...Ah, since publicly his father is Viscount Beirun so the charge of contempt towards royalty where he called the King his “father” could be taken as false as well.

“Ah..Gu..”

Misseru was so surprised his eyes when wide like they’d fall out of his head while his mouth keeps opening and closing.

“Respond, suspect Misseru.Beirun. The response is do you accept or not.”

With a severe face towering over him like a rock the King questioned his

son(?).

“Ah...No, I don’t recognize the charges.”

“Is that all of the charges?”

..I guess you could say this this is in some meanings the kindness of a father.

“No, only the attempted robbery..”

The King looked at the suspect Misseru.Beirun’s face for a few seconds but soon after changed his glance to the suspect next to him as if he had lost interest and asked the same way. The other 9 who were making expressions of surprise easily accepted their crimes.

Now then, at the very least there’s one person who didn’t accept his crimes. In other words, Toris and I will be called up I’m sure.

“Well then, the witness for this matter come e..Hmph, after all it was you..Swear upon the God of Law and Truth that you will verify without falsehoods.”

“I, sub-Noble Alan.Greed, swear upon the God of truth and law that I speak only truth.”

“I, sub-Noble Toris.Kalstalan, swear upon the God of truth and law that I speak only truth.”

sub-Nobility is the official ranking of those who border the line of nobility. Even if it’s the eldest child of a Duke if they don’t have any noble ranking at the time they’re considered a sub-Noble. The exception is only for the prince and princesses of royalty.

We respond to the questions of the King who is the judge, prosecutor, and defense. The questions themselves aren’t any different from the other trials. The date and time of the crime, the situation, and our impressions we just respond as we’re asked. Well it’s mostly just the same things we told the knight group of Baldukk when we handed them over.

“Once again I’ll hand out the judgement. Suspect Misseru.Beirun will receive 10 lashes with a whip for the crime of attempted robbery. Adding 1 lash for denial of the crimes. Another 3 lashes for stating falsehoods during this trial.

And for the crime of contempt of royalty he will be decapitated and have his head displayed on the prison gate for one week.”

After he declared that things simply moved on to the next trial.

When I returned to everyone else I sat down with my legs cross sipping some tea and eating the wheat senbei (a confection made by just crushing wheat flour and adding that into the dough to be baked) while watching the remaining judgements. While watching I once again thought that I can't let my guard down around that old man.

Furthermore, the one who was acting as guard for the first knight group this time was lord Balkisas. Soon after the judgements ended, a member of the first knight group came to call for me so I went to the government office and the King and lord Balkisas were hiding behind a wall further inside. When I took the pose of a retainer in front of them the King made an unpleasant face while whispering something to lord Balkisas. Che...This old man, so he doesn't want to talk directly to me that much.

Well, it's just somehow but I also originally had an imagine of noblemen only talking intimately with their most loyal of retainers and officials and not directly speaking with commoners or of the lower classes, so thinking that I decided to join his game of telephone. Though if I think about it, just now he exchanged words with criminals and me as well so I guess that's not the case either. I'm sure it's that right? The studs. Yes I get it, isn't that great. This old man who's stamina is running out from his old age felt rejuvenated again making his women go hi~hi~ I'm sure.

..I guess there's no way that's the case huh? I don't know if there was any affection but it's like he just killed his own blood related son a short while ago. But, in this sort of world. Let alone parents or siblings, it might even be only obvious to harm your own son.

“..Greed-kun. I received the order to convey it to you without even a single mistake from his majesty but these aren't my worebu”

When Lord Balkisas was about to start giving an excuse the King hit him in the head from behind. At the same time the King whispered in his ear “It's fine if you don't say anything unnecessary.” I can hear you~ I'll use {Charm.Person}

and {Suggestion} on you~ old man.

“Hn, gohon. For you to not have brought even a single magic weapon since then, ow”

The King hit lord Balkisas in the back of the head again.

“It’s not haven’t brought. It’s can’t manage to bring. And also, don’t forget to add brat. Convey things properly.”

Hey now, I can hear everything clearly, old man.

“A~ br..brat, for you to not be able to manage to bring back even a single magic weapon, even though you’re getting arrogant with the name {Slaughterers}, you’re just at that level huh? If it’s at this rate then won’t it take over 10 years? If you can’t manage something during the period I’m still the King then it’s not my responsibility you know, id~iot”

Ku...He hits where it hurts. But, we’ve already long since gotten our hands on a magic weapon. Shut~up. The one who says idiot is the real idiot. I’ll show you. In the first place it still hasn’t even been one year since then. You’re too impatient. Are you premature? However you know..I guess he was interested in it.

“..Oh my, that is quite. I’m quite surprised you know of this humble retainers movements..”

Suddenly the King flicked his tongue and made an unamused face. I’m not amused at all either.

“However, we’ve still only just started. I’m not in any hurry myself. In the first place I’m still a young 16 years old. It’s strange saying it myself but since I’m still young I have an infinite amount of possibilities but..Oh my~ since I swore to only speak the truth to the God of law and truth just a short while ago so I can’t speak anything but the truth but please humbly forgive me..”

I added some sarcasm. Even if he knows it I couldn’t help but say it. I’m still plenty young.

“This..impudent brat...It’s fine, let’s go.”

While the King had a bitter smile on his face he said that to his guards before

disappearing past my side even further into the government office.

Since I boasted so highly about it, it's necessary to actually show him the possibilities thanks to my youth. If possible I want to somehow manage it this year.

I continued to remain in the pose of a retainer until the King and others were out of my sight.

Well, putting that aside, it was unfortunate this time right. Your majesty the King.

I'm sure that method of yours was one method itself.

It's unfortunate that your son was too much of a fool.

I'm sorry for your grief

..This is something I think from the bottom of my heart.

.....

Year 7445, Month 1, Day 16

We ended up having one extra day off thanks to the day of judgement but starting today we're entering the dungeon again. Just the same as usual, we aim for the 7th floor right away and hurry ahead. We continue to the 3rd floor without problem and then setup camp in the teleport room on the 3rd floor.

.....

Year 7445, Month 1, Day 17

We cleared through the undead on the 4th and 5th floors and then finished up preparations to camp in the teleport room on the 5th floor. And while I say that it's nothing that takes much work other than raising the dirt level a bit to use as a bed. Within 20 minute since Zulu and I started making preparations to camp a group of adventurers appeared in the teleport room on the 5th floor. I thought everyone else had caught up to us and that they were reasonably fast today but since {Party-ization} still shows them as being a bit of distance away it must be a different group. If it's someone other than the {Slaughterers} who comes here then it doesn't need to be mentioned but it's {Sun Ray}.

It's an eight person party with the Rindobel couple and six others. The only

other faces I know than theirs are the round shield and mace using human male, Harukein.Fumizu and the Wolf-people man who uses a spear named, Jerutodo.Ramires. I don't know the other four people.

Fumizu and Ramires came with the RIndobel's to greet me. It's quite polite of them for adventurers so it leaves a good impression though. Well, it's fine.

"If you intend to use the shower then feel free to use it first."

I said that and offered it to them. They were grateful but also made surprised faces. Yeah, that's right. We split into two groups of 2 and 9 people each up to here. Judging from their appearance, it seems like they heard of it from rumors and doubted it, and they're surprised to actually see it.

"Umm, Greed-san. Would it be fine to talk with you for a short while?"

The husband of the Rindobel couple, Koritto.Rindobel started talking to me. So they've come huh? Thinking that I invited them over to the bench while trying to be careful to not seem unnatural.

"What is it?"

"That is, it's a bit embarrassing to make this request but around the 5th floor, would you mind letting our members accompany you once?"

Huh? They aren't trying to pull us in but rather they're coming over here? I don't get the meaning. No matter how you think about that it's spying. Is this guy an idiot?

I'm sure my expression reflexively changed into something really suspicious. It seems the husband of the RIndobel's read the meaning of my expression and added in a panic.

"Ah, no, please excuse me. I'm very sorry for putting it in a way that could be misunderstood. Some of our young members look up to the {Slaughterers} you see...They're even saying they want to leave {Sun Ray} and join the {Slaughterers} so..Honestly, they're members who we've spent a reasonably long time together with in the dungeon so while it's quite disappointing but we want to grant their individual wishes as well."

There's no way, no matter how you think about that it's way too obvious. If

you were to really just take it on the surface level then it might be seem like parental affection of really wanting to make their members happy, or something like that but there's no way anyone would get caught in this. Or else did they seriously see me as someone who would get caught in this? If that's the case then that's going quite far. Certainly it's true I might look like a naive brat but even like this I'm still the head of the top team in Baldukk. I'd really prefer if you don't underestimate me.

I seriously started to feel like using {Charm.Person} to ask their true intentions but somehow managed to endure it. If there's even a small chance that it might fail it would be annoying.

I politely refuse their offer and had them return to their group.

After that, we grouped up with everyone else, had dinner, took our showers and then when I wrapped myself in my blanket I thought for a bit.

I wonder what {Sun Ray} is aiming for? Their larger objective is clear. It's the underlying truth of the word. Earn money. I'm sure there's nothing other than that. Since it's their freedom how they use the money they earn, whether it's giving it as an offering or using it on the dog races, I don't think anything at all. It doesn't matter as long as they're not my acquaintance.

And, in order to achieve that larger objective, the Rindobel couple of {Sun Ray} seem to be gathering money with methods that are close to fraud. It seems they're normally using headhunting as their primary method but as expected I'm sure they understand that's close to impossible. With that they thought up a different method is what it means. However, it's far too crude.

I feel like they're probably still thinking something I haven't realized yet. However, isn't this method just like giving me a warning? Even when it's me if the Ginger or Gekudo we saved previously were to one day come ask for me and say they want to join the {Slaughterers} out of their debt to me then I would think a bit about it. Ah, I need to sleep already. Tomorrow is early.

.....

Year 7445, Month 1, Day 18

We did two round trips around the 6th floor and by the evening all of us had arrived at the teleport room on the 6th floor. This time taking into consideration what I was told my {Sun Ray} I left Giberuti from the start and brought along Basutorial. When I returned to pick him up {Sun Ray} was already gone. It seems they all teleported into the 6th floor.

Well, on the way I talked to everyone about things in regards to {Sun Ray}. Everyone was laughing but Basutorial's eyes were swimming. He panicked a bit when Toris poked fun at him but I'm sure anyone would want more money. Particularly since Basutorial has his circumstances as well. It can't be helped if they can touch his feelings while he still doesn't know much about the dungeon.

"Once you return your debt, if you really want to you're free to join {Sun Ray}. Don't hold yourself back."

However, if it comes to that, I won't forget that it happened though.

"That's absurd. {Sun Ray} was it? Most likely, their abilities are less than us {Slaughterers} right? That's no joke. What I was thinking is, someone could pretend to be deceived and enter their group intentionally, those sorts of moves are possibly as well, just that. But, when I thought about it once again I realized there's not much meaning in it either way."

Yeah. I thought of that as well. In reality Miduchi would be the best ability wise but I'm sure that would be exposed right away. The runner-up would be Bel but she's one of our old-time members including Zenom and Ralpha. Even when it comes to Gwine and Toris they've already been with us for two years so I doubt {Sun Ray} would think they'd join them either. The only one remaining is Basutorial but this guy is still an amateur and depending on how things go he could even slowing them down in combat.

What the, isn't everyone fine then?

I guess it's already fine to just not worry about it~

Chapter 174: Steadily

Year 7445, Month 1, Day 19

When we put some fighting spirit into it and teleport into the 7th floor, we teleported into the same place we previously killed the {Larva Purple Worm}. If we were to ignore the paths along the way from here and walk for several hours then I'm sure we'd arrive at that desert-like area.

"What should we do? This place, seems to be where the earthworm was."

Gwine said while seeming to daze into mid-air. She's probably looking at the map.

"There were several paths beyond that right.."

Toris put his hand to his chin as he said. Seeing that Zenom opened his mouth.

"Shall we go? Since it seemed like the teleport room to the 8th floor had four entrances, we still only know one of those."

"Hn~ I think we should go as well. If the earthworm comes out again then this time for sure.."

This time for sure what? Why are you looking at me there? Hmn, though it's only along the way it seems like it was the correct choice to split up our party. Recently I feel like Ralpa is underestimating the dungeon. According to what I've heard from Bel and Miduchi she's considerably cautious when I'm not around but once I group up with them again it seems she's letting her guard down. I need her to remain the same regardless of whether I'm around or not from here on out.

"..Can you hold it down from the front without running? Well I guess it's fine. While you're getting eaten I'll definitely finish it off. Relax and "rest in peace". If there's no other opinions then I agree with going as well. I don't want to see the earthworm but I'm sure everyone hasn't forgotten that magic stone right?"

"But, there's no guarantee it will be that earthworm again right...I think it's

hasty to assume ahead of time.”

Oh~ Bel, good retort. That’s exactly true.

“Hn, certainly that’s true. We shouldn’t assume what it will be. However, I’ve already decided to proceed like this. Let’s go.”

I said that and started walking.

“Al-san. That’s not the right way. It’s this way.”

Gwine pointed to the opposite direction I started walking.
I’m so uncool.

.....

We arrived at the desert. Just in case, I think it’ll be pointless but I tried using {Detect.Life} and after all I couldn’t feel anything other than ourselves.

“It’s just probably but if it was the earthworm then it should be underground in the center of the room waiting to attack. Let’s go with {Trail One} here and walk along the wall.”

With me at the front, surrounding Bel and Miduchi who are good with magic in the middle, at the very end Zenom is glaring around, we line up in a single file and stepped foot along the wall of the desert going counter clockwise. Everyone, I’m sure last time still remains in their memory. They’re all keeping up with me while carefully trying not to make any sounds with their footsteps. And then, I think it was when we moved around 70–80 meters ahead, I felt something was off and stopped my feet. I had been looking in the center of the room but there’s nothing that’s particularly off.

Hmm. I’m certain there’s something here. I guess I feel uneasy because I don’t know what that is. But, isn’t that the same as the usual monster rooms..I guess not. It’s only been twice up until now where the identity of the room boss was unknown even after we entered the room. In the past, only the times I disintegrated the Vampire an instant and when we were attacked by the {Larva Purple Worm} here. Just because the opponent can’t be seen I feel this uneasy.

Thinking that, is when we proceeded another 20 meters or so ahead.

““It’s here!””

There were several warnings that called out at the same time.

Several small sails from the direction of the center of the room..They're fins!

【

【Female/1/12/7444.Sand Shark】

【State: Good】

【Age: 0 Years Old】

【Level: 6】

【HP: 90 MP: 1(1)】

【Strength: 10】

【Speed: 50】

【Dexterity: 5】

【Endurance: 10】

【Special Skill: Vibration.Sensing】

【Special Skill: Super Sense of Smell】

“{Wedge One}!”

I reflexively shouted while running off towards the fins. I'm sure that everyone is moving around behind me changing the formation to spread out like an umbrella.

While running I aimed towards the fin with the spell {Stone Light Catapult Missile} firing off 5 warheads. It's because I sensed that if they're in sand the damage won't pass through if I don't add enough power into it, but it seems this was correct.

When the five telephone poles stabbed into the ground near the fins running at the front sending sand flying all over, I saw the upper body of a shark.

“Sharks!”

Tori's warning rings out.

There's still plenty of fins remaining.

“Bel-San!??”

Miduchi is saying something to Bel in a fast pace. Save the talking for later and spread out in an umbrella formation already!

I make one after another small telephone poles and sent them flying from above aimed at the fins I can see, finishing them off. However, we're clearly outnumbered. Since they're moving through the sand I thought they would move at about the speed of an adult running like the {Larva Purple Worm} but it seems the {Sand Sharks} are a bit faster and even if we run they might overtake us at this speed.

You could say they're moving extremely fast. I managed to finish off four of them but there still seems to be over 10 of them remaining. They've already cut a distance of 30 meters from us. Around the size of a 25 meter pool I guess? If you take into consideration their speed they're right in front of us.

"I'll shoot the ground!"

Bel said that and an arrow stabbed into the sand about 20 meters ahead. The fin that was nearby changed directions towards that arrow. Another one jumped out of the sand and sent its 3 meter body flying into the air. I shot it to death with {Stone Javelin} not missing that chance. It was quickly shot from an arrow in a different direction as well. I was thinking it was Bel's excellent consecutive shot skill but it seems Miduchi is using the bow as well.

It seems that the Sand Sharks are gathering in that direction towards the arrow as well. I see now, that's good!

I finish off two in that direction using stone spears a swell.

"Everyone, don't move!"

Bel shouts while firing off another arrow.

After that it's just a matter of shooting seven more. Being shot by my stone spears the sharks are close to instantly dead but in the case they were living they started rampaging on the sand. A different shark jumps out of the sand attacking them. I calmly finished off the ones that occasionally came over here with a small telephone pole.

Shortly after we were able to finish off all of the Sand Sharks. While frowning after noticing there's somewhat the scent of ammonia floating around I ordered the slaves and Basutorial to gather the magic stones. During that time, the rest of the members are remaining cautious of every direction. The value of the

magic stones was roughly 18,000 each. I guess it's around 120,000 — 130,000 (12–13 silver coins) if we sell them. There's a total of 21 of these. While the individual values don't reach those of ores it comes out reaching over 2 gold coins in no time at all. Amazing~

However, I thought it once again after noticing the three rows of teeth lined up in the sharks mouths but things were dangerous this time. If we weren't able to pull them away from our location with the bow, then it's definite that our party would have been attacked by over 10 sharks judging from their speed. It was most likely Miduchi's instruction but if it wasn't thanks to that then it wouldn't have been strange for there to have been a victim. Even if it doesn't go as far as death there might have been at least one person who had an arm or leg torn off.

Zenom said while frowning about as much as I was,

“So that's the so-called shark? But, I could have sworn sharks were something in the ocean...”

“..{Status Open}..It says they're Sand Sharks. Father, these seem to be sharks that live in sand.”

“Monsters huh? However, these teeth are quite amazing..”

“They're like a saw right..Ah, after all they're lined up rows of two and three..It's the same as the “Discovery Channel”. Zenom-san, these teeth break and chip pretty easily so the ones in back come out soon after to replace them it seems.”

“Ho~ Gwine sure knows quite a bit...Here like me look..This is amazing, if you were to get bitten from the head I'm sure there's no being saved..”

“Ah, the tooth came out. What's this, if you just tap it a bit with the axe and they break. I'll take some in commemoration~”

That doesn't really matter but everyone should be cautious of all directions you know...

After that, the passage we entered hit a dead end before going another 1 Km, and then when we returned and went down a different passage we arrived at the teleport room to the 8th floor.

.....

The time is just about noon. We were all eating our bento while talking in the safe area.

“I want to try looking at the 8th floor. After we rest how about taking a peek at it?”

Ralpa eats a sandwiches she’s holding in one hand while circling around the teleport crystal rod.

“Really, that’s bad manners.”

Gwine warns Ralpa while holding her sandwich in both hands and biting at it.

“The 8th floor huh..And, obviously, the monsters will get even stronger right?”

Basutorial joins the conversation while making some slightly withdrawn statements.

“N~ If we were to go off of all of the cases up until now that’s true..It would probably be best to think that way.”

Bel replied while drinking some tea.

And then, Miduchi start talking while drinking some tea as well.

“..Can I have your attention for a bit? I tried putting together the things I heard from everyone and thought about it for a bit but..this is just my consideration regarding the dungeon but in the rooms of the dungeon aren’t there monsters that are slightly more powerful than the ones you encounter in the halls? But, what I think is that, they only require being just a bit more careful than the monsters in the halls. However, it’s the same as with the earthworm from before but occasionally there’s clearly monsters with strength that far exceeds the rest of the monsters on that floor that appears.”

What about that~ We already know, something like that. We’ve explored the dungeon for several times longer than you after all.

“On the 1st floor there’s the huge leeches, Scavenger Crawler, spiders, and slimes right? On the 2nd floor including those the varieties increase by a bit more. Well putting aside the 1st and 2nd floors it’s said that the {Flesh Golem}

appears on the 3rd floor, and on the 4th floor there's some kind of unknown undead..since it had fangs growing then I think it's a Vampire but...while I don't know the 5th floor yet on the 6th floor there was the Roper... Just from what I've heard the {Flesh Golem} clearly has abilities that exceed those of the other room bosses on the 3rd floor and the vampire on the 4th floor is clearly an opponent that it wouldn't be strange to be wiped out by. The Roper was a considerably power enemy as well. Furthermore, the {Larva Purple Worm} from the 7th floor the other day has {Larva} in it's name so it should still be something like a child larva. Normally {Purple Worms} are absurdly strong monsters. Quite literally a special, monster on the level that can wipe out towns."

Everyone is taken back as we listen to Miduchi's words.

"We can guess from this that very rarely there's a frighteningly strong monster that appears as a boss in the rooms of this Baldukk. I think it would be fine to take a look at the 8th floor but I think it would be safer after we can easily defeat the room bosses on the 7th floor first."

Hearing that, I thought, I see, certainly that's true.

"..Certainly, it might be just as Miduchi says. Other parties don't have Al. Putting aside the {Golem}, if the other guys didn't have a decisive hand like Al's magic then just as Miduchi said it wouldn't be strange for them to have been wiped out."

Zenom said while crossing his legs and arms on the ground.

"Just think back to it. If Al wasn't around then we would have been wiped out countless times."

"..Certainly, that's true..And if we weren't taught magic and trained, putting aside Miduchi-san, none of us would be able to use magic still.. I guess it's worth thinking about before was rush ahead.."

It's just as Toris said just now, the members of the {Slaughterers} have a reasonable amount of individual skill built up but that's because they were able to survive various experiences. Even though they've leveled up and their ability values have gone up reasonably along with that, the ability values I can see with

Identify can't completely be depended on. They're decent as a method to measure ability but I don't think it applies to reincarnated people.

It's just as I realized the other day, it seems like most people aren't making full use of their ability values. Like when a weak old woman carries out paulownia wood chest of drawers that was her wedding gift during a fire it's something like the upper limit for the super strength you can display during a fire. It should be just as I've somewhat predicted since I was a child. The reason why my Endurance value has only increased by 2 points up until now is probably because the value I can see with Identify was too high compared to the amount of stamina and endurance I've actually built up from training so it wasn't that easy to increase.

I thought back for a bit here. In the past, when I was still in Bakuddo. When I first started running my Endurance just didn't seem like it would increase. Obviously, I didn't start running back then because I was hoping my Endurance would increase. I just started it simply to train my body. Using spells while running as well was just a side benefit as well and wasn't the original objective either. It was then, Mill who started running a while after me had an increase in her Endurance before me.

There's no way I can remember all the details of Mill's level and individual abilities back then but I know my level was higher. Adding to that since I'm a reincarnated person my ability values should have increased three times more than Mill.

If we think of the ability values I can see with Identify as X. And then, we use Y as the value that can actually be used. Putting aside the actual amount of X — Y for now, for the time being let's think of that as Z. In the case of Mill and I, my Z value should have been higher than Mill's. Through running Y increases a bit at a time but only when Y finally exceeds X, I wonder if that's when the value of X finally increases? Through training the value of my X has increased by 2 points in the past. When was it that the 2nd point was increased? I feel like it was last year though. By that point my level was already considerably high and along with that my X value should have been high as well. I'm sure this value can't be increased with just an ordinary amount of training.

I don't think it would take very much time for a person that requires 8 hours to run a full marathon to shorten that to 5 hours. Even when it comes to reducing that to 3 hours if they can get their stamina, or rather Endurance value to that of a track and field runner at the high school level. I can understand things get difficult from there. Most adult males can lift around 60kg when bench pressing. It shouldn't take all that much time to get that to 90kg as well. If they just do an appropriate amount of training anyone should be able to do it. It's 1.5 times the previous. However, when it comes to double that 120kg, and then going even further to 150kg or so then I'm sure it would be considerably difficult without training your muscles in a special way.

It seems that the world record exceeded 400kg but putting aside those absurd levels there were countless people who could do over 150kg in the JSDF. Even I was able to do about that much. If we were to try taking the example of the old woman from just now then it's possible that the JSDF's Y is higher than an old woman's X. I don't think there's even any comparison to the X of members of the JSDF. Since it seems that muscle gets stronger in proportion to the product of the cross-section, I'm sure that's the case. And, in that case the increases to X that come from leveling up should eventually reach a limit I guess.

Just, in the case of Orth, there shouldn't be any {humans} at all. Since humans aren't {humans} so I can't deny the possibility that my way of thinking is incorrect as well. I can't even imagine what kind of values Miki would have if I identified a {Demi-God} like her. They might be unexpectedly normal.

While I was thinking with my arms crossed, I noticed that everyone was paying attention to me all of a sudden so I scratched my head. Sorry about that, I was thinking about something completely different.

"I'll say it honestly. I don't want to let even a single person die. That's why I have no intention of overdoing things. I think it would be good to take Miduchi's opinion into consideration. Until we can determine that our abilities have gotten to a reasonable level, we shouldn't go to the the next floor. Alright?"

I looked at Ralpa while saying since she's the most likely to act on it. Ralpa had come over to where we were before I realized, was sitting cross legged with her arms behind her head while swaying back and forth balancing on her ass.

She's quite skillful.

"N..Yeah. If Al is going to say that, then I got it."

"Oh? Ral. Did you eat something strange? Isn't that obedient of you."

No, Ralpha is considerably obedient. Don't tease her too much. Rather than that, when you're fixing your chest protector for the bow could you please pay a bit more attention to your surroundings? It's difficult to force my eyes from going in that direction.

It would be too late for regrets if we push ourselves and someone gets seriously injured or dies. Of course I want to look at the 8th floor as well. In the past it should be scenery that, Minamoyo no Yoshitsune, otherwise known as George Rombert the First and his allies had only seen. Since it seems that in the past the first knight group managed to investigate up to the 7th floor. I think we need to at least be able to exceed the 8th floor and make it to the 9th floor.

Eh? I mean, if that isn't the case then there's no way I can exceed George Rombert the First right? Things like proof don't matter at all. It's fine as long as it remains in the hearts of me and everyone else. If we can just manage that, then no matter what kind of harsh situations we experience in the future we can deal with them with confidence right?

In the afternoon let's try exploring beyond the other entrances from this teleport room. We might be able to get to a different monster room.

Chapter 175: Simple Honesty

Year 7445, Month 1, Day 22

Yesterday we returned from the dungeon. Since we teleported into a passage with a lot of ogres in it yesterday we ended up having to explore until quite late. But, thanks to that we were able to set a new record of 34 ogres in one day so while everyone tired myself included we were feeling quite good. Although, after we returned to the surface I ate some food and then went right to sleep. Furthermore, the goblins that appear here and there are just a waste of time so we just ignore their corpses without gathering their magic stones.

In any case I guess the fatigue has built up I ended up oversleeping a bit this morning. When I finished my preparations to go running and appeared in front of “Boil Manor” and the sky was already turning red (since there’s still the outer crater the sun isn’t visible yet), and only the two slaves and Basutorial were waiting. Basutorial seemed to be more exhausted than anyone else but it seems he woke up through sheer guts.

Soon after everyone appeared so after we went running, I called out Zenom and Giberuti and we all went to a restaurant called “Mensato” for breakfast. They have some delicious diced olives that are pickled in olive oil and salt. If you add a small amount of mayonnaise with that to some bread with vegetables and ham on it and it somehow becomes an extravagant sandwich.

These diced olives pickled in oil aren’t sold anywhere. Giberuti has been giving it best to reproduce them but it seems that due to problems with the amount of salt and time pickled he still hasn’t succeeded. Giberuti trying to ask the owner of a restaurant the recipe is something commonly seen for the {Slaughterers} but since it’s how they make their living they aren’t willing to teach it so simply. After all it’s this store’s specialty. I guess that means if you want to eat it then you have to come to the restaurant.

After eating breakfast and relaxing for a bit we went to sell all of the magic stones we earned in the dungeon this time. Since we didn’t make it back until late last night we ended up eating and falling asleep without selling them.

When we sold 62 ogre and 21 sand shark magic stones it exceeded 52,000,000 Z (52 gold coins) by just a bit.

All of the members other than Basutorial get 1 gold coin and 4 silver coins, I give Basutorial half that amount 2 gold Shu and 2 silver coins. Since it's only been a bit over a month since he joined the {Slaughterers} and in just entering the dungeon a mere three times he's made a bit over 1.5 gold coins in compensation Basutorial was greatly pleased.

Since he seems to have been the guitar and vocalist in an indie band in his previous life, the way he's diligent betrayed my expectations based on that sort of image in a good way. Since we've still only been together for about a month I can't lightly come to a conclusion but at the very least as far as I know he's using all of his spare time to practice writing and with the spear independently. It seems the details themselves were taught by Gwine but while it's just the basics he's repeating the same forms without getting bored. I think it was during a day off just before the day of judgement, I tried asking him.

"Hey~ Basutorial. You might be bored from just continuing the same forms but when you're thrusting you shouldn't just look at the end of the spear. Even if it's vaguely you should look at the entirety of your assumed enemy. Wouldn't it suck if they threw the weapon in their hands at you in desperation?"

He was a bit surprised when I suddenly called out to him during training but he quickly turned around to me and after standing his wooden training spear on the ground with his right hand Basutorial said this.

"Ah, Al-san. I see now, looking at the entirety of the opponent is it...However, I'm not bored of it. It's the same as the {guitar}. In the past, I think it was when I was still a middle school student, I went to a guitar class in the music class. The teacher of that class was good at teaching but their reputation wasn't very good. Why do you think it was?"

"No, I have no idea~"

"Normally they teach you how to play one or two simple songs after teaching you the most fundamental basics but that teacher was the type that taught the basics thoroughly. The average six string guitar, if you include the difficult ones has 187 types of chords but among those 84 types are said to be the

fundamental ones. The teacher wouldn't let us play any songs until we could remember all of those 84 fundamental types. That sort of thing is boring or isn't that unreasonable? That's why that teacher wasn't very popular. Since there was a different guitar teacher in that class, once one student switched to that teacher and in no time at all almost everyone switched over there."

"Hn, well I'm sure that's true. I can somehow understand their feelings."

"Yeah, that's right. And, I hesitated on what I should but in the end I went to the class intending to change teachers. I went to the class just a bit early intending to tell the office worker that I intended to change classes but it was at that time, it was by chance but I could hear a tremendously skilled guitar. And, I ended up saying to the office worker. I want to learn from the person playing that guitar."

"Ah, I've read the ending. That extremely skilled person was the unpopular teacher right?"

"That's right. After that I, gave it my best practicing and listening to what the teacher said. Originally I didn't have much talent at all but even then the reason I was able to reach the level where I could put out CDs with the band was thanks to that teacher. The only one who was scouted by pros in the band was just me as well. Well, in that regards I turned the offer down because I liked the other band members though. That's why I don't cut corners in practicing the basics."

"Hmn, I see."

"Yeah, that's why until I get a passing grade from Gwine-san I intend to just keep practicing the movement and form from thrusting then switching to defense. According to Gwine-san if you can just do this perfectly then it's possible to continue taking on one monster without dying.."

Hearing this story I changed my opinion of Basutorial just a bit. Rather than trying to attack the opponent just focusing on defense to earn time. You can just leave attacking to someone else until you get used to it. Those who can accept this from the start, or rather, can actually manage it won't die so easily. If you can manage not to die then you'll gradually gain more combat experience. It's not just the number, you'll gain real experience. Even in my

case, even though I was higher level than the average squire when I first faced off against a Horned Bear I got nervous.

In any case, it's certain that for Basutorial to go on living and get his hands on money the fastest route is for him to be with us. I'll show you what it's like earning several 1,000,000 Z in a matter of months. During the afternoon training I'll teach you until you can't stand.

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Year 7445, Month 1, Day 23

{Sun Ray} hasn't particularly made any actions since then, after that the only recent thing that I've been interested in is about Faruergaz and the others. It seems that since last week around the start of the year near they've finally started challenging the dungeon again. They listened to my warnings and bought various things. Some combat slaves were included in that as well. Two huge Laios who are larger than Zulu. Just from what I heard it seems the price was blown up to 9,000,000 Z each at Ronslail's store.

I don't know how much those two have in assets but including the equipment for those slaves it should have exceeded 20,000,000 Z. If I were to match it to my situation when I bought Zulu then it would mean they have total assets equaling around 40,000,000 Z. As expected of a wealthy Count. Well that elf madam still has a good eye for slaves so her business is still proper.

If that madam charged them 9,000,000 Z then there's no mistake to think the values were at least around 7,000,000 or 8,000,000 Z. Recently it seems she's dealt in an even larger number of combat slaves so I'm sure her eye for selecting them has gotten even more polished, and I think she can be trusted at least that much.

Today, when I was eating lunch with Miduchi when Faruergaz and Hirosukol appeared with two huge men following them I was a bit surprised. I heard at that time though. It seems they're properly hiring a guide and entering the dungeon with a total of 7 of them and exploring from morning to night, they were pleased they even managed to earn a whole 1,300,000 Z. Although, that 1,300,000 Z was something they obtained after defeating a Black Gargantuan Leech that was on the verge of death in a monster room and got from the

corpses of adventurers who had died previously but it's still splendid.

Though I say that, 100,000 on the guide cost, and then 1/7 of that 1,300,000 being split up evenly between them evenly so 190,000, for a total of 290,000 Z must have been paid to the guide. If they split up the remaining amount between the four of them excluding the slaves then it's 250,000 per person. Yeah, that's plenty. It's quite something. However, in the case that they didn't find any items, the guide would have cost around 140,000 — 150,000, and the remaining four would have had to split up about 40,000. Even with that they should last a week without luxury. It should be plenty.

It seems the only ones injured were one of the slaves and either Ruttsu or Kumiru for a total of two of them. It seems that their injuries weren't anything serious so in another 3–4 days if they determine there's no problem they intend to enter the dungeon again. Also, it seems they've heard rumors of us {Slaughterers} from all over the place, so while they were showing admiration for our results and strength they also heard various things about our behavior from restaurants and bars so they were also looking down on us over that.

It was about fights that we've gotten into in the past and all of the ones started from our end were by Ralpa but if I were to try and explain that it would just sound like an excuse or pushing all of the blame on a woman and I'm sure they would say something like that so I just covered it up with a bitter smile. Although, it's not like Ralpa has intentionally picked a fight on her own even once. Usually they're talking bad that she can hear and she throws some tableware or something at that level. Everything after that is blown up by the opponent.

Particularly for the short while after Bel joined us.. things got pretty bad. That continued for about a year until we were able to make it to the 4th floor. After that along with our nickname I guess our abilities were recognized, but the number of people who picked fights with us decreased quite a bit. Recently it's quite peaceful. Around once in every couple of months some of the newcomers to Baldukk will come to greet us but for the most part no one picks any fights.

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Year 7445, Month 1, Day 24

After eating breakfast, I skipped over lunch and continued practicing the spell {Transmute.Rock.To.Mud} in the forest of the outer crater until dinner. Since I put in quite a bit of effort I was even able to practice it four times today. When I went to dinner because I had spent too much time concentrating practicing my eyes were collapsing and the capillaries in various places on my body were rupturing so I had to use healing magic to fix it before going but no one ended up being suspicious of it.

During the time I was training with magic, Miduchi was nearby using {Summon.Insect} to summon a bee or using {Inspect.Plague} to summon a swarm of over 1,000 cockroaches and screaming it seems but I didn't notice at all. Even if I'm cursed at as heartless, I don't care.

In preparation for exploring the dungeon tomorrow, after checking my equipment I went right to sleep.

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Year 7445, Month 1, Day 25

Just before daybreak we're at the entrance plaza about to enter the dungeon. Since the entrance plaza is packed, it was just as we were all about to line up together and head towards the entrance. Some cheers appeared from the building around the entrance of the dungeon. It seems one of the prominent parties returned.

"Hey, is that, Rozewera?"

"Aren't they completely tattered~"

"Huh? Their number seems to have decreased a bit, one..two..three..Eight people huh? It seems they were done in."

"That guy, when they entered before there was nine of them. I guess another one of them was done in again?"

"That seems to be the case. It's huge damage. Serves him~ right. He's just a second-rate adventurer after all."

"Ke..Putting yourself on the shelf and speaking badly over one of the pioneers is unsightly~"

"Ah!? What was that this bastard, are you picking a fight with me? O?"

"Even in that case, what's with that number of swords and spears."

“It seems like they hit the jackpot. I guess you could say it’s only as expected from Rozewera.”

Amazing~ The number of weapons the slaves are carrying seems like it exceeds 20 peoples worth. The condition doesn’t look all that bad either. Though they don’t look good either. But there’s no mistake it’s a huge profit. If it’s that much then even after losing one slave he should still be in the black.

“Oh! That’s a gold ore! Ama..amazing~!”

“Hmph, if it’s that size then the purity of the gold will be limited.”

“Limited you say...Then have you found something of that size before?”

“Never. Never have but I’m always watching from here so I can tell. That’s a limited amount.”

“Ha...So you were just one of those amateurs who doesn’t even enter the dungeon. Shut your mouth.”

“Fu..If you watch the adventurers who pass through here every day like I do then it’s perfect for image training.”

“Then wouldn’t it be fine for you to go to the dungeon and actually earn something?”

“If you reach my level of veteran watching then crawling around in the dirty dungeon just seems foolish and there’s no need to do it.”

“You..Aren’t you embarrassed saying that...”

“Why? I have a proper job as well so it’s fine as long as I can enjoy myself complaining about adventurers.”

“I’m at best wandering around the 2nd and 3rd floors, but you’re the worse..”

“What the, I thought I didn’t recognize your face but you were just a trash adventurer who can’t even make it as second-rate huh? Don’t call out to me until you’ve at least made it to Rozewela’s level.”

“No, I never called out to you in the first place..”

I don’t know if Rozewela gave the order to one of his slaves but they pulled out the gold ore they seemed to have found in the dungeon and held it up high. Just from identifying it at a glance the value was close to 1,800,000. I’m sure it’ll sell for at least 18,000,000. It’s not just a limited amount but has quite the decent value. I wonder if they fought a room boss in order to get their hands on that and the equipment? If they sacrificed one person in order to get their

hands on that much then there's not much more to say I'm sure.

I turned around and after signaling towards the entrance with my jaw, started walking.

The same as usual Angela and I teamed up and the remaining 9 all advanced together through the 1st floor. Angela and Zulu switched places at the teleport room on the 1st floor and after clearing the 2nd floor they switched places again for the 3rd floor.

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Year 7445, Month 1, Day 29

Since yesterday we've been fighting against the ogres that wander the 7th floor like crazy. Though I say that, it's just the same as usual, is what it might sound like but only half of that is true and the other half is different. The ogres that we encounter in the passages on the 7th floor are let alone one stage higher, they're four or five times more powerful than the monsters up until now.

If we properly fight them without using paralysis poison then they're considerably strong and if you just take into consideration their individual combat strength they're not all that different from the room bosses on the 5th and 6th floors. The only monsters that rival these in strength other than the special ones would be the Frost Lizard on the 5th floor or the group of Quad-Handed Apes on the 6th floor.

Monsters of that strength are coming out in groups of 4–5 at a time occasionally (normally it's most often 1–3 at a time). We're gaining way more experience than the occasional fight against bosses on the 5th or 6th floors. Just in case, I have everyone carrying around paralysis poison but I've forbidden use of it. No matter how heavy of an injury they sustain I'll definitely fix it for them so fight head on. This sort of reckless and forceful order wouldn't work for any other party than the {Slaughterers} who know my mana amount and spells are outrageously high.

Even if they're seriously injured as long as it's not considerably heavy if they

didn't know that something like that could be healed completely including the pain, within an hour through the repeated use of high level healing spells then there's no way they could accept it.

And I guess it's since they saw the ice from close to my full power once. They might have some sort of sense of relief in knowing that if the situation got truly dangerous I could just freeze everything in a large block of ice in an instant and after that just erase the ice around our allies, so even in the worst case death is unlikely.

In any case, something like wiping out the weak monsters on the 5th and 6th floors that aren't worth much in hopes of finding a magic tool or weapon that is far more unlikely to appear, everyone has gotten sick of just wandering around that sort of dark dungeon.

Everyone's opinion was the same that it's far easier to fight on the vast and bright 7th floor against ogres where they can feel they're earning more from just magic stones. There's no particular basis for it but I already declared that our objective is to clear through a group of ogres while using no paralysis poison and with me only finishing off one or two of them.

I said that only after we can manage that will we start exploring the 8th floor and made them accept getting used to combat against ogres on the 7th floor. Since it's something that is reasonably dangerous, I thought there might be some firm opinions against it but I was relieved that they accepted it surprisingly easy.

"It's not like it's completely impossible right now so I'm sure we'll become able to do it. Just before Toris and I defeated one without the paralysis poison together after all."

I guess it helped in getting everyone to accepted it that Bel calmly said that. She's probably remember the last time we entered the dungeon and defeated a total of 34 ogres. We encountered a strangely high amount of ogres that day and in just the morning defeated 15 of them. After we ran out of more than half of our paralysis poison, in order to proceed as safely as possible we started returning back down the way we came and then 5 more ogres appeared from a different direction, we ended up being forced to take a detour on our way back.

It's not like I can use {Detect.Life} all the time so it's difficult to completely prevent being ambushed. I might not have mentioned it yet but the spell {Detect.Life} only lets you comprehend the situation in the instant you use it so it's best to use periodically but it's not as easy to do something that might just end up being a waste of mana.

Even if I was the one using it once every 10 seconds I'd run completely out of mana in 2 hours. In the first place concentrating to use the same spell once every 10 seconds is impossible though. I have plenty of mana but my mentality and guts wouldn't last so I'd fall over in about 20 minutes I'm sure. Though it's not problem if it's just for a short period.

In any case, while advancing down a path that should combine up with the others we encountered quite a few ogres. And then, by the time we finally grouped up, we encountered another group of ogres. That group was 4 ogres. The only remaining paralysis poison was a small amount Angela had. It was an amount that would run out after using it one just one more.

Since it couldn't be helped I finished off one of them at the start with my magic, then another one while they were on the way to us, so I ended up finishing off a total of two of them. The remaining 9 people took on the remaining two ogres but her shield was blown away by an angry ogre swinging it's clubs and at the same time Angela's waist ended up breaking so while healing her I had to be on her side. In order to protect Angela and I there was Zenom and Miduchi, Zulu and Ralpha kept the ogre in check, and Gwine and Basutorial finished it off but the remaining ogres was taken on by just Toris and Bel.

In the end Angela was the only one injured that time but since we had run out of paralysis poison we struggled quite a bit. I think the amount of time spent in combat including the initial surprise attack was only about 2 minutes but for a long period of over 1 minute Toris parried an ogres attacks unharmed with a sword and shield.

Well even if that hadn't happened there was similar situations which occurred in the past so since it's not a completely impossible objective everyone nodded to it.

In any case we're killing ogres like crazy on the 7th floor until we can achieve that objective. I'm sure we'll get injured like the time when we first entered the dungeon of Baldukk. However, I no longer think it's necessary to hold back in using my mana at this point so we should be able to manage it sooner or later.

That time will be when we can truly exceed the founding hero George Rombert the First, get our hands on a massive fortune, and when I can make my own country.

Chapter 176: Return to Thinking

Year 7445, Month 2, Day 9

We start entering the dungeon again tomorrow. It was after we finished running and everyone was eating breakfast together. A face I knew appeared in the restaurant. It's a man in his 30s who is a part of {Sun Ray} and uses the round shield and battle mace in the front line, Harukein.Fumizu.

Fumizu slowly looked around inside and while I was protecting my food from Ralpa who already finished hers, he came up to my side and started talking to me. Can't you tell just from looking~ I'm busy right now.

"Umm, Greed-san. Would it be alright if I could speak with you for a bit?"

"Ah, Yeah, what is it?"

It's already fine, you can have it...That, since it's some sort of specialty egg with red yolks that are from something-or-other village in the North of the capital which gives chickens a special kind of feed, I wanted to eat it but it's too embarrassing to be seen going so far to protect just a single egg in front of strangers so I gave it up to Ralpa.

"That is, I'll get right to the point and ask. I've heard that the {Slaughterers} are looking for a combat slave who can use the shield. I'm not a slave but could I be of any use to you?"

Since this guys level is 17, it's possible the spell {Charm.Person} would fail. It's probably impossible to ask his true intentions.

"We're already fumph"

Before I could reply Ralpa replied. What are you doing replying on all your own this stink bug. I smacked Ralpa a good one in the back of her head with my right hand and the egg that was in his mouth flew out. I caught that with my left hand after placing that on the plate in front of her I started to reply. So it wasn't soft-boiled. I prefer soft-boiled thought.

"Umm, you're a member of {Sun Ray} right? I'd prefer not to get involved in

any disputes.”

The glutton that is Ralpa is putting the half eaten egg back that flew out back into her mouth again.

“Ah, please excuse me. I’m Harukein.Fumizu from {Sun Ray}. If you’re willing to make use of me then I’ll notify {Sun Ray} that I’m quitting from today on.”

These guys {Sun Ray} don’t use rude tones of speech while looking down on us thinking we’re brats. On that end it’s something that can’t be seen very often among the crude people of Orth so I think it’s good point I can honestly praise them over. Well, we did find and save two of their allies and we’re letting them use the shower room on the 5th floor so I’m sure even then they can’t treat us so easily.

“You’ll quit..Is that so...However, it would be a problem if we were to be criticized for stealing members so you already understand that we can’t just accept that right?”

It’s only obvious but there’s no regulations or penalties for stealing other party members between adventurers in Baldukk. However, while it’s only obvious people still hold interest in it. Particularly when it’s members of the top teams or when members of those end up switching to a different party it’s a topic that is popular among adventurers right away. Forcibly stealing members is technically possible but there’s no way it would look good in terms of reputation.

“Of course I already know that. A number of our younger members in {Sun Ray} admire the {Slaughterers}. I can’t exactly be called young but even then I want to enter the dungeon with a party that can earn more. It’s weird saying this myself but I still won’t lose to the average person around there.”

I’m sure that’s the case. Even though you’re a lot younger than Zenom your level is already at 17. And there’s no way someone lacking in skill would be able to manage the front line of a party in one of the top teams. In the first place, even if {Sun Ray} puts most of their money towards offerings, you’re still receiving a considerably amount of compensation right?

“However you know. We’ve already reached the limit with our number of

members. Well before even something like that, it's necessary for Rindobel-san to officially recognize your withdrawal. If that's not the case then I have no intention of discussing this at all."

Everyone has stopped eating and is concentrating on Fumizu and I. Everyone clearly has the expression, "This guy, he's suspicious" on their face. Yeah, I already get that. I think he's suspicious as well.

"In regards to the methods for splitting up our portions, we had some differences in opinion over it around two years ago. It's been about three years since I entered {Sun Ray} as well. I've already gained the necessary level of skill to earn in the dungeon, it would have been fine to go off on my own as well though...Somehow I don't have any confidence, that's why I put my eyes on the {Slaughterers} who are rumored to be the ones earning the most right now."

Honestly speaking in some meanings I get a favorable impression from the things he's saying. However, if he's come to investigate our internal situation or intends to try and collapse us from inside then I'd prefer to just finish up the conversation with this guy and forget already. But, if he intended to slip into our group then I think he would use a reason that's more like that but...I wonder if it's camouflage?

"..I have no interest in what methods {Sun Ray} uses to split up their compensation. Even if you were more skilled than any of us, we have our own rules and I have no intention of treating just you specially as well...If you don't first finish talking about things with Rindobel-san then I have no intention of taking your entry into consideration and honestly speaking, even if you were to suddenly try to join our group right now I can't give you an immediate response."

Even after hearing my response Fumizu didn't show any sort of disappointment on his face. I'm sure he predicted it to some extent.

"I understand. I'll take my leave for today. Please excuse me while you were in the middle of your meal."

He said that, turned around and left the restaurant.

"So they came to attack from head on.."

Zenom said while eating some cabbage (since there's no proper seasoning it's extremely disgusting. However Zenom prefers to eat it).

“Attack..There's no way anyone would let them in like that right..”

Bel said while dipping her egg into a small dish of mayonnaise. Eat it with salt. I wonder if the oil from the mayonnaise will be absorbed by her breasts?

“For starters I guess they were testing if we'd happily let them join at that level.”

Miduchi added while putting some dried meineiji on bread with mayonnaise. I should have picked that menu this morning as well. It looks delicious.

“I guess that means, another second and third hopeful will come to join us from {Sun Ray} then?”

Toris said like cutting up the egg with a knife and putting it on bread with some mayonnaise. No matter how I look it they're all even slices. Couldn't this guy make it in the restaurant business? Rather~ use your MP in more useful ways. Well it's fine though.

“Well, it's probably a trap so wouldn't it be fine to just refuse and ignore them all?”

It seems Gwine doesn't have any interest. She's busy moving cooked beans from the large plate on to her small plate.

“I don't really get it, so I'll leave it to you all.”

Basutorial abandoned thinking about it in the first place. Rather than that, I want to tell him to stop crying from how moved he is every time we eat. We've already been eating like this for over a month right?

“Hey, that bacon, if you're not going to eat it then give it to me.”

Before even waiting for my reply she reaches for the thick cut bacon on the plate in front of me. I won't hand it over. Rather~ learn from Zulu and Angela a bit. They're properly eating without a single complaint on way less wages than you. Though it's also a fact that I'm handing over more than plenty an amount to just eat. If you want to eat then order more yourself, seriously...

“Why are you such a glutton? I want to see the face of your paren..”

Zenom was looking apologetically at the edge of the table. I didn't say it with that sort of intention.
It's a figure of speech.

From the other side of Ralpa who is next to me, Miduchi placed a sandwich with meineiji on it in front of Ralpa. She made a slightly surprised face but soon after took a bite and made a meaningful smile.

Stop being such a glutton already.
Can't you at least say a single word of gratitude?
And also that Dyurou over there.
You need to stop spoiling her so much as well.

Come to think of it, we haven't even tried it lately but I wonder if she was able to use {Party-ization} on her yet? It doesn't particularly matter even if she can't though.

.....

Afternoon, after Miduchi and I finished our magic training, on our way through the town of Baldukk towards the inn, we caught sight of Giberuti buying food for when we enter the dungeon tomorrow. Since I also give Giberuti money for buying ingredients and seasonings together with his wages we occasionally catch sight of him like this.

It seems he's buying pork and chicken at the butcher. Suddenly I glanced at the butcher and they were selling meat from the Matte Turtle as well. The Matte Turtle is not quite the size of a giant tortoise but a considerably large turtle. It seems if you go a bit further to the North then they're wandering around in the fields. They're delicious regardless of whether you boil or bake them. I've eaten snapping turtle a number of times in my previous live but it might be easier to say it's like that if you reduce the gelatin texture from it.

In any case, since it requires a reasonable amount of preparation they cost a considerable amount. It seems they also eat them occasionally in large caravans by packing a couple of them in the back of a carriage. Since they can stay alive even without eating for a long period of time they're considered good portable food for a source of fresh meat at anytime.

It seems there's been many who challenged turning them into livestock since

the distant past but in the end they're reptiles. It seems they bite off the fingers of their breeders, they have no idea what to feed them, so they're basically treated as bonus characters that you can occasionally catch off guard wandering around in fields and capture.

Regardless they're unusual to find lined up in a butcher of Baldukk...And also, while we're exploring the dungeon this time we reincarnated people have our birthday coming up. This should be where I splurge a bit.

"Ah, master. I thought of buying a bit of extra meat this time.."

"Yeah, I guess so. Giberuti, the pork is fine this time so buy Matte Turtle instead for that portion...Here, it's fine even if you buy a bit more than usual."

I said that while handing Giberuti a bit of money and had him change the order.

"Oh~ I wanted to try using this once! Please look forward to the meals this time."

"Ah, I guess so..Yeah, I'm looking forward to it. Let me eat something delicious."

"Yeah, of course. Since everyone says they only have meals to look forward to in the dungeon. It's worthwhile showing my skill."

Well, I guess so. I guess that is true. About the only other enjoyable things to do other than eat is calculating what the magic stones will sell for when we get our hands on a magic tool or something and rather than calling that something that is enjoyable it's more something that feels enjoyable. Well if I just leave the meals to Giberuti then there's nothing to worry about.

We split up from Giberuti and started towards the inn again.

A familiar face is walking towards us from the front. It's Faruergaz, Hirosukol and their two slaves. It seems they're out shopping as well. Come to think of it when I talked to them the other day, they said they were entering the dungeon once more at the start of this month.

And even though I say that when they entered that time it seems they only made 240,000 Z and after paying the guide fees they were in the red(100,000

for the guide, 70,000 for the entry tax, then 10,000 for the guide's share and splitting up the remaining amount between the four of them it's a mere 15,000. Since I'm sure they have to pay the wages for their slaves as well, they must have been deep in the red), so they were saying they wouldn't hire a guide anymore.

When they noticed us they nodded so we nodded back as well.

Well give it your best experiencing some hardship without dying. Learn with what kind of feelings the adventurers of Baldukk are earning their money, how they're trying to avoid danger, and why it's difficult to earn money through magic stones by feeling it directly. In addition, I think it would be best if you learn that a cool word like adventurer is just another name for crude vagabonds as well. I don't really get why but it seems like the two of you have some sort of admiration for the word adventurer.

Putting aside financially, I didn't have enough mental leeway to afford failing in the dungeon. I think you all have a pretty good starting environment for entering Baldukk as adventurers.

For starters, it might be the biggest advantage that you have someone like me who can give you advice. Give it your best.

We returned to Boil Manor and after taking a shower, changing, and relaxing for a bit we went to eat dinner.

.....

Year 7445, Month 2, Day 10

After the night passed the sky of the next day had an unpleasant light rain to it. The light rain falls almost like fog and it's extremely unpleasant. It's best to just quickly escape into the dungeon during times like these, and just like that we {Slaughterers} headed towards the entrance plaza at a quick pace. It was when we were walking through the plaza towards the building that covers the entrance of the dungeon.

"Hn?" "Gun?"

While the {Slaughterers} were walking in the so-called top team arrangement passing through as we do, I heard a surprised voice. I reflexively turned over

there and Faruergaz, Hirosukol and their slaves were all fully equipped. I guess they're waiting for Kumiru and Ruttsu. I can't find them.

"Hey, is that a "Gun"? Ah, no, it's not. Please excuse my rudeness."

Hirosukol stared at the bayonet strapped on my shoulder with his eyes opened wide in surprise.

"It's just shaped like that. I'm just using it while remembering the time I was in the SDF."

"U..Ah, I see. So you were in the SDF.."

"In the past, it was for just a few years though. Well then.."

I said that and faced back to the front, then stepped foot into the dungeon.

.....

That night, when it came time to sleep in the teleport room on the 3rd floor, I thought about the nostalgic and surprised face Hirosukol and Faruergaz made when they saw my Type-64 rifle and probably remembered Japan from before we reincarnated.

I wonder why they looked up to something like being an adventurer? Is it because they're mentally young? Of course I can't deny that but there might be some other reason as well. They received investiture as knights in County Faruergaz's territory, the so-called elites of Orth. If you think about it with common sense adventurers...particularly picking the job of an adventurer who enters the dungeon isn't really normal.

It's certainly true that the adventurers of Baldukk occasionally make a huge profit but fundamentally they're always running out of money. They drink cheap alcohol in cheap bars, sleep with prostitutes who are either way too young or old in brothels that only cost 1–2 large copper coins a night. The tip of the iceberg is that more than half of the adventurers will one day die to monsters deep in the dungeon. It's a harsh world where only a handful of those could be thought to have succeeded.

If you just want to live normally then rather than something like entering the dungeon, you could say living as the usual handyman adventurer is far better.

The adventurers who challenge the dungeon in Baldukk usually either have some sort of reason they need to get their hands on a fortune, they're young and reckless, or while these make up the majority and regardless of whether they actually meet up to it, they have confidence in their abilities. Even in my case, though I'm a reincarnated person if I were to learn reality and didn't have as much mana as I do then I probably would have lost interest in challenging it as well. I probably would have just taken the long and plain route of saving up and earning through doing business.

However, reincarnated people have the knowledge they're born with, the thought process which uses that as a foundation, and an excellent growth rate to their physical body. Having knowledge is a tremendous weapon. First off, since we have the thought process backed up by our knowledge our imagination is like comparing heaven and earth to the normal people on Orth. Even if we just had this it's enough to say we've already won in our new lives.

There should have been times when all of the people around us looked like idiots and fools. It's only obvious. We reincarnated people know a variety of convenient tools and we also have the knowledge we've learned on the theories of how those work. Since we lived lives in an advanced civilization and culture among those. Ah, putting aside civilization, I guess I can't say all of culture was advanced huh?

Also, we've received a high level of education that is not even worth comparing to that of Orth and we can naturally make that our own. We should have even learned a lot about the history of Earth in the past. Precisely because we have the knowledge we can imagine things and that makes it possible to challenge new things with some level of confidence. In a society with civilization and culture at the level of the 10th century you could say our thought processes and ways of thinking are certainly a foreign body.

If you maintain yourself without being pulled along into the drift and patiently continue without giving up then it would be stranger not to succeed. I mean everyone around us hasn't even received an education on the level of elementary schoolers after all. Occasionally there's some abnormally superior people who come along are called heroes and found countries.

However, if a modern day Japanese high schooler or university student were to be reincarnated as an eldest son from the Kamisugi or Takeda families during the warring states era then I'm sure they "were willing" to do it then it might even be possible for them to exceed Oda Nobunaga who was said to be a child prodigy. Rather, they would probably just try to wipe him out first before he has a chance to stand out. Ah, I guess this is different. It's a matter of whether or not you know history.

Well, even if you don't know if you remain reasonably cautious and gather information, then they should eventually be able to figure out they're in the same era as the individual called Oda Nobunaga who introduces a number of advanced policies. When it comes to that time, if they have a firm objective then they could try to negotiate with him to gain him as a subordinate faster than others or if that's impossible use any method possible to assassinate or try to wage war on and wipe him out. If that isn't the case then I'm sure it would just be a matter of honestly obeying.

If it's just a hundred years or so there might not be all that much of a difference but when the gap spreads out to hundreds or thousands of years then the difference in knowledge and thought process becomes huge. Luckily this Orth has a lot of similarities to Earth in the past. Also, on the other hand it unfortunately resembles it in so many ways that just the same as Earth in the past it places importance on the strength of individuals. For better or for worse it's still an uncivilized world. Luckily I wasn't a part of the slave standing and was born with some amount of leeway so I was able to start off with pushing forward and advancing my own individual abilities.

It's not like I was easily able to get my hands on my current strength but I do feel a bit like I'm cheating. However, there's no mistake that even this cheating is a part of my strength as well. It's just a matter of mind over feelings on whether or not I make effective use of it and I didn't think of anything more than making as effective use of it as possible. It's clearly cheating in comparison to the people of Orth but I don't feel any sort of reservation towards other reincarnated people.

The differences in our births are just a matter of luck and if we were to start saying that then there's no doubt there's other people who are even luckier

than me. Faruergaz is like the most obvious example of that. If you have to make use of the cards you're born with in the match then it's a required ability to make the most skilled use of the cards you're given.

Since Hirosukol seems to have been an elder when he died in his previous life, so he should probably know something of that level but for some reason he seems to look at me like I'm cheating. He doesn't really show that portion when we're casually talking but it might just be my complex that I can't help but think that way. Though even if that is the case I still don't think I need to change anything about my way of doing things from here on out.

Starting with them, the reincarnated people who have culture and morals based on that sort of Japanese background, when the definite differences start to appear between them and my goal supported by my own desires, I wonder how many will actually end up coming with me?

I'm sure I don't have anything like the characteristic charm that the heroes of the past had to attract people. Though I don't think I have absolutely zero either but it would probably be better to suppose it's closer to zero. That's why, in order to attract people I definitely need some sort of compensation. What that is depends on the individual so I can't say anything but I can't forget that there's nothing that can be expected from work people were made to do for free. It's necessary to engrave it into my mind.

Eh? Just like the branch families of daimyo Ralpa, Bel and them are different. The five of them and Miduchi are special cases. I mean..That is..Don't make me say it, it's embarrassing.

Side Story 26 (Part 1): In the Case of Mitsuse Kenji (Age 29 at time of accident)

“I will show you that I will be the one, who will protect the bodies and hearts of people working seriously!”

“I can’t overlook evil that’s running free!”

“Now, prepare yourself! Evil {Dark Corporation}!”

“Nyawhat? I’ll show you I can remodel all Japanese into {Dark Corporate Slaves}!”

“Eat~ this! {Overworked-to-death Kick}~!”

”{High Quota Beam}!”

“A cheap attack like that, I’ll negate it with this {Labor Laws Barrier}!”

“Now, everyone let’s go!”

”{UQ Working Through Consecutive Day’s Punch}~!”

“Monday!”

“Tuesday!”

“Wednesday!”

“Thursday!”

“Friday!”

“Guwa~ I’m being crushed~!!”

“Don’t fuck with me {Consecutive days}..”

“Evil has been defeated. However, during this broken era a second and third {Dark Corporation} is trying to be born!! In order to save all the weak people, fight, {Mini-Colors After 5PM}!”

“You can consult with me at anytime!”

“Anonymously is okay as well!”

“We’re the allies of laborers!”

“The warriors of justice labor standards won’t lose!”

”Together the five of us are, {Mini-Colors After 5PM}!”

Mitsuse Ryouichi who was looking into the small screen of his smartphone at

the recording looked up at his little brother Kenji and laughed. In the screen was Kenji's daughter Yuma enjoying some attraction park's hero show.

"And, are you meeting up with that engineering place tonight?"

Yeah, Kenji replied, while manipulating his smartphone and pulling up an image he had saved.

"Even if you show me something like a blueprint I won't know what's changed from before."

Ryoichi was looking at the small screen of the smartphone with a troubled face while saying to his little brother Kenji.

"Here and, here I made into a bay window. Also, I made the kitchen a bit bigger."

"Hm~n... By the way, mother and father wanted to see Yuma-chan. Next time bring her along to play. Since my kid's have gotten a bit bigger as well. It seems like they really want to play with their cousin."

"Wun, it's difficult to move until March~ There's an interview with the nursery at the end of next week after all."

"I won't say to overdo things but you've settled down quite a bit. Show your face occasionally and let mother and father relax a bit. Mihoko enjoys when you guys come over as well."

"Got it, when I return home today I'll discuss visiting on the weekend of the week after next. Tell sister-in-law we're in her care as well."

"Ah~ owa~!!!"

"What guhoe!!!"

.....

When Mitsuse Kenji's consciousness started to get clear he raised his voice and cried. Even though it seemed like a large accident from the relief of being saved, the emotional shock of his eyes not being able to see, and from worry about his reliable five-year older brother Ryoichi who was sitting next to him until just a moment ago he was worried his feelings were exploding all at once. In addition, he was also just a bit worried about one of his seniors from the

same company that was napping on the other side Futami.

Just like this, Mitsuse Kenji let out his first cry on Orth on the year 7428, month 2, day 14. He was a considerably energetic and large human baby with the name Hekusa.Barnes.

.....

Fortunately until he was three years old, Kenji was preciously raised. In terms of geography it was in the center of Viscount Bidden's territory over 200 Km North of the capital Randogruiz but politically it was a remote countryside and even though he was born as the child of a commoner in Zokuis village where the death rate for infants was high he was able to overcome it. During the first year or so he thought to search for a method to return to Japan and in any case racked his brains to learn the language which ended up being one of the factors he was able to be raised normally. In caution other than the times he practiced speaking, he held back from talking with an adults tone of speech as well.

As a matter of fact there was a reason he was practicing in a place where no one else was around. If he had wanted to talk during the first year he could have normally talked but if he let's his guard down at all then it ends up baby speak in weird places. Eve now if he let's his guard down and intends to be speaking normally his words end up with a lisp and his words end up quite childish. The large portion of why he didn't want to talk was simply because he found that embarrassing.

However, about six months after Hekusa turned three years old, a large calamity hit this land. {Locusts}. A swarm of locusts that appeared in the West exhausted the fields of Viscount Bidden's territory without end. According to the stories he heard there's records of them occurring once in every 70–90 years in this area. However, this time was a mere 38 years after the previous time. Since it was an occurrence with far too short of a period in between they were unable to take much of any measures against it and Viscount Bidden and Viscount Jonbugu's territories ended up taking a large amount of damage.

Among them the center of Viscount Bidden's territory took huge losses, all of the wheat was eaten right before harvest, and even the roofs of houses, and clothes were eaten and damages. The woods were devoured turning only into

tree trunks leaving a a miserable scene. The only thing remaining that the people could eat was the corpses of the locusts and even those the moisture disappears after a few days to a week and they become inedible.

As expected Viscount Bidden reduced the taxes but even then it still wasn't even half. The lord of Zokuis that was Viscount Garorias strictly collected the taxes. The Barnes family somehow managed to pay the taxes by selling the slaves they owned but their remaining slaves were just the elderly and young children so they declined to the point of having to worry about taxes from next year on. Within three years after that they had to worry about having anyone who could properly cultivate the land.

Hekusa was forced to work in the fields before he turned 5 years old and was given the heavy labor of pulling weeds and sprinkling water for a young child. He made good use of his nature to find the most efficient ways to relax and somehow managed to avoid dying from overwork.

However, near the end of his fifth year, just before turning six years old, one night Hekusa met God after falling asleep. It was an interview of a mere few minutes but thanks to that he gained several pieces of knowledge, resolved several questions he had, and was finally able to give up on some things.

I can't remain like this. My older brother should be somewhere in this world of Orth. If I somehow can match my power with that reliable and intelligent older brother then can't we do something? I should look for my older brother. However, even if a child without money or the power to make a living were to run away from home sooner or later it's only obvious they would die by the side of the road. Now is the time to endure the desire to run off and keep preparing honestly.

However, even if they just daze out while living the second child of a commoner is only given the fate of being kept until they die. One day they'll become a slave and be worked hard by the eldest child, depending on the case they might even be sold somewhere like this time. On occasions like that it's even possible for married couples to be split up. Hekusa remembers back to the spectacles he's seen these past 2–3 years until he was sick of it.

In order to avoid that there's not very many options in this Devas Kingdom.

The best option he could think of was somehow make it until adulthood, volunteer for a knight group, and get accepted there. You can save up some money and your social standing will get higher. Even if you quit the knight group there's plenty of places after that including as a squire. If they become an adventurer after that as a former knight there's no lack of places to work as well. He should be able to search for his older brother with ease.

..Though it didn't seem completely impossible but this sort of future path seems to be difficult. It seems that I have a physical advantage from being reborn but there's no way of really telling if that's true. At the very least at five years old right now there doesn't seem to be any differences from other children.

Even the Unique Ability I have **【Skill Invalidation】** according to God it seems it has the ability to invalidate the abilities that people who were reincarnated have within a certain range center on myself but if it's the abilities of normal monsters, non-humans, or people of Orth then it doesn't have any effect so it's hard to call a useful ability.

I originally had interest in my Unique Ability but I didn't know how to use it. According to the conversation I heard from God, unless I'm near another Japanese person using their ability then I can't use my ability so it's really unrelated.

Even then I thought about ways I could make effective use of it but it didn't take much time at all to come to the conclusion that it wouldn't be useful other than fighting with other Japanese people. In other words, it wouldn't be of any help at all in getting accepted into a knight group. Furthermore, the Barnes family is in the middle of poverty right now, I can't imagine I'll receive any decent combat training. Even if I were to try and apply to the Viscount Bidden knight group like this it's only obvious I wouldn't pass. In the first place I probably wouldn't even be able to take the exam for it.

As a runner-up there's the method of aiming for the same knight group but not as a knight but rather as an enlisted infantry and then try to get promoted from there. Once again according to stories I've heard if you spend two years after being drafted the superior soldiers are able to make it as squad leaders in the army. If I give my best it might be possible to make it as a squire to some

Viscount family somewhere.

Even if that's not the case the highest commoner soldier group in this Viscount Bidden's territory receives a salary of 500,000 Z after the two year drafting period, so they receive a decent amount of money, and they also receive wages of 1.5 silver coins per week during the draft (970,000 Z per year). There's also the possibility of saving this up and trying to start some kind of business. From there it might be good to save up some assets and search for my older brother.

There's no supposing what happens if I die in combat during the draft period. It seems that there's conflicts between Rombert Kingdom in the North over the Dirt Plains every year but even on the years where there's a lot of people who die in combat it's at most 200 people. Since it seems that there's years where less than 100 people die as well I thought I wouldn't be the one who dies if I make good use of my abilities. In the first place the possibility is higher that Viscount Bidden's territory won't make use of me in combat during the period I'm drafted. Since it's right after taking damage from locusts, it's not the situation to be going to war when there's no money for the next 10 years or so. Hekusa thought this was it.

The draft is an obligation for commoners between the ages of 13 and 25 years old. Both men and women are equally drafted but because of differences in power the women often get drafted later in age. Fortunately since I'm a man I could be put into the army at 13 years old. Wealthy commoner families can avoid the draft by paying four gold coins but the current Barnes family has no such leeway.

I couldn't think of anything else other than things that require a miracle. For example, the chances of being taken as a disciple for an artisan in the town are low but not impossible. However, there's no related occupation that I had from my previous life. The chances of being found by an artisan and made into a disciple are more unlikely than dying tomorrow.

If it wasn't an artisan but rather a merchant then something might be done but I've never heard of merchants taking disciples so I can't see any meaning to it. If you think about it with common sense there's no way they'd let anyone other than their own child succeed them. Even if it comes to finding

employment at a large company it's hard to imagine an eccentric merchant who would hire some poor commoner brat in a remote place like this. If I can at least make an appeal then I think I could make a company larger than most merchants but since I have no contacts with them it's only obvious.

Even if, I somehow managed to make it into a merchant's company, there's no guarantee they'd conveniently understand advanced business methods as well. No matter what I suggest it might just end up pointless.

In other words, save up some money as a soldier, and come up with my own method of business, and succeeding like that has higher probability. Since Hekusa at that time didn't know that Devas Kingdom learned from the neighboring Rombert Kingdom and introduced a system where merchants require licenses that cost a large amount of money so that can't be helped.

Just like this Hekusa's childhood passed by.

.....

9 years after the locusts, around the time Hekusa was facing the summer of his 12th year, Hekusa was visited by a large turning point he hadn't even expected. The Barnes family is still dragging along(Though it's not that unusual since let alone Zokuis village the entirety of Viscount Bidden's territory is like that but Hekusa has already given up on caring for the Barnes family for not getting over it at this point) the damage from the locusts and every year when the payment of taxes gets closer around the summer there's a sharp atmosphere.

One such a day, the party of a high ranking noble or royalty was supposedly passing through Zokuis village. The only noble that Hekusa knew of was Viscount Garorias and his family. They're certainly living a better lifestyle than that of commoners and serfs but it was a small difference and he thought that the people who lived at the bottom of employment in his previous life still lived a more civilized and wealthy lifestyle. Now then, let's take a look at what the highest ranking nobles or royalty or whatever of Orth look like. Thinking that he started pulling weeds along the road they were supposed to pass by through the village.

Close to noon, when the sun was at it's highest, an army appeared with

several knights at the front. The line of the army seemed considerably long and it was far enough that I couldn't see the end. Very rarely the army passes through Zokuis village so it's not the way first time I've seen them pass through.

However, the army that's passing through Zokuis village this time is different from the ones up to now. Just from a glance you can tell their equipment is expensive looking and above all the number of knights on horseback is more than usual as well. Normally it's about $1/20^{\text{th}}$ the number of infantry but this time over $1/5$ of them are cavalry knights.

Wa~han~ this is the escort army for the supposed high ranking noble. While resting from pulling weeds I was watching it. Shortly after two large carriages pulled by eight horses each approached escorted by the army. As expected watching them while standing will get my head cut off. The other day when a knight passed through giving notice they said to lower your head to the carriage and that you're not allowed to directly look at it so I just lowered my head and looked up at it with just my eyes.

As expected it's quite the extravagant carriage. It's large enough that 10 adults can comfortably fit inside and the ornaments are fancy as well. It's truly the image Hekusa has of "nobles". Suddenly the front of the escort army stopped in a vacant lot ahead of here. Since the time is what it is and there's a river up ahead they might be stopping to have some lunch I guess?

It's a long escort army that might even stretch over 1Km with over 500 people I guess? It seems there's over 5m between each cavalry and there's a few meters between the armed lines of infantry as well. Since they're all taking a lunch break and eating at once while letting their horses drink water it will probably take about 2–3 hours. The speed is slow. Right now they're going through the village where it's easy to walk so they move at the speed an adult walks but once they leave the village it will probably slow down even more.

They're probably moving three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon. If you think about their speed as 3Km then they're probably only moving about 20Km a day. In the end they aren't even able to reach the speeds of armies of remote regions in the past. Thinking he's seen all there is to see Hekusa returned to farm work. I might be drafted next year and even if that

isn't the case I might end sold as a slave.

I need to somehow avoid just that.

.....

One month later, the army is passing through Zokuis village again. It was after summer just as fall was soon to come. Since he had already seen it once this time Hekusa had no interest. The fact that he ended up relating with them was truly a coincidence and truly the mixing of the heavens. Just like last when the line was resting in the vacant space of the village, a disturbance occurred. Several of the precious source of proteins for the village the chickens were stolen. Just from a glance that's one of the ones with characteristic black feathers.

That's one of the female chickens we're keeping at the house. It lays our precious eggs one in every 2–3 days. I need to somehow take it back peacefully.

“Hahhahahaha..Sel you suck.”

“What was that! Then you try doing it, it's difficult.”

“Hey, you all, don't let it escape..Che..so it missed.”

“Your highness Alex. Don't hold the bow like that. You need to pull the bow upright with your right hand.”

“Hn? Like this?”

“That's right. While pushing down on the bow with your left hand..Ah, your grip is strange.”

“Ah, Myul, stop chatting with Ren and you try doing it as well.”

“..No, as expected I can already do that much.”

“Really, just stop already. That chicken belongs to the villagers right? That's not very admirable.”

“Ah..Yeah. I see.”

It seems like the children of some nobles ordered the soldiers to make a plaza with shields and they were playing with the chickens of the Barnes family and some other households by shooting arrows at them. Since they're being taught

the bow by a soldier who seems to be skilled at it, it certainly seems true that it's half play. Since the girl warned them, the two who were focused on shooting arrows honestly listened and stopped.

(We're saved. It doesn't seem like it's dead or hurt. That's great..)

Putting aside other households chickens, Hekusa was relieved he could confirm that his families chicken was safe.

Ordered by the girl one of the soldiers captured the chicken and walked over to here. Considering how simply he caught the chickens and was able to hold them without hurting them.

They must have been born in a farming village.

"Kid, here I'll return these. Sorry about that. Well forgive them. Since we can't go against them.."

The soldier said that and returned the black female chicken. Hekusa bowed his head to the kind soldier and after checking that the chicken wasn't hurt anywhere was about to leave.

"N? Wait!"

Just as he was about to turn around a voice called out. Hekusa went stiff from surprise and turned around nervously. In order to not look directly at them he was lowering his head but he couldn't hide the trembling of his feet. It can't be, next are they going to make me into the target or something?

"Raise your raise."

It's the voice of the one who was laughing first from before.

"Didn't you hear me? Raise your face."

I nervously raise my face. But, I still make sure to look away. Just from directly looking at them, you never know what kind of reason they could do something.

However, the four children of nobles were shocked after seeing Hekusa's face.

"After all.."

"Sel, I'm amazed you noticed.."

"So they are out there.."

“Josh, deliver the chicken to that person’s house...And after that, you. Come over here and show us your face closer.”

Hekusa was standing there with no idea what had happened but the soldier from just now took away the chicken and when he was pushed on the back by a different soldier his head finally started to turn.

After going to their side he was pulled into the carriage without question.

“Raise your face. There’s no need to look away either.”

“Do you understand Japanese?”

“Relax, we’re not anyone suspicious.”

“You’re a Japanese person right..Status Open..Barnes-san. Rest easy. We’re Japanese people as well.”

After closing the door of the carriage in a space with just the five of them they all started talking in Japanese surprising Hekusa who heard it for the first time in 12 years.

“Eh? Ah, eve...even if you all speak at once like that..”

““He is!!””

“Oh~ so he was Japanese!”

“There was no mistake in my eyes!”

“Wo..Wow..There really was a Japanese person!”

“Yeah, oh my..that’s great.”

While the four of them were all surprised in their own way, Hekusa couldn’t do anything but watch that in a daze. Of course they’re surprised just as much as Hekusa as well.

Showing his status and being shown it, he didn’t know what was going on. Unable to keep up with the sudden series of events while Hekusa was slowly explaining his situation, starting to feel irritated the most arrogant looking royalty (it’s only obvious he was arrogant) Alex said.

“In any case, you don’t have any attachment to your family right now I see. I’m sure your older brother is somewhere. It seems that you want to search for him right?”

“Yeah, that’s right.”

“Alright, wait just a minute.”

Alex said that and left the carriage before talking to a soldier about something.

“Barnes-san, please relax. Alex won’t cause any trouble for you.”

“That’s a round about way of doing it. Isn’t it fine if he just orders them in one word?”

“Thing’s aren’t that simple right? Barnes-san is a commoner of this territory so we can’t just do as we please without saying anything to the lord right?”

“That’s why I said we should just tell it to that lord.”

“Myulu. It’s not as simple as that. This isn’t the royal families territory. It would be best if you study a bit more.”

“Yeah-yeah. Either way I’m the only commoner from a remote area..”

“Really, stop saying such depressing things every time.”

Alex quickly returned to the carriage and made an OK sign with his fingers before smiling.

“Barnes. You’ll no longer be a commoner but I can help you. One day I can use an appropriate reason to make you back into a commoner or noble as well so rest easy on that as well.”

The trick was immediately identified. It’s something simple. He talked with Viscount Garorias the lord of Zokuis village and at the same time offered a good amount of money to Hekusa’s parents. He bought Hekusa as a servant slave and once they return to Randgriz they’ll free him from slavery into a Free Person and at the same time it’ll take the shape of Alex employing him.

If he’s a Free Person then there’s restrictions on his actions but since the royal territory is vast it would be difficult to search around all of it by the time he reaches adulthood. Since they already expect to have even more authority by then, if they have him take up some appropriate achievement then they can use that to reward him with becoming a commoner. As expected it’s difficult to push a Free Person into the knight group. The army is fine but in that case it would be difficult for Hekusa to search for his older brother.

Hekusa was told they’d give him money so use that to hire some decent

adventurers and for starters travel around the royal territory looking for his older brother. According to their conjecture there should still be one or two reincarnations in the royal territory. Since Sel is the son of Duke Stahlz he can at least give permission to pass through that territory as well so there should be at least 3–4 people in that total area.

It was an unbelievably good luck for Hekusa. He was a bit taken aback at becoming an adventurer but that can't be helped. He also understood that since there was no accurate map, it was important to walk around making a slightly more precise one. Since there's no measurement tools it can't be made perfectly but it should be fine as long as it's a bit more precise than now. Most likely, the achievement they were referring to is production of a map.

In any case Hekusa had no choice other than to grab on the small thread that was hanging before him.

Side Story 26 (Part 2): In the Case of Mitsuse Kenji (Age 29 at time of accident)

In the carriage on the way to the capital Randgriz, Hekusa offered his gratitude for being saved from close to the worst possible circumstances. In addition, while he told them how he was in Zokuis village since he was reborn and hadn't left since then and since there was nothing dramatic to it they seemed to have lost interest in Hekusa's upbringing and immediately asked about his Unique Ability. It seems that this was their real interest.

"Come to think of it Barnes, what's your Unique Ability?"

The most arrogant one, the first prince Belgridd asked. After hearing that Hekusa was confused for just a moment but quickly thought of it. Even when they showed statuses just now there wasn't a Unique Ability. In other words not just family and people of the village but other reincarnated Japanese people can't see Unique Abilities either.

Hekusa felt a bit of resistance to honestly responding. They're nobles. Not to mention two of them are the sons of Dukes that rule over this country. Even more so both of them are the eldest sons as he just confirmed on their status. In addition they even said that they're the heirs. Furthermore there's the eldest daughter of a Baron imperial court sorcerer. The last one is a commoner but seems to have known them for quite a while and is talking to them normally without any sort of reservations that can be felt.

I can't let myself be swallowed by the mood. I need to speak confidently here myself. If I can't then I'll be looked down on and spend the rest of my life wearing the debt of being saved. I'm already starting out on a minus relationship in terms of power to these four. No matter what I say when I was on the verge of becoming a slave(though my status hasn't changed yet I'm already basically a slave) I can't imagine that any more of a gap will open in the authority difference of our relationship but I need to somehow avoid becoming mentally below them.

In any case I need to earn some time. Even if it's just a bit I want some time to think.

“Umm, putting aside Unique Abilities, what kind of relationship do you all have?”

While pretending to not pay any mind to it, Hekusa carefully asked a question that sounds perfectly natural. My Unique Ability is the type that is effective when it comes to directly fighting between Japanese people. Just from what I can vaguely remember of God's conversation all Japanese people are born with different Unique Abilities. Even if it doesn't come to all of them, it would be best pull out as much information on Unique Abilities before I respond.

Of course, I have no intention of becoming enemies with the royalty and highest ranking nobles of this country that they are. It's a matter of selling the hands you have for as high of a price as possible. For that sake even if it's only a few types I need to get a grasp on a couple of their Unique Abilities first.

“Nn, come to think of it we had only confirmed our status. The first ones who met was Alex and I. I think it was around the time we were six years old. Around six years ago from now. Since he had the face of this cheeky as hell Japanese person I was~ quite surprised.”

The one who called himself Senleid.Stahlz, the eldest son of the Duke said quite cheerfully.

“What are you saying, even though you were basically raised in a box and didn't even know how to look at Status until then..”

In regards to that prince Alexander.Belgridd replied while appearing to remember something that amused him with a broad smile.

“After that, I think it was around the start of last year? Ah, spring. We met Myul during a garden party.”

Stahlz has completely decided to ignore what Belgridd said.

“Yeah, I was surprised at that time. When I told this guy about an idiot swinging a strange cloth on top of a tree and after looking at it for a bit he said, “Hey, isn't that the Japanese flag?” after all. It's my first time seeing a purple Japanese flag.”

Belgridd didn't mind the quick talking he had done and jumped on Stahlz's conversation as well.

"Che..it can't be helped right? I only had wine. Of course it'll become purple. If you could think of a better method than that please tell me."

This time the commoner man named Myuneil.Sagal said while not looking very amused. It seems that his father is a squire that serves his majesty Agenol.Belgridd the current King and Alexander Belgridd's grandfather. Even though he's the same commoner, there's a difference of heaven and earth from Hekusa.

"After that, I think it was around summer? From a strange place we found out the possibility that the daughter of Baron Geguran the imperial court sorcerer might be Japanese. When we tried meeting we were surprised. She was Japanese and furthermore she could already use magic after all."

"Though my void magic is still only level 4. Barnes-san if you're interested I'll teach you as well."

While making a light smile the eldest daughter of a baron who introduced herself as Rentia.Geguran said. I see, so even the one who is the least familiar with them has known them for at least a year. It seems like it wouldn't be all that simple to enter their group. Rather it might be more convenient to put some distance between them in order to search for my older brother.

"Oh, that's right. Barnes-san it might be good for you to learn magic from Ren. Since Alex and Sel have their positions and they have a variety of things they have to do they can't really spend much time training with magic. I can't go to the capital all that often either. Even if I'm like this I have to do various things at my house as well"

"Nn..Certainly that's true. Sel and I haven't been able to properly training with magic. In the first place it's suspicious if we even have aptitude for it. Even Myul can only use two types of elemental magic other than void magic. Barnes don't you need to search for your older brother? In that case it might be somewhat convenient to learn magic as well. Since it seems that adventurers have to directly fight against monsters."

Magic huh..In Zokuis village the only ones who could use it was Viscount

Garorias, his children, and some of the commoner squires. It's not as if there weren't no people among the serfs that couldn't use it as well. If you were to ask if I have aptitude, or rather talent with magic I don't know but if I can use then I'm sure it would become an effective hand. Thinking that Hekusa lowered his head to Rentia.Geguran.

"Geguran-san. Please teach me magic. I'll definitely become able to use, and I know it's not really something to promise over but I intend to put forth my utmost effort in learning it."

"Yeah, of course it's fine. Ah, that's right, about your Unique Ability, but what was it again? Mine specializes in using magic and it's called 【Magic Acquisition】. There's no level to this Unique Ability but for some reason last month in the area levels normally are it suddenly changed to (MAX)...It seems that this ability makes it easier to get a handle on how to use spells but even then it's difficult. Rather than that since last month when the level changed to (MAX) my mana recovery speed has been amazing."

"Yeah, come to think of it you said something like that. That it recovers at 10 times faster or something..My Unique Ability is called 【Super Recovery】. It's level 6 right now. Even if I get injured it recovers at a considerable speed. I don't even need healing spells."

After saying that Stahlz and Geguran looked at Hekusa. It seems that Stahlz seems to have some pride in his Unique Ability. It was only a short period of time but Hekusa was able to gather his thoughts for a bit. The amount of material gathered was insufficient but the conclusion he came to was that Unique Abilities are a life line in some meanings. It would probably be best to use a bluff or anything here.

"I see..that's amazing. What is Sagal-sans?"

"Hn? Mine is the dumbest here. It's called 【Resistance: (Paralyze) {Paralyze Tolerance}】. Also, it's different from magic but there's a special ability..or rather skill, that's passed through the bloodline in my family called "Disguise"..

Sagal said it a bit embarrassed.

(I think it's pretty amazing that you can't be paralyzed though it's true that compared to these two it feels like a dull Unique Ability)

After all Unique Abilities are something like a life line or a trump card. It would probably be best to say it with full confidence.

“I see, everyone is quite amazing. My Unique Ability is geared towards disputes. Probably, if I were to properly train it then it would be a considerable advantage in conflicts. Kendo was a specialty of mine as well. My skill with the sword is pretty decent.”

Kendo itself was something I learned from my older brother in middle, high school, and college so I have a decent amount of confidence in it. I didn't have any sort of connection with national competitions but even then I made it to the 4th dan and if I use a long weapon I won't fall behind someone very easily 1v1. Since I trained my body through field work if I get some proper nutrition and rest then I should be able to overwhelm people in the same generation as me.

Even though it was after the locusts, it's not as if I didn't do any combat training at all. I was able to do swinging at first and then I could watch the movements of Viscount Garorias and his squires as well. In the first place Kendo is a completely different style of sword fighting from the double-edged blades they use but compared to the style of sword fighting they use on Orth while wearing heavy armor and shields that focuses on thrusts it feels slow compared to Kendo.

“My Unique Ability is 【Skill Invalidation】. I've never used it even once up until now. In the past, according to what I heard from the God who appeared in my dream I can't use it unless another Japanese person who was reborn uses a skill nearby me but it seems it can invalidate the Unique Abilities of all the reincarnated people.”

Though Hekusa was saying this, he's started to think that it might not be limited to just invalidating Unique Abilities based on the way God worded it. Probably, it can invalidate skills like those of non-humans, and ones like the Sagal families “Disguise” that he just mentioned.

“What!?”

Prince Belgridd's eyes went wide. Hekusa noticed, come to think of it I still haven't heard the prince's Unique Ability yet.

“No, wait just a minute..you’ve never used it before...Then different from Ren yours should really be in the level 0 state...Barnes-san, you said you met God right? What does that mean? Are you lying?”

Stahlz said it while tremendously suspicious and moved closer to Hekusa. Hekusa couldn’t understand what he was saying at all.

If you were to ask if he was lying then a portion of it was a lie but that was just covering up a portion of the effects of his Unique Ability. However, there’s no way for them to know that at this point. Could it be one of these two used some kind of magic? No, these two didn’t have any sort of magic skills. In that case either Sagal or Geguran would have had to secretly use some kind of magic and without realizing it I obstructed that, and these two used some method to convey that?

Hekusa was confused suddenly being approached over the parts he wasn’t aware about and somehow managed to twist out some words.

“Ly..lying..That’s rude! Under what basis are you saying something like that?”

While watching that Stahlz and Hekusa Sagal crossed his arms and opened his mouth.

“Well wait just a moment, Sel. We don’t know if it’s really a lie or not..in the first place we still haven’t talked about God yet. In a situation like this it’s unnatural that he would suddenly say he met God...{Status Open}..He doesn’t have any skills..Hey, Barnes-san. I’m sure you’re suddenly confused but I’ll teach you. You can’t meet God unless the level of one your skills increases. At the very least that’s what the four of us thought.”

“Eh?”

Hekusa was confused.

“I met God around the time I was 7 years old. I think it was the first time my “Disguise” skill leveled up. After all I hadn’t used my Unique Ability even once up until then. Even then I was able to meet God. That’s why we already confirmed that you can meet God even if it isn’t your Unique Ability that levels up.”

It was a bolt out of the blue for Hekusa. I couldn’t imagine that they would

retort on something like that.

“The other three than me all met God after their Unique Ability leveled up. In my case it wasn’t the Unique ability but my special skill “Disguise” so I think that’s for sure. Barnes-san, I don’t think you’ve said any lies. However, I also think you haven’t said everything.”

“What does that mean?”

Geguran asked a bit curiously.

“For example. If he has some sort of special skill like my “Disguise”. And it’s similar to Unique Abilities in that it doesn’t show up in Status. There’s no way of investigating something like that other than if they report it them self. That might have leveled up. Also, there’s one more possibility as well. It could be thought there’s some kind of level factor other than Status...Ah~ everyone don’t look at me with faces like that. It’s just my imagination.”

“Wai..wait just a minute. There’s levels other than skills?”

Hekusa said as if he was panicking.

“No, I just said it was just my guess right? I don’t know.”

Sagal shrugged his shoulders.

“Wait..what Myul just said makes sense as well...There might be something like a level that can’t be seen with {Status Open}...In the first place Unique Abilities can only be seen by the person them self and even the info about special skill levels can only be seen by each individual...It wouldn’t be surprising even if there was info the person them self can’t see..”

Belgridd covers his face with his left hand and holds his opened right hand towards Sagal while saying it with pauses.

“Ha~? What in the world is that?”

Stahlz said while making fun of it a bit.

Sagal the one who said it him self, was a bit shaken even though he said it. What is it? I feel like I’m caught on something...Level other than skills? Leveling up..And then he hit his knee as if he came to it.

“It’s level! That’s right, it’s a level! If you mention leveling up, then there’s level right!? He, Barnes-san leveled up!”

Everyone was looking at Sagal who suddenly raised a loud voice strangely. However, there was one person who responded in a calm voice.

“That’s right. It’s just as Myul said. It’s a level. Barnes isn’t lying, is what it means. Most likely, Barnes level itself increased. It happens often in games right? The so-called experience levels.”

It seems that Belgridd and Sagal came to the same conclusion at almost the same time.

“What are you saying? Then are you saying if you level up things like “strength”, “speed”, and “luck” increase? That sounds retarded~”

Stahlz said it as if casting it aside but you could tell he had some expectations in his tone of voice as well.

“Wun, since I’ve never played a game I don’t really get it..”

Geguran doesn’t really seem to understand and whispered that in a small voice.

“Hmph, well it’s fine. Barnes, let’s test your Unique Ability **【Skill Invalidation】**. I want to know the effects of it. It would be troublesome if you struggle so just in case we’ll tie you up. If, you start to feel hungry we’ll feed you, and if you get tired it’s fine if you go to sleep.”

While Belgridd was saying that, Stahlz and Sagal were taking some rope out from under the seat in the carriage intending to tie Hekusa up with. Just Geguran was making a bluntly displeased face.

“Wh..What are!?”

“Ah, it’s your first time using your Unique Ability right? Then I guess it’s not unreasonable that you wouldn’t know...In order to use Unique Abilities you use mana. If you end up running out of mana it’s troublesome. This is just in case.”

Stahlz and Sagal said that while spinning the rope around Hekusa.

“Now then..it should be about a good time. It doesn’t seem like we can test **【Super Recovery】** with it so easily since it would be troublesome if that

becomes ineffective. I guess 【Paralyze Tolerance】 is fine..Ren, use the spell {Paralyze} on Myul. After that, Myul try to resist it using your Unique Ability. Barnes you try to block that.”

After Belgridd ordered that and Geguran said “it can’t be helped” while preparing to use a spell on Sagal. It was only a matter of about 10 seconds before Sagal’s body stiffened up and started shaking as if he had the chills. It’s a symptom of paralysis.

“I’ll count to three. Barnes, when the count down reaches zero Myul will try to escape the paralysis with his Unique Ability 【Paralyze Tolerance】. Use your Unique Ability 【Skill Invalidation】 to try and invalidate that. The method to use an ability is simple. Just concentrate on it like when you normally use an ability. Let’s start..three, two, one, zero!”

Before the countdown started Hekusa noticed a strange and peculiar feeling from Geguran the moment she looked at Sagal. About 10 seconds after she started giving off this strange feeling it disappeared before the count down started. In addition once the count reached zero there was a different strange sensation. This time the source of it was Sagal.

(Is this the sensation of a reincarnated Japanese person using their skill? So it’s something I can tell before I even use my Unique Ability...Alright, I’ll try it out. I need to sell this as high as possible.)

Thinking that Hekusa concentrated on his unique Ability 【Skill Invalidation】 inside of his head. In that instant the strange feeling vanished. Simultaneously there was an intense feeling of accumulated mental anxiety and a strong fatigue that washed over. Somehow I can tell that I can use it once, but the second time would be difficult.

“Th..this is a Unique Ability..huh?”

He went into a daze because of the happening.

Belgridd, Stahlz, and Geguran weren’t bothering to look at that Hekusa but rather observing Sagal’s state. There wasn’t anything that changed on Sagal. Just the same as usual his entire body was convulsing.

“Myulu, it’s already fine.”

Belgridd called out to him like that but there was no change in Sagal. Let alone that there seemed to be something like panic appearing in Sagal's eyes.

“Barnes! Stop the **【Skill Invalidation】**!”

After being told that Hekusa tried willing things like “stop”, “end”, or “pause” in his head in a panic.

Several seconds later Sagal recovered.

“Buha!! Ah~ I panicked...It felt like I could still use my Unique Ability itself but it wasn't showing those effects...I thought I would end up having to remain under the effects of Ren's spell until the duration was up..”

All four of them looked at Hekusa with different looks.

.....

During the three week period before they arrived at the capital, centering around Belgridd they progressively tried to analyze Hekusa's Unique Ability **【Skill Invalidation】**. Since Hekusa's mana runs out after only using it a couple of times, they tried assuming various situations without having much conversation.

As a result of that the things that they learned was that the effect of the skill was about 10 minutes per level. However, depending on Hekusa's will he can cancel it mid-way through. Once he cancels it he can't restart the time on it. There's no other choice than to use **【Skill Invalidation】** once more. It was capable of invalidating all four of their Unique Abilities. The range of the ability is 20 meters per level centered around Hekusa.

Furthermore, once Hekusa uses **【Skill Invalidation】** unless Hekusa cancels the ability during the duration of the effect while all Unique Abilities can be used inside of the range, they won't have any effect. It was easy to tell this when it came to Unique Abilities with a continued effect. If Stahlz cuts his hand with a knife inside of the range of **【Skill Invalidation】** and tries to use **【Super Recovery】** then it won't have any effect.

Normally, **【Super Recovery】** is something that reduces the amount of time it takes for heals to fully recover but the moment it's used some amount of bleeding will stop. However, inside of the range of **【Skill Invalidation】** that

wasn't the case. After that, once he tried leaving the effective range of it there was no need to use the ability 【Super Recovery】 and it would immediately start showing its effect stopping most of the bleeding from the wound.

Thanks to this there was something new confirmed about Sagal's unique Ability 【Paralyze Tolerance】 as well. If just like the time with 【Super Recovery】 after he has the spell {Paralyze} cast on him he tries to use 【Paralyze Tolerance】 inside of the effective range it won't show any effect but the moment Sagal is carried outside of the range he recovers from the paralysis. In other words, while they only thought 【Paralyze Tolerance】 was used in the instant it was cast it they found out it actually had an effect duration.

Furthermore, in regards to magic skills but they established that these could be obstructed as well. They were unable to use magic inside of the effective range of 【Skill Invalidation】 during the remaining time of its effect. However, just the same if a spell that has an effect duration is used the moment they're carried outside of the effective range it starts showing those effects.

Even if they use the spell {Light} on a rock inside of the effective range it won't shine but once they carry it outside it will suddenly give off light. And, here they found out something new again. If they use a {Light} which will shine for 5 minutes inside of the effective range and wait 1 minute before carrying it out, after that it will only give off light for 4 minutes.

In other words, the activation isn't delayed, inside the effective range you can still use Unique Abilities and magic. It's just that the effects won't manifest. However, in the case of magic, if it's an effect that comes from outside of the effective range it will still continue. If a shining rock is brought into the effect range from outside it will still continue to shine. If you bring a rock with {Light} cast on it outside of the range right after using it and it starts shining, then bring it back inside the light doesn't disappear. But, it's only obvious once the 5 minutes of the magic is up it disappears.

However, Hekusa remained quiet about an important point here. Before he even uses 【Skill Invalidation】, he can feel the sensation when reincarnated Japanese people use both Unique Abilities and Special Skills but he reported that the only thing he could feel was Unique Abilities. Since the feeling he gets differs depending on whether it's a Unique Ability or a Special Skill, one of the

reasons is that only Hekusa can differentiate them.

The other reason is because he was able to feel reservations from Belgridd. Even though he's a former Japanese person, since he's still royalty his arrogant attitude is nothing to get angry over. It's believed he has a powerful Unique Ability fitting for royal so Hekusa himself accepted it to some extent. However, maybe it's because he has a Unique Ability that can turn that to nothing in an instant, a few days after that met Hekusa somehow started to feel a distance. It's not like he's openly avoiding me or looking down on me so it might just be my imagination.

Furthermore, there was one more thing that Hekusa felt unnatural. Hekusa wanted to have a conversation about nostalgic things in Japan but whenever Stahlz or Sagal start talking about things like that, Belgridd always tries to change the topic to something else. Particularly that tendency can be felt strongly when it regards conversations about age and occupation.

Since Stahlz and Sagal were in their 30s and I myself was just before 30 when I died. Geguran was even an elderly person. Most likely, I think that Belgridd was young? The things he's saying aren't all that strange and there's no young feeling to it so maybe around high school age? That's probably become a complex and after realizing that Hekusa decided not to touch on it.

By the time they arrived at the capital Hekusa's Unique Ability had reached level 3. Immediately after arriving, Hekusa was changed from commoner to slave at the temple, and then immediately released and became a Free Person. He was given a small house within walking distance from the royal castle and granted a horse as well. Also, as preparations he was given 20 gold coins to either hire some allies or buy slaves.

Hekusa felt a bit of resistance towards buying a slave but Sagal said "Either way it's the Prince's money so don't worry about it and just buy a slave." so he decided to buy one slave to look after his house and horse.

Several months after this, he started learning magic from Geguran, and that training continued for about a year before it started to bloom. If it wasn't showing any sign of going anywhere then he intended to completely give up and buy slaves or find allies to start searching for his brother in the royal

territory and Duke Stahlz territory. After talking about that Belgridd was pleased and said, "It would be good for you to do that."

.....

One year or so later, after acquiring three elemental magics excluding water and void magic Hekusa left on a trip to search for his older brother. As a job for adventurers under the pretext of an escort he hired 3 veteran adventurers. All three of them were skilled adventurers introduced through the government office under prince Belgridd's pressure.

Another year passed. About once in every six months Hekusa would return to the capital with a map of the area but it was limited to just meeting up with Geguran for a bit and then he would immediately leave again. Out of the four Japanese people, the three men all joined the white phoenix knight group and one of the reasons was it wasn't so easy to meet with them there.

He casually returns, drops off the map, and then leaves. In order to frantically search for his older brother Hekusa didn't want to return at all but there was no other choice than to think that couldn't be helped.

However, it was such a time as that he finally managed to meet his older brother. He was living a reasonably comfortable life as the third son of the lord of a village called Ridas on the Eastern part of Duke Stahlz's territory. In the range of reincarnation it was somewhere in the mid-way point between the Eastern and Southeastern area. The siblings talked about various things for a number of days.

"I see. Since I still haven't reached adulthood I thought it was a bit early but I guess it's about time for me to leave the house as well."

There's still another six months until 15 years old.

"Bro, is that fine? It's fine even if you don't hurry and overdo things. If I keep saying that I haven't found you yet I can still pull some more money out of them."

"Yeah, I'm sure that would work. But, they say to hurry with what's right. It would be best to start making preparations as soon as possible. It's necessary to gain as much information as possible while we're still young."

“Hn, well if bro says so..”

Once night on the trip back, after coming up with an adequate excuse they decided to stay not inside of the village but camp on the side of the road which was still reasonably safe, and after saying he would keep lookout himself he killed the three escort adventurers.

After spending close to a year as an adventurer Hekusa's sensation for murder had numbed quite a bit but even then laying his hands on the allies he had spent the last year or so with required quite a bit of resolve. Also, it was the first time he felt a bit of guilty towards the act of murder.

Chapter 177: Reason for Side Job

Year 7445, Month 2, Day 14

Today is the birthday of us reincarnated people. We're {seventeen}. Somehow 17 years old has an unripe fruit kind of feel to it that is both happy and embarrassing.

Giberuti cooked the meat from the Matte Turtle he bought the other day in steaks for us. Everyone was saying it was delicious as they chomped down the steaks and finally we had some dessert that was something like boiled and chilled figs with sweet syrup. It seems that Gwine knew the method to make this fig compote and taught Giberuti about it. The weak point is that it uses a considerable amount of sugar so the cost of ingredients was quite high but it was no challenge for our desire to eat some real dessert for the first time in a while. I'll have him make some again sometime.

By the way, when everyone's age increased other than Gwine we all gained an increase in our Speed. I guess in exchange for that, Gwine's Endurance increased. That's quite like a Dwarf. Basutorial is smoothly gaining experience and now he's at a level 8 that's close to hitting level 9. In just a mere two months he's earned close to 70,000 experience and just in terms of level he's already caught up to Hirosukol.

Well, every time more than three ogres come out at once since I'm thinning out the extras in one hit, I'm earning an incomparable amount of experience points thanks to the boost from Gift of Natural Talent and since Miduchi is occasionally entering the dungeon together with Zulu and Angela they're earning a decent amount of experience points as well.

If we keep putting some effort into it like this until the end of this year then..Basutorial's level should go up even higher and I guess be around the same level as Bel and Toris right now? No, along the way he should be able earn experience easier (the chances for him to do damage to monsters will increase) so he might be able to make it a bit higher...And wait a second!

When I was staring at Basutorial's experience points I noticed it. The place

where the numbers are, I can select it. Could it be..After all that was the case. It's possible to select the experience point numbers for skills as well. I can even open a sub-window for it. While holding my hopes high and opening it and I can browse through the relationship between experience points and level in table form. This is convenient. I wonder why I didn't notice this until now, and, I was a bit amazed at myself. Well, that is~ I never stared at the number for experience points for this long before after all...

Ah, that's right...After all that was the case. So this was the expansion ability for level MAX of Identify...That's pretty dull..or not I guess. Since all I could see up until now was the value to the next level so I never thought much beyond that but in some meanings you could say this is obtaining information from the future right...

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Year 7445, Month 2, Day 15

“Ya~!!”

Basutorial let's out a shout with some fighting spirit in it as he thrusts the spear. The ogre that took the attack in the neck lost the power to it's arms that it was swinging it's club around with and drooped over. After everyone weakened it, Miduchi froze it's lower body and then Basutorial finished it off. During that time, I was looking over from above..or not. I was properly watching over the battlefield remaining cautious in the off chance something happens and being careful of our surroundings in case a new monster appears.

Immediately after Miduchi erased the ice and the slaves gathered the magic stones.

Hmm, though I'm still watching the trends of the battle and occasionally giving out instructions, if the opponent is just two of them then there's not even a need for direct support from me anymore. Right now we're not depending on the paralysis poison and they're showing just the movements I was hoping for, safely able to defeat them. It might be about a good time to let them fight freely without me giving any orders as well.

No, maybe it would be best to keep going like this until they can at least take on half the number, four of them (in other words, excluding Basutorial, our

group takes on each ogre 2v1) and win?

Today with this we defeated 13 ogres and should have earned quite a bit off of magic stones. I put the magic stones Zulu and Angela brought over into my leather bag and tilt my head.

Hmn. In order to aim for even more growth and letting them fight completely without me I wonder if I should start making them take on ogres 2v1? I want them to quickly build up their individual ability to make split-second decisions and look over the entirety of the battlefield. No, wait a minute. Up until the 6th floor since they're completely separate from me they should be getting a reasonable amount of training on that end.

After all I guess we should just keep going like this as planned. If I'm nearby then if the situation gets really bad then they might try to rely on me right away. It's possible we might have to split the party up even on this 7th floor one day as well.

No matter how I think about it, it would be best to focus on increasing their individual abilities like this for the time being. It's all meaningless if they die after all.

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Year 7445, Month 2, Day 26

Night, when all of us were eating some skewers and boiled fish we brought in to "Murowa" and Faruergaz, Hirosukol, and their slaves came in to eat. I lightly lowered my head to them and when I was poking at my fish and drinking some beer they started talking to us.

"Right now, it seems you all are going to the 7th floor but around how much time does it take to get to the 7th floor?"

"It takes three days. One day to get from the 1st floor to the end of the 3rd floor, one day for the 4th and 5th floors, and then one day for the 6th floor."

When I replied like that all of them including the slaves were lost for words. What is it, could it be you're surprised at how fast we are? It's not as if I don't understand your feelings but even we took around three months after entering

the dungeon to make it to the 2nd floor. Even if we had the same number of 6 people, in my case we had 1 more reincarnated person and Zenom as well.

Though I think that Zulu is superior individually but when Angela first joined us she was pretty unreliable and no matter how I look at it rather than Angela in the past their Laios slaves should be more useful. Though they're not here right now, Kumiru and Ruttsu have a decent amount of power as well it seems so excluding my magic, their combat potential shouldn't be all that different from ours at the time.

However, the number of times we were entering the dungeon is completely different. Back then we would enter the dungeon twice in every three days that sort of rapid pace. We would explore until someone was injured and even if that wasn't the case sometimes we would come back around lunch or just after. The biggest reason for that was my healing magic. After all, we could heal any injuries the same day.

In comparison to that, things won't go that easily for Faruergaz and the others. Since they started in December of last year, I guess they're at about two months? During that time, I'm sure they've only entered the dungeon at best 6–7 times. Well this is normal for most adventurers so I think it's just us that are abnormal though.

“There isn't really anything good that will come from being impatient and overdoing it. For starters you should just get used to the terrain of the 1st floor.”

I said that with a clear face but I intended it as advice. Most likely, if it's these two who have gone through proper training as knights then they should be able to fight decently even on the 2nd or 3rd floor. However, if they go that far into the dungeon before they're used to the dungeon then there's no way they'd be able to maintain their mental composure. If things reach that point then they'll start making mistakes on whether they can fight the opponent or whether they should retreat. It leads to mistakes in decision making.

Rather than that, trying to go to the 2nd floor or beyond with just 6–7 times worth of experience is the pinnacle of foolishness. It's weird saying this but even I just wandered around randomly at first without buying a map. Since we

only had our own handmade maps that were no comparison to the ones Gwine makes, after that we only bought a map around one month after we started exploring the dungeon in Baldukk. During that time, we entered the dungeon over 20 times.

“Purchasing the map is one method as well. Some reasonably precise maps are up for sale. If you’re interested then I can at least introduce you to a map seller.”

How much was the map of the 1st floor I bought again..Ah, that’s right. It was 7,000,000 Z (7 gold coins). However, the amount of information and accuracy was no comparison to the previous map I had bought for 800,000 Z (80 silver coins). Around the time we were wandering the 3rd floor up until Toris and Gwine joined our group we were really in care of it. Obviously I haven’t gotten rid of it but I have no intention of handing it over for free or even cheaply. Since we were in the care of them, it should be only proper to introduce them as a customer to the map seller.

“A map huh..Denda, sorry but could you go to the inn really quick and grab our map...Greed-san, we’ve started drawing our own map as well. In order to not get lost, we also prepared our string as well. Putting aside whether or not it’s accurate, could you please take a look at how it’s written and give us some advice?”

Hirosukol said that and lowered his head.

“..Well if it’s just that much..But, in that case there’s someone better suited to it than me...She’s the one who deals with map information in our party. Ask her opinion on it.”

I said that while pointing to Gwine and tilted my mug again. Toris and Bel who were sitting in front of me and Miduchi who was sitting beside all returned to their casual conversations.

A short while later Faruergaz’s slave, Dendoru.Sumaisu returned. He has a bag with him. So there’s a map inside of that?

“Gwine, come over here for a moment...Ah, sorry about that. Take a look at this map. What do you think?”

I tried to endure bursting out into laughter while asking Gwine. I mean, the map they showed me but it was way too childish. Even the map we started making at first was better.

“..This, what is it? Eh? It’s a map? What a waste of paper..”

Gwine cut it down instantly. Faruergaz and the others seemed pretty embarrassed. But, Faruergaz gathered his courage and questioned Gwine.

“No, it’s certainly true that it’s badly drawn...What can we do to draw it even more skillfully?”

Gwine raised her eyebrows while looking at the map after being questioned, and opened her mouth.

“It would probably be best to take into consideration adding more to it afterwards. Up until then just ignore some things like curves and bends in the walls and just try to draw it as straight as possible...Also, there’s no way of telling the distance. Although, it’s kind of strange saying this but I think the best option would be to use the map that’s sold as a reference. If it’s now then it seems they should be selling a map of the 1st floor that is close to perfect.”

She said that and smiled. Incidentally, the origin of the map of the 1st floor that boasts a 99% completion rate is Gwine. We tried selling just the 1st floor to the map seller a while back. Up until then the map that they sold of the 1st floor was the same one as I bought in the past and had a considerably high level of completion, over 80% of it could be trusted. We ended up making good use it for a long time as well.

However, the remaining blank spaces and the portions that were close to perfect in regards to information on the traps, the numbers when teleporting in from the surface(we started writing the teleport numbers on the walls in {Common Language} after Gwine joined us) and in the case those numbers are difficult to find, other numbers are all written on Gwine’s map so the usability and accuracy were no comparison.

December of last year, when I came up with the idea I tried discussing it with Gwine and just to test it out we tried selling the map of the 1st floor for starters. The two of us went to the map seller and it took close to two full days but when

Gwine finished copying over the template we showed the map it and the old dwarf man fell over backwards seeing the precision of it. For about a month after that the old man confirmed the accuracy of the map with his acquaintance adventurers it seems. About a week after the day of judgement last month when we returned from the dungeon there was a message from the old man at the map shop. He wanted to split the profits up 50/50 with us.

Though we all went through the trouble of producing the map but since the one who made the copy was Gwine, in the first place it was a map that would have been impossible to make without Gwine's Unique Ability. Since I wanted to know Gwine's thoughts on it as well, I decided to leave the decision up to Gwine. Obviously all of the money made from it goes to Gwine. Putting it simply, it took the shape of me accepting Gwine having a side job of "selling information she found out during work".

Obviously Gwine was pleased. However, the compensation she chose was adding the conditions that they would only produce the copies at that map shop, they would reveal the customers who bought it, and 40% of the profits. When I praised her that she properly was able to think of that all on her own and it seems that Miduchi gave her the suggestion when she consulted with her over it.

I would have preferred if she was able to arrive there all on her own but I guess Gwine didn't have the confidence to think about it all on her own. However, it was admirable the fact that she properly consulted with someone about it and the fact that she didn't simply pick Ralpa as that someone.

They're selling one labeled as the completed version for 10,000,000 Z but two of them have already sold and it seems the situation is such where they copies can't keep up so there's orders for two more already. The ones who made the orders were {Gehenna.Flare} and the elf Rozewela, and after that two other mid-class parties that are active around the 3rd and 4th floors.

"Is that so..After all it seems it would be best to buy the map. Hey, what should we do?"

Hirosukol called out to Faruergaz.

"..It can't be helped. There's no other choice than to buy it. However, a waste

of paper..That's quite harsh."

Faruergaz responded with a displeased expression.

"Greed-san, I'm sorry for the trouble but could you please introduce us to a map dealer? Also, if you know would you please tell us the price as well."

Faruergaz said that and lowered his head.

"There's no problem with just introducing you. Also, when it comes to the price if I'm certain I think it was 10,000,000 Z for the 1st floor. It's seems to be quite popular and has reservations on it though so you might have to wait for a month."

When I said that it seems the two of them were surprised at the price.

"Wha! 10,000,000!"

"10 gold coins huh..It's not impossible but.."

I had guessed it based on how they so easily paid 9,000,000 Z a piece for two high class combat slaves but after all it's not impossible? When I did it, it took close to reckless levels of courage just to buy Zulu and Angela and a 7,000,000 Z map. After all my entire fortune at that time only slightly exceeded 10,000,000 Z. Honestly speaking, I did it with the resolve of jumping off a waterfall. I'm quite envious.

The next day, in the end it seems they resolved to buy a map and ended up as a source of income for Gwine.

This is information on the purchaser that the map dealer gave to Gwine so it's definite.

"Well, I don't think it's that bad of a purchase. It's weird saying it myself but I think it was quite well-made. If you have then then it should reduce the amount of time it takes to clear through the 1st floor quite a bit. Thanks to everyone I can brag that we've properly written down the maps close to perfectly as well. I want to go and get some clothes made on our next days off so please lend me your horse."

Gwine winked while sticking her tongue out.

I made a bitter smile while accepting and said "However, while they'll

probably sell even after this you should expect it not to exceed the current amount by more than double.” It’s said that there’s a total of 200 or so parties, roughly 1,300 — 1,500 adventurers constantly in Baldukk. Among those there’s people who only enter alone without a party and those who only enter with small parties and change who they team up with on a daily basis as well.

With us {Slaughterers} at the top, there’s only about a dozen or so parties with reasonably high flexibility in their earnings and even if you estimate that number on the high end there’s only about 50 of them. All the rest of the masses don’t earn much at all. The majority of them are people who make at best 100,000 — 250,000 Z per person a month. In any case, even those who are in the top 50 or so, even if it’s accurate, I doubt there’s that many with the leeway to dish out 10,000,000 for a map of the 1st floor at this point.

If they’re making decent earnings then that means they’ve already exceeded the 1st floor and are in some of the lower floors, so it’s proof of their abilities at that point. Since Gwine’s map of the 1st floor can’t be used for much other than a time reduction, even looking at it in a positive light I’d say only about 20% of those could see the value in a reduction of time for clearing through the 1st floor. If you were to ask me, I think the closer they are to the top teams they’d see more value in reducing the time it takes thanks to an accurate map.

Chapter 178: Preparing in Advance

Year 7445, Month 3, Day 2

Tomorrow is March 3rd, Doll festival. During these past two days we've obtained just around 37 ogres worth of magic stones so when I said it was a joke Ralpa said she wanted to try lining them up, so I used magic to create a tiered platform for dolls with dirt and she lined them up on that. Starting from the tools brought along for the bridal procession on the seventh platform, the sets of furniture and stuff for the bride on the sixth platform, the fifth platform the three protectors of the emperor and empress, the fourth platform has the two ministers(minister of left and right), the third platform has the five court musicians, the second platform has the three court ladies, and the first platform has the dolls representing the emperor and empress as she lined them all up with their tools.

Since it's all made of stones lined up it's not very interesting at all.

I thought it might be enjoyable for women but no one other than Ralpa was showing any interest in it. Just one person, only Ralpa was sitting in the corner of the room with a spellbound expression in front of the tiered doll stand she made just looking at the magic stones.

In the first place, then there's torii included at the temples of Orth as well so there was a period I thought these sorts of events might exist as well. However, Bel said that fundamentally these sorts of events were based on imperial court events in Japan. Therefore, there should be no relation between the temples on Orth and the events of Japan.

"Hey, Al. What in the world is that? What is Ralpa doing?"

Since he started to get worried Zenom tried asking in a whisper but I couldn't say anything more than "It's an event that goes on at the temples in our past life. You pray for the health and growth of young girls. It occurs every year on March 3rd. Though in reality you're supposed to use dolls carefully modeled after noble people and other small props instead of magic stones."

When I was looking at Ralpa's back with her legs crossed in front of the odd doll platform in the corner of the room it somehow looked like she was crying. It seems like she has some sort of feelings on it, so it might just be that she had some sort of special attachment to the doll festival.

I put my hand on Gwine's shoulder when she was about to go towards Ralpa and just shook my head. Just let her be until she's satisfied at times like that. It's fine as long as she's energetic tomorrow. Even when it comes to long-time friends, I'm sure there's times you just want to be left alone.

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Year 7445, Month 3, Day 3

We defeated 20 ogres and after obtaining a total of 57+alpha magic stones we decided to leave the dungeon. Our earnings this time was 47,510,000 Z, that's 950,000 Z (95 silver coins) in bonuses. Basutorial's bonus was half that amount 475,000 Z. Excluding the fractions I deducting it from his loan in units of 100,000 Z so Basutorial doesn't have that much cash on him but the amount he's returned to me has exceeded 3,100,000 Z after entering the dungeon this time.

When I told him that and obviously he already understood that and was twitching his cat ears unable to hold back his excitement it seems.

"If we keep up like this then shouldn't the debt be paid off just before Golden Week and you'll be able to save up a bit?"

When I said that to Basutorial who was clenching his fist basking in the joy and he nodded happily but at the same time made a strange face.

"Does something like Golden Week actually exist?"

"Hn, for the time being we've set it up so we have a long holiday during that period. Though it's just New Year's holiday and Golden Week. There's none for O-Bon."

"Our income decreases a bit that month but we can go sightseeing in the capital, eat some delicious things, buy clothes, it's quite nice for a breather."

Bel said that and smiled.

We left the dungeon and sold the magic stones, then went to eat together with everyone the same as usual.

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Year 7445, Month 3, Day 4

After finishing my running and having breakfast, I walked to “Slave Store, Ronslail” alone. When the leisured madam that is the sexy elf madam Ronslail saw my face and she made an apologetic expression. It seems they still haven’t gotten their hands on a slave that can skillfully use the shield. However, I didn’t come in regards to that today.

I sat down on the reception set and while sipping some bean tea one of the slaves used by the store prepared I finished up with greetings. Now then, let’s get to the main point.

“Ronslail-san, I have different order from the combat slave. It’s a named order but is it possible to do anything about it?”

“Named? Is it? Well if the other party is a slave then it will come down to negotiating with their owner but it’s not completely impossible at all. And, who is it and where are they from?”

The madam asked in sexy voice as she dropped some of the ashes from her Kiseru in an ash tray on the table.

“They’re in Duke Rombert’s territory, well the King’s direct territory. It’s a serf woman in Rockfall village. Her name is Catherine.Enforu. Her race is a Cat-person. Her age should be either 16 or 17. I’ve obtained the information that at least until the end of December of last year she was definitely in that village.”

I put my elbows on my lap and crossed my hands in between my spread out legs while talking.

“..Then, in that case there’s the possibility that she’s not there now as well?”

Madam asked with a slightly discouraged feel. When it comes to the Cat-people who aren’t very durable physically they’re a bit cheap. I’m sure they’re not very profitable. Furthermore, it’s a woman and even a serf.

“No, the possibility of her being sold somewhere is pretty minuscule. Most

likely she should still be there.”

“A female Cat-people and a serf is it...What is her appearance like?”

Ah, if they’re good looking and a woman then it’s possible the price could go up a bit more as well. I’ve heard that some stores choose the slaves they buy for waiter jobs based on their appearances and yet another portion of certain stores rely heavily on the appearances of their slaves.

“No idea, I don’t know that much..”

When I said that the madam was dumbfounded for a moment but quickly returned to her usual smile.

“You intend to buy her even though you don’t know? If it’s not a hindrance would you please tell me if there’s some sort of reason?”

“No, it’s not any sort of exaggerated reason like that. The newcomer in our party was born in that village. And it seems he promised to marry with that girl. Since he’s about to have finished off the repayments of his loan so I thought to secure her before she gets sold off anywhere..”

Hear that the madam lightly laughed and in addition smiled a bit.

“Greed-sama is..Well it’s fine. We were just planning to go to the slave market in the capital in order to stock up next week. I’ll make preparations for our head clerk to go out there and purchase her.”

“Ya~ thank you very much. I’m grateful for that. Unless there’s some sort of extraordinary situation I promise I’ll continue using this shop from here on out.”

“Well, that’s quite flattering of you.”

“Now then, here’s where I want to discuss things a bit, but that slave, I want you to try and purchase her as cheap as possible. Of course, I won’t say to make take some profit. However, I want you to make it as much of a service as possible. I would like for you to put some power into negotiating her purchase the market price. If the other party is hesitating to sell then please negotiating using the name of the owner. The owner will be Sajesu.Basutorial.”

I swallow a mouthful of tea. I was looked at with an amazed expression but that can’t be helped.

“Though it’s weird saying in exchange for that but it’s fine if you make the next combat slave a bit more expensive than usual. Or rather, if it’s a combat slave who is skilled then I intend to pay whatever is necessary. Please find a young and sturdy one. If you can really find some with a decent level of skill then I won’t say just one person, I might even take into consideration purchasing more than two. If they were a former knight then I’d have nothing more to say.”

Hearing that the madam’s appearance collapsed a bit. It’s quite self-interested of her but that’s only obvious. Something like a serf cat-people brat is at best around 2,000,000 Z. It’s a woman after all. If her appearance was considerably outstanding then after training her she could be sold for a higher price as a sex slave but the possibility of that is pretty low I’m sure.

In comparison to that even the cheapest combat slaves are 6,000,000 Z, when it comes to the expensive ones it’s not strange for it to reach 10,000,000 Z. If they were originally a knight then they might even end several tens of millions. If we were to speak of a normal knight, then the only one nearby I know is sister-in-law Shani, but taking into consideration that level of skill with the sword and spear excluding magic, in addition to that if they’ve properly learned combat on horseback then let alone 20,000,000 they might even go for 30,000,000 Z. Madam.Ronslail’s profit margin would be completely different.

If I were to use some extreme logic then that amount of money is something we could earn in just a few days on the 7th floor if I give my best after all.

“Well well, that is quite! You say things that make me quite happy Greed-sama!”

“Yeah, since that’s the case, please do your best to take proper care of this.”

After that I just had to make sure she would definitely keep her on stock until Basutorial saves up enough money and we confirmed a rough estimate of the delivery date(I only knew the rough direction of where Rockfall village is located) before I left the store. Since they can only go to purchase her after they stock up at the slave market it seems it will take at least a month and a half. Well even with time to spare it should be before Golden Week.

Around that time should be when he’s finished paying his debt. It depends on

the price but if we were to suppose it's 2,000,000 Z then it would be sometime after the middle of June. I already instructed madam over things like that. In other words, if you want to get her off your hands as soon as possible, make her cheaper.

Ah, even if she arrives I have no intention of telling Basutorial about it. It would be troublesome if he ends up making a mistake trying to earn in a hurry after all. I intend to tell him only after he's saved up enough money to buy her and afford the wedding ceremony.

Basutorial might end up being the first one to use congratulations and condolences days off.

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Year 7445, Month 4, Day 5

"Angela, are you finished?"

In front of an altar on the 5th floor I finished taking the magic stone out from the corpse of a {Frost Lizard} and while I already knew she wasn't finished I still asked my partner.

"I'm sorry, there's still two more left."

While replying like that Angela continues to skillfully cut open the chests of the gargoyle corpses. Both of our faces are grinning a bit.

"Hn, then I'll help out with one."

After saying that I erased the dirt and after approaching the body of one with it's head cut off I started cutting open the chest the same way as Angela was. Shortly after I managed to find the magic stone close to the organ that appears to be it's heart. I cut through it including all of the meat surrounding it with my knife and then after washing away the chunks of meat and blood stuck to it I put it in my leather bag. Immediately after that Angela brought over the three magic stones she just collected and I washed those off before putting them inside as well.

I look up at the altar and we exchange glances while smiling. That's only obvious. The income of me the master is also the income of the slave, my

delight is my slaves delight, my sadness is my slaves sadness. Of course, the opposite of that is also true. I trust the reincarnated people in our party excluding Basutorial quite a bit but I also trust my slaves who have sworn their loyalty to me and have been together with us for about the same amount of time in a different way.

It's a trust that is only possible because anyone can see status. After all they appear as "Greed Family Owned Slave". For starters there's no need to think about betrayal. It's fine to consider them a part of myself.

"Hey~ Angela, that, I wonder what it is?"

I just keep grinning without using Identify while continuing to grin as I ask Angela.

"I do not know, what could it be? But that, it appears to be a weapon to me."

Angela responds while grinning herself as well.

"A weapon huh? Yeah, it looks that way to me too. Well then, Angela, go and grab it for me."

I ordered Angela while responding generously.

"I understand."

Angela walks up the altar and stretches her hand out inside of the opened door of the shrine.

It's fine to use slowly take my time and use Identify after my slave brings the goods in front of me and puts it in my hands.

My slave respectfully offers up the spoils to me.

Packed into a leather-made scabbard adorned with delicate ornaments, I can see a picture that has a strange shape like it's based in human engineering or something. After I received it I examined it for a bit and then tried using {Status Open} on it.

【Short-Sword.Of.Sturdy】

Following that I use the {Cantrip}, {Magical Detection}.
There's a reaction.

And then, I slowly tried using 【Identify】 on it.

【Short-Sword.Of.Sturdy】
【Iron】
【State: Good】
【Manufacture Date: 5/4/7445】
【Value: 1】
【Endurance: 28610】
【Ability: 91–125】
【Effect: Bark Skin(However, only up to three times per day).】

Ho~Ho~ when I tried reading the sub-window and it seems that by speaking the incantation {command word} engraved into the surface of the blade while the user is holding the handle it seems they can gain the same effect as using the spell {Bark Skin} three times per day. Furthermore, the effect of the spell is the equivalent to that if the user of the spell were level 100 when using it.

The spell {Bark Skin} is a defensive spell I already knew. However, the duration of the effect is short. It only lasts an amount of seconds equal to your level and even if you pour more mana into it you can't extend the duration of the effect. And then, the effect ends after activating when you take just one hit during the duration of it. Even in that case you can only slightly reduce the damage I guess? Is it a measurement error? it's just that level of effect. Putting it frankly it's only slightly better than being naked, it's like how it's better to wear leather armor even if it's crudely made.

That's why when I heard about it from mother I just practiced with it for a bit and even when I use it now it takes about 1 minute of concentrating to use. Even though that's the case it requires earth and water magic at level 2 or above and when it comes to void magic it even takes levels 4 and 5. Even though it consumes a total of 13 points of MP since I thought the effects were weak I've had it categorized in my head as a useless spell.

However, if it's used at the equivalent as if the caster was level 100 then it should last for 100 seconds so if it doesn't consume any MP then you could say it's useful. Even if you just take into consideration it's abilities as a simple infantry-use short sword then it's superior as well.

“It seems to be a magic weapon..”

“Congratulations, master!”

Angela is expressing her delight for me as if it were her own. Her tail is shaking all over the place.

I pulled the sword out from it’s scabbard in front of her and looked at it. The blade shines with a dark grey light and lightly engraved into the surface of the blade close to the hilt there’s the incantation {command word} “Gabubado”.

“Fumu..”

The grip part of the handle has slightly depressions in the shape of fingers so you can firmly get a grip on it.

“Hn? Master, something seems to be written on it. Since I can only read numbers I don’t know what it means but I wonder if it’s a name?”

Well, I guess it’s fine if I test it out.

“Yeah, this is gabubado uhyo~”

The instant I spoke the command word incantation while holding the handle, my body was surrounded in a light pale blue light from the spell. While I was dumbfounded I tried identifying myself and it showed up as 【Condition: Good(Bark Protection:Item)】.

“Mas..Master!!?”

Angela raised her voice in surprise and started to panic but I stopped her while saying “calm down” and then after saying “it seems to be the spell {Bark Skin}” she regained her composure. If in just a single word, without even taking 1 second it can deploy in an instant and doesn’t consume any mana then that should be plenty.

Since it’s a short sword for infantry, I guess it would be good to let Bel carry it until we sell it.

.....

“Is that okay!?”

After being handed the 【Short-Sword.Of.Sturdy】 by me Bel’s eyes were sparkling. Bel immediately checked the status and just as I told her used the

spell {Detect.Magic}.

“I tried using it once but the incantation is engraved into the blade. If you speak the incantation while holding the handle then you can use the spell built into the sword. It seems to be a defensive spell. If you have time later then it’s fine if you try out various things with it.”

When I was taking a shower in the teleport room on the 5th floor Bel and the others arrived so I immediately handed over the sword to her. When I pulled it out while saying Ta~da~, when everyone saw the unfamiliar sword short in a leather scabbard they quickly noticed it was something I obtained in the dungeon but as expected they didn’t think it was a magic weapon.

Bel pulled out the sword and is looking at the blade. Around her everyone is saying random things like “After all the radiance of the blade is different” or “The cutting edge seems quite good as well.”

Just as the name sounds it has a considerably high Endurance level so I think it’s a good sword. Take good care of it.

.....

Year 7445, Month 4, Day 11

On a day in the middle of three days off, I spent almost the entire day training spells together with Miduchi and that night, it was when we were all eating dinner together.

“Ah...”

Ralpa who was sitting on my left in between Miduchi and I raised her voice. What is it, did you drop some meat or something? and when I was thinking that Miduchi stood up and invited Ralpa further into the restaurant.

You bastard~ what are you doing dropping meat on top of me, didn’t you make my clothes dirty. You’re cheeky, let’s take this outside for a bit.

I wonder if it’s that sort of thing? I exchanged glances with Toris who was sitting in front of me and we were both about to stand up. Zenom who was sitting across from Giberuti and Basutorial at the four person table to my right is already completely drunk and didn’t notice at all.

“It’s fine, so stop.”

Bel said that while grabbing Toris’s sleeve and pulling him back to his seat.

“But you know..”

There’s a piece of cooked meat fallen near the ground where Miduchi was sitting to my left. The small pouch Miduchi always carries around with her isn’t here either. Are you serious? While thinking Miduchi sure is unpopular~ I stood up from my seat. Bel is still trying to get Toris to sit down.

“It would be best if you don’t go.”

In front of where Ralpa was sitting, next to Bel Angela said that while looking at me. Our table fits six people.

“No..I can’t just leave things like this right?”

“It’s not that sort of thing. Please just leave them alone.”

On our left, there’s another four person table where Zulu was and Gwine was talking with Zulu’s woman but she cut off her conversation to look up at me while saying. I reluctantly sat back down with a question mark above my head but I can’t help but feel curious about it.

After Bel and Angela whispered about something together, they ate some cooked meat that was sliced thinly.

A, Ah. Did that start...

It seems Toris noticed as well and after exchanging glances with me made a slightly embarrassed face with a troubled smile.

I’m sure my expression isn’t much different.

Since I didn’t know what to say, I just drank some beer and ate some food.

That night, I tried asking Miduchi and it seems that after all her period suddenly started. Since she missed her planned date the one who realized the fastest was Miduchi but it seems that expecting something like this she normally carries around some new underwear for menstruation.

That is well, I’ve heard plenty of stories about mensuration days being off based on condition.

“Nn..It should be fine as long as I’m paying attention in regards to the women

right. You don't need to bother worrying over every thing like that."

That's a big help. Though I try to prepare ahead for a variety of different situations and assumptions, I didn't prepare for that much, and even if I were to have made preparations on that front I'm sure she wouldn't want to make use of it so I'm saved by just leaving things in that regard to Miduchi.

Author's note:

"{Bark Skin}" Alteration

(Earth Magic Lv. 2, Water Magic Lv. 2, Void Magic Lv. 5, Consumes 13 MP, combination of Void Magic)

Raises the defensive power of the targets skin like bark. It's not like it actually becomes bark so it doesn't obstruct the movements of the target. The effect will continue until either the duration ends or the the target takes an amount of damage to their HP that exceeds the level of the caster. The duration of the effect is the same number of seconds as the level of the caster.

Chapter 179: Expectation

Year 7445, Month 4, Day 12

All of us went running excluding Ralpa who's menstruation started last night and except for her since she said she didn't feel good it was when we were all eating breakfast together. Bel over the talking voices of a group that seemed to be adventurers while we were eating at the same place.

"..Al-san, it seems that {Black Topaz} announced it when they returned this morning but they discovered a magic item on the 1st floor. It was a sword that a moving skeleton was holding in one of the rooms and it seems to have been called {Short-Sword.Of.Blunt}."

"On the first floor.."

..However, how should I look at it. Is it a completely blunt sword or a sword that dulls the movements of those it cuts? But, I'm sure there's no mistake it's a magical weapon...However, for it to be a skeleton. In the past, I tried thinking about the reason why there's no skeletons in this world in my own way but I guess that was a mistake. After all they exist. The impression I had from a movie on Sinbad I saw on television when I was a child was strong. A skeleton swordsman huh? Well the one remaining the strongest in my memory is the seven skeleton swordsmen who moved at the same time in the movie with the ship Argo and it's exploration group though.

"For it to have been on the 1st floor that is..Quite good luck indeed."

Angela was shocked hearing the conversation. It's hard to say we struggled for it but just the other day, the two of us defeated a {Frost Lizard} and obtained the magical weapon {Short-Sword.Of.Sturdy} on the 5th floor as well. However, on the 1st floor is..Honestly speaking, I can't accept it so easily either. Angela's tail seems to have dropped down and seems to have no energy. Even though she's finally started to show her emotions..I guess it's unrelated huh? No, precisely because her emotions are expressed more abundantly is it drooping down? Let's think that way. I think that's better for my mental health.

“A skeleton..I wonder what was going on with the magic stone?”

Gwine said strangely. Oh~ Gwine, you too huh? So you were thinking the same thing as me.

I'll give you one of the zabuton of my heart.

“So an undead monster appeared on the 1st floor as well..”

Miduchi whispered. Somehow for a skeleton to be an undead monster. Somehow I have more of an image like some kind of villain created and is controlling it using the fang of a dragon through something like magic. The influence of movies is big. However, as expected of Miduchi, she knows everything. When I showed admiration and said that she said, “They appear all the time in games.” I played a game once as well but I can't remember every little thing like that.

“I wonder about that? It's just my guess but it sounds like a special monster on the 1st floor like the Golem in the past, that strange dead person, vampire was it? or the Roper. I don't know if it was strong or not though.”

Zenom is putting his fried egg on a piece of bread and putting pepper on that. Oh~ so there's that way of looking at it as well, as expected of Zenom, the old man's wisdom is always better than the tortoise shell*.

“I see, that might be the case..Ah, is it fine if I can have the pepper?”

Zulu took the pepper from Zenom and started pouring his usual amount on his fried eggs. I always think it but that's using way too much right...

It was just then.

“I don't want to! I'll never let go of it! This is, this sword is something I obtained! It's mine!”

“Vikkusu! Just stop it already!”

“Shit! It's no good! This guy won't let go of it!”

“What the hell..However what in the world does this mean?”

We could hear shouts and voices of an argument from outside coming our way. All of the customers inside of the resutraunt including us we're looking outside at the street. There's one man and he's walking as he drags along two or three men and women clinging to his body. There's also another few people

around them.

They're all people I know. Those guys are {Black Topaz}. I can see sis Anderson's flustered face as well.

"What in the world is that...It's everyone from {Black Topaz} right."

Giberuti whispered but no one was able to nod to that. Everyone is dumbfounded just watching over the series of events.

"I wonder what they're arguing over? Was there some sort of complaints over their cut?"

Basutoral put his question into his mouth but that might actually be the case, though it's still hard to tell for sure.

"Vikkusu! That belongs to me. Stop being so obstinate already!"

I can hear Anderson's voice.

"Red-sama, even if you say that, and no matter how many times you say my response is already decided. This alone I won't give up on. I was born~ to meet this."

Vikkusu, the Dog-people man named Vikkensu-Barukemi replied while holding the sword to his chest. He must really have been pleased with that sword. But you know, didn't you always use the battle mace?

"What in the world are you saying, this oaf. That's a magical weapon!? It's not something you can make a decision on!"

The human man named Kaku.Dankel who's the sub-leader of the party rebuked him. It seems he's one of the front line of {Black Topaz}. When we saw them fighting the {Frost Lizard} before he was the first one frozen in ice so my image of him being useless is strong but he's rumored to be quite skilled among those in Baldukk.

"That's why I'll pay for it. I don't need any cut from here on out either! It's plenty with just enough money go on eating!"

The Dog-people man shouts.

"Fool! There's no way that would be enough! Like we would let go of an item

that could be sold for several billion for small change like that!”

The Laios man with the nickname Baru, Baruteinesu.Zomu yelled while holding down Vikkusu.

“Red-sama, Red-sama! I can clearly understand! This fellow wants me to use it! I’m begging you! Please leave it to me. I’ll do anything.”

Vikkusu is yelling in a loud voice at Anderson as falls to the ground begging. His state is clearly strange. I tried using **【Identify】** on Vikkusu and it came up as **【Condition: Charm(Cursed Item)】**.
What in the world is that?

Since he has a strange obsession over the sword so I guess the sword itself is the {Cursed Item}? I tried using **【Identify】** on the sword Vikkusu is holding to his chest.

【Short-Sword.Of.Blunt】
【Iron】
【State: Good】
【Manufacture Date: 12/4/7445】
【Value: 1】
【Endurance: 1920】
【Ability: 71–100】
【Effect: Charm User】

So that’s the {Magical.Weapon} they got their hands on the dungeon. When I tried reading the sub-window and it seems that when the user puts it on their sword band and grabs the handle the curse of charm is cast on them, they’ll be so pleased with the sword that they can’t help themselves. However, it seems it’s possible to release it using either the spell {Remove.Curse} or the spell {Dispel.Magic} that’s stronger than normal. Though I say that, this is my first time hearing of the spell {Remove.Curse} and it seems it needs a spell with enough mana poured into the {Dispel.Magic} as if a level 100 magician uses on the spell Perfect Charm, {Charm.Any.Creature}.

Yeah, impossible.

Even if I were to succeed at the spell {Dispel.Magic} that sword would turn to dust it seems and in either case it’s beyond my capability.

“It looks almost like a curse..”

Miduchi whispered. I exchanged glances with her and lightly nodded and she made a face as if she understood.

During that time Vikkusu were forcefully lifted up and dragged off in the direction they were heading.

“What in the world was that?”

Toris tilts his head while saying.

“I guess they were arguing over how to split up that supposed {Magical.Weapon}?”

Bel runs her fingers through her hair while replying.

Just after lunch of this day, there was contact for Gwine from the map dealer. It seems that three more maps of the 1st floor were sold. The owners were parties I had never heard of. It been said for a while that magic items appear even on the 1st floor but when one actually appears, those rumors call more rumors and it seems the people blinded by money all came to buy it. If they were to get their hands on a magic item worth billions then I’m sure an investment of 10,000,000 Z (10 gold coins) is nothing at all.

Gwine was greatly pleased.

She doesn’t own a company but as expected since it’s a large sum of money normally you’d have to pay income tax on it. However, things like maps aren’t luxury goods and when it comes to a map of the dungeon it’s not considered military goods either. In addition to that she’s not even a normal commoner but a Free Person who aren’t taxed for the business they do. They just have to pay 2,000,000 Z a year for the individual tax and that’s it. If you can earn then as long as you don’t pay any attention to outer appearances being a Free Person seems nice as well.

Normally when Free People succeed in their business, even if it means losing 10% to taxes they try to quickly become commoners. It lets them be able to leave the territory and it’s common for Free People to be looked down on for how low their social standing is as well. If they’re a commoner then it’s possible for them to serve a Lord somewhere as well so they can give their children a bit

brighter of a future.

.....

Year 7445, Month 4, Day 19

Last night we returned from the dungeon, the night passed by and during lunch of today. When I was eating together with Miduchi, Ralph and Gwine came along looking for me.

“Al just listen! Miduchi! Listen, listen! It’s something terrible!”
“It’s not the situation to be leisurely eating food. The two of you, come with us to Boil Manor right away.”

We were dragged along by the two of them in a hurry and returned to Boil Manor. Really~ what is it? I was thinking about showing my face in my company in the capital after this though...There most likely won’t be any deliveries of goods until the beginning of fall so it’s necessary to go and adjust the amount of goods occasionally.

When we returned to Boil Manor everyone other than the slaves were gathered in Zenom’s room.

When we entered the room Zenom started talking.

“Al, there’s been some movements I don’t think we can afford to ignore. It’s about that Faruergaz and the others.”

Huh? Did they do something?

“It seems they entered {Sun Ray}.”

Eh? What was that?

According to the information that I heard from them the story went like this. After Faruergaz and the others obtained Gwine’s map of the 1st floor from the map dealer they recognized it as being some useful. One and a half months after obtaining the map they adjusted to the dungeon quite a bit and recently thanks to the map they’ve gotten used to efficiently moving around and avoiding monsters.

It seems that thanks to that there was a drastic decrease in injuries from

combat as well. To the point where they started discussing aiming for the 2nd floor the other day. They're newcomers but they have a reasonable level of combat ability and they also had the information from Gwine's map. It seems that the Rindobel couple from {Sun Ray} set their sights on that.

They used words to skillfully get closer to them and completely got on good terms. According to the story Ralpa and Gwine heard today they also said that {Sun Ray} and we {Slaughterers} are cooperating in challenging the dungeon together as well. Well, that portion isn't a lie. Though it's only a really small portion you can't say we aren't cooperating together after all.

Since they don't know how to doubt people they were completely deceived and believed that {Sun Ray} is really cooperating with us and making a fortune as one of the top teams in the depths of the dungeon. It's something you can figure out if you just investigate it a little bit but it's certainly true they're one of the top teams and since all of their members seem to be deeply faithful, they all have gold bands on their arms, and the emblem of a Torii on their shields and armors so they don't look like bad people.

In terms of appearances something like {Gehenna.Flare} which is filled with dwarves who all wear flashy armor that has grim ornaments all over it and easily carry around axes among them as well, even if you look at them in good light they don't seem like anything but villains. In any case just as expected one of the ones called a top team since long before we were, there's no one in Baldukk who doesn't know the name of {Sun Ray}.

Even if they were to try and gather information bad rumors about {Sun Ray} wouldn't come out so easily. After all starting with the members of the top teams there's no way the first-rate adventurers of Baldukk would properly speak with Faruergaz and the others. Even if they were to talk there's no way the top teams would care if Faruergaz and the others who have only stepped foot on the 1st floor were to join {Sun Ray}. There's no way you would think it could lead to a sudden increase in the forces of {Sun Ray} after all.

If you were to ask then they'd probably think if someone like that really joins {Sun Ray} then they'd act as luggage and drag them down so it wouldn't be strange if they said "That's a great idea. There's plenty you could learn from one

of the top teams, give it your best.” and encouraged them.

Also, if you were to try and investigate the sources of information other than the top teams, all you would be able to find is that they’re a deeply faithful top team and since they have a lot of members they might really seem like one of the tops in terms of synthesized abilities, there’s no way of finding anything out more than that.

There’s some pretty big merits to being a member of a top team. For starters, you can learn the {know-how} of exploring the dungeon. Other than that there’s also knowledge about dangerous monsters and combat with monsters that aren’t all that powerful. Being able to learn things like that is big. Of course, the biggest is still that you can travel to the lower floors while participating with highly skilled other members and increase the chances you’ll get your hands on a huge treasure worth a fortune.

There are a lot of people that were trained by the top teams in Baldukk and then after that started their own independent parties as well. The leader of {Verdure.Brotherhood} Robert.Virhaima seemed to have trained when he was a member of one of the top teams at the time when he was young and even managed to raise up the {Verdure.Brotherhood} into what was considered the strongest independent party for a period of time. Incidentally the leader of {Bright.Blade} Jankoto.Demitoridas also seems to have been a senior in the same party as Viruhaima at that time.

Faruergaz and Hirosukol must have realized there’s a lot they could learn from one of the top teams as well. They might have discussed it with Kumiru and Ruttsu as well. Normally being called out by one of the top teams is something that doesn’t happen often. They might have just been happy that their abilities were recognized. Furthermore, it seems they have some sort of rivalry towards me. I’m sure they wanted to reach my level as quick as possible.

And when it comes to {Sun Ray}, they might have been attracted by the map of the 1st floor they bought as well.

The dark rumors about {Sun Ray} is something I talked with everyone about three months or so ago. That’s why everyone is very interested in this matter. Furthermore, since the one’s who have been drawn in were reincarnated

people they have even more reason to be.

It seems that this morning Ralpa and Gwine met them by chance and talked about various things over tea. They decided it would be best not to casually mention the dark rumors until they discussed it with everyone and we came to a decision so they held back from offering any information and just tried to listen to what they were saying.

Since they're true knights it seems they have some pride in the fact that they're knights and when they were praised for that they talking about various things in a good mood. It seems they even went to the point of telling Gwine and Ralpa, "If you ever feel like quitting the {Slaughterers} then come and discuss it with us anytime, I'll talk to {Sun Ray} about it." It seems they dressed it up as a joke and they weren't seriously trying to recruit them but just simply laughed it off.

If you try actually talking with {Sun Ray} they're pretty well mannered and not the usual gathering of ruffians. If you don't know about the dark rumors then I'm sure you would think they're a good party.

Even we didn't have any sort of negative impression of them until last year. In the two and a half years since we came to Baldukk, we had heard a ton of stories about the top teams but {Sun Ray}, no, since we never noticed the true identity of the Rindobel couple we don't have any right to complain about them either.

However, I see. So they entered {Sun Ray}?

"I thought about showing my face at the company in the capital today but I'm canceling it. I'll give this some thought."

Seeing me smile while saying that Bel said.

"I don't think that they're bad people but if we think about the future then certainly it would be best to gain favors with them.."

"As a matter of fact I had consulted with Zenom-san and Bel about that since I while back. We'll try thinking about it as well."

Toris said while making an evil-looking smile. So he's fallen huh?

“What what? Is it a conspiracy?”

“What are you saying Ral, it’s how we can get them to distance themselves from {Sun Ray} right?”

“Eh? You’re quite the soft person as well, you can’t make it from here on out if you’re like that, in the rough seas know as life that is!”

“You, what are you saying?”

“Don’t be stupid, Gwine. It’s better if we have as much forces as we can from here on out right, if they’re strong reincarnated people then it’s all the better!”

“I understand that, but even if we were together with those people, they seem noisy..”

“Isn’t that why Bel is saying we should sell them some favors. We chip off the power in their words. I haven’t forgotten that I’ve been completely made fun after all!”

“Ah, that sort of thing...Al-san as well, that is..It seems you have various things to worry about.”

“What’s that? What does that mean?”

“It means that Al-san was already moving from quite a while back.”

“Umm..I’d prefer if you don’t make things go badly..They’re my benefactors as well..”

“Don’t be stupid~ Saji, just think about it for a bit. Whether it would be better for them to be in that {Sun Ray} or better to be together with us, the result should be clearer than the light of day.”

“That’s right, Saji-san. Which would they be happier to be a party of? I firmly think that it’s with us.”

“Ah..I guess that’s true as well..”

“And also, we’re intending to make a country. Reincarnated people can be that much more useful.”

“If it comes to that then I’m sure they’d be pleased and we’d be pleased as well. As a result isn’t it fine if no one loses out?”

“Ah..Yeah..I..guess..so?”

Why are you looking at me there with such a worried expression? I can’t do anything but make a bitter smile.

“It’s just as the two of you say. But, we won’t force them, we’ll be leaving the choice up to those two. Right?”

Miduchi concluded while questioning me.

Well something close to that is ideal.

However, I tried thinking about it again a bit. It might be a good idea to try and leave things to Toris and the others this time.

In the worst case if nothing more can be done then it should be fine if I come out at that point.

Chapter 180: Curse

Year 7445, Month 4, Day 19

While we were all grinning and making evil expressions thinking about ways to stir up the relationship there was a knock on the door.

When Basutorial dealt with them, it seems a messenger came from old man Viruhaima of the {Verdure.Brotherhood}. While tilting my head I went down to the lobby together with Miduchi and the Basuraito.Kerutein, nicksanme Basu who switched places with Toris in the dungeon way back, was waiting there.

“Ya~ Basu-san. What’s going on?”

“I’m sorry when you’re on your day off. Our leader Viruhaima seems to want to talk to you. It seems it’s in regards to the matter with {Black.Topaz}. Sorry but do you have any time after this?”

The matter of {Black.Topaz}? I wonder what in the world it is. But, it’s only obvious I’m interested. Last week, that sort of thing only just happened after all. However, if he has business then he should be the one coming to me..Well, the other side is still my several times my senior. Even in terms of age I’m quite a bit younger so I guess it can’t be helped.

“I understand. I’ll head over and visit after this but right now I’m in the middle of a meeting with my members so I need to go and notify them.”

“I see, sorry about that.”

I turned around and went back up to Zenom’s room and after telling everyone I was called out by Viruhaima of {Verdure.Brotherhood} in regards to {Black.Topaz}, Miduchi and left the meeting. In addition, I also told them that I was thinking of leaving the matter in regards to Faruergaz and the others to Toris and Zenom, just, for now I just want them to think up some ideas and let me hear them, so I told them not to move until then. Also, I mentioned that my slaves Zulu and the others already know most of the circumstances so if they’re necessary they can feel free to make use of them as well.

We followed after Basu to “Elm Tree Manor” and were let through into a

room. Just as expected of the place the King stayed during the day of judgement, it's the highest grade inn in Baldukk. When I tried asking later it seems that on just the days of judgement they're asked to stay in a different inn. Well, I guess that's only obvious.

The room in the far back on the first floor of "Elm Tree Manor" was the leader of {Verdure.Brotherhood} Viruhaima's room. When Basu lead us to the room we followed after him inside when he opened the door without knocking. Inside of the room Viruhaima was sitting on a huge sofa making a difficult expression with smoke coming from a cigar in his hand. Also there was one more, a person I don't know standing against the wall but judging from their appearance they're an attendant slave.

"Yo, Greed-kun, sorry about calling you out."

Viruhaima called out to us from the sofa and pointed to the one in front of him. When I saw down lined up with Miduchi he offered a cigar

"Do you want one? They're made in Reida."

Tobacco is an expensive luxury good. It's proof that you have plenty of money to spend and having a taste for tobacco could be called one form of status. Since we all have our memories about the harms of tobacco in our previous life no one has any interest in them though. In my past life I smoked cigarettes with filters but even though I've been reborn in a new body without the addiction. Even if I were to smoke them it will be several decades later, it's fine after I'm an old man.

"Thank you very much. However, we don't smoke."

I politely refused it. He offered an expensive cigar which costs 10,000 Z (1 silver coin). And I'm sure the people of Orth don't know about the harms of smoking tobacco. There was a tobacco field even in Bakuddo.

"I see, then are you fine with tea? Hey, Zofi, make some tea, four of them."

The human woman called Zofi carefully made some tea for us and Basu. I guess her age is around 30?

"Anderson should be coming pretty soon as well. We'll start talking after that."

Viruhaima said that and returned to his difficult expression again. So they called {Black.Topaz} as well?

Since we didn't have anything in particular to do, Miduchi and I were quietly sipping some tea. I don't know the difference between good and bad tea leaves but it seems they're using reasonably good leaves and there's an extremely good scent coming from it. On the four person sofa's we spent about 10 minutes with no one saying anything. This is somehow a strange atmosphere.

Once again the door opened without a knock. The ones who came in were the leader of {Black.Topaz} Red.Anderson, her attendant Kaku.Dankel and the member of {Verdure.Brotherhood} who seems to have called them, the battle-axe using Dwarf Renbal.Flameshaft.

There was originally one, two one-person sofas, and one two-person sofas in the room but I guess they brought one from a different room, there was another two-person sofa brought added.

"I'm fine over here."

Flameshot brought a chair from the corner of the room and lined it up along the sofa and sat down. After confirming everyone had sat down I looked at Viruhaima's face.

"Sorry about suddenly calling you out."

Viruhaima said towards me.

"I need to say it as well. Greed-kun, I'm grateful you came."

"Ha.."

It seems the two of them had already decided on what to discuss. I don't have very many ideas on what it could be though.

"I'm sure you've already heard right? It's about the {Magical.Sword} we found in the dungeon the other day...If you know anything about it I'd like you to tell me."

Anderson said that while looking at me.

"The {Slaughterers} have made it up to the 7th floor. You've found several {Magic.Items} right? Have you picked up anything similar?"

Ah, that sort of thing.

“What kind of condition is he is now?”

I asked them without responding to the question.

“..There’s no what about it. Our Vikkusu is completely entranced in the sword to the point where he embraces it and won’t let go. If we try to forcefully take it from him he just starts rampaging...If we don’t do anything in particular then there’s no harm though. That’s probably, what rarely appears even among {Magic.Items} the so-called cursed goods a {Retributed.Item}...”

“Red-sama..”

I guess he was being careful of Anderson who said that painfully, Kaku called out to her with a sad expression.

“Cursed goods {Retributed.Item} is it..”

Since I asked Miduchi about it after that I’ve already learned most things about them. Though I say that, it’s information that Miduchi learned from games in our past life so I don’t think it can be completely relied upon. It seems it was the first time Miduchi had seen a {Cursed.Item} as well and in most games it seems you require some kind of exclusive magic or item to remove curses, so it was just pointless game information that didn’t seem like it would resolve the issue at all. Come to think of it, they’re calling it now {Cursed.Item} but {Retributed.Item} though I wonder if they’re the same thing...

Honestly speaking, in regards to that curse or spell or whatever I can’t think of much other than having the temple purify it.

“Umm, can’t you have the temple purify it?”

In this world of Orth that ruled by a wide variety of different superstitions, one of the jobs of the temple is “purification”. Though I say that it doesn’t seem to be anything related to magic. It seems it’s used when people get sick or when there’s poor crops, they have them come do a purification but I already knew that it was just sort of ceremony and there wasn’t any particularly effect to it as well. Incidentally there’s no ground-breaking ceremony. I just felt like saying it.

“What’s that?”

I was asked with a strange expression. I somehow feel embarrassed for saying something that seemed absurd. I glanced over at Miduchi but I was looked at with the same eyes as everyone else like “What is this person saying?” Well, I guess that’s only obvious.

“Ah, No, that is..Don’t they do things like purifying demons or illnesses and such? I was thinking, maybe as a extension of that? and..Yes, I’m sorry.”

“So Greed-kun had that sort of pure aspect to him as well..”

“Stop with the jokes. That is, just something on the level of a consolation?”

“I’m sorry, our Greed has, I’m very sorry.”

After all it seems to be no good. Miduchi has completely turned into a groveling* person. Sorry.

“Isn’t there some kind of story about people being troubled over similar items in the past? If they managed to resolve it at that time then wouldn’t it be good to use that as reference?”

It’s the ordinary method but this is probably the most constructive.

“I thought about that as well. I tried investigating it. I was able to find several stories of similar occurrences.”

Obviously Anderson thought of the same thing.

“Then, how did they resolve things at that time?”

“..After all the {Slaughterers} don’t know how to resolve it either it seems... Anderson, shouldn’t you start preparing yourself?”

Viruhaima ignored me and looked at Anderson.

“That seems to be the case..It can’t be helped, I guess..”

Anderson her assistant Dankel sat back on the sofa while sighing. After that, Dankel looked at me and started opening his mouth.

“As far as we were able to investigate there were two cases in the past 50 years, where {Retributed.Items} were discovered in the dungeon of Baldukk. The first one was a spear. It’s name was {Beautiful.Spear} and similar to this time it entranced a single man it seems.

The curse seems to have disappeared when they snapped the spear in half.

The second one was a long sword and the name wasn't conveyed in this case. This one, whenever the person who equipped it would swing it, they seemed to wound themselves or their allies. Just the same for this one when they broken it in half all of the attachments to it seemed o have disappeared as if they were lies."

I see now. Then it's simple. They just need to destroy that {Short-Sword.Of.Blunt}. Even if we say the Endurance is high if some people with confidence in their strength take turns smashing it with a battle hammer or mace then it'll break sooner or later I'm sure.

"Hey, don't look at us like that. I had already heard that far as well. You're just thinking it's fine as long as they break it right? I thought so too."

Viruhaima shrugged his shoulders while saying.

"However, in the end we're just outsiders. We can say as we please. We can easily tell them to break an item they went through some troubles to get their hands on and might be worth a decent amount. Normally, it's difficult to even imagine that it would have been a {Retributed.Item}. I didn't know about them either.."

Viruhaima inhaled a full breath of smoke from the cigar and exhaled it out. That's such a wasteful way to smoke the cigar, this middle-aged elf.

I looked at Miduchi before nodding.

"Please let me confirm several things. I think it was Vikkusu, Barukemi-san of {Black.Topaz}? he's completely normal other than his attachment to the sword right?"

Hearing my words Anderson and Dankel nodded.

"He won't rampage or anything?"

Miduchi tried asking. Simultaneously Miduchi touched my hand and used {Party-ization}. Inside of my head the orders "Copy It", "Count It", "Learn", and "Test it" echoed through. Since the first two were words that don't exist in this world they're a code (the "count" order is literal).

"Copy It" refers to the dungeon of Baldukk. The next "Count It" refers to XX

time or {next}. The meaning changes depending on the order it comes out. Since it's the second order then in this case it means {next}. After that is all literal meanings.

In other words, if I were to simply interpret it then it's "Learn it and test it during the next dungeon". If I were to try to explain it too far then it could also mean "Learn it twice in the dungeon and test it." or "learn it in the dungeon and test it twice." as well but it doesn't make as much sense like that. Most likely, she wants to say "The next time we go to the fairies place learn the spell {Remove.Curse} and let's test it out."

If we just wanted to have a conversation without anyone else hearing it then {Telepathy} would be sufficient but it doesn't activate unless the target is constantly in your sight and while it's active your eyes shine with the blue light from the spell. Ah, it seems my eyes shine when I use Identify as well but it's such a weak light that unless you were paying close attention and already knew about it you wouldn't notice.

"There's no problem as long as we don't try to take the sword from him. Even when it comes to conversation as long as we don't say to hand over the sword there's no problem. Do you know something?"

Anderson looked over with hope in her eyes. Well yeah. But it's not like I'm confident in it.

"It's a spell. But I can't say it will definitely work. It will take some time for preparations as well.."

"Even then it's fine. Would you mind testing it out?"

"It's fine if it's testing it out. However, it's impossible right away. I need to order something for it as well and that will take around three weeks. I have no idea what might end up happening to the sword either."

Needing to order something is a complete lie. It's just an excuse to earn some time.

"I intend to thank you as best as I can. If it's just that much time then it's plenty within a reasonable range."

Anderson and Dankel lowered their heads together.

“Hey, Greed-kun. Somehow or other try and save her. It doesn’t seem like either of us will be catching up to you {Slaughterers} for the time being. It’s not particularly like you lose anything right?”

I wonder about that. Since I doubt there’s many live cases where I could practice the spell {Remove.Curse} on someone I’m grateful on that end but I can’t really say things like that so easily.

“..Well, I guess so. It’s fine. Let’s try it. However..”

I put on airs while taking a sip of tea. Everyone in the room is looking at me.

“Please let me make a few requests in regards to your thanks. Ah, I don’t need money. Also, even if it goes well, I don’t need the sword either. I can’t imagine something like a {Retributed.Item} would sell either way.”

“Then, what is it?”

Anderson said while gulping.

“It should be obvious. Several pieces of information, and a promise, I guess around there?”

Hearing my words the three from {Verdure.Brotherhood} and the two from {Black.Topaz} made strange faces. The female slave named Zofi is still leaning against the wall expressionless like a doll. That’s quite the well trained slave.

“For starters I’ll get into contact with you when my preparations are complete. That time, please bring along Barukemi-san. If possible it would be the best if you knock him out first but if it’s impossible then I’ll somehow manage to take care of that on our end.”

“There’s no problem with that. We didn’t think we’d be allowed to see the spell either way.”

Well, that’s only obvious. I would be troubled if they complained here.

“After that, please promise not to reveal this matter to anyone other than those of us here right now.”

“Of course. There’s no problem at all, these two are good at keeping their mouths shut. They can be trusted.”

“It’s the same for me as well. Kaku will never talk about it.”

Honestly speaking, even if they were to mention it somewhere it's nothing that would be of great harm to me so it's just something like insurance.

"And, after that is..about {Sun Ray}. I asked both of you about them a bit the other day but..while it was only just a small portion, since we were cooperating over using the same facilities, I was a bit interested in them. If you know anything other than that please teach me. After that is..please don't pry into it, I guess?"

"Putting aside things relating to {Sun Ray} I have no intention of prying. It's only obvious that you would try to conceal things related to the spell."

"Ah, certainly there's that as well. However, what I wanted to say was that, no matter what may occur between us and {Sun Ray} I want you to remain unconcerned and not take part in it, I want that sort of firm promise. The other day, {Sun Ray} tried to send a member into our party. It's nothing more than a precaution."

"Ho.."

"He.."

"Also, just one more thing. This is quite literally just a confirmation but are {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} in a cooperative relationship?"

I grinned with a smile while asking. Most likely, these guys are already cooperating to some extent. Though it's just at the level of, so what? If that wasn't the case there's no way they'd both say something like this to me at the same time right?

Well, this is really just a simple confirmation.

Chapter 181: Preparation

Year 7445, Month 4, Day 19

“We talked quite a bit.”

Miduchi and I were taking as we walked towards Boil Manor. Up until just now the seven of us were talking for about an hour. Though I say that, the ones doing most of the talking me, old man Viruhaima, and sis Anderson, just the three of us.

Partway through it ended up like them interviewing us {Slaughterers} but looking from their end, since we’ve long since exceeded both their hunting ground on the 5th floor and are exploring the 6th and 7th floors so they probably wanted to pull out as much information as they could.

Of course, we defended our information without leaking any of it and I was offered the words, “Che...What an uncute brat.” What should I do something so sad as exposing information for not even a single Z. It’s on a different level from removing the curse from the cursed sword.

Something like removing a curse is all over when finished and offered thanks but information on the dungeon continues further, if they were to get ahead of themselves and overtake us into the 8th floor then my treasure might end up disappearing. You can’t let your guard down when it comes to the top teams.

But, after all it seems both {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} were starting to look into the 6th floor...On the contrary there’s some meaning that I was able to obtain that information. It means at the very least they chose to earn on the 5th floor rather than unreasonably trying to enter the 6th floor.

Though I say that, the veteran party in Baldukk that {Verdure.Brotherhood} is has an average age in their mid-30s or beyond, so they might just not intend to overdo things in order to earn more.

In any case, I was able to prevent the cooperating top teams {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} from prying(There wasn’t any sort of

prying so far but that's nothing more than non-intervention without any sort of promise. I was able to get a promise that they'd maintain that non-intervention from here on out. Though it's just a verbal promise) too far into our matters so I definitely gained something from it.

.....

We returned to Boil Manor and I decided to have a cup of tea in my own room and take a short break before showing my face in Zenom's room. Soon after we returned to the inn Miduchi returned to Zenom's room. Rather than me suddenly appearing, I thought it would be easier for them to have a bit of time to organize things.

I spend a bit of time thinking about and organizing things from here on out as I drink my tea as well.

One, in two weeks I'll go to teacher Mila's place and have her teach me the spell {Remove.Curse}. However, it's assuming there actually is such a spell. In the case there isn't..there's no other choice than do something that seems appropriately similar and say it was impossible. Though it's uncool.

Two, I'll remove the curse from the sword on Barukemi of {Black.Topaz}. What happens to the sword after that isn't my problem. Otherwise there's the possibility that {Remove.Curse} could fail as well. In that case it's uncool as well but there's no helping it.

Three, if both one and two go well then at the very least I can create a favor with {Black.Topaz}. It won't count as a favor with {Verdure.Brotherhood} but at the very least I can just get them to keep an eye on things. After all, my only requests were a vague promise and some useless information on {Sun.Ray}.

Four, if one and two both end up unsightly then..that itself isn't a problem either. In reality things will be no different from up until now. I might be looked at lightly by {Black.Topaz} and {Verdure.Brotherhood} but that can't be helped and in the first place they knew from the start they were asking for something unreasonable. It should at best end as "So they aren't any different than us."

It should be fine to think that the matter involving the cursed sword this time won't end up as a minus to the {Slaughterers} no matter how things fall into place.

Now then, the problem is {Sun.Ray} and Faruergaz and the others. I wonder what everyone will decide to do about it? If it's not anything too unreasonable then fundamentally I'd like to just {GO} with it right like that. Even in the case things don't go well as long as Faruergeaz and Hirosukol don't die as a result of our actions, I'm sure there will be countless chances to recover from it.

What I need to be careful of is wracking my brains over not making a definitive gutter between our potential combat candidates from here on out. And then, making sure that their lives aren't put at risk as a result of our actions, just these two things.

It was then that I heard a knock on the door. When I opened the door the brat of the inn was there and he came to relay a message to me. It's from owner of "Slave Store, Ronslail", Madam.Ronslail. It seems they were successfully able to secure Basutorial's woman. However, the person herself seems uneasy about it. Fu~mu. It seems like there could be some problems just ignoring as well. Even after the brat returned downstairs after giving me the message I stood for a bit holding the door handle while thinking.

Just like that I left the room, went to Zenom's room and knocked on the door before opening it. Including Miduchi, the seven of them all looked at me.

"Ah, everyone, we'll be entering the dungeon in three days but.. We're going to stay inside for 8 days instead of 6. We'll earn from the 22nd until the 29th. Well, a big week of earning before Golden Week. Is there any problem with that?"

"Yeah, no problem."

Zenom acted as the representative of everyone and responded.

"Got it, then, after that is seven days off. It's a holiday until May 6th. Starting from the 7th we'll go back to usual."

"I see. Understood. Is everyone else fine with that?"

Everyone nodded in agreement.

"I'm heading out for a bit. Also, let me hear what you guys came up with over dinner."

I said that and closed the door.

.....

On my way to “Slave Store, Ronslail” I tried running some calculations. Since we’re exploring the dungeon for 8 days this time, we should be able to earn on the 7th floor for 5 of those days. Recently we’ve been able to defeat an average of about 20 ogres per day. The sale price of an ogres magic stone is roughly just over 800,000 Z (80 silver coins). Well it comes out to earning around 15,000,000 Z (15 gold coins) per day.

And, Basutorial’s remaining debt is 600,000 Z. In four days if there weren’t many ogres then it would be vague but if it’s five days then it should definitely leave some change remaining. The 1st day of next month is pay day but since I’m going to teacher Mila’s place that day I’ll hand them their wages of 200,000 Z the day before.

It seems he’ll be able to pay back his debt to me before Golden Week. Since I’m properly paying him his wages and portion, he was able to earn over 6,000,000 Z in last then half a year, well, I guess I’m willing to give him a passing grade.

I opened the door to “Slave Store, Ronslail” and when I called out to the madam who seemed bored as she talked to the head clerk and suddenly the madam changed her expression and offered me a seat.

“Ronslail-san, thank you for contacting me.”

“No not at all, since it was a request from our patron Greed-sama after all, we’ll take care of it without missing a thing.”

The sexy elf manager is acting as courteously as she can. The more the name of the {Slaughterers} increases the better the reputation of her store gets and it’s not like it costs money so I’m sure she doesn’t regret it no matter how courteous she has to act. I’ve heard that even Rozewela has been using this store since about a year ago. In my case there’s no way I would take being treated courteously badly either.

“It seems that the woman I requested has arrived. However, she’s uneasy or something? I came to talk with her for a bit.”

“Thank you very much for coming so quickly. I’ll call her into the back room so please wait for a moment.”

The madam said that before ordering the head clerk to prepare the woman in the back.

“Putting that aside, what’s going on with the combat slaves I requested the other day?”

“Yeah, in regards to that but Greed-sama did you know that right now there’s another conflict going on at the Dirt Plains? Yesterday, I was contacted by Benisshu Company in the capital. Currently, though I say that it seems to be from the start of last month but it seems the war prisoners exceeded 30 people. Around summer their transportation and sorting should be finished so they should make it around to us as well. On that occasion I’ll get into contact with you first.”

Benisshu company is the name of the largest slave trader that manages the sale of people in Rombert Kingdom. The owner is a person called Count Bennishu and their family has run this Benisshu company through the generations. This Benisshu company exclusively does wholesale and also organizes the slave market but excluding some special exceptions they fundamentally only sell wholesale to other slave merchants. It seems they also stock up outside of the country, they’re a company that deals solely in slaves, and they’re said to be the only company that is in possession of a Type-1 First Variety license which only a few have been issued in the first place.

Or rather, if we were going off of my knowledge their company would be easier to call a semi-government one. Most likely, they’re tied to the government. All of the prisoners that were captured in external conflicts, excluding those of a high social standing where a ransom can be made, pass through Benisshu company once as combat slaves. After that, they buy only the combat slaves necessary for slave merchants and then resell them. The resale is limited to just slave merchants. Even when it comes to the King’s direct fourth knight group, or the various knight groups of noble territories and official organizations if they need combat slaves it’s necessary for them to get them through these slave merchants after they’ve been resold.

Also, it's only natural but they also buy from the slave merchants inside of the country. During that process it's only obvious they buy other types of slaves then just combat slaves. After all, it's not saying too much to say they deal in the largest number of slaves in the country. The image might be closest to a wholesale store that always has a huge stock. Naturally, combat slaves should only make up around 10% of their total. The profit margin of each individual slave probably isn't a lot but since the quantity they deal in is different, I'm sure they're profiting.

The combat slave specialty company "Tani Slave Company" ..is said to be the only company in Rombert Kingdom that deals exclusively in combat slaves. Though I'll never go back there again..and then Ronslail Company that runs "Slave Store, Ronslail", and Riggusu Company that runs "Synthesized Slave Shop" the companies that deal in slaves of Baldukk all fundamentally stock up on their combat slaves from this Bennishu Company. Ronslail Company and Riggusu Company deal in slaves other than just combat slaves but even so the rate to stock up from Benisshu Company should be quite high.

In the capital there's several large companies that deal in wholesale of a single specialty good like this Benisshu Company. I myself want to raise Greed Company into a large whole seller that specializes in rubber products as well. Even if I make my own country it's still necessary to earn foreign currency and I think it's important to grasp the circulation of the various products that will be produced in Bakuddo and my territory in the future not just for the sake of taxes but to gain some stable profits as well.

Currently Rozural.Ryogu is registered as the head clerk of Greed Company but this will probably be inherited as an honorable occupation for the squire families that come on business trips from Bakuddo. For convenience sake, Rozural's wife Wendy.Ryogu is registered as a sales clerk but I intend to exchange her with Yotlen pretty soon. I think around the time the next squire family comes to change shifts with the Ryogu family should be just right? Well, it's fine even if there's several head and sales clerks though.

"Well then, shall we go?"

I follow after the madam into the back room and there was a Cat-people wearing some plain clothes standing against the wall. She seems nervous and a

bit exhausted.

“She is Catherine.Enforu from Rockfall village.”

I nod once to the madam and stood in front of Cathy. So this is Basutorial’s woman huh? Certainly she’s not at the level of an elf but she’s pretty good looking.

“It’s nice to meet you, Enforu-san. My name is Alan.Greed. Bastural..I’m Sajesu.Basutorial’s employer.”

“Umm, Sajesu, is Saji safe? Was he really able to become a Free Person?”

She asked me with a face on the verge of crying. I guess it hasn’t been that long since she was purchased. She doesn’t seem have been educated because she’s not offering her hand. Slaves that are used to being sold will hold out their hand for using {Status Open}.

“Yeah, he’s a Free Person. The debt of 5,000,000 Z he owed for that sake as well, he should have it completely paid off by the end of this month.”

While Cathy was at a lost for words hearing that I turned around to face the madam and asked.

“Ronlail-san. What’s her current price?”

“..Since we promised to try and get it as cheap as possible, 1,600,000 Z is fine.”

Ho~ That’s a good number. Certainly if it’s that price then they probably only made back the expenses on her.

“I think that he’ll only be able to come and buy her after we enter June at the fastest. No matter what please don’t sell her to anyone other than Sajesu.Basutorial.”

“Yes, that only natural.”

I nod and then turned around to Cathy again.

“Your hand.”

“Eh?”

“Please let me confirm your status. I’ll confirm if you’re really

Catherine.Enforu.”

“Ah, yes. I’m sorry.”

Just in case I used Identify to check it. Her age is 17 and there’s no mistake on the name either. Since there’s no reason for Ronslail to deceive me over something like this it’s only proper to think she’s the actual person.

“Enforu-san. I really want to let you meet Basutorial but please endure for another 1–2 months. Right now he’s risking his life daily as an adventurer in Baldukk to earn money. However, the fact that he’s still a newcomer is undeniable. The monsters in the dungeon are frightening and even just a bit of negligence or impatience could cost him his life. Right now, if I were to let Basutorial meet you, since he’s still inexperienced he’ll definitely try to hurry and earn money faster.”

“..”

Cathy had tears building up in her eyes as she glared at me.

“If he hurries he might get seriously injured. If he’s careless then it’s possible he might even lose his life. That’s why, unfortunately I can’t let you meet him yet. At the very least, until he’s earned enough money to buy you I don’t want him to get impatient. I’m very sorry but please endure for another 1–2 months.”

“..”

In some ways it’s a cruel declaration. However, I have no relation or connection with this Cathy. Rather than her feelings, Basutorial’s life and growth are important.

“However, if you see his face and energetic appearance then I’m sure you would be able to relax a bit as well. Tomorrow morning, around dawn, he’ll be running in front of this store together with us. If you don’t call out to him and remain hidden then I’ll let you see his appearance.”

When I said that I shifted my glance from Cathy to Ronslail.

“Ronslail-san. Tomorrow and the day after tomorrow in the morning, if she wishes, could you please let her watch the road in front of the store from the

second floor. However, make sure it's from further inside so she can't be seen from the window."

"I understand, Greed-sama."

I nodded at Ronslail and finally called out to Cathy.

"Well then, Enforu-san. Please stay healthy. Make sure you properly eat what you can. If you were to get sick then it would cost money for you to recover. Obviously that portion would be added to your price. If you don't want to increase the burden on Basutorial anymore than this then please be careful to stay as healthy as possible."

I excused myself from Ronslail's store.

After all money is definitely necessary but if they want it then it's necessary to give them women as well.

Ah, it's not like I'm granting her to him or anything like that so the meaning is completely different.

.....

We decided to eat dinner at the usual "Murowa". We occupied some tables in the back of the store and each enjoyed our own food and drink and when everyone had arrived I decided to ask about Faruergaz and the others, no, how they plan to deal with {Sun.Ray}.

"Al-san, we've decided on the rough plan so please listen."

Toris started speaking.

"Yeah, I guess so. Let me hear it."

...

.....

.....

"Got it. Then, I'll leave this matter to you Toris. But, it's not like it's necessary to hurry with it so don't go too far with it and do anything too severe."

"Of course."

I'm a bit curious about how Ralpa and Bel are saying something but well it's fine. If it's Bel then I'm sure she can make good use of Ralpa and she'll make sure it doesn't cause any problems to fall on me as well.

In the first place, since even Miduchi is helping them, and there's Zenom as well. Things shouldn't get too crazy.

Even if things do end up crazy then I'll just have to reflect on and make use of that from here on out I guess?

Chapter 182: Repayment Complete

Year 7445, Month 4, Day 20

The same as usual we all go running before dawn. Obviously Basutorial is together with us as well. We depart from in front Boil Manor and start running towards the outer crater.

It's already been close to five months since Basutorial started running with us. However, it's only on days we don't enter the dungeon so his stamina hasn't quite caught up yet. Recently since he's leveled up so suddenly, it might only be slightly but his actual physical abilities should have gone up as well. However, as expected it's still not enough for him to catch up to everyone else.

Though I say that, while Basutorial is wearing clothes that are easy to run in, everyone else is wearing armor or even holding bags on their backs so it hasn't reached the point where we're leaving Basutorial behind. Even if were all running for the same two hours if we just keep increasing the load then we can prevent adjusting to it and it losing it's effectiveness.

We're almost to "Slave Store, Ronslail".

"Hey, Basutorial, sing a song. A marching song."

"... ..Wwa...ha....Whh, what?"

Stop losing your breath over something at jsut this level.

"Something that gets us into the spirit. Do you know "Specialty of Infantry"?"

".. ...I, I don't know it."

I guess it's only obvious he wouldn't know huh?

"Then something you would probably know.."Gunkan Machi". Sing it."

"..Wwa..Ha..I don't know it."

"Eeeh!!? Pro~tect or atta~ck, there's~ no trouble~ that sort of one? You really don't know it?"

"..Aa, I know the song...Ppa..at "pachinko places"..the one that's often...being

played right.”

“Ah, that’s it.”

“I don’t..know the lyri..lyrics..Rather didn’t it go “when battleship yamato sinks”..”

Huh?

The one I know is,

“Even though there’s no rubber, no bamboo, or not joints, even though there’s no war with a single steel helmet, a single gun, and two bullets, oh son~ where are you going, with a vein standing out to the fields to scatter your seed~” that one but it seems like there’s a number of them.

“Really~ you are useless..Then as expected you know this one right, “Hakone Hachiri” is fine, so sing it.”

“...Wa, yes..I’ll sing!”

“The~ mountains~ of Hakonee~ something or other! Even though~ they have no~ borders~”

Basutoral started singing the marching song with a super cheerful melody. Everyone who started looking at me like a madman for suddenly telling him to sing are gradually singing along as well. It’s a Japanese tradition from the past to sing out loud while running. Even during club activities you’ll often yell out “One~Two~” as you pace yourself.

Zulu and Angela had no idea what was going on hearing a marching song for the first time but it seems they noticed that if they move their feet along with the rhythm things feel a bit easier. They originally just started to join me to try and act as a bodyguard for me but it seems they eventually heard from someone the meaning in training your body and recently have proactively tried to participate. Their expressions seemed to have gotten a bit softer.

“Very~high~mount~ains~ with~ a bottom~less~ravine..”

From the end of the group while running I glanced up at the second floor of Ronslail’s store. It was too dark that I couldn’t tell.

“Ora! You’re voices are too small~!”

“Even~~dur~ng t~he day~ the~rows of cedar~ tre~es~re~ dark~!”

We’ve sung up to the second part.

“One more time!”

“..Wwa, yes!! “The mountains~ of Hakoneeeee~ borders~!..”

Umu, singing as we run could improve lung capacity as well so it might be good to continue with.

We’re troubling the neighborhood too early in the morning you say? There’s nothing like regulations to prevent being a bother to people so no point in bothering over it.

After finishing our daily running, I washed away the sweat feeling good. After that I used an appropriate reason to separate from everyone, got my horse and went to the other side of the outer crater before training like crazy with magic.

I don’t know what everyone else is doing but most likely they’re already maneuvering around things in regards to Faruergaz and the others.

Just like this our days off were used.

.....

Year 7445, Month 4, Day 22

Starting today we’re entering the dungeon again. This time we’re going to be exploring for 8 days until the 29th so we’re carrying in more food than usual.

“Zulu, what were you doing yesterday and the day before that?”

“Since we were instructed by the madam, Maruso and I were in a bar called Barankusu.”

“I see. And, how did things go?”

I start grinning while asking.

“I can’t say anything at all. It seems we were noticed a decent amount.”

“I see. Make sure you do it well. Ah, pull that leg back.”

I have Zulu pull the leg of the Gargantuan Spider we just defeated and I stab my knife into it’s body to gather the magic stone. When it comes to the

weaklings like goblins and gnolls they're a waste of time so I just ignore them but when it comes to the magic stones with a decent value like hobgoblins, orks, and the room bosses we still gather them.

We arrive at the teleport room on the 3rd floor and secured a place for everyone to sleep. Soon after the rest of the members came along. It seems they're tired from all of the extra bags. We ate dinner with not much conversation and since we have to clear through the 4th and 5th floors tomorrow, excluding the lookouts we all went to sleep.

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Year 7445, Month 4, Day 23

Around 2 pm we arrived at the teleport room of the 5th floor. If we were to put a bit more effort into it I think we could probably clear through the 4th, 5th, and 6th floors in one day. If we split up into two parties(I don't think it's impossible even if I don't have the slaves accompanying me but when I'm alone I have to remain cautious of every direction at all times so it's a bit exhausting) on the 6th floor as well then we could probably make it to the 7th floor in two days. This is probably something we should aim for as well once the skills of the {Slaughterers} are raised a bit more without me.

No one was in the room. Around an hour after Angela and I everyone else arrived. Since I made the sleeping place, there's no much else to do. We take our time taking showers in order and Giberuti starts preparing dinner.

I wonder what's for dinner today?

Recently Basutorial has finally started to get used to the dungeon and he's finally gotten used to eating some of the heavier meals in meats. It seems tonight is pork steaks. Everyone is making faces as if drool would start coming down from the scent of the meat cooking. The 5th floor is an undead floor but since we passed through both the 4th and 5th floors today our noses are already broken. It seems that Angela and Giberuti still have some sense of smell remaining but everyone was making faces of happiness at the bad smell being erased by the scent of grilling pork.

Come to think of it, the first meal Giberuti makes after we arrive on the 5th floor is often something that has a pretty strong scent. Today is some steaks and garlic cooked together with it. It was when everyone was drinking tea and licking their lips over the meals Giberuti was making.

A group of adventurers entered the room. It's the party of 10 that's considered the first party of {Sun.Ray} lead by the Rindobel couple. It seems two of them are injured but according to Identify it's nothing serious. Of Course, since Faruergaz and the other six are considered the second party they're not here.

They came over to greet us.

"Ya~ Greed-san. We'll be spending the night over here tonight as well."

"Ya~ Rindobel-san. Please feel free."

The {Sun.Ray}'s usual spot to setup camp is along the opposite wall from where we {Slaughterers} use. While listening in on them as we chat about things and drink some tea and it seems they've started dinner as well. I guess they're mimicking us as they've brought a mounted stove magic tool and frying pan on top of it. The husband of Rindobel couple can use magic and since his water magic is considerably high at level 4, {Sun.Ray} is never really troubled with water for drinking or cooking.

While watching it seems they're kneading a small amount of water into soba flour and making crepes. Though if it's soba flour I guess it's a galette. These guys, must like galette. Following that they cut up some ham and cucumber. They seem to like cucumbers as well. But, cucumbers have almost no nutrition in them.

"It's no good if you don't eat some leafed foods."

Ralpa said as if making fun of them. Of course, it wasn't in a voice loud enough for {Sun.Ray} to hear.

"That's rude."

Bel scolded her. That's quite right. There's no need to go to the point of saying it out loud right.

“I mean, cucumbers don’t have any nutrition right? Didn’t you know?”

Ralpha objected. I get that you were thinking the same thing as me but whether or not you put it into words there is what makes up the difference between an adult and child.

“Ral, that’s not the problem. Bel is saying not to meddle in other people’s meals.”

Miduchi scolded Ralpha as well.

“I already know that. But you know..”

“Ral, just stop already. Even I can tell you’re saying something unflattering.”

Angela even joined in on scolding her. Incidentally Toris, Gwine, Zenom, and Zulu are all talking about something different. I’m having my feet massaged by Giberuti in the foot bath.

“Che...For Maruso who can’t even properly do cat’s cradle to say that.”

The volume of her voice got a bit louder. Incidentally cat’s cradle has been popular among the women of the {Slaughterers} recently. It’s only obvious but Angela is the one who’s the worst at it. Is this a fight between brats.

“You’re~ loud Ralpha, shut up!”

I scold her before the disturbance gets too big. When I glanced over at {Sun.Ray} it seems that they noticed the arguing (?) voices and I met eyes with the Rindobel couple. Since it was embarrassing I made a weak smile before looking away.

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Year 7445, Month 4, Day 24

In the early morning we brought along Basutorial and cleared through the 6th floor with the 10 of us then returned to the teleport room on the 5th floor again. This time we need to clear through the 6th floor again with Giberuti accompanying us. It’s started to get troublesome, so I was thinking of firmly declaring I’d clear through it myself while the remaining 10 clear through together.

“Did they already go?”

Bel is confirming with Giberuti. She’s probably asking if {Sun.Ray} has already gone to the 6th floor and isn’t around anymore.

“Yes, Koloil-sama. Around one hour after everyone left they teleported. Since then, no one has come back here.”

Giberuti picks up his bags while replying. There should have been injured among {Sun.Ray} as well but they must have decided the injuries weren’t a big deal. The ones who were injured were some of the weaker members of the first party after all, I guess they’re members that it isn’t a big deal even if they’re lost?

Otherwise, maybe they’re aiming to intentionally get them killed from traps?

“Did they say anything to you?”

This time Gwine asked.

“No, nothing in particular.”

Giberuti carries the bags on his back and looks around the camp grounds to confirm if he forgot anything.

“Hey, Ralpa, let’s go.”

I call out to Ralpa who’s wandering around the room and after confirming everyone was holding the teleport crystal, I chanted the incantation floating on the surface.

“Gemudohyu”

.....

Year 7445, Month 4, Day 29

“Return us.”

We teleported from the 1st floor into the teleport room on the side of the entrance. When coming out from the small room it was just as the rest of the {Slaughterers} came out of a different room. Since we have 11 people we can’t avoid splitting the group up when we return. It’s just a couple dozen seconds though.

We've already made preparations when one of the groups is late to return and confirm right away. Previously, just as we were ambushed by {Bright.Blade} in the dungeon before, even if I'm laughed at by everyone for thinking too far I've properly made it into a rule.

However, once we return to the entrance of the dungeon we can finally relax. We walk up the stairs with a harmonious atmosphere and inhale the fresh air.

"N~!!"

Ralpa stretches after coming outside.

A young member of the Baldukk knight group was on guard duty.

"What was things like this time?"

I was questioned. This is a common line, almost like a greeting.

"Just magic stones. How about others?"

"It seems {Sun.Ray} found a gold ore. It was quite something."

The knight said that while stretching out his hands. A gold ore with a diameter of around 30 cm huh? They must have obtained it from an altar on the 6th floor. The knight continues,

"But, it seems one of them didn't make it."

And said that. Was it one of the members that was injured?

"Alright, let's go and sell these."

I call out to Ralpa from behind and then we all walked towards the magic good store to sell the magic stones we obtained in the dungeon this time. We gathered 84 magic stones from ogres in the dungeon this time. All of the magic stones from monsters on the way in from the 1st to the 5th floors we have merged into magic stones the same value as ogres and those added up to two and a half ogres worth in value.

~And we were able to sell them for 76,520,000 Z. Since Basutoral's remaining debt was just 600,000 Z, even after taking that out Basutoral still gets another 165,000 Z in bonuses.

"Congratulations, Basutoral. With this you've completely finished paying off

your debt to me. Come to my room before we go to dinner. I'll erase the debt entry on your contract."

I pat Basutorial's shoulder while congratulating him.

"Yes!!"

Basutorial replied gladly.

It was just as I was paying out everyone's bonuses in the corner of the magic tool store like that. A well-dressed gentleman who was alone called out to me. It's a face I've seen before. Where was it again? and I remember right away. This old man is the person I commissioned to sell the magic stone from the {Larva Purple Worm} at the first-rate magic tool store in the capital "Splendor" last year.

"When I had just come to stock up on magic stones..It's been a while. Greed-sama."

"Ah, from Splendor.."

I'm amazed he could remember my name...It seems the memory of a first-rate store is first-rate as well.

"Yes, I'm the head clerk Ferippe. It seems you're carrying in a tremendous amount of magic stones again today."

So he wasn't the owner but the head clerk? Since Baldukk is close he must come to stock up.

"Ehe...Ferippe-san, is there something with them?"

The old man dwarf of "Magic Tools Danhiru", Kuredo.Danhiru who just finished weighing and buying the magic stones we brought in approached us while rubbing his hands together. He probably came to try and restrain us from selling directly to "Splendor" without passing through this store. Just relax. As long as it's not from a powerful monster or a {Magic.Item} I intend to keep using this store.

"No, these past few years the magic stones being sold by Danhiru-san have increased after all. I just happened to be here when they came in so I thought to take the chance to greet them."

It seems Ferippe has no intention of directly buying from us either. Although, it might just be a means to get through the moment right now.

“Yeah, they’re the pride of this Baldukk, the {Slaughterers}. They defeat every monster they encounter in the dungeon and bring the magic stones. They’re the top earners of the adventurers.”

“Ho~! Then you were the president of Greed Company?”

This old man, I’m surprised he knew that far.

“..Yes. I have a company as well but since I’m the owner, I’m not in the store much at all. When it concerns business matters I’ve left it in the care of the head clerk Ryogu so..”

“Yeah, I’ve also purchased a pair of shoes myself. These are quite comfortable to wear.”

When I checked his feet and he certainly was wearing some Greed Company made. Rubber-sole shoes are like the representative of cheap items from our past lives but it’s quite literally a case of a different time and place.

“That is, thank you very much. We have some new designs of shoes as well and we’re always open for maintenance so please stop by again sometime.”

At the end of last year when I met with sister-in-law but it seems that older brother is paying a Free Person who worked a shoe making artisan in Keel 7 gold coins a year to make the shoes. It seems he sent two serf children to his place as disciples and are having them learn the techniques of shoe-making as well. We need to sell as much as we can.

“Hey, old man! I’m here to sell magic stones! Hurry up already!”

It seems a new group of adventurers entered the store. Since the store is too cramped not everyone could fit inside. Since it was good timing we decided to finish up greetings with Ferippe and leave the store.

“Hmph, just that much..”

Old man Danhiru took the magic stones from the adventurers and put them on the scale.

“They’re pleased over that tiny magic stone, how cute~”

Ralpa said it while making fun of the adventurers. Well, she's this sort of person.

"Really Ral, stop it."

Gwine told her off a bit but the magic stone the adventurers had brought in was several merged, there was only one but it's value was a bit over 75,000. In terms of sale price it should be just over 500,000 Z. If you think about the average adventurer then it's plenty of earnings.

"Cute you said!? Ke..Just a brat that doesn't know the real earnings of adventurers huh? Obviously we're earning from other places."

Aa~ he reacted. Other places you say, that rusty sword and spear heads? In total it's question if it would even reach 100,000 Z or not. It's trash that we wouldn't even gather because it adds to our bags.

"Oh? So you were first-rate adventurers. I'm sorry for my rudeness in not knowing that."

Ralpa exaggeratedly lowered her head provoking the adventurers. I wonder if she's stressed from not picking any fights recently?

"What was that! If you underestimate us you'll get hurt! If you mention the ones who can silence a crying child, the {Snake.Eye} family that's us!"

It seems the adventurers didn't realize we were the {Slaughterers}. They must be newbies. It's a fact that we provoked them from our side so I feel a bit reserved on that end but in the world, true ability is everyone, the guys who earn the most are the best. If you all call yourselves adventurers and are challenging the dungeon then you should know that. In the first place why are you jumping on cheap provocations and calling yourselves a family like some Yakuza~

I let out a sigh and went to try and smooth things over.

"Stop it inside of my store! Since it's not like anyone in this town can win against you all it doesn't matter what you say but stop acting like a brat and grow~ up a bit. Also, you boys, properly look at who you're talking to before you speak, these are the {Slaughterers}."

Before I could say anything the dwarf old man hit Ralph and drove us out of the store.

Everyone was making bitter smiles. Zenom was silently hitting Ralph's ass. Thanks for your work, the two of you.

.....

On our way back we stopped by the government office and took out Basutoral's contract that I had left there before returning to the inn. In my room we drew a line through the entry regarding his loan to erase it on the three contracts and above that we placed our thumb prints using magic stones.

"With this your debt has completely disappeared. You're free to use your compensation as you please from here on out."

I just left Basutoral alone as he was basking in the delight and headed towards the shower room but it was in use. Since it couldn't be helped I decided to wait but since the one who came out was someone staying at Boil Manor completely unrelated to us I couldn't even complain.

I took a shower and then went to dinner with everyone.

Everyone offered their congratulations to Basutoral who finished paying off his debt and put their cups together in cheers. Starting tomorrow we have consecutive days off and these past 8 days we worked quite hard.

"I'm going to my company in the capital again starting tomorrow. Take care of things while I'm gone."

I eat a meat and vegetable stir fry while saying to everyone. Everyone nodded. That's right, this time I'm going to teacher Mila's place alone. It was then that a face I know entered the store. It's the leader of the second party of {Sun.Ray} Binsukol.Zemyunel AKA Bin and the one we saved a while back Virginia.Nyuman AKA Ginger. And then, Binnodo.Gekudo who carried back his little sister's corpse and Harukein.Fumizu, the four of them.

We glanced at each other but after they nodded to us, they sat down at a table a bit away. This is a good sign. Rather it's for this sake that we picked this place though. I wanted to talk with {Sun.Ray} for a bit.

"Ya~ Bin-san. I've heard that you all seemed to have recruited some new

members..”

I brought along a mug with some beer in it while taking a seat at the side of {Sun.Ray}s four person table.

“Ya~ Greed-san. You hear things quite quickly. Thanks to that we’ve perfectly been able to organize two parties as well.”

Zemyunel laughed while replying. It seems that either yesterday or today {Sun.Ray} just obtained a gold ore.

“But, Santosu didn’t come back..”

Nyuman said with a depressed voice. I guess Santosu is one of the people who was injured.

“That is..quite unfortunate.”

I said that and took a sip of beer.

“Stop it, wasn’t Santosu the one who was just acting recklessly. It’s fine as long as we search for some ores without overdoing it on the 4th floor.”

Zemyunel said while rebuking Nyuman.

“Wait, what was that!? Try saying it one more time!”

I suddenly heard Miduchi’s shout from the {Slaughterers} table.

“I’ll say it as much as needed! You’re just goldfish poop that’s stuck to Al’s tail!”

Ralpha talks back to her as if not to lose.

“Ah!! I..I’m sorry. Please excuse me! Hey! You all!”

I returned back to the {Slaughterers} table in a hurry.
I need to quickly calm them down.

AUthor’s Note: Status~

【Alan.Greed/5/3/7429】

【Male/14/2/7428 ▪ Human ▪ Viscount Greed Family Second Son】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 17 Years Old】

【Level: 25】
【HP: 206(206) MP: 7447(7447)】
【Strength: 33】
【Speed: 48】
【Dexterity: 31】
【Endurance: 34】
【Unique Ability: Identify (MAX)】
【Unique Ability: Gift of Natural Talent (MAX)】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic (MAX)】
【Special Ability: Water Magic (MAX)】
【Special Ability: Fire Magic (MAX)】
【Special Ability: Wind Magic (MAX)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic (MAX)】
【Experience: 2146471(2200000)】

*The MC isn't the only one with a huge increase in experience from killing ogres on the 7th floor.

【Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol/5/3/7441】
【Female/14/2/7428 ▪ Dark Elf ▪ Lail Kingdom Commoner {Lilac}】
【Status: Blunt Trauma】
【Age: 17 Years Old】
【Level: 16】
【HP: 149(149) MP: 263(263)】
【Strength: 22】
【Speed: 36】
【Dexterity: 25】
【Endurance: 24】
【Unique Ability: Unit Organization (Lv. 8)】
【Special Ability: Infrared Vision】
【Special Ability: Inclination Sensing】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic (Lv. 5)】
【Special Ability: Water Magic (Lv. 5)】
【Special Ability: Fire Magic (Lv. 5)】
【Special Ability: Wind Magic (Lv. 5)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic (Lv. 6)】

【Experience: 589141(680000)】

*Since she hasn't been injured much since coming to Baldukk her Speed and Endurance are going up quite a bit. She practices her Unique Ability on days off with extra MP.

【Zenom.Firefreed/5/4/7416】

【Male/19/1/7402 · Dwarf · Firefreed Family Head】

【Condition: Good】

【Age: 43 Years Old】

【Level: 20】

【HP: 132(132) MP: 9(9)】

【Strength: 27】

【Agility: 10】

【Dexterity: 29】

【Endurance: 24】

【Special Skill: Infrared Sight】

【Special skill: Small Magic】

【Experience: 1175862(1260000)】

*Some decreases due to aging.

【Ralpha.Firefreed/25/12/7429】

【Female/14/2/7428 · Human · Firefreed Family Eldest Daughter】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 17 Years Old】

【Level: 17】

【HP: 159(159) MP: 25(25)】

【Strength: 23】

【Speed: 29】

【Dexterity: 26】

【Endurance: 25】

【Unique Ability: Spatial Understanding (Lv.8)】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic (Lv. 3)】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic (Lv. 4)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic (Lv. 4)】

【Experience: 698632(810000)】

【Bernadette.Koloil/4/4/7429】
【Female/14/2/7428 ▪ Rabbit-People ▪ Sub-Baron Koloil Family Second Daughter】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 17 Years Old】
【Level: 16】
【HP: 146(146) MP: 91(91)】
【Strength: 21】
【Speed: 31】
【Dexterity: 22】
【Endurance: 21】
【Unique Ability: Shooting Intuition(MAX)】
【Special Ability: Super Sense of Hearing】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic(Lv.4)】
【Special Ability: Water Magic(Lv.4)】
【Special Ability: Fire Magic(Lv.4)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.5)】
【Experience: 662623(680000)】

【Torkelis.Kalstalan/13/5/7429】
【Male/14/2/7428 ▪ Elf ▪ Viscount Kalstalan Family Third Son】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 17 Years Old】
【Level: 16】
【HP: 150(150) MP: 50(50)】
【Strength: 22】
【Speed: 29】
【Dexterity: 25】
【Endurance: 23】
【Unique Ability: Scale (MAX)】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic(Lv.3)】
【Special Ability: Water Magic(Lv.3)】
【Special Ability: Wind Magic(Lv.3)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.4)】
【Special Ability: Infrared Vision】

【Experience: 626925(680000)】

【Gulinel.Akdam/2/7/7429 】

【Female/14/2/7428 · Dwarf · Rombert Kingdom Duke Rombert Territory
Registered Free Person】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 17 Years Old】

【Level: 16】

【HP: 159(159) MP: 33(33)】

【Strength: 27】

【Speed: 19】

【Dexterity: 31】

【Endurance: 27】

【Unique Ability Mapping (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Wind Magic(Lv.3)】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic(Lv.2)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.3)】

【Special Ability: Infrared Vision】

【Experience: 578456(680000)】

*Since she's gotten a slightly powerful magic spear she can deal more damage in a single hit and thanks to Miduchi's Unique Ability her experience gains is a bit more efficient.

【Sajes.Basutorial/13/12/7444 Sajes.Basutorial/4/7/7429】

【Male/14/2/7428 · Cat-People · Rombert Kingdom Duke Rombert Territory
Registered Free Person】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 17 Years Old】

【Level: 11】

【HP: 121(121) MP: 13(13)】

【Strength: 17】

【Speed: 25】

【Dexterity: 18】

【Endurance: 18】

【Unique Ability: Resistance(Temperature)(Lv.2)】

【Special Ability: Small Magic】

【Special Ability: Void Magic (Lv.0)】

【Special Ability: Night Vision】

【Experience: 156546(210000)】

*He's started learning magic. After hearing about his Unique Ability the MC is creating ice for him occasionally to practice it but since it's a waste of mana he's fundamentally using it for magic training. Also, through the level up of his passive type ability the MC was able to identify it.

【Dadino.Zulu/3/6/7442 Dadino.Zulu/20/7/7422 】

【Male/24/5/7421 ▪ Lion-People Race ▪ Viscount Greed Family Owned Slave】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 24 Years Old】

【Level: 17】

【HP: 157(157) MP: 5(5)】

【Strength: 29】

【Speed: 26】

【Dexterity: 15】

【Endurance: 25】

【Special Ability: Small Magic】

【Special Ability: Instantaneous】

【Special Ability: Night Vision】

【Experience: 783885(810000)】

【Maruso.Angela/15/8/7442 Maruso.Angela/12/8/7422 】

【Female/14/9/7422 ▪ Dog-People Race ▪ Viscount Greed Family Owned Slave】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 24 Years Old】

【Level: 17】

【HP: 134(134) MP: 5(5)】

【Strength: 20】

【Speed: 28】

【Dexterity: 15】

【Endurance: 21】

【Special Ability: Small Magic】

【Special Ability: Super Sense of Smell】

【Experience: 753492(810000)】

*She's gaining quite a bit of experience from accompanying the MC and Miduchi in the dungeon on their days off.

【Lorence.Giberuti/5/5/7444 Lorence.Giberuti/23/10/7419】
【Male/1/9/7418 ▪ Dog-People Race ▪ Viscount Greed Family Owned Slave】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 27 Years Old】
【Level: 4】
【HP: 107(107) MP: 6(6)】
【Strength: 16】
【Speed: 18】
【Dexterity: 10】
【Endurance: 15】
【Special Ability: Small Magic】
【Special Ability: Super Sense of Smell】
【Experience: 17712(18000)】

*Experience gain isn't much different from when he was a carpenter but he occasionally finishes off monsters when their HP is negative while gathering magic stones.

Chapter 183: Discord Theory

Year 7445, Month 4, Day 29

“Who did you say was goldfish shit!? Isn’t Ral the one that’s the goldfish shit!?”

“Ha!? I’m amazed you can say that, you opportunist! You just nonchalantly appeared later acting so arrogantly, stop staying around!!”

Miduchi and Ralpha are shouting at each other in loud voices.

“Just a moment, the two of you, stop it already!”

Bel is scolding them but they don’t seem to care.

“Opportunist!? Did you say opportunist? Who’s an opportunist!! Even though you’re a “blonde delinquent”! This Duke of shamelessness!”

“Ha..You don’t even have enough money to dye your hair? You poor person! Even though your own color is that of a rotting woman!”

The two of them are glaring at each other.

“Hey! Would you two stop already!”

Zenom yells. But, it didn’t have any effect at all.

“I..I..I..I’m not rotting!”

“No, you’re rotting~ Zombie woman!”

Zombie woman this is somehow. I wonder if Ralpha is dissing me in a roundabout way as well?

“Hey, Maruso, we’re stopping them!”

“Yes, Zulu-sama!”

Zulu and Angela got up from their seats in a hurry and started trying to hold back Miduchi and Ralpha from behind.

“Zo..Zombie! Are you really saying that, this shitty brat...Even though you’re not even decent at fighting you’re only first-rate at bad mouthing people! This”

“Not..even decent at fighting...Which mouth is saying that!”

Miduchi sure is unpopular. It's fine if you don't say that far right. But, it seems she was quite irritated being told zombie woman.

"Ral, you went too far!"

"Miduchi-san too, please be a bit more careful with your words!"

Gwine and Toris raised their voices trying to stop them as well.

"In the first place, you're also giving off a sour smell, you stink of puke!"

"Wha!? I haven't thrown up and I haven't thrown up puke!"

Tears have started to appear in Ralpa's eyes. No, you puke pretty often when you get drunk...

"U..Umm, th..the two of you, ple, please stop it! Please stop it~!"

Basutoral is in a fluster. Just this guy is making a monotone voice. He's useless. Giberuti is continuing his meal quietly while sighing in disappointment. Well if these two were to start struggling there's no way Giberuti could stop them.

"Miduchi-sama! Please stop already."

"Ral! I won't forgive rude remarks towards Miduchi-sama."

Zulu and Angela are still trying to hold them back from behind.

If you were to ask what I was doing, I was finally able to pass between the tables to get to where the two of them were. The two of them were trying to intimidate each other with their teeth showing. Are you two monkeys?

"Would you stop!"

I let out a roar and landed my fist on both Ralpa and Miduchi's heads.

"But, this girl is!"

"But, this person is!"

Be~quiet.

"You're loud. You're an annoyance for the other customers! If you really want to do it then take it outside, outside!"

After I said it the two of them calmed down but even after they they sat as far away from each other as they could. I lowered my head to the four from

{Sun.Ray} while making a weak smile and after we finished our meals we left without staying long.

.....

Year 7445, Month 4, Day 30

I ate breakfast alone rather than with everyone else and then just like I went and bought some dried fish before quickly heading to a rustic inn on the edge of town to leave my horse before stepping foot in the dungeon. I took my time slowly clearing through to the 2nd floor and used magic on all of the monsters came across confirming the effects. Immediately after I went down to the 3rd floor I sang the national anthem and teleported to the place connecting to the fairy village and then dozed off while waiting for the time when the door opens. Since I forgot to buy a bento I'm hungry.

I thought about using fire magic to cook some of the dried fish but while it's no problem making a small fixed flame like a gas stove by continuing to use the spell {Flame Thrower}, I don't have a grill. Even when it comes to stabbing it with a knife and cooking it like that I only have one knife..I have the throwing needles. If I use these as skewers I guess it would be fine. Well if I eat one fish then my stomach should be able to endure.

The middle of the night, just before the date was about to change I made water and washed my face then at the same time as the date changed I put my hands on the door and stepped foot into the fairy village. The same as usual I cross about the pond to the island floating in the center and after pulling the stove magic tool out of the hollow tree I called out for Karl and teacher Mila.

"Pu..Ahahahahaha, so you're alone today? So you were rejected by Miduchi, how pitiful."

"Come now, Karl, you shouldn't say things that rub salt into people's wounds. Al, men aren't about their faces. Please don't get down over it. What~ in the end Humans and Dyurou are different races, it's not that easy to have children either way."

"I wasn't rejected! She just had some business and couldn't come along this time. Don't say such rude things. I won't give you any dried fish."

“Oh my, is that so? That was quite rude of me, but you’re in the wrong too Al. It’s because you just come along alone without saying anything. It can’t be helped if we misunderstand right?”

How do you expect me to give you advance notice~?

“And also teacher Mila, men aren’t just about their face, that’s certainly true but..I know that I’m not that particularly good looking but I didn’t think it was to the point of being said that far..”

“Ra..Rather than that would you please grill the fish?”

No follow up from teacher...

“Yeah, I’ll grill it now..And, which one is best to start with?”

“Wouldn’t starting with meineiji be best?”

“I guess so. Piru, pirurururu”

Teacher Mila called out to the other fairies. Soon after a lot of fairies gathered and started surrounding us. After a short while they finished eating the dried fish so I called out to teacher.

“Teacher Mila, I would like for you to teach me the spell {Remove.Curse} this time. Do you know of this magic?”

I need to say it before I forget.

“Hn, {Remove.Curse} huh, of course I know it. Are you cursed Al?”

Oh~ after all teacher knew about it. It seems that I’ll be able to avoid embarrassing myself. That’s great...

“No, it’s not me. Of course it’s not Miduchi either. A completely different person obtained a cursed sword and they’re charmed by that sword.”

“Ho~nn, is that so. But, when it comes to the spell {Remove.Curse} if you aren’t actually looking at everything about the cursed target then I don’t think you’ll be able to learn it..though I think even that is considerably difficult.”

What was that? In other words, that means a {Cursed.Item} is necessary? This is bad...

“Well, if it’s something like that then I have just the right thing. Wait just a

moment.”

Teacher Mila said that before flying to the top of the tree. Ho...Thank goodness..I think?
Somehow I have a bad feeling about this.

“Ah, is Mila going to bring that out? Or will it be that?”

Karl is saying something but his words went in one ear and out the other. I’m getting a bad feeling about this. Soon after Mila returned with something like a ring in her hands. The ring has a diameter of about 2 cm and looks like a ring with no gems in it.

【Ring.Of.Poison】

【Mithril Silver】

【State: Good】

【Manufacture Date: 16/10/6715】

【Value: 1】

【Endurance: 35】

【Effect: Delayed Lethal Poison】

After all...It seems the bad feeling is going to be correct.

“This is a {Cursed.Item}. It’s a bracelet to us fairies though. Al, put this ring on your finger.”

Umm..it’s saying lethal poison but, that is...

“Ah, you had Identify didn’t you. There’s nothing worry about~ we’ll properly take it off before you die.”

【Effect: Delayed Lethal Poison; those who wear this ring will without exception be violated by poison through a curse. The poison is the type that drains stamina and every 1 minute it drains 1 HP. Obviously if HP reaches 0 you will pass out through declined stamina and if you ignore it beyond that you’ll eventually die. It’s possible to recover the lost HP through “healing” and such spells. Also it’s possible to temporarily neutralize the poison through the spells “Neutralize Poison” and “Counteraction” but unless you remove this ring through cutting off the fingers or some method the poison will be activate again. Once the ring has been removed the poison will no longer take effect.】

I had imagined that it wasn't the type of poison that kills instantly from the name but what an unpleasant item. I look at the ring on the palm of my hand while gulping.

"Here, would you just put it on already."

Teacher Mila is urging me on. I guess there's no choice but for me to gather my courage and put the cursed ring on. I wonder if we can't change it to a sword that charms you?

"What is it? Do you not like that one? Would a different one be better? But the other ones we have aren't really suited for learning the spell {Remove.Curse}. Since you lose once your senses. Endure using that one."

It can't be helped. I have over 200 HP right now. If it's within 3 hours then somehow or other..Oh~ I'll just confirm first.

"I understand. By the way teacher, around how long does it take for teacher to use the spell {Remove.Curse}?"

Hearing my statement teacher Mila raised one of her eyebrows while saying.

"What? Are you doubting my skill? Relax. I can take it off right away. In the past whenever Karl did something bad I would put this on his arm as punishment."

Hearing that I was relieved. Karl only has 20 HP. I take the ring in my fingers and put it on the ring finger of my left hand. I let go of the ring with my right hand and 10 seconds later something like small tentacles came out from the ring and moved around crawling into my ring finger as the ring tightened. It didn't hurt, but wha, what in the world was that!?

"Here, don't move. I'm going to use the spell {Remove.Curse} on you now. Make sure you remember that sensation well."

Teacher Mila said while putting both of her hands on the ring on my finger and concentrating. The blue spell light started coming out of her hands. That continued for about 1 minute and the tentacles that came from the ring into my finger withdrew back. In a hurry I took the ring off.

"The trick is matching your own mana up with the mana of the ring. After

you've matched them up once, you follow that back and just like untying a tied knot you do the same thing for the mana of the curse inside of the ring. You should practice it a number of times before you get a knack for it."

"Yes.."

"If all your magic levels are at level 6 then you should be able to use it. That's why I'm sure Al can do it. Well, in the worst case if you struggle with it, I'll heal you along the way so feel free to relax."

Alright, I guess I'll try doing it. I put the ring on again and wait for the tentacles to come out. The tentacles crawl into my finger. Now then..I put my right hand over my left hand with the ring on it and start concentrating.

It took me around two hours before I was able to get any effect from {Remove.Curse} for the first time. After that I practiced it a number of times (of course, I recovered my HP each time) but Karl, teacher Mila, and the other fairies all went back into the hollow tree to sleep around 1 am. I was left alone to fight with the cursed ring eating into my finger.

In the morning, since I was starting to get hungry I ate some dried fish together with teacher Mila and the others when they woke up. After finishing eating I struggled with the cursed ring again. Getting a handle on it is extremely difficult and late into the night I was finally able to activate it in about one hour. In the end I ended up staying at the fairy village until late night again this time as well.

"Karl, teacher Mila, thank you very much again this time. By the way, if possible I was thinking about bringing even more people next time but is that okay? Obviously since the number of people increases I'll be able to bring along even more fish as well."

I look at Karl and teacher Mila's faces and they smiled broadly. Karl is flying around in circles as if depicting his joy and teacher Mila is smiling as well.

"It's fine as long as they don't rampage around here. If they won't harm our allies then they come at their own convenience."

"Of course, I won't let them do anything like harming everyone. I want you to teach them spells as well and we might end up staying over for a bit. I would

like for you to let me test some new equipment here.”

“Yeah, in that case it’s fine.”

“Thank you very much. And also, one more thing. Would you please remain quiet about my Unique Abilities?”

This, is an important point. It can’t be forgotten.

“..I’m~ fine with that. But whether Karl can really remember it..”

Ge.

“Ahahaha, Al is as much of an idiot as usual. There’s no way I could remember something like that. Ah, were you rejected by Miduchi because you were an idiot?”

A winged insect is proudly holding it’s chest held high over how much it’s lacking the ability to remember things. That’s why I said~ I wasn’t~ rejected! I wonder if there’s some kind of impairment in Karl’s head? Putting that aside, if it’s possible I wanted to try making at least one prototype gun and bring it in here to have Bel test it out but I guess things won’t go that easily...Of course it’s necessary for me to practice with it as well. The diameter of the fairy village is about 1 Km and the sound shouldn’t leak out so I thought it was ideal for a practice grounds though.

Well, it’s fine to practice on the wide and bright 7th floor as well but since it’ll weigh several kg and including the ammunition it would end up being quite heavy. It’s troublesome carrying it down. I just thought it would be easier if I could do it here. Well, in that case then I guess it would be fine if I bring Zulu, Angela, and Giberuti the slaves? If I include Miduchi then it would five of us so we could carry in quite a bit of fish as thanks. No, I’ll stop after all. I forgot how much brains Karl’s lacking. Though I can’t really be talking about other people.

I once again politely thanked them and left the fairy village. By the time I left the dungeon it was late at night and when I confirmed the clock magic tool the time was already past 3 am. I pull back the hood I was wearing before nodding to Church-san who was guarding the tax collector at the entrance while grumbling how “it’s painful to practice spells” and then after fixing my hood I headed towards the inn I left my horse.

.....

Year 7445, Month 5, Day 2

I periodically fall asleep while riding my horse towards my company in the capital and arrived before dawn. It's only obvious in the case of restaurants but there's early stores open here and there as well. There's people carrying around night soil buckets, the people who collect night soil finished up their breakfast early and are running around gathering for fertilizer production on the outskirts. It seems they sell that to the villages? surrounding the capital. Though people with houses along the river seem to wash it away into the river but if you gather it up in a bucket you can make a bit of money off of it (around 50 Z a week for a family of six) so the only ones who do that are rich people though.

If it's this time then it's probably before the Yotlen family arrives at work. I stop in front of the store and tie my horse to the stake and it was just Dianne was opening the door and coming out. I guess she was going out to buy some breakfast. She's holding a pot and plate.

I've mentioned it before but fundamentally the people who live in the city of Orth eat their meals outside most often. They either go to a restaurant to eat or buy something made in a restaurant and bring it back home so there's just that much difference. Since the firewood that is required for fuel costs money and even the magic stones consumed for a stove cost a bit as well. Inevitably the restaurants end up grasping the stomachs in the area.

Most of the people who make their own meals at home are those with over a certain amount of income. Since there's ingredient stores aimed at restaurants and the few people who cook for themselves as well if they wanted to make it themselves it's possible but in the first place most houses don't even have the right facilities for cooking. The farther away from the city areas you get into the remote regions there's less to worry about in regards to fuel so most people end up cooking for themselves at home.

"Oh my, Al-sama."

Dianne called out to me while making a slightly surprised face.

"Hey, Dianne. Are you going to buy some food? Buy a portion for me as well."

I casually replied to her while handing Dianne two large copper coins I took from my wallet. If it's 2,000 Z then it should be plenty to feed the four people in the Ryogu family and I. If it's a full pot of stew with not much ingredients in it then you can get it for 400 Z or 500 Z. After that it's fine if she just buys some adequate bread.

"I understand. I intended to buy some stew but is that fine?"

"Yeah, of course. Is everyone already up? Is it fine if I enter the store?"

"Yeah, of course. Everyone is already awake."

When I entered the store and Rozural, Wendy, and Ruku were already up and making preparations to head to the workshop. We exchanged greetings and I told Rozural that if he doesn't have any particular business for today to remain in the shop and discuss with me how we're going to get over the next couple of months with just the stock we have remaining.

In about 10 minutes Dianne returned with a pot full of hot stew, a deep plate with five fried eggs, and carrying something like thick baguette bread. We all ate breakfast and while were enjoying some after meal tea the Yotlen family appeared to work.

"Ah, presichent~ go~od mornish~"

Kamnal ran over and greeted me with a lisp.

"Oh~ Kanna, have you been well?"

I pick up Kamnal who's soon to be five and spin him around.

"Really, Kanna, wipe your feet. You'll get dirt on the president!"

Anna warns him. As expected of an older sister. But, this much is fine.

"Here, stick your feet out..I'm sorry, president~"

Hanna is gallantly taking care of Kamnal as well.

"Yeah, it's fine it's fine, no worries."

I guess just Kamnal doesn't have any rubber sandals?

"Wendy, make some sandals for Kanna as well. One size larger or so."

“No..No way, it’s fine.”

Leila say that in a panic but someone who is related to Greed Company that deals in rubber, even if they’re a child, barefoot is no good. Kamnal is a boy after all, I need him to become a skilled sales clerk one day. Of course, Anna and Hanna as well.

“Yeah, I will take care of it.”

Wendy smiles while replying.

“Then, shall we head out?”

Ruku called out to Wendy and Dianne and the three of them started walking off to the workshop.

I stayed in the capital for two nights and went over various fine details with Rozural and the others. The customers who came to buy condoms would often ask when the next arrival of the new model would arrive. Everyone was well-dressed customers. Leila..you’re quite good.

.....

Year 7445, Month 5, Day 4

I arrived at Boil Manor and after leaving my horse there was no one inside of the inn. I wonder if they’re already out for lunch? Since it couldn’t be helped I left the inn to go out and eat something, since I didn’t particularly have any plans I decided to walk around the town of Baldukk looking for a random place to enter.

Then, a face I know came walking down from ahead of me. It’s Kaku.Dankel from {Black.Topaz}.

It seems he recognized me as well and walked over.

“Ya~ Dankel-san.”

“Ah, Greed-san, you appeared at just the right time..I heard you went to the capital?”

What is it, I won’t run away.

“Yeah, I had some business at my company. I just returned now. Ah, that’s

right. I've finished gathering the necessary things. If it's convenient for you then how about tonight?"

"Oh~ that's a big help. The location is.."

Dankel made a clearly relieved expression while saying.

"I'll go over to your inn. Since it's necessary to tie up Balkemi-san and hold him down."

"I understand. Then what time tonight would be good? We'll make preparations and wait. Balkemi's inn is "Missuri". Do you know of it?"

"Yeah, it's the inn about midway along the 2nd street right. I think I'd like to finish it up before dinner so I'll head over around 5 pm."

"Oh~ that helps. With this we can go to the dungeon starting tomorrow. I'm sure our Anderson will be pleased as well."

I guess he isn't thinking about if I were to fail? though it doesn't particularly matter.

"No, please give my regards to Anderson-san as well. Well then, if you'll excuse me."

"Ah, that's right, Greed-san. It's kind of questionable if it could be considered a bonus to our thanks to you but it seems there's some kind of conflict between the human and dark elf in the {Slaughterers}. It might be none of our business but just in case I thought it would be best if I mentioned it to you."

Hohou.

"Eeh!!? Is that true!? What are those guys doing.."

I raised my voice in surprise.

"No, well it's a rumor so..It's not like I've confirmed it directly myself.."

I was told with an unfortunate tone of voice.

"I'm sorry, please excuse me for a bit."

I ran off as if I was returning to Boil Manor. This sure is troublesome...I guess I'll eat something at a random restaurant along the way once I turn the corner. Somehow I wanted to eat some sandwiches but I guess sobagaki is fine as well.

Author's Note:

“Remove.Curse” Abjuration.Enchantment.Charm

(Earth Magic Lv. 6, Water Magic Lv. 6, Fire Magic Lv. 6, Wind Magic Lv. 6, Void Magic Lv. 6, Consumes 30 MP)

The caster can release the target from one “curse”. In the case that the target is a living creature, it just releases them from the “curse” but in the case it’s a non-living creature it will completely destroy the target(excluding artifacts and relics). Removal of the curse requires contact with the cursed target or otherwise the target applying the curse. Furthermore, depending on the strength of the curse, there are cases where it requires more mana than listed above as well. The reverse magic “Curse {Beast.Curse}” allows the caster to place a curse on the target(limited to living creatures) for a number of hours equal to their level. The curse allows them to reduce the ability values of the target by an amount equal to the level of the caster. Ability values won’t drop below the bare minimum of zero. Ability values drop in the order of Strength, Speed, Dexterity, and Endurance. By pouring more mana into the spell you can influence what and how much of each abilities are decreased. However, in order for the spell “Curse{Beast.Curse} to take effect you need to concentrate for a time(even when the proficiency level with the spell increases this is separate from the time required to concentrate) of at least the targets HP (in the case of non-living creatures their Endurance value) times 60 seconds.

Chapter 184: Meat Stick 1

Year 7445, Month 5, Day 4

It was when I was eating a meal of ginger pork, soup, and bread at the restaurant “Saroku”. When I had my back to the entrance a new group of customers sat down behind me and started talking.

It seems they’re adventurers.

“Ribi, would you come with us to the dungeon tomorrow? Machi and I, and another four others we’ve already made plans with.”

“That’s right, Ribi, you should come too. You and that, what was it again? Ah, Pino. If she comes along as well then we’ll have 8 people, we can even go to the 2nd floor.”

Judging from the voices they don’t seem all that far from me in age. They’re still young, some of the lower classes of adventurers. I dip my bread into the soup and carrying it to my mouth while listening and they continued talking.

“Eh? Tomorrow huh...Who are the other four? If Zekkusu is together then I won’t go. That guy is unpleasant.”

“Relax, this time Zekkusu isn’t with us. Recently he was called out to by {Blue.Lightning} and seems to have entered their party.”

“Missu, is that true? If you mention {Blue.Lightning} then they’re a first-rate party that’s even been appearing on the 4th floor lately right! That fellow Zekkusu, he seems to have done well for himself..”

“Huh, what are you saying? If they’re willing to let someone like Zekkusu in their party then that {Blue.Lightning} shouldn’t be anything special right? Rather than that perverted bastard Machi, you’re far more reliable.”

“Thanks, Ribi. But, it’s true that Zekkusu is pretty skilled. Though I won’t deny he’s a pervert his skill with the spear is real. {Blue.Lightning} huh~ I’m envious.”

A cool name like {Blue.Lightning}, I’ve never heard of them before~ Well a party that’s just now appearing on the 4th floor is out of my range of interest so it doesn’t matter at all but the name of a color plus lightning sure is a powerful sounding name.

In the past, there was a party named Lighting Speed{Gale.Thunderclap} but I think it was last year? or the year before that? It seems they were wiped out in the dungeon. A brawny Laios man was the leader but one day they entered the dungeon and never came back out again. They were a party skilled enough that they were considered one step away from being in the top teams but I remembered thinking, when you're wiped out it really takes no time at all.

However, this restaurants pork ginger isn't very good. I threw the rest of the remaining pork into my mouth all at once, chewed and swallowed it.

"I want to enter the {Slaughterers} or {Verdure.Brotherhood} as well...I wonder if they'll call out to me.."

"Machi, that's a bit unreasonable. I've heard they're all first-rate. Since the {Slaughterers} are going to the 7th floor it seems...Even if you can brag about your strength, it's the 7th floor you know, the 7th floor. It's only obvious it's impossible."

"I already know that it's impossible. I just wanted to try saying it.."

"But you know, putting aside {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} isn't {Slaughterers} just made up of brats. I've seen them a number of times but the leader is just a brat as well..I wonder what's different between them and us?"

"Yeah, that leader brat..Greed was it...I saw him from nearby when he was eating at "Murowa" about a month ago but he sure had a shitty cheeky face... All of the other ones seemed pretty similar in that they were cheeky brats. After all it seems that Firefreed-san is the essential leader~"

"That's only obvious right. Don't they say that the {Slaughterers} core combat force is the leader's combat slaves and Firefreed-san and they're all outrageously strong? I'm sure Greed is just the leader because he has that Laios named Zulu and the Dog-person named Maruso."

"Well, I'm sure that's true. I don't know about that noble named Greed but he must have been quite rich. Since he was able to buy two of those sorts of amazing~ combat slaves..It's completely different from someone like me who comes from a remote Viscount family."

Well, I'm sure the public opinion is something like that. There's no way they'd easily be able to figure out our combat abilities and the only parties in Baldukk right now that have seen our combat are the top 10 or 20 parties or so I'm sure.

Though I say that, we never use magic when we're being seen so the only results they know are just those sorts of unrefined fist fights so there's no one out there who's seen the {Slaughterers} true combat potential in that true meaning.

I tear off a piece of bread and use it to wipe my soup bowl then wiped some of the ginger pork plate before eating it.
Even though the soup is decently good.

"Then that would mean that essentially the {Slaughterers} are going to the 7th floor with only three people who can fight.."

"No, as expected that's not the case right. It seems that leader and the other brats can fight decently as well. After all they can make it to the 7th floor and back alive, there's no way they're just baggage right."

"Ah..I guess~ that's true...I've seen them getting into a fight in a bar before. Two or three years back, no, I guess it was even further back...It was before Kalstalan and that Akdam dwarf woman joined. It's only obvious but they were even more of brats than now. They were fighting against the guys from {Twin.Gold}."

"Ah, I've heard about that before. They beat both of the twin Tiger-man from {Twin.Gold} half to death right?"

"Right, that's it. That woman named Ral was crazy..That woman, she uses an axe that doesn't suit that face of hers. One of them had their noses smashed and the other one had the edge of the axe shoved into their mouth and all of their teeth broke. Also, that Rabbit-people woman named Koloil was just laughing as she watched that. I got the chills."

"No, Ribí, didn't you just kick in and crush Mrioggu's balls last week..There's no difference.."

It's certainly true that Ralpa did some outrageous things but Bel has never laughed while watching over it. Don't dramatize it. And then, Ralpa's never used her axe while fighting..She hasn't right..She shouldn't have, probably.

Since fights between adventurers is a daily thing there's no chance of them complaining about it. The one who makes a complaint just gets made fun of and even though there should really be a lot of witnesses who saw it, since they're too afraid of retribution from the allies of the one the complaint was made against they generally won't come forward. It's different if someone dies but

depending on the case even then they're sometimes ignored.

Just the bean tea is of a quality good enough that I have no complaints. This place isn't suited for coming to eat.

It would be best to make use of it as a cafe.

"Come to think of it while were talking about that Ral from the {Slaughterers}. Doesn't it seem like recently she's been fighting a lot with the Dark Elf in their party."

"Yeah, that seems to be the case. It's completely a rumor that one of them is going to end up leaving."

"Oh, Machi. Then, isn't that a chance for you. You might be able to enter the opened spot?"

"Oh~ as a matter of fact I was aiming for that. If one of them ends up leaving I intend on going to ask them to let me join."

"But you know, if Ral ends up being the one to leave then wouldn't Firefreed-san leave together with her? In that case the combat ability of the {Slaughterers} would largely drop."

"That's the problem isn't it~ If it comes to that then the choice will come up whether to either join Firefreed-san or the {Slaughterers} with the combat slaves, it's quite the difficult choice."

"Hmn, if you think about it overall, after all the {Slaughterers} side with the higher number might be better."

Oh, so they're aiming for an open seat? Certainly there's that way of thinking about it as well. Though we'll reject them all. No, if there was a considerably skilled person who didn't have any strings attached then it might be different though. I call over the waiter and pay 420 Z before heading towards the exit of the restaurant.

"H,Hey!"

"Eh? Ah, th..the {Slaughterers}.."

"After all since he's eating alone at a place like this then that means.."

"No, even if he's the leader in name only, there's no way he'd be eating alone at a place like this ignoring the discord between members right. After all isn't it just a rumor that someone will leave the party?"

"But you know, in the end he's just a brat right, couldn't it be he's just gotten

sick of being together with a party that does nothing but fight?”

“I see, that might be true.”

So it’s even reached the stage where it’s talked about between this level of trash adventurer huh? Hmm, after all it seems there’s no need to group up again in a hurry. For the time being I’ll buy some random things at the general good’s store to camouflage the curse removal before returning to the inn.

.....

After finishing my shopping, returning to the inn, and relaxing for a while and the members of the {Slaughterers} returned in small groups.

“Yo, welcome back. Were you having lunch?”

I call out to the first ones to return Toris and Bel.

“A, Al-san.”

“Did you eat lunch?”

“Yeah, I just ate at “Saroku”.”

“The stew there is delicious right.”

“Yeah, they use good stock for their soup. Their baked foods aren’t very good though.”

..I just found that out.

“What about everyone else?”

“I think they should be returning pretty soon.”

“Though probably just Miduchi-san will come back late.”

While they were saying that I could hear the voices of Zenom, Ralpa, Gwine, and Basutorial. It quickly changed to the sounds of them climbing the stairs and they entered my room.

“Al. Everything is going smoothly on our end. Was everything fine in the capital?”

Zenom said.

“Yeah, Zenom. Though things might get a bit difficult for the company. If things continue like this then we’ll completely run out of stock in mid-August. I

had them bring along quite a bit more than usual but..it's pleasant screams because the demand for rubber products seems to have increased."

"If business is booming, isn't that a good thing. Do you not intend to deal in any other goods?"

Gwine is saying it might be fine to deal in other goods than rubber products but it's difficult. The biggest problem is that I have no routes to stock up on things.

"..Different products huh...Al-san, I have an idea but..Would you mind listening?"

Basutorial was quietly listening to the conversation when he timidly came forward with something.

"Saji, you really..Though I have to wonder about that. Well, if Al says it's fine wouldn't it be fine? How about just trying to mention it? Though I like the original way more."

It seems there's already been some sort of conversation between Ralpa and Basutorial. Rather~ what original?

"Hn? If you have some sort of idea then let me hear it. If it's good then I want to try it out."

"Umm..It's a bit difficult to say but Al-san, that is..yo..you're making "condoms" with rubber right?"

It's not particularly difficult to say right? Everyone already knows after all.

"Yes, the Saya. It seems to have become a popular product and I think it's quite useful for the prevention of diseases."

The one who is probably receiving the greatest benefit from them in the {Slaughterers} with ears longer than an Elf said. Look, everyone is calm. Ralpa and Gwine already long since have known and while these two are former high school girls, since their life experience is quite long it's nothing to get embarrassed over at this point.

"..Yes. It seems that the price is reasonable and they're quite popular..Well that's fine. The problem is that thanks to those it's easy to predict that the

bowel's of livestock are in a situation where they don't sell as much anymore."

"Hn? Do you intend to make "Sausage"? That's fine though since it's a food product the individual sale price is quite cheap and since things like preservatives and food additives are difficult to make it's not really suited for mass production. I don't think it will be very profitable?"

Well if it's a person who reincarnated from Japan in all likelihood they've probably thought of it? Since the bowel's of pigs and sheep are mostly used as a replacement for condoms so once they know the price I think in most cases they'd give up though.

"N~ It's true I thought of "Sausages" as well. Since we don't have a meat grinder we'd have to start from making one of those but in the worst case it's possible to buy some slaves and just have them keep chopping it up with knives as well. Since they're delicious, I wasn't able to think as far as food additives but if we smoke them before we sell them and make sure they definitely either boil or grill them before eating them then I think they'll be fine from food poisoning for a short while."

Come to think of it the representative of minced foods that is hamburger originated from a nomad race in the form of taretare steak and I've heard it originally dates back to around the 12-13th centuries. It seems that it was conveyed to Europe and turned into hamburger a lot later. However, judging from the way Basutorial said it there's something other than sausage as well.

"It's string. Originally stringed instruments made use of string made from grasses but on {Earth} they also tore up the bowel's of livestock, let them dry out, then picked out the good quality ones and made them into strings. Even on Orth there's instruments like the {Zither}, {Lute}, {Harp, and {Violin} but the strings of all of those are made from plants called makku or mizekku. Though that sound isn't too bad but.."

Come to think of it, Basutorial was a {guitarist}. I guess he's knowledgeable about things like that. There's probably an instrument shop in the capital. I'll try searching for it next time and bring him along.

"He~ string huh? I didn't know it was made from the bowel's of sheep. But, would that be profitable?"

Toris said. Yeah, if it doesn't make money there's no meaning. Though raising the level of civilization is a good thing but it's fine once I eventually make my own country and have enough leeway and money to pay for the arts. If he wants to have a musical performance~ then couldn't he wait until then? Ah, I guess he's not saying he wants to perform.

"I wonder about that..I've never played an instrument on Orth so I don't know but I think it would be better than strings made from plants but..Of course, I'm sure that alone wouldn't be very profitable. That's the reason for the {sausage}."

I just said that sausage isn't suitable for mass production. If we're just making them in small numbers there's not much profit to it right?

"Just a moment ago Al-san said that mass production is difficult because we can't store them for long periods but I have an idea."

He~? Mass production itself can somewhat be taken care of by reducing the amount of labor required if we can somehow make a meat grinder and streamline the process. Everyday around a stable 250,000 Z (1 gold Shu), no, I guess that's aiming too high. If it can earn profits of around 100,000 Z per day then it's worth investing in exclusive slaves and facilities.

However, it's a food product. And no matter how I think about it, it won't become a high class food product. What will end up being used is the garbage meat and internal organs I'm sure. If you're making it with pig's bowels then it depends on the length but each one will come out to around 50–100 grams, so wouldn't the sale price be at best 100 Z or so? Since there's stocking up as well you would need to sell more than 1,000 of those every day. Oh~ I forgot about the cost of buying the ingredients. If you think about the cost price ratio then you would need to sell something like 1,500 or depending on the case even 2,000 of them. The population of the capital is roughly 200,000 people. I wonder if they'd sell that much?

"As a matter of fact I had the chance to talk with Miduchi-san about various things the other day and I thought this might work. It seems that in Miduchi-san's country they're artificially cultivating a wide variety of mushrooms for food purposes but among those it seems there's quite a few varieties that

didn't exist on "Earth".

"Well, I'm sure there are. This isn't "Earth" after all."

"Among those there's a mushroom called Soruhoggu and it seems it's normally purified into poison but it seems that one of the scrap byproducts made during the purification of that poison prevents the color of dead flesh from fading for a long period. Wouldn't that make it a preserving agent?"

..I can't deny that possibility but if we're mentioning a disposal byproduct produced during the making of poison then that's industrial waste right? Emotionally I can't really support using something like that..No, I just think it's a boring sentiment? But, the foodstuff company that I worked at used foodstuff that used as few additives as possible as their main line. Of course, zero is impossible. But I thought that it was necessary to eternally put effort towards making it as close to zero as possible. The moment you think, this is fine, or this plenty then you stop trying to put anymore effort in after that. I think it's no good if you're not always trying to put more work into it.

However, preservatives huh? The representative of that is sodium sulphite. It's easy to make with ion exchange but it's not like we have something like ion exchange resin or film(electricity can be made with magic)...I guess it's not as if it can't be done. I already knew zeolite was rolling around all over the place. There's no active volcano on the Jindal peninsula where Bakuddo is but there was a mountain of high quality sulfur as well and even carbonated water was springing up.

If I put some work into the operation then it's possible to sort out just a specified element as well. If I just select the necessary elements and pickle it with a zeolite then while I'm sure it would be inefficient but it's technically possible. Even when it comes to sorbic acid or sodium acetate I can technically make them. It might be possible to sell things that make use of those sorts of preservatives or additives as luxury goods in small amounts.

Ah, food additives being carcinogenic? It's fine as long as you don't eat a bucket full. It's not like you'll die right away. In the first place before using something like that it's fine if you just eat the sausage. Rather than that the large amounts of salt overused in the food of Orth is even more frightening.

But, even if we could do an ion exchange, I feel like using it for something like preservatives is a waste.

It seems like it would be much more useful in making the source of nitroglycerin. It would be better to have TNT after all.

“That, Sorubitoru something or other I don’t really get but if we can get our hands on the poison mushroom then it’s fine to start off with testing it out. Since I’ve seen glimpses of dark elves in the capital if Miduchi asks then while it might take some time but shouldn’t it be possible to at least get our hands on some? If it seems like it’ll work then I’ll invest some money into it. I want to eat some delicious “sausage” as well. In regards to the strings..if the “sausage” is profitable then you can do as you please.”

“By the way, what is that “sausage”? It seems to be some kind of food but is it good?”

While Zenom is left out, Toris, Bel, Ralpa, and Gwine the reincarnated people are pleased hearing about “sausage”. It seems it was unexpected to Ralpa for me to accept the idea and after making a slightly surprised face she licked her lips with a complacent smile. Really, she’s such a glutton.

“Ah, everyone already returned I see. I heard dark elf but is there something?”

Miduchi came back later than everyone else. When we summarized the explanation and since it seems she had already talked it over with Basutoral, she understood quickly.

“During the process of purifying soruhoggu with sorira a white powder really comes out but it’s not guaranteed that’s really a preservative. But, I think it’s worth testing. In our country of Lail Kingdom it’s strongly recognized as a powerful poison so no one thought of anything like that and I didn’t pay any attention to it either. It’s said that when they go and throw it away a goblin tried eating it and writhed around in pain before dying after all..But, if sorira is still mixed in with it then it’s only obvious that it died. It might be worth trying to feed it to a stray dog wandering around somewhere.”

She says while smiling and looking at me. I guess that means use Identify.

“Nn, that’s right. Then if you have some kind of connection write a letter or something and we’ll leave buying that mushroom to you. Also, tonight I’m heading to “Missuri” where {Black.Topaz} is waiting. You come along as well.”

Chapter 185: Remove Curse

Year 7445, Month 5, Day 4

Miduchi and I went together to “Missuri” and at the entrance the leader of {Black.Topaz}, Reddo.Anderson was waiting.

“Anderson-san, I’ve finished making preparations. I want to get to it right away but how is the situation?”

“Thank you for coming all this way, Greed-kun. We just finished tying up Vikkusu now. He’s rolling around in the room like a caterpillar.”

Sis Anderson looked at me with eyes filled with expectation. It should take about an hour but I think it’ll probably be fine. By the way the voice of someone cursing in a loud voice is echoing through the inn. It’s probably Barukemi.

“Is that so, that’s helpful. And also, I’ll say it once again but it’s possible it could fail and I don’t take responsibility no matter what happens even if it succeeds. That’s fine right?”

Just in case, I give one more warning. Since I practiced using a cursed ring and not a sword, I really don’t know what will happen. If they start saying something afterwards I’ll be troubled.

“Yeah, of course. Something like a {Retributed.Item} doesn’t matter at all. If Vikkusu returns to normal then something like {Magic.Items} we still have plenty of chances to find more.”

Well I’m sure that’s the case. That Vikkusu, the Dog-people named Vikkensu.Barukemi who uses a battle mace is one of the most skilled in {Black.Topaz} after all. After hearing Anderson’s reply I nod to Miduchi and then we walked through the entrance of “Missuri”.

We were lead to Barukemi’s room and the other members of {Black.Topaz} were watching over Barukemi as he was tied up with some rope and left rolling around. He’s cursing at his allies. The content is “return my sword” and “at least untie the rope”. When Miduchi and I showed our faces brought my Anderson the other members all left the room. Since I told them it was a spell, they’re

making sure not to watch I'm sure.

After the members of {Black.Topaz} that were holding his body down left Barukemi started twisting his body trying to reach the bed where the sword was placed. There was a serious light in his eyes as if he was trying to save his precious family from a crisis.

"If you need anything just ask. Just as you can see the sword has been left on the bed."

"It's fine, we've already prepared everything we need over here."

"..Got it. Then I'm going outside to wait as well. When you're done please call us."

"Yes. I think it'll take at least 1 hour to finish. It might be a bit longer."

"N.."

After Anderson gave a short reply she looked at Barukemi for a short period but soon after turned around with her deep pink long hair in a ponytail swinging as she left the room and closed the door.

"Now then, shall we do this."

"Is there anything you need help with?"

Miduchi asked.

"Yeah, while I'm using the magic make sure this guy doesn't move away from my hands. If you place the sword on his side I think it'll be fine but just in case."

"Nn, got it."

After hearing Miduchi's response, I picked up the cursed sword on the bed and seeing that Barukemi started cursing at me in an angry fit so I crouched down and placed it right in front of his face.

"Barukemi-san, you like this right? I can't untie the ropes but use it as a pillow or whatever as you please."

"A, Ah. Sorry about that. This is my partner. If I don't have it I can't seem to calm down.."

While making an ecstatic expression Barukemi said that while rubbing his

cheek against the sword and calmed down.

Just as I heard he can talk normally.

I went around behind that Barukemi and made sure I could grab the nape of his neck. Seems like there's no problem. But, it probably would be best to grab his ears. It seems the easiest to grab his tail but I felt like he would dislike that so I decided against that. In reality touching the sword would be the best but unlike the ring in the fairy village the curse is charm after all.

If I touch the sword then Barukemi would probably get agitated.

“Then shall we start. Take it out.”

Miduchi took out several glass bottles from the pouch on her waist. The contents are some spices and other grasses we had prepared ahead of time. Of course the spell {Remove.Curse} doesn't need anything like that. But, even if the spell succeeds it'll probably remain in Barukemi's memory. It's something like insurance I prepared to cover it up just in case.

I take a pinch of nutmeg powder in my fingers and start chanting the incantation(smile) “jugemujugemugokonosurikire” while touching various places on Barukemi's body. This time I started tearing up the roots of grass while saying “kaijarisuigyonosuigyomatsuunraimatsu”. Then I start rubbing the sap that came out of the root ends on Barukemi's face while he was confused while saying “fuuraimatsukuunerutokoronisumutokoro”. Suddenly Barukemi got displeased. Well it's only obvious though.

Well, it can't be helped paying any mind to him so I continue the ceremony. I tear up some leaves and throw them around his body while saying “yabukarakojinokabukoujipaipopaipopaiponoshuringan”. After “shuringannogurindai” is dipping some leaves in water and spices before pinching one of his ears. Though I say that, just lightly so it wouldn't hurt.

“Barukemi-san. I'm going to use magic. It's magic that will test your bond with that sword. If you can endure this then I'd be willing to offer my opinion to Anderson-san on that sword. How about it?”

“Ah? I don't know if its magic or something else but there's no way to cut the bond between me and this fellow. However, I'm grateful you'd be willing to put in a good word for me...Would you try doing it.”

Nn then I guess I'll get started....

.....

In the end the spell {Remove.Curse} took over one hour. After all there were some differences between a sword and a ring. In the end I said “gurindainoponpokopinoponpokonanochokyumeinochosukesan” before gathering all of the leaves and roots I scattered around.

Since the spell was long since over I already finished Identifying Barukemi. I confirmed his condition magnificently returned to 【Status: Normal(Bad Circulation)】. I took the sword out from under Barukemi's face as he we still tied up and laying on his side but I was able to take it without any particular problem. I guess the circulation is bad because I was pinching his ear the entire time he was laying there.

I nod to Miduchi and throw the sword on to the bed before taking my knife out and cutting the ropes used to tie Barukemi up. During that time Barukemi was just spacing out and whispering something in a low voice. Yeah, since he still has all of his memories I'm sure he's quite confused. Just an hour ago he was saying something like “No matter what the bond between this sword and I can't be cut.”

Miduchi opened the door to the room and Anderson came inside. The other members of {Black.Topaz} are peeking in from the doorway.

“Barukemi..Greed-kun, is he already fine?”

Anderson said in worried voice.

“Yeah, I think he's already fine. Right now he just seems to be confused. I think all of his attachment to the sword should be gone already?”

I said while looking at Barukemi who's still dazing out and whispering something.

“Barukemi-san...Barukemi-san!”

I wave my hand in front of his eyes and call out to him, shake his shoulders. Suddenly Barukemi came to his senses and the light returned to his eyes.

“A, Ah. I'm fine...However, why did I for that sword..Ah, so embarrassing..”

Barukemi's face turned bright red as he felt ashamed. I guess the fact that he's gone bright red is because his circulation has returned as well. It would probably best to leave things at that.

"Anderson-san. Here's the sword."

Miduchi picked up the scabbard of the sword I threw on the bed and handed it to Anderson.

"Thanks..{Status Open}."

After receiving the sword Anderson confirmed the status and in addition started concentrating while holding it. She's probably using the void magic {Detect.Magic}. It's alright. There's no problem with the sword. Though if you put it in your sword belt and hold it in your hand I think you'll be cursed again.

With everyone keeping an eye on things for a few minutes, Anderson finished the spell and put the sword back on the bed while saying, "There's still mana remaining in it so the sword seems fine as well."

""oo!!""

"Thank goodness..."

"That idiot Vikkusu.."

And just like that, all of the members of {Black.Topaz} who were watching over from the doorway took breaths of relief. Even though I already figured it would fine, I was relieved that there wasn't any particular problem myself.

"Vikkusu! How long are you going to keep dazing out, get a hang of yourself!"

"A, u, Reddo-sama! I'm very sorry! I'm already fine. I don't have that strange feeling anymore."

"Does your body feel strange anywhere? I see. Then that's fine."

After Anderson finished checking if Barukemi didn't have any other problems after the sword, she turned around to us and lowered her head once again.

"Greed-kun. Thank you. It seems like there's no problem with the sword and there doesn't seem to be anything strange with Vikkusu either. We were really saved. I appreciate it."

"No, you're welcome."

Yeah, well having the gratitude of {Black.Topaz} is somewhat useful, so it's fine. I was able to get some practice using the spell {Remove.Curse} on a sword as well. It's also important I was able to show it in front of Miduchi.

"Vikkusu, you really can't sleep with your feet facing the {Slaughterers} anymore."

"They healed our injuries once before as well."

"We're really saved thanks to you."

"No, really thanks."

The other members of {Black.Topaz} each offered me words of gratitude as well.

"Kaku, put away the sword. This sort of sword, there's nothing but harm holding on to it. It seems it would be best to just sell it off right away."

"However, Reddo-sama, it's a {Magical.Sword}. It might have some sort of amazing power.."

"It's fine. If we try testing it out we might end up giving birth to the next Vikkusu, it's fine as long as we can make a bit of money off of it."

"I see..Since it's a {Retributed.Item}, I guess that's true."

It doesn't have any particular ability other than charm. Since the Endurance is reasonably high it's decent on that end but in terms of Ability a normal infantry-use short-sword would still be better. Though if you make use of the charm curse from the {Cursed.Item} then it's not like you wouldn't be able to sell it for a price high but after that you would need to flee to another country, in that case it would be the wisest to just sell it at whatever price you can get or break it.

"Well then, we'll take our leave here.."

Miduchi and I were trying to take our leave.

"Ah, Greed-kun, tomorrow night, I guess, come to "Dorureon" at 6 pm and give my name. I'll talk about all the information as compensation at that time. Would that time be convenient for you?"

"Yeah, there's no problem. I understand. Then I'll see tomorrow night."

I said that before we left “Missuri”.

.....

After returning to Boil Manor and putting away all our props it had already become a good time so we went to eat dinner. Was it “Pegizu” today? Rather than a restaurant that place is closer to a slightly chaotic bar. When we arrived at “Pegizu” everyone else was already seated at tables outside eating their meals.

“Sorry about that~ we ended up a bit late.”

“No, we just arrived a short while ago as well.”

Toris taps the bench beside him while saying. Just like that I sat down to the left of Toris and after ordering some beer and cooked beans from the Cat-people brat who came out, I started reporting in whisper.

“I was able to safely complete the request from {Black.Topaz}. With this I should have sold a favor to them as well. Tomorrow night, I think I’ll be able to get a bit more detailed information on {Sun.Ray} at Dorureon.”

“Today I kept an eye on that one inn but there was no one coming in or out.”

Zulu reported as well. That one inn is the inn that the Rindobel couple of {Sun.Ray} uses. A bit of distance from there is a reasonably large bar where you can keep lookout on the entrance of their inn. I have my three slaves taking shifts observing from there. It seems that when members of {Sun.Ray} discuss things they often go to the inn the Rindobel couple use or at least that’s what I heard from Viruhaima of {Verdure.Brotherhood} the other day.

“I heard some rumors when I was eating lunch with Toris yesterday. It seems like they were talking about us. Some adventurer looking pair that I don’t know was talking about Ral and Miduchi-san.”

Bel said while tilting her beer mug.

“Yeah, I just heard something similar at “Saroku” at lunch. It seems it’s become quite the rumor.”

“Somehow it feels like Al-san got the short end of the stick..”

Toris said that apologetically. So those rumors were also about how I’m not

properly managing the party..It can't be helped right.

“Well, that was something I already predicted. I don't pay any mind to all of it. Well it's still just started. I'm sure {Sun.Ray} wouldn't move so easily either. It's necessary to be ready for things to drag out a bit. Rather than that, what about Basutorial?”

“Yeah, though it's just the contents I tried testing it out a bit. Since I brought it along should we try grilling it?”

When Basutorial said that Ralpa and Gwine raised some cheers.

“Oh~ that sounds good. Let me try eating it.”

The waiter brat brought out the food we ordered. It see Miduchi ordered a beer as well. It seems that the food Miduchi asked for takes a bit of work. He only brought out my cooked beans. Basutorial took out the lump of minced meat that he had wrapped in a bag and started negotiating something with the brat. Because of how monotone he was the other day he was removed from the plan. I already told him during the day that he doesn't have to do anything so just focus on making the contents of the sausages. However, for him to come up with a prototype in just half a day. I wonder what's going on with the recipe?

Basutorial stood up and went together with the brat further into the restaurant.

I guess it's only natural. I look at the blonde hair watching Basutorial and knowing she's looking forward to taste testing, admired this fellows attachment to food.

Shortly after the bacon fry Miduchi ordered came out. Miduchi and Gwine were explaining the deliciousness of sausages to Zenom and when everyone started to get restless hearing that, Basutorial finally came back out. On top of the plate was something like sizzling minced pork and on the side there was something long and narrow wrapped in a cloth.

It seems he didn't grill all of them but formed a portion of them into the shape of sausages and boiled them still wrapped in the cloth.

When we ate the one that was grilled it was salty. Since both spices and seasonings were used, the taste itself wasn't too bad. It's probably just a

mistake in the mixture. But, the one that was boiled seems to have had just the right amount of salt content removed as the flavor was decent.

“After all if it’s not packed into intestines then it’s vague.”

The woman with her long hair dyed blonde said arrogantly. However, all of us reincarnated people including Basutorial and I were nodding. That snap texture is really where it needs to be~ And it’s probably because he used the stomach meat from a pig but there’s not much fat and the color is bad as well. Adding to that it’s crumbling as well. It’s not like there’s something like mixed spices and salts already made. There’s no particular need for food coloring but it really could use some phosphates as a binding agent.

“I’m sorry, I tried cutting it down as small as I could to around 2 mm but it ended up crumbling apart..”

Basutorial said while disheartened but since there’s no meat grinder it seems he just cut it up and diced it with a knife. It’s not unreasonable that he can’t make proper minced meat.

“Is that so!? Isn’t this delicious!”

Giberuti is praising it without restraint. If you were to ask if it’s good or bad then it’s not bad. It might be good to let Giberuti join in the making of the sausages later as well. Incidentally, it seems Zenom, Zulu, and Angela were somewhat pleased with them as well. It’s badly made but it’s probably their first time eating something like minced meat.

“Wai..Wait, that’s my..”

It seems Ralpa stole a portion of the boiled meat stick that Miduchi was going to eat from the side.

Even though you’re complaining you’re still eating it I see.

“Heeee~ it’s because you’re so carelessly eating something like bacon. If you aren’t going to eat then I’ll take it.”

Take it? you’ve already swallowed it down...
So today these two are going to fight over food...

Chapter 186: Feeling Left Out

Year 7445, Month 5, Day 5

I finish my daily running and then after eating breakfast again I went alone to the other side of the outer crater to practice spells. It still takes me quite a bit of time to use the spell {Transmute.Rock.To.Mud}. Even then I was finally able to shorten it down to just 140 minutes so you could say the results of my training are showing quite a bit.

Along the way I ate the sandwiches from my bento and just kept drilling in the training until close to evening before returning alone to the town of Baldukk in brisk steps the same way I came. Since I'm riding a horse, the expression brisk is regarding my excellent war horse.

Honestly speaking I don't really feel too good about this, it can't be helped if I get a bit depressed about it.

After returning to Boil Manor I changed into some nice clothes and headed towards "Dorureon". Though we're sub-Nobles, sis Anderson is the daughter of a Viscount family and it's a formal invitation to a place as an expression of gratitude so I thought I needed to dress up properly. I finished changing into the clothes I made at the end of last year for standing as witness on the day of judgement, left the room and just as I was coming down the stairs, Miduchi and Gwine were chatting in the lobby.

"Ah, you're going now? Have a safe trip."

"Ah, be careful, Al-san."

"Nn, I'll be careful on my way back...I'm sure things are troublesome on your end but make sure you do things right as well.."

These guys, it's nice they seem to be enjoying themselves so much everyday... I'm sure again today I'll be called a "incompetent leader who can't control his own members"...It can't be helped though.

.....

A short while before the time I arrived at "Dorureon" and Anderson was

already waiting. I was lead by the boy to a private room and after all Anderson came out to meet me with a decent outfit. Of course, it's not something like the type of dress you'd wear to a party. It's the same for me but since she's also left her house I doubt she has those sorts of useless clothes either.

Her long pink hair is carefully tied up and she was wearing a shirt with a collar, a first-class coat, tight pants, and leather shoes(not our product made of rubber. Traditional leather shoes and they aren't at the level of boots but are like basket shoes).

I'm wearing something similar. Though just my shoes are rubber-sole leather shoes. I shake hands with her as she came out to greet me and I guess some doubts appeared on my face, she started explaining.

"Ah, I called out Viruhaima as well. Since he was technically the one who brought you into the discussion after all."

So that's the reason there were three lunch mats prepared on the table. That old man, even though he was completely useless other than bringing me into it, he still gets treated at "Dorureon"...Well, it's not like I'm the one who's paying and in the first place I came to receive the promised information on {Sun.Ray}. I guess it's strange that he wouldn't be on the spot.

"I told Viruhaima to come at a time about 30 minutes after I told you. I wanted to talk together with just the two of us first. I'm sorry."

Huh? Ha~ though that's fine.

"I understand. Either way we're not going back into the dungeon until the day after tomorrow so there's plenty of time. And, what did you want to talk about?"

I take my seat while replying to Anderson. After I sat down Anderson took her seat at the head of the table as the host.

"First off I wanted to thank you. The matter this time, really thank you very much. I appreciate you saving Vikkusu."

She told me it yesterday as well but once again she politely lowered her head.

"And, with this matter I've once again been made aware of it but even though

you're young you're really quite something. I knew you were a powerful sorcerer but it's only obvious that the {Slaughterers} grew so rapidly."

Yeah, well...

"As a matter of fact, I have a niece. She's the daughter of my older brother who inherited the house. This year, she's 16? Or 15 huh? She'll turned 15. If it's fine with you, would you like to try meeting her once? If it's your level of skill then I think you could become the head sorcerer of the Viscount Anderson family. If you get along well with my niece and get married you could even become a Viscount. I'm sure you still haven't married right? Since you're originally a sub-Noble, I think you're just the right talent."

I spontaneously made a bitter smile.

"Ah, you don't need to worry about it. In the marriage is just something for appearances after all, it's fine if you have someone else you want to get married to as well...I don't think the treatment of our head sorcerer is half bad. The current person is an old man who's close to 60 already so I don't think he'll last much longer and his child isn't all that skilled at magic it seems. In the first place, even that person made it as a Viscount. Since he doesn't show his face at all recently during the training with the knight group, I think it's just right."

Hmn.

"If I've brought bought such a talented sorcerer then I should be able to marry in as a sub-Baron in the territory as well. Though I think it would be difficult because I'm already at such a late age but if it's just something for appearances I don't think it's impossible. If you're worried then I think you could make the other members of the {Slaughterers} into squires as well. If it's someone with as much power as you have then I'm sure my older brother would throw his hands in the air in joy.."

If you think about it with common sense then it's not a bad option. Rather it's almost like a chance has rolled in. But, the only thing I know about Viscount Anderson's territory is it's located in the group of Northern territories and it's somewhat stable. It's not half bad but something like a Viscount in a place like that is outside of consideration for me right now.

"Fufu..Anderson-san. You're joking...Please don't flatter me so much. I'm just

a bumpkin from the backwoods.”

“Oh my, I don’t think that’s the case though.”

Well, since she’s got to the trouble of assessing me so highly. I should at least do some splendid lip service I guess.

“I’m grateful for such a rare and magnificent chance but I think I’m too unskilled to serve the Viscount Anderon family with their pedigree...and, I think there are still plenty of others who are far superior to myself.”

“..That doesn’t sound like anything but sarcasm.”

Oh my~ I didn’t say it with that sort of intention though...

“Well, putting that aside if possible I’d like you to think about it.”

“Ha..”

Anderson quickly fixed her posture and continued her words.

“Putting that aside, until Viruhaima comes please let me hear just this much. Greed-kun, do you, have some kind of grudge against {Sun.Ray}? No, since I hate {Sun.Ray} as well that doesn’t particularly matter but you know. Honestly speaking, I don’t hate {Sun.Ray} but the leader the Rindobels. I still hold a grudge for stealing one of my members as well..”

“I don’t particularly have any sort of grudge.”

“Then, why? You’re intending to crush them right?”

If I say it like that then I guess it’s not strange for it to be taken that way. Though I say that, I think that crushing them is hitting the mark a bit too close.

“No, I’m not particularly thinking about crushing {Sun.Ray} itself even the tiniest bit. Just, as a result I think that there’s a slight possibility remaining that it could develop into a conflict, that’s why I made such a request.”

This is true. I can’t deny the possibility that as a result they’ll be crushed or close to that but I’m not actually thinking about crushing them. The trick for how the Rindobel couple is recruiting people honestly doesn’t matter at all either. It’s fine if they want to use whatever trick or scam they want.

“Well, it’s fine. Just as promised no matter what happens between you and

{Sun.Ray} we'll remain unconcerned with it. We were in a position where it wouldn't have been strange for you to request something even more after all."

"No, I'm relieved to hear you say that. Thank you very much."

"Stop that, the one who needs to give thanks is me."

"No not at all, let's continue talking about this matter later when Viruhaimasan arrives.."

The boy brought out some tea. It's not the scent or taste of the bean tea I like but it's tea that uses expensive leaves and has a pretty good scent.

.....

On my way back from "Dorureon", I was satisfied with my estimate of myself that I was able to get a good result. Since I didn't have many requests on my side, I got a bit sick of being asked every little thing about it, but I'm sure both Anderson and Viruhaima were a bit worried about it as well. Since it's too cheap as compensation for {Remove.Curse}, they think there's some important point to it that they still haven't realized yet.

Of course that's the correct answer. Though it's something that can't be called important to them but it's fine as long as they don't pry into the problem with {Sun.Ray} or the internal conditions of the {Slaughterers}, and spread the rumors that we wanted then just that's fine after all.

Incidentally, I was told, "Are you an idiot?" by them. It's not like I don't think that way as well but it's fine. My reputation among other adventurers isn't worth even a single Z and in the first place the one who came up with the summary wasn't me. Though thinking of the safety I am the one who changed the actors as well as amending some key points. If things go well then while I'm sure it's only for a small portion of people it'll completely flip around. No, I guess at best it will just return huh? Even then that's not enough to exchange for a reincarnated person.

On my way back, I was looked at with eyes of pity by a group I didn't know that seemed to be adventurers.

Shit. Those guys, I wonder what in the world they did this time?

.....

Year 7445, Month 5, Day 12

This week, we explored the dungeon for another week again and today is Saturday and a weekend. In preparation for the three days off starting tomorrow, it's about when everyone starts to let their guard down. We're smoothly increasing our combat experience against Ogres. Though we've gotten considerably used to it, when fighting against an opponent who could kill you with just a single blow from their club, you're not allowed even a moment of letting your guard down. I call out to everyone in a strict voice to be careful and with Giberuti's handmade bentos we stepped foot into the 7th floor.

Until noon we defeated 8 Ogres and additionally 30 or so goblins before eating lunch. In the afternoon, just the same we walked around searching for ogres and we arrived at the teleport room to the 8th floor just past 5 pm. By the time we sold the magic stones we gathered and returned to the inn the day had long since ended.

When we returned to inn there was a message that the {Humidifier} magic tool we obtained a while back was sold. The sale price ended up exceeding 120,000,000 Z by just a bit. Even after removing the commission cost, taxes, and giving out bonuses 80,000,000 or so still remains in my hands.

Once I get my hands on the money I need to pay out the bonuses.

.....

Year 7445, Month 5, Day 13

"Just stop with that already! Why do you get up in my face like that every single time!"

"Shut up, shut up, shut up!"

They've started again.

"You're the one who needs to shut up, this baldy!"

"I'm not bald~! Can't you see this beautiful blonde hair? What pitiful eyes you have. Ah, were they just for decoration was it?"

"Just stop with that already! You're a bother to everyone around us! Al you say something too!"

Zenom's temper explodes.

"Ye..Yeah, you two really can keep at it without getting bored...Just stop already.."

I scold them with an shocked and weak smile on my face.

"Really, Al-san you should tell it to them more clearly! The two of you just stop it already, the food will taste worse right!"

Gwine joins Zenom and enters between Miduchi and Ralpa.

"Master, you should properly discipline your subordinates.."

Zulu, even you're saying something like that...

.....

Year 7445, Month 5, Day 14

While we were eating dinner, Miduchi and Ralpa started fighting over something stupid again. It was while I was talking with Basutorial and Giberuti over the method to make sausages I could remember. Stop getting in my way...

It might just be my imagination but Bel and Angela seem to be looking at me with cold expressions as well.

"Ha~ ..Really just stop already!! You're *loud!* *Ralpa*, you I'll fire you!"

"Ah! You're playing favorites with just Miduchi again. That's unfair!"

"Ha!? It's only obvious since you're the cause right!?"

"Hmph, even though she's just an opportunist.All because I'm Al's woman right? Ah~ I sure am jealous being favored just for that!"

"Ha!? I'm his wife! What? We're you in love with Al? That sure is pitiful you weren't even properly considered as a partner!?"

"Huh? What are you saying? This rotting thing! I don't have bad taste like you!"

"Hmph! Aren't you just pent up from your man drought? Once the "sausages" are complete you should lower your head to Saji right!!"

Ah, really...

"Every single time~! You pieces of trash! Just shut up already!"

““You’re the loudest one!””

Just forgive me already.

Look..old man Viruhaima is pointing and laughing out loud at us from the store across from us.

Shit.

.....

Year 7445, Month 5, Day 15

Evening, it was when Giberuti and I were out shopping for entering the dungeon the next day.

“And you know, they all raised their voices saying “You’re~ the loudest!” and tears started to appear in his eyes~”

“Are you serious, how pathetic~ gyahahaha”

Shit..For me to even be made fun of by this trash at the bottom...

“Master, please endure it.”

Yeah, I already know, Giberuti, it’s fine if you don’t make such a worried face. I always maintain my composure.

.....

Year 7445, Month 5, Day 19

“Let’s go..“Mefurubisu”!”

We teleported into the 7th floor. Shortly after we teleported, we all raised our vigilance in the directions we decided on before-hand from every side. It seems there’s no monsters around.

“Alright..Gwine, where are we?”

After confirming our surroundings are safe, I asked Gwine.

“Yes..We’re here.”

Gwine pointed to a spot on the map Bel spread out.

“Here huh..Ralpha, what’s the direction?”

“Nn, we’re facing West.”

Ralpa replied smoothly after jumping.

“Got it. Then let’s go this way. We’re going with {Wedge Two} and 5 meter gaps.”

With Miduchi at the lead, Zenom and Toris about 5 meters behind her on both sides, then another 5 meters behind that Ralpa and Zulu have fortified. On the sides with an equal amount of space Angela, Gwine, Bel, and Basutorial continue.

I’m about 5 meters behind Miduchi.

Now then, shall we do some earning.

.....

Year 7445, Month 5, Day 22

“You dropped another bean, how pathetic. Pu..pathetic.”

“What? You picking a fight again?”

Miduchi is making an irritating expression I want to hit while making fun of Ralpa.

“No..I was just showing pity for a poor young girl who can’t even properly use “chopsticks”?”

“Ha? Didn’t you just make fun of me as being pathetic right now?”

Hey now, this time it’s about chopsticks...

“Hey, you two, be quiet at least while we’re eating!”

““You’re the loudest one! In the first place can you not do anything but yell!?””

Sh..Shit. It’s true I’ll admit there’s no art to it but...

“Miduchi-san and Ral you both calm down. The two of you are too irritated. How about we go to the capital later? I’m sure if you play to your hearts content you’ll blow some steam.”

“Ah, the capital is it! Toris-san, is it alright if I go along as well?”

“Yeah, Gwine, of course it is. Zenom-san how about you too?”

“Oh~ that might be good occasionally...I just wanted to buy some smoked meat as well..”

“Kalstalan-sama, would it be alright if I go along as well?”

“Yeah, Zulu, it’s only obvious. Maruso and Giberuti how about you two as well?”

““Is it alright?””

“It’s fine. I’ll cover the cost of the carriage and lunch even. Let’s enjoy ourselves today!”

“U.Umm..I want to buy some meat so..”

“Yeah, Saji. There’s some good butchers in the capital. Let’s go together!”

“Well, Toris, you’re quite generous today.”

“Ha ha, stop that, Bel. I’m still on the end of the nobility after all. I need to properly think about everyone.”

“Ah, that’s right, Saji, if we’re going to the capital then even if it’s not a butcher I know once I can introduce you. Though it’s a store run by dark elves I’ve never been to either..”

..This feeling of being left out. Though you might say it can’t be helped, this is harsh. Really harsh...

I hate myself from last month.

Chapter 187: A New Place To Sleep

Year 7445, Month 5, Day 23

Since the members of the {Slaughterers} went out to the capital yesterday before noon intending to stay the night, they still haven't returned today. Therefore, I'm eating breakfast alone this morning. When I was eating some eggs on bread alone at a table while making a bored face someone sat down while saying "Excuse me."

""Good morning, Greed-san.""

"Hn? Yeah, good morning."

It was Faruergaz and Hirosukol. After the two of them greeted me, they were trying to say something but having trouble with it. Recently every time we meet they say something similar so I'm a bit fed up with it expecting the usual topic but it's something I was already prepared for from the start. I'll listen to it any number of times.

"Are you alone today?"

"Yeah.."

You can tell just from looking right. I'm all alone. Ah, somehow I'm exhausted.

"Just a bit, this is some advice but while it's only obvious you need to show a resolute attitude to your subordinates tolerance is also important. I think it would be fine to close your eyes to some things."

"I guess.."

Well, it's a completely sound argument. Even if you don't say something like that I already know, is what I want to say but it doesn't particularly matter.

"Recently, it seems like everyone is acting strange, so it just bothered me.."
"I don't have any intention of prying into the internal circumstances of you all but if something happens feel free to call out to me without hesitation. If there's something we can do we'll cooperate."

"Yeah, I'm very sorry for causing you to worry. However, it's alright, I'll

somehow manage something.”

I replied with a weak smile. Recently, I always think it but somehow Hirosukol’s way of speaking somehow feels stiff. If he drinks a bit then it returns to the feel of when we first met but since a short while after the start of the year I feel like he’s been putting in effort to speak politely. And then this past month or so I feel like it’s started to get mixed up a bit.

Even in the {Common.Language} there’s something you could call words of reverence (It’s not something I learned in a school like Japanese language, so it’s just my own word for it) and you can make use of those while matching your way of speaking up with the other party. In his case, either he’s bad at using them like that or otherwise he doesn’t want to use them, I don’t really get it though.

I guess you could say it feels kind of like the dialect from a remote area in Japan are mixing up with honorifics or so? That or I just don’t know the way the words of respect are spoken in that remote dialect. It can’t be, I don’t want to think he’s looking down on me at this point. It’s been close to half a year since they started entering the dungeon. They entered {Sun.Ray} about midway through last month, they should have gone together with them to the 3rd floor and maybe even the 4th floor. Or as expected maybe they haven’t gone that far yet? It would be strange if they don’t understand what kind of position the {Slaughterers} are in among the adventurers this town yet.

Ah, I have no intention of telling him to say everything in honorifics. I just found it weird how he’s mixing dialect and normal speech together and his way of speaking is strange so I wish he would just pick one, I guess. I don’t think it’s anything to be punished over requesting that much between the differences between them and us though.

After that, I continued to eat breakfast with the two of them while accompanying their boring conversation that bordered between preaching and a warning. It was just as I started to feel like speaking politely over every little thing was getting troublesome that I was finally released. The bean tea of this place is considerably different from others and has a unique direction to it that I like so I wanted to slowly enjoy it but it can’t be helped.

After eating breakfast it would have been fine if I went to the edge of the town to practice the spell {Transmute.Rock.To.Mud} as well but recently I've felt quite stressed from all the trouble so I decided to enter the dungeon along and use cannon-type spells on groups of goblins and gnolls to relieve some of it. However, even when I used the spell {Audible Clamor} to try and lure some monsters time passed by with none appearing, in the end I had to shoot the cannon into nowhere and return to the town feeling restless.

When I teleported from the 1st floor to the entrance room it was just as some faces I knew came out of the small room in front of me. It's the dwarves from {Gehenna.Flare}. They're all wearing the usual flashy equipment with ornaments of black and orange like flames that look like a bunch of villains.

"Hn? Alone? Isn't Gwine-han with you today?"
"It must be magic practice right, our Nokkusu and Daniela occasionally do it as well."

The leader of {Gehenna.Flare}, Heggusu.Whiteflame started talking to me. Shut~up. All you guys ever talk about is Gwine-Gwine...Call out on Zenom occasionally as well. Although, because Zenom is weak with alcohol I'm sure he wouldn't accompany you though.

"Yeah, today she's tomorrow with the other members playing in Rombertia since yesterday."

"Eh..Seriously...Shit, if the leader hadn't said something like going to the dungeon last week we might have been able to go and play together with Gwine-chan as well.."

"That's right, that's right, we didn't earn much this time because of that idiot leader after all.."

"No way~ didn't we earn quite a bit?"

"But, we retreated right away when the ice monster was the opponent.."

"There's no way we could win right, no way against the ice monster..unless we do something dangerous.."

"Well it was a good decision. No one was injured after all."

"That's right, thanks to that we can meet Gwine-han alive."

"Don't say it yourself..""

..These guys, it's nice how they always have so much fun.

"I think they'll return tonight. Should I tell them the store when they return?"

"Oh! We're going to be in "Pegizu"!"

"Really, our leader is so useless. Wouldn't you exchange just the insides with the leader of the {Slaughterers}~"

No..but, just exchange the insides, these guys really are fussy over dwarves~ Even if it was possible I don't want to be a short-legged dwarf though. Ah, though I guess it's because I have Japanese mixed in, I'm short-legged among my family. However, even then going off the standard from my past life I think I have long legs. Come to think of it, I feel like all of us reincarnated people have somewhat shorter legs than the average for our races. Since Toris and Miduchi are still elves, they look quite good in terms of appearance but I'm sure they're adding to lowering the average leg length of their races as well.

In the future when I'm King, I'll have them record in history books that I had long legs. Though I don't think anyone would write it.

"No way, that's cruel..Everyone, don't say such cold things.."

"It's a joke, don't take it seriously."

"Yes, I'm the type that takes things seriously.."

"Stop getting depressed, you can have the right to sit next to Gwine-chan."

"Ohi~ that's great. I've started to feel better."

"..The men from our group are always like this right."

"Really, even though there's two women this good here, they won't even look our way.."

"Women? Hey, Garun, did we have women in our party?"

"No, no clue. Gwe!!"

"Ouch!! Hey, Daniela, Mashu, I get it, I get it already so stop."

I always think it but what's with these guys. They almost never talk to anyone other than dwarves with insanely~ grim appearances but thanks to Gwine when they occasionally talk and it's always this. Somehow I feel like my irritation has faded...

.....

After that, when I was eating lunch alone and I guess it was no good that I was

at a table on the roadside, the leader of {Verdure.Brotherhood}, Roberto.Viruhaima and Basu from the same party walked by me. These two both have long legs and are cool as well...It doesn't particularly matter though. I'm not bothered over it.

"Yo~ Greed-kun. What's this you're alone huh? That's right, I'm sure you have plenty of things to think about, it's quite lonely being a leader. Ah, also, we always have seats open for you or that dark elf from your place if you plan to leave, just say something."

Old man Viruhaima made an unpleasant smile while he started talking to me in a loud voice. Shit.

"No way, that's impossible right, I've heard that even when they're like that the {Slaughterers} have quite the firm unity.."

Basu looked at the old man like he was surprised.

"Hn~ I wonder about that? Looking at how they've been recently and this guy, he's being looked down on quite a bit. I'm sure he's just thinking about things in regards to the party right now as well."

What are you doing sitting in the seat across from me at your own convenience...

"No, not particularly.."

When I replied with no expression on my face and the old man brought his face close to mine and said in a whisper, "It's become quite the rumor." I already know, something like that.

"Then, well, give it your best you all don't dissolve in mid air!"

Even though he just sat down, Biruhaima stood up and patted me on the shoulder before leaving together with Basu. Basu turned around a number of times while making a strange and apologetic face.

.....

"Al-san, we returned just now."

Close to the evening, when I was relaxing in my room everyone came inside.

“Oh~ welcome back. Was it fun in the capital?”

“We went to take a look at the temple in Rombertia. It’s big and splendid.”

Miduchi said with a smile on her face.

“We played the dog races as well. It was my first time doing it but it was quite interesting!”

Ralpa has something weird winded around her neck. Isn’t that hot?

“Ral won quite a bit. She made enough to buy a Myunku fur muffler!”

Gwine laughs out loud. The furs of Myunku are reasonably expensive but it’s just reasonably. That muffler probably wouldn’t be more than 200,000 Z (20 silver coins) during this season.

“Ufufu, I always wanted a natural fur muffler.”

There’s nothing but natural fur on this Orth, is what I thought but I decided to stay quiet. But you know, you might be saying something like that, but I know you’ve always been using the muffler you exchanged presents with Bel in the past. It’s not like something like Myunku fur is so expensive you can’t buy it after all, you sure aren’t honest.

“Rather than that Maruso managed to win on the dark horse. Ral’s was the result of a number of races but Maruso won 70,000 in just one try.”

Zulu happily said as well. However, it seems that Angela profited quite a bit. That’s great.

“Umm, master. This, it’s something insignificant but..”

Angela said that while taking a small cup out from the bag at her waist. It’s light green and has a slightly detailed design with a handle on it.

“Eh? You’re giving it to me?”

Glass itself is common but it still costs quite a bit. I’m sure this easily could cost 20,000 Z.

“Thanks, I’ll take good care of it.”

“No, I just happened to profit a bit..That is, it’s just a bit of my feelings of gratitude.”

Feelings of gratitude..Ah, the provision of saya. But, to Angela 20,000 Z should be a considerable sum of money. I'm happy for those feelings.

"Ah, that's right, Gwine. It seems that {Gehenna.Flare} are drinking at "Pegizu" today. If you feel up for it then stop by there."

"Ah, is that so. I wonder what I should do.."

"It's fine for just one night. If you feel up for it since they went through the trouble of inviting you, at least show your face."

"Nn..I understand. Then later I'll go to "Pegizu"."

Gwine's beard has already exceeded 6 cm in the length. Though her cheeks are still sparse, no matter how you look at her she's a splendid dwarf already. Recently as expected I've gotten used to it.

It seems that Basutorial and Giberuti are talking about something in the corner of the room. It's probably a discussion about sausage.

"..Alright. It seems like everyone's safely returned, let's go and eat dinner. I'm going to "Rabei". Tomorrow morning during just the morning we'll check our formations."

I said that, stood up, and as I was going to leave the room.

""Somehow, that is..We're sorry for thinking up something strange.""

Toris and Bel said while making apologetic faces. It's fine, I was the one who said I'd leave the plan to you, I'll follow through with the basic line of it. Though I still regret that I was the one who amended it.

"Don't worry about it. There's things that can be learned from here as well I'm sure. Rather than that, are the preparations already done on that end?"

"Yeah, about that but it seems it will take a bit of publicity so..When would be good? I think that the temple would be fine as long as we contact them the day before or so though."

"Thinking about that is your guys job as well. Once you've decided let me know."

""Yes.""

I left the room and headed towards “Rabei.”

.....

Year 7445, Month 5, Day 29

The second day since we entered the 7th floor. Close to the evening, in a place about 500 meters from the teleport crystal to the 8th floor. This should be the last combat for today, I declared that even if the ogre is weakened not to use ice.

“..From the right..now!!”

”..Hmph!!”

“Goo~~~!! Ggaa~~~!!”

After the ogres left arm was cut off and send flying by Miduchi’s scimitar and it was waving it around sending blood flying to the left, Zulu landed a clean with his bastard sword. Since he’s holding a shield at the ready it was an attack with just his right arm but it seems he damaged it quite a bit. I guess that was the final blow because after that the ogre fellow backwards and stopped moving.

“Now, stab it!”

“Ya~~~!!”

“Uo~~~!!”

While properly guardian with his shield, Toris used his shield to bash the body of the ogre blocking it’s club while instructing Gwine and Basutorial to stab the ogre with their spears as the one in the middle died.

“Beku.nosu.nimuru.fon.saizu.ka.doren!”

Ralpa chants the incantation for {Flame Arrow} while parrying the club the ogre on the right was swinging with her axe and shifted it’s trajectory. Simultaneously a fire arrow hit the face of the ogre who was thrown off guard. Unable to endure it the ogre let out a scream and grabbed it’s face with it’s right hand while swinging the club in it’s left hand around blindly.

Zenom rolled in at it’s feet and stole the ogres mobility by smashing his {tomahawk} into it’s angle. The ogre couldn’t but fall to it’s knees and ended up being cut on the right side from Angela who was able to sneak in past the right

arm that was holding it's face. It's arm droops down. However, don't forget about the existence of Angela' shield. Though I'm sure she isn't suited for it~

Soon after, dobo...along with that sound a {Stone Javelin} stabbed in from below the ogres jaw. It's probably Bel's magic.

After confirming that all of the ogres had died, I ordered them to gather the magic stones while thinking for a bit. I can already relax while they're taking on three at once. This time it was a group of five but I finished off one from a distance with a spell and then while they were approaching, Miduchi and I killed one more. Even then they all managed to counter attack the three others that had gotten close.

Soon after the battle started since Miduchi cut off the leg of the ogre on the left side, Gwine was able to switch to backing up the center, and Bel was able to switch to backing up the right side right away. It was pretty good timing for making decisions on switching who to support.

I wonder if they can take on four (2v1) pretty soon?

.....

Just like this May ended, we passed through June, and it was just as things started to get hot in July.

I sold Zulu, Angela, and Giberuti to Toris.

Zulu was 10,000,000 Z.

Angela was 9,000,000 Z.

Giberuti was 3,500,000 Z.

~and it came out to proceeds of 22,500,000 Z.

I guess it was for the sake of confirming the rumors of the naming ceremony at the temple in Baldukk,

several dozen people who seem to be adventurers were there watching us.

About half of them were faces I know.

“For him to really do it..”

“It's quite bold..”

After that I was invited by Viruhaima and Anderson and drank to my hearts content.

I cleared out of my room in Boil Manor and changed my base to “Kairugu’s Inn”. Starting tomorrow I’m a solo adventurer. Since the registration of employees for Greed Company is all in the capital there’s no need to hurry. Rather, employees of the company and adventurers are different things. I’ll get along in my own way as an individual adventurer.

I’m lonely.

I miss the warmth of another person.

Since I’ve already separated from Miduchi, I’m sure no one would complain if I go to play at the brothels for a bit...
No, I won’t go at every little chance though.

Chapter 188: Scout

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 2

Now then, while I was unpacking my bags enduring through the headache from a hangover in my room at “Kairugu’s inn”, I started thinking about what I’m going to do in the meantime. First off I need to start with this, a decision on what’s been piling up in that regards. I was worked to death dealing with countless people who came by starting early this morning.

As expected it’s my limit just making it to the 7th floor alone. If you just look at my combat power then I’m sure I can go even further but I won’t last on food. I can make a bed from dirt so that doesn’t matter at all but I would need to walk around with a blanket as well. Well, it would be fine to group up with them on the 7th floor but it would be troublesome if we ended up running into {Sun.Ray} in the teleport room on the 5th floor...In the first place I have no intention of going to the lower levels alone though.

For the time being it’s gotten a bit late but I guess I’ll go and eat some lunch. I have an appointment as well. And just as I was thinking that it seems I have a guest. I can guess what their business is but just in case I’ll learn their name and face. It’s a pain but I’ll at least show my face.

..After all it was an invitation to a second-rate party. They came along with their entire party. They offered splitting the compensation up evenly and the leader would cover all necessary expenses. However, even if you suddenly say that, is what I said and didn’t reply right away. After all I don’t have much time until my first appointment.

In order to arrive for my lunch appointment with Viruhaima of {Verdure.Brotherhood}, I walk to the intermediate open restaurant named “Henkusu”. Along the way I caught a glimpse of Basutorial walking down the road with his arm around Catherine’s waist but it seems they didn’t notice me. The two of you, making such a happy face...

Midway through last month Basutorial purchased Catherine and freed her the

next day. Now both of them are fresh new Registered Free People of the Duke's Territory. It was something cheap at only a tens of thousands of Z but they even exchanged rings. They do quite the stylish things for being cats. Now they're even saying things like making songs of love and going out together to the side of the lake in the east with an instrument something like a cheap guitar. Judging from that state of theirs it seems they're going to the lake again today. It seems like they have a bento as well. Rather~ do some training with the spear. Well, they're newlyweds after all so I guess it's fine.

I spit to the side of the road and after putting both of my hands into my pockets, I walked with a worn-out posture on my way to "Henkusu". In a short while I arrived at "Henkusu". An open terrace might sound cool but it's just a bunch of tables sitting out on the road and old man Viruhaima was sitting at one of those with his right hand raised towards me. He has a lit cigar in his left hand.

"Ya~ Viruhaima-san, please excuse me between yesterday and today.."

I make as menial of a face as I can while greeting him and take a seat.

"Oh~ just as I was wondering who it was, if it isn't sub-Noble Greed that's become a {vagrant}. Lowering your head to a commoner like myself doesn't suit you~"

He said that was an tremendously irritating face. This old man, he's completely enjoying himself. The boy came out right away so I ordered some lunch and Viruhaima ordered the same thing.

"That's quite harsh. Well please don't say something like that..and, about the matter yesterday but"

"Oh~ about that. That's fine. We'll cover the entry tax, all food and consumables used in the dungeon, inn, and expenses along with 30 a month. Plus 5% of the magic stones gathered. Other than that when it comes to items we obtain, we all vote. We put points on everyone from the person we thought was the most useless to the most useful. The one who got the highest points gets 10%, the second one gets 5%, the third gets 4%, the fourth gets 3%, then it falls 0.5% each one after that. It depends on the number of people but if we include you then with a total of 9 of us then even being ranked eighth gets 1%."

Those are considerably good conditions if you think about it as a top team. It's close to exceptional if you just take into consideration that he's covering the cost of the inn.

"How many times do you enter?"

"You already know right?"

"Please let me confirm just in case."

"Twice a month, 8 days."

"How much do you earn each time?"

"I can't say that until you've already joined. But, you can at least live a decent lifestyle."

It's said that the top teams earn an average of 500,000 — 2,500,000 Z in magic stones each time they enter the dungeon. It's information I heard from the old man at the magic stone store so it's not completely trustworthy but I doubt it's largely off. On top of that there's also finding items that become earnings for adventurers. Since there's some months where you can't find any sort of items at all they're often not included in the calculation but it's different for the top teams. Of course, it's not like the top teams are finding items every time either but the minimum condition for a top team is that they find at least one valuable item(sales in the 100s of millions) in a year.

Since they enter the dungeon twice a month that would make their average magic stone earnings 4,000,000. 5% in other words 200,000 Z would be my income. A monthly income of 500,000 Z. 6,000,000 Z annual. Since I'm a noble I don't have the 10% tax that commoners have and I don't have to pay the 1,000,000 Z annual individual tax Free People have to pay either. It's fine to think of it all as expendable income. In addition, there's expectations of finding at least one bonus item a year and if it's a {Magic.Item} or huge gem or gold ore then you can live quite the easy life.

Certainly you could say the conditions are good. But, really, this old man, his tone of speech is like a Yakuza. He's terrible at it.

"Also there's one more condition."

“I’m listening.”

“The armor that’s being made at your company. It seems you’re the official merchant for the first knight group right? Sell it to us with a relative discount.”

Viruhaima takes a puff of his cigar while sitting back.

“Putting aside the armor, 5% huh..”

“Ah~ Do you have some kind of complaint?”

“No, not particularly. I’ll take it into consideration. The response will be..”

“I’m sure you already know but we enter the dungeon every month on the 5th and 20th after all. If possible I’d like a response in 4 days or the day after tomorrow. Well there’s no need to hurry. It’s fine 14 days later as well.”

“Got it.”

After that the two of us ate lunch while making idle chat and then I left the store. Next is “Mokkusu” was it...

.....

At “Mokkusu” I was invited by the semi first-rate party {King Tiger}, then at “Pegizu” from the same semi first-rate party {Eternal.Companion}, and finally an invitation from one of the slightly more decent second-rate parties called {Prime Rose}, even though their party is one made up entirely of women they requested my participation but I politely turned them all down.

Since I had a bit of time to spare until dinner so I was thinking, I wonder if it’s about time? When I returned to “Kairugu’s inn” and as expected there was a group of adventurers waiting for my return. Among those there was obviously some faces I knew and faces I don’t know.

“Hey, I got here first. I have the right to negotiate first right!?”

“Huh? Like I care, idiot. There’s no way Greed-san would even bother with your third-rate party, so jsut leave!”

“Hey, move!!”

“Greed-sama, conquer the dungeon together with us! These Boton siblings will accompany you!”

“Who are you all?”

“Umm, please let me through..I’m next.”

“We the {Black Bears} will offer up 30% of all items found!”

“Hey did you all say there was only three of you just now. That’s just splitting it up evenly. That’s so cheap~”

“Umm, Greed-san, how about us? We’ll offer two peoples share to you!”

“Umm, wait a minute, stop talking all at once..”

“We’ve come from Viscount Yoraizu’s knight group! We’d definitely like for you to take the job as commander~~!”

“You old man don’t get it~ He’s someone who quit being a leader because he got sick of it?”

“Ouch!! Don’t push!”

“Ah, really, my schedule for today is packed so..”

“Greed-san, please listen to us!”

“How about {Sun.Ray}?”

“Eh..”

The mob that was in my surroundings completely shut up.

“How about {Sun.Ray}?”

Faruergaz repeated the same words while wearing his plain but well-tailored clothes. Since I couldn’t see the tall Hirosukol he was buried in the crowd and I didn’t notice him. I could have sworn the two of them would be together the same as usual. So they were homos..No, I can’t come to a conclusion yet. I let out a single sigh and turn around to face Faruergaz. With the gold cloth on his right upper arm, Faruergaz was looking at me with a serious expression. This guy, I don’t usually pay any attention to it but is he normally wearing that cloth on his arm...

“Faruergaz-san..Is that a formal invitation? Just now, I put a decision with {Verdure.Brotherhood} on hold. And then, tonight after this I’ve promised to listen to {Black.Topaz} at “Rosun”. If it’s {Sun.Ray} then I wouldn’t mind discussing it but was that just now the leader Rindobel-san’s idea?”

I look at Faruergaz’s eyes while saying it.

“..Unfortunately it’s not a formal invitation. However, I think that our leader will definitely accept it. Even when it comes to me, that is, I feel that it would be

best to have more allies..”

Grandstanding huh...

“Well then please return once it’s become something formal. I’ve come to talk, I don’t know what you’re talking about~ those sorts of possibilities are troubling after all. Please excuse me.”

I said that and pushed my way through the adventurers into my inn. I sit down on the chair in my room and I was thinking of relaxing and having some tea but I’ve been drinking tea for the past while. It’s not like I’m thirsty so it’s not necessary. I stand up from the chair and without taking my shoes off roll over onto the straw bed.

..It’s a bit off from Toris and the others expectations. Though I assumed that sooner or later {Sun.Ray} would try and recruit me but it was unexpected that Faruergaz would come without even getting permission from the leader. Honestly speaking, even I didn’t expect I’d be called on by so many parties myself.

Most likely, I did think that some second-rate parties would call out to me. The people below that would either give up from the start or show constraint towards the higher ranking parties that were calling out to me first and not move right away. That’s why I went with {Verdure.Brotherhood} first to try and give them a glare.

We were thinking that if {Verdure.Brotherhood} and soon after {Black.Topaz} make their move then {Sun.Ray} would move as well. The abilities of the {Slaughterers} has fallen because I left. I’m sure no one accurately comprehends my power but at the very least I’ve acted as the leader of the {Slaughterers} up until now. It wouldn’t be strange to be estimated that I have more power than the average adventurer.

Even putting aside skill levels and mana, since the fact that I can use magic itself is known, it can already be expected that the {Slaughterers} will lose some of their strength from me leaving for that portion. It’s not just a simple shift in leaders but since my leaving was accepted it could be thought that just losing my level of combat potential isn’t fatal for the {Slaughterers}. It’s fine to look at it as if they still have enough potential to continue adventuring on the 7th floor.

However, on the other hand, if I were to participate it's possible that the forces of {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} could increase a bit as well. It's the same for simple combat strength but rather than that for these two parties that haven't gone to the 6th floor until now, gaining me who has experience on not just the 6th floor but also the 7th should be big. The possibility of them coming to the 6th floor increases even more.

They're originally parties with high levels of skill. Right now it's just by chance that {Sun.Ray} went ahead to the 6th floor but in the first place it's said that both {Black.Topaz} and {Verdure.Brotherhood} are more skilled than {Sun.Ray}. If one of those two were to recruit me then sooner or later they'd show their faces on the 6th floor. Just the same as {Sun.Ray}, even without me they have enough skill to make it on the 6th floor if they tried after all.

When that time comes, {Sun.Ray} will largely have three options. One is to not do anything and just watch the state of things. However, this is too conservative. It's on a different level from just waiting for {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} to naturally increase their abilities and make it to the 6th floor after all.

The second option would be for {Sun.Ray} to pick me up as I've become a vagrant and use me to reinforce their own ability. Toris and the others read out and came to the conclusion that this one was the highest possibility.

The third option would be to try and recruit members from the remaining {Slaughterers} now that their leader has left. This is an effective hand to drop the strength of the {Slaughterers} who were quite literally the top until now and at the same increase their own combat strength but excluding Giberuti the porter and the newcomer Basutorial there's still 8 others. No matter how I think about it absorbing 8 people all at once is unreasonable. Depending on the case it's possible for {Sun.Ray} to just become in name and they would be taken over by the {Slaughterers} from within. Not to mention they have the achievement of throwing out their leader once already.

If they just try to recruit a couple of the useful ones then leaving them full of holes, it will just come down to {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} taking

the remaining members and strengthening themselves as well. Depending on the case even {Gehenna.Flare} could rise to the surface. As a result it's possible things could even worse than the other two options. Well, while it's similar to the situation the {Slaughterers} was in before they stood out, the stage for that isn't the 5th floor but the 6th floor which only a former {Slaughterers} member would know. If it's accidental then it's still fine but there's also the possibility that some intentional trouble could come as well. Therefore, Toris and the others read that the third option is the one they have the lowest chance of picking.

I guess it's about time for me to go...

I get up from the bed and started towards "Rosun" for my appointment with Anderson.

.....

Anderson had her long legs crossed with her elbows listlessly on the table tilting a wine glass while waiting for me at "Rosun". So courteously it was even a table along the side of the road.

"Ah, Greed-kun, sorry about calling you out. Take a seat."

Just as she offered I took a seat across from her and ordered something from the waiter. Since Anderson seems to be drinking something white(They're not classified differently between white, red, and roze wine. If you were to ask it's closest to roze) so porae should be good. After that I asked for some light appetizers, bean soup, and bread.

Some wine was poured into the glass prepared at my seat and Anderson started talking.

"Even if you don't do anything 55 a month. After that 5% from the magic stones gathered."

Oh my~ Putting aside the entry tax, I guess the inn cost and consumables are on my own bill. Well even then you could say it's a plenty high amount.

"What about {Magic.Items} and ores?"

"It depends on the case. We split them up depending on the time. Though

we've never split them up for 10% before. On average I think we're handing out around 3%."

Well, that's still plenty.

"I see, that's quite the good conditions.."

"Well, take your time and think about it."

I pick through the appetizers that were brought out while Anderson said with a relaxed expression.

I open my mouth while picking through some kind of shellfish that I don't really know.

"About how often do you enter the dungeon?"

"..We haven't particularly decided but around twice a month. The duration is between 7 and 10 days. I get into contact 3 days or so before entering..Oh my, just as expected it seems."

A group of three entered the restaurant and sat down at a table a bit away from us.

It doesn't need to be said but it's the Rindobel couple and Zemyunel from {Sun.Ray}. We matched up the timing for when all of them were on their days off yesterday and today after all, so things are quite busy.

Other than that, Feruergaz and Hirosukol are there as well. Though they seem to be watching over things nervously as onlookers, I guess?

Chapter 189: Joining

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 2

I talked about some random things that sounded appropriate until we finished our meals.

In the end Anderson brought her face close to mine from across the table and whispered “Well, we’re in debt to you after all. I’ll do most of what I can but..I want you to give your best” before standing up from her seat and after elegantly paying the bill she left the store.

I was sipping some tea while watching the boy clean up the tableware and a voice called out to me.

“Is it fine, over here?”

Just as I predicted, it’s the wife of the Rindobel couple, Meiria.Rindobel. Laios. Commoner. 43 years old. Level 17.

“Yeah, if it isn’t Rindobel-san. Please do.”

I’m still sitting but I point to the other side of the table while acting politely. Since she got my permission the Rindobel couple sat down in front of me. The husband is Koritto.Rindobel. The same Laios. Commoner. 45 years old. Level 17. Unlike his wife who can’t use magic, the husband has void, fire, and water magics. The elemental magics are at level 4 and the void magic is at level 5. He can use them at a decent level. You could say he’s a first-rate sorcerer.

And then, next to me, the Dog-people Binsukol.Zemyunel sat down. He’s a commoner as well. 27 years old. Level 17. It’s not that the Rindobel couple’s level is low for their age but you could say Zemyunel’s level is high. Though I say that, Viruhaima who’s a bit younger than them is level 19 and close to 20 and the deceased leader of {Bright.Blade} was a bit older than them but was level 18. If you think about the fact that Anderson who was just here a moment ago is level 18 then they’re a bit low.

“Greed-san. I’ll ask you straight out. Do you have any interest in joining us {Sun.Ray}?”

Koritto made a small smile as he said. I always think it but {Sun.Ray} sure are well-mannered and use polite tones of speech so I get a good feeling from them.

“I’ll take it into consideration based on the conditions. If I can profit more than acting as a guide then I would have no complaints.”

I said it partially as a joke while shrugging my shoulders. It’s a joke that’s often said among the {Slaughterers}. The normal cost of a guide changes between the day and the floor. The market price is 100,000 Z for 1 day on the 1st floor. Other than that there’s also the entry tax for the guide and splitting things up evenly between the number of people that are considered the basic fee. It seems that some of the skilled guides even require calculating themselves as two peoples cut worth of compensation. And then, after they leave the dungeon, while calculating the bill the guide will pay back the amount for the food and consumables they used. Or at least that’s the usual pattern.

Although, normal guides fundamentally have their main work places on the 1st floor and rarely~ the 2nd floor. It’s extremely rare for a party that goes beyond the 3rd floor to make use of guides. Since the expenses start to get really high, even if they do make use of it them it’s at best the first time the party steps foot on the 3rd floor in order to be extra careful.

If you think about it like that then the amounts {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} offered me sound appropriate but if we were supposing I’m the one that’s the guide it’s too cheap. Well, since it’s not like something like a guide with power on the level of the top teams exists, so it can’t be helped.

It seems that the top teams take about half a day to clear through the 1st floor, then after resting for several hours, they spend another half a day to clear through the 2nd floor. By that point already it would be annoying trying to calculate the total if I were hired as a guide so it would be necessary to get a guarantee of 300,000 Z for one day. If it comes to taking a full day for the 3rd and 4th floors then 1,000,000 Z for three days. After that, if we spend five days on the 5th floor then my total guaranteed amount would reach 3,500,000 Z.

Since the top teams on average only earn about 2,000,000 Z in magic stones

each time they enter the dungeon, unless they were to find some valuable {Magic.Item} it would put them in the red.

“Ufufu..That’s quite harsh..Though if we were to hire you as a guide I’m sure we’d gain experience more valuable than money. But, rather than a one-time thing like a guide, we were wondering if you would enter as a proper member.”

After thinking about it for a moment Meiria said with a bitter smile. By the way, it seems that Zemyunel found my joke to be funny and is having trouble holding back from laughing.

“Fufu..Well then, please let me hear the conditions. I think you already know but right now I fortunately have been called out on by {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz}. After I’ve already heard their conditions please let me take into consideration what you offer.”

“Would it be alright if I ask what the conditions both of their parties offered to Greed-san?”

I honestly told them the conditions that both of their parties offered to me. Hearing that they exchanged glances and then made an offer to me.

“We’ll cover all of the necessary expenses including your inn, and pay 60 a month on top of that. When it comes to income from magic stones in your case we’ll split them up evenly. Other than that, in the case we obtain any items, after calculation we’ll pay 10%.”

Ho~ this is quite something..They sure are giving me a high appraisal for someone who was chased out of their previous party. It’s a cut almost like the parties wandering around on the 1st and 2nd floors. It was only for a moment but Zemyunel made a slightly surprised face as well but soon after nodded as if he understood. I’m sure it’s an even higher compensation than him. Though it’s only obvious. Or rather, it would probably be best to think that they’re quite troubled with clearing on the 6th floor.

“That is quite..the good conditions..”

They most likely intend on absorbing all the knowledge they can from me, then after a few months either throw me out or get rid of me. I guess that’s twisting it too much huh? Though it’s possible they could try to cut away at my

compensation based on any mistakes I make while exploring with them.

“We enter the dungeon roughly twice a month. Taking into consideration the earnings from that month, I tell the members our plans for the next month at the end of the month. This month it’s 8 days from the 6th and 8 days from the 20th, otherwise 9 days that we have planned.”

“I have no objection things around there.”

It seems that you’re properly taking the day off for the 18th of this month which is the day the sub-moon Neitari has a full moon I see.

“Well then..”

“Well, please let me think about it for at least one night. I’ll give you a reply at latest tomorrow.”

The Rindobel couple lowered their heads with a slightly disappointed expression. When she saw me Meiria continued her words in a whisper.

“Also..if you were to join us there’s some special and good information that we can offer you.”

“Ho? What is that?”

“..There’s no mistake it’s something that’s good. You could say it’s indispensable to adventurers.”

“Fumu, is it a profitable story?”

“I wonder about that. As expected we can’t tell you anymore than this unless you join us but..”

“Yeah, I guess that’s true. That was quite rude of me.”

I apologize and lower my head and Meiria lowered the tone of her voice another couple levels. I’m sure even Zemyunel can’t hear it.

“In just a mere two years? No, three years, Greed-san made the {Slaughterers} into the top adventurers in Baldukk. This time was quite unfortunate..No, it seems things ended up with quite bad luck for your but I think quite highly of you. Above all else I feel like you have the same scent as me..”

She whispered to me with her eyes narrow and then said “Well then, I’m waiting for a response tomorrow night.” and stood up from her seat. Zemyunel told me the inn they’re staying at and then left together with them.

It seems they said something to Faruergaz and Hirosukol on their way out but the three of them left soon after leaving those two.

I watched that from the side while thinking, up until here it’s almost exactly as Toris predicted.

At the same time I tried thinking about what would happen from here on out if it was Bel or Toris just as the first plan had. If it was either of them would things have been fine up to here? No, it can’t be helped thinking about that. It’s no good. There’s no meaning in them becoming pieces. There’s no problem in terms of stress and thought process but from here on out as many special maneuvering (smile) soldier roles will fall into our hands as we need. There’s not much meaning in letting them experience things as an underling. I want to let them gain experience in places where a single failure won’t end up lethal. People learn from failure after all. And also, if things even shift a slight bit from the plan, in a weird direction it could put their lives in danger. Well I’m sure they’re fine on that end though.

In the case of Ralpa, who for some reason was stubbornly volunteering, things might have been fine up until now but I can’t see anything but ruin a bit further beyond. No, in her case she probably wouldn’t have been able to endure the stress and I can’t deny the possibility of her running off somewhere while screaming “Uo~~” to relieve it. Ah, I feel like she’d drown herself in alcohol first. What point would there be turning her into an alcoholic? She was rejected for personality reasons. If Zenom was there then I feel like they would somehow be able to manage it but it’s possible things wouldn’t go as planned for both parent and child..Primarily in terms of the number of people in {Sun.Ray} and the compensation. In the first place, Ralpa is the one picks the most fights in the {Slaughterers} and if they avoid her because of that then they might not even call out to her so there’s no meaning. Though they might look like that she’s also unsuitable because they’re not that easy to deceive. It doesn’t matter who but I can’t relax if there’s no one on her side to hold the reins.

If it was Miduchi then it would be a bit better. In terms of being able to leave naturally she's the next most convenient after Toris, Bel, and Gwine. But, at the same time she's also the one they'd be the most suspicious of. After all she's my woman. In the worst case, she could be placed in a considerably dangerous situation. Even then with Miduchi's abilities it's very possible she could cut through safely but...After all if Faruergaz and the others who are there were to say something like, "That Miduchi is Greed's woman.", then I'm sure they wouldn't call out to her in the first place.

Gwine can't be taken out no matter what because of her Unique Ability and there's not a very high possibility that {Sun.Ray} would call out to Basutorial. Since Basutorial has some connection to Faruergaz and the others, if he were to make use of the fact that he's a newlywed he might be able to negotiate with them through pity but in terms of actual abilities he probably wouldn't be accepted. Or rather, it would be most natural for Basutorial to leave making use of his marriage but Faruergaz and the others would probably just say something like stop being an adventurer and start up a business. Adding to that we already know very well that he's lethally bad at acting.

Most likely I haven't given off an impression that I was "easy to deceive" or at least I'd like to think so but I do seem quite greedy, and there's also the matter of the shower on the 5th floor and how we saved their members in the past, so I think I'm the most appropriate for them to predict that I'd properly work if they give me a decent amount of compensation. Even if they were to think that I have some kind of objective I can't imagine they'd think the leader himself would leave the party he raised up that far. It's normally something you have a subordinate do. Things around there, Toris and Bel seemed to have been overlooking as well~ Though I'm happy they were trying to take my position into consideration though...

It took us quite a bit of time for it look like they naturally lost faith in me and I left but if I think about it for the sake of Toris and Bel's experience then it's still within a permissible range. If we make it to a good point from here before things fail then they should have learned quite a bit. I'm sure that will become a greater asset than anything else.

Of course, I previously told them there was a possibility it would fail.

However, even then they said they wanted to challenge it for their own growth. Though I might have been brought on it a bit as well but that spirit, is good. When I told them that if they can carry everything out smoothly then I'd supply them with Saya for free they got even more motivated. Give it your best trying to make good use of me to get some results.

Ah, I only know the essentials of the rough outline of the plan itself. Since the point I decided to become a pawn myself I've tried not to listen to it. If I listen to it then with my personality, I can't help but point out the parts that are lacking or missing and I might end up saying something to other members of the {Slaughterers}.

The only things I heard some amount of the details of was up until here, where I was called out on and join {Sun.Ray}. Even if I were Rindobel, I would try calling out on myself after leaving the {Slaughterers} as well. After this it's just a matter of when, how, and what kind of instructions they'll give to me? Well, if we go through Greed Company then while there's a bit of time lag we can still communicate.

.....

"Greed-san, is it fine to take a seat here?"

After standing from their seats, Faruergaz and Hirosukol came over and called out to me.

"Feel free."

The two of them sat down in front of me and were going to say something at the same time but tried to show restraint for each other, after exchanging some glances, Hirosukol opened his mouth.

"Greed-san, how does it feel to have a reckless dream torn apart? Ah, it's definitely not that I'm looking down on you."

"Hey, Fio"

This is quite something..However, I still can't make a decision on this.

"Nothing particularly. I still don't think it's completely collapsed after all. I just need to quietly keep working towards the things I can do from here on out as

well.”

Without a single movement in my expression I replied immediately.

“Ho...So it isn’t just making excuses...But, quietly indeed..”

“Fio, stop it already. That’s not what you really want to say right? Why do you always try to charge at him so much like that..”

“Ah, sorry, Rodrick. Greed-san, I’m sorry for saying something so rude. Please pardon me.”

Well, I don’t really mind it that much, so it’s fine.

“No, there’s no problem. Please take it to mind.”

Hearing my words Hirosukol made a slightly relieved expression. I guess, he just unintentionally put it into words?

“No, we’re really sorry about that. Really this guy..”

Faruergaz started lowering his head together with Hirosukol who was next to him before he started talking.

“Since we started as adventurers here, you’ve given us a lot of advice when we didn’t know anything and were struggling. I’m really grateful for it. This time that is..things ended up quite unfortunately but..”

“It should be best to talk about things from here on in “Japanese”. Do you have any objections?”

While Faruergaz had started talking, Hirosukol cut off his words and proposed switching to speaking in Japanese. Since there’s no particular problem I nodded. After he confirming that they exchanged glances and Hirosukol started talking.

“Greed-san, just like this human relationships are quite difficult. I think the matter this time has become quite the good medicine for you. From here on out you should have a change of heart and put in effort to gain the trust of others from the start.”

“I’m very grateful, for the advice, Hirosukol-san.”

“Putting that aside, there’s no way you could enter the dungeon alone either way. It’s not limited to just us yet but sooner or later you’ll probably end up

becoming a member of one of the {squadrons}. Since we have the debt from being in your care and we're the same Japanese people, I'd like if you join us."

Hirosukol said just {Squadron} with an English pronunciation. Well it's not like all of the nouns in the {Common Language} are in English so he might have just brought out an English word with a close meaning.

"Certainly, the Rindobel couple offered me quite the attractive conditions. Is it alright if I ask about {Sun.Ray}? Ah, obviously only as much as you can talk about."

"Yeah, of course. It's not strange to say that we're here for that sake. I intend to talk about the details of every we can talk about.."

Relying on Faruergaz's words I tried asking several questions but the content didn't shift too far from common sense. It's only obvious though. However, it seems that they were only told about the God Notes just the other day. I was told not to tell anyone else but they specially told just me out of the friendship between the same "former" Japanese people.

That's quite the light mouths they have and..Well, it doesn't seem like they've realized the trick so from just the information they heard you wouldn't think someone loses out. Although, they themselves mentioned that they "had quite the light mouths" for saying it and I think they were just telling me out of good will. Incidentally, it seems they had a reasonable amount of knowledge about the God Notes and as expected even they saw the appeal in gaining the blessing of a super-high end healing spell.

We've used the {Cure} type spells in front of them a number of times but I've never shown them {Cure All}. Let alone that, it doesn't seem like they can properly tell the difference between {Cure Light, {Cure Serious}, and {Cure Critical}. I wonder what kind of face they would make if I said I could use {Cure All} hundreds of times?

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Year 7445, Month 7, Day 3

One day later, early in the morning, first I went to Viruhaima and the

{Verdure.Brotherhood}'s place and turned down his invitation.

“Well, judging from your state it seems that things went just as planned. Just like I said before, I don't like {Sun.Ray}. I have no intention of cooperating beyond this but in the case things end up in combat inside of the dungeon when we're nearby I'll at least offer a helping hand. Of course, not for a free though.”

And he said that before saying “Well, give it your best to give me some good laughs, pitiful sub-Noble Greed who lost his faith and was thrown out” and started laughing out loud. You really..if this was Ralpa she'd have long since started swinging her fists.

Next I went to {Black.Topaz} to turn them down as well.

After that I went to “Mogorito Manor” the Rindeobel couple's favored inn which I had Zulu and the others watch in the past and had the brat there call them for me.

“I'm glad you made your decision. Thanks, Greed-san. No, Greed-kun. This is our emblem. Put it on your arm or something.”

He said that and handed me a thin cloth dyed gold. They sure have good preparations...I tried to coil it around my left arm right away but I couldn't coil it well with one hand. Since I didn't want to use my mouth to coil it, I ended up wrapping it around my neck like a necktie.

“Ho~ that's a cool way of tying it. It seems like you can do it alone, maybe I'll have everyone do it that way?”

Korritto said in admiration. No, it's fine right now but inside of the dungeon it would be dangerous around the neck right.

“In any case come on in. Meri was looking forward to you coming as well. We have some things to talk about as well.”

The middle aged man winked at me while inviting me further back into the inn. It pissed me off how the wink strangely suited him.

Well, I wonder if with this I'm a member of {Sun.Ray} as well?

Chapter 190: To The 6th Floor

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 3

The Rindobel couple's room was on the highest floor of "Magorito Manor" on the edge of the 3rd floor. After being let into their room I was offered a seat on the sofa. It was a considerably high-quality sofa and felt quite comfortable to sit on. The wife of the couple Meiria prepared some tea and the husband Koritto prepared some roasted beans to go with the tea before they sat down on a sofa across a small table from where I was sitting. Unlike Viruhaima of {Verdure.Brotherhood} it seems they don't have a slave to assist with their daily necessities.

Meiria noticed the golden cloth tied up around my neck and smiled satisfactorily.

"Greed-kun, I'm glad you made your decision."

After repeating the same words he said just now Koritto shook my hand and following that I also shook hands with Meiria. We did some simple greetings and I formally confirmed my treatment as they explained each one of the rules of {Sun.Ray}. Since there wasn't a lot of them I was easily able to remember them. There wasn't anything in particular that was different compared to the average party but there was one large characteristic.

On the days we don't enter the dungeon, everyone morning it's recommended that we make a visit to the temple individually before eating lunch. It's not an obligation but I was told it's strongly suggested. I already knew about it but when I tried asking the reason and I was told, "God exists everywhere on Orth. Since it's a place where that God? can rest temporarily, if you're lucky you might stop by when that God is taking a break there." Things around there were things I already knew from investigating them and there's no particular problem with the things they're saying. It's very ordinary and something that's said to be only obvious. If it's something on this level then even old lady Shaymi in Bakuddo said it.

“And then, it seems that Greed-kun can use all of the types of elemental magic right. What are their levels?”

It’s a question that’s only obvious from someone who manages the party. I’m sure even I have an obligation to answer.

“They’re all at 4. Though void magic is 5..”

Other adventurers have seen me using attack spells up to arbalest during combat in the dungeon. However, I haven’t shown missile (shown, or rather, it’s been seen before. Though I killed everyone shortly after), it would probably sound more truthful if I make it that I can use at least {Cure Critical} rather than carelessly under reporting.

Hearing that both of the couple’s eyes went wide in surprise. It’s only obvious. It’s not at the level of super but it’s a level that’s plenty to be considered first-rate. Furthermore I’m still in my teens after all. Though I’m sharper than a knife.

“..Th..That’s quite amazing..So it’s just as rumored huh..”

“So you were a first-rate magician..But as expected..{Cure All} is impossible..”

“Yeah, that’s right. It’s strange saying it myself but there’s no mistake in thinking it’s first-rate...Even though that’s the case..those guys..that damned dark elf..they all..drove me out together..”

Partway through I started mumbling to myself with a dark and lifeless expression. Ah, I might be able to make it as an actor..If humans get desperate~ they can really do anything I see...Well, recently I’ve gotten plenty of practice making similar expressions, quite literally to the point of being sick of it. I’m already completely a veteran of making this expression while just acting...Old man Viruhaima said, “That really~~ suits you! It feels good just watching! If it’s like that then I’m sure you could make it even you quit as an adventurer and join the theater in the capital! I’ll be your patron so change occupations!” while pointing and laughing at me as well.

“Greed-kun, you shouldn’t be making such a face. I’m sure you still have various complaints but..”

“That’s right. In the first place it’s something that’s already over right? You should start thinking about things from here on out.”

Both of the Rindobel couple made their most charming smiles towards me. But, their eyes weren't laughing. Hmph, "the same scent as me" indeed...

"No, that was quite rude of me...I guess so. What's important is from here on out."

I tried to make a completely different and cheerful expression and nodded in exaggeration.

"But, for them to turn their back's on you even though you're that skilled with magic, it must be true that there's a lot of magic users in the {Slaughterers} right.."

"Yeah, there's a reasonable number. The dark elf woman can use techniques on the same level as me and the elf male can use magic as well. The female Bunny-people has magic at a considerably high level as well. Adding to that the dwarf woman and human woman can also sue magic a somewhat decent level."

There shouldn't be any need to say anything about Basutorial.

"It's just as we heard..I guess that's the driving force for how you could kill monsters to that extent.."

"Well, that's certainly true.."

"We only have five people on our end. But since we're splitting our parties into two in essence there's even less.."

I already know. The husband in front of me, the human man (if I remember correctly he was the son of a noble named Binnodo.Gekudo), the Wolf-people woman, and after that's Faruergaz and Hirosukol right? I've investigated at least that much. Adding to that, the fact that all of them are nothing special as well. The only one who could be considered first-rate is just the husband and since the human male is less than Toris he's about at a normal level, the Wolf-people woman is only at a level slightly better than Hirosukol. It seems like they would struggle quite a bit in the dungeon.

In order for me to accompany them right away starting from their next time exploring the dungeon, it seems that tomorrow we're training to check our formations. For the time being I thought that the same as Faruergaz and the others I would be told to enter the team with Zemyunel as leader next time but

it seems that I'll be going to the 6th floor together with the Rindobel couple.

Even if I have experience as the leader of the {Slaughterers} and I've been to the 7th floor for them to suddenly keep me on their side? I read them as starting out a bit more carefully though...I guess that means they feel safer having those who could be dangerous within their sight.

Since tonight's dinner was acting as my welcoming party, everyone in {Sun.Ray} went together to eat. The restaurant was a place not in my memory up until now called "Gonru". It's a restaurant that's close to a cheap pub. It's strange to say since I'm having them treat me but holding a welcoming party at a place of this class, are they poor people.

Just as party reached it's middle stages, it finally reached an atmosphere where I could move from my seat so I took a bottle cheap wine and started going around pouring alcohol for the other members. Newcomers should at least do this much right. It's fine even if Orth doesn't have this sort of culture right. In addition I can naturally talk with everyone after all. When the alcohol starts circulating and everyone is feeling tipsy and good I go around lowering my head to all the members and greeted Hirosukol and the others at their table as well.

"Faruergaz-san, Hirosukol-san. I'm looking forward to working with you from here on out."

"Yeah, we are too. Even though it's fine if you didn't come to greet as politely as this.."

"Oh~ as expected you're an adult. Well drink up."

Faruergaz said that while offering me a cup of alcohol for the one I just poured for him. I finish off the alcohol I was poured in one go. Seeing that Hirosukol poured the next bit of alcohol into my cup(it's a store with no wine glasses even), and when I finished that one off again in one go he got cheerful in high spirits. Just a bit it's not amusing. I guess I'll use {Neutralize.Poison} later. Alcohol this cheap will only make you drunk in the bad way after all.

"Ah, that's right. Rindobel-san and the others never mentioned anything about a contract. Is it really fine not to exchange contracts?"

I already knew the answer but I tried asking partially as a joke. Suddenly Hirosukol's face changed as if he wasn't amused anymore.

"That is..Only obvious right...It costs money and there's no one around who signs contracts for every little thing after all.."

"Fufu, Greed-san please forgive us already. It's not like we've signed anything like a contract either."

It won't hurt even if I say it a bit sarcastically right. But, I was a bit relieved. It seems that these guys have already gained at least that much common sense. Since I had already confirmed that they didn't exchange contracts when they joined up with Kumiru and Ruttsu who are drinking beside them, I didn't think they would demand a contract when they entered {Sun.Ray} but I'm relieved. Also, you two is it fine if you don't confirm whether or not I actually canceled my contract? Well, even if you ask there's no way to answer other than that I did cancel it.

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Year 7445, Month 7, Day 5

We're entering the dungeon tomorrow. As a matter of fact the other day, I reported the current condition to Toris and the others. About the precise days we'll be entering the dungeon and the members who can use magic and such. I'll know in an instant if I use Identify but they wouldn't know until you can check their status. At the same time I told them I was put into a different part from Faruergaz and the others as well.

The method of contact is simple. It's just a matter of sending letters written in Japanese through my company but it would seem strange if a messenger for my company was coming and going so often and they might get suspicious of it. Just for the first time. If it's just the first time then looking from the outside it's only obvious that I would be trying to get into contact with my company after leaving the {Slaughterers}.

After that, it's only obvious but I've left my war horse in the care of the brat of "Kairugu's Inn" that I'm staying at right now and normally that brat takes care of the horses for the place. He washes them, feeds them, and depending on the case takes them for walks around the town.

I handed the brat some money and just the same had them hand the brat at “Boil Manor” some money so it’s easy for them to exchange letters when they’re both out walking my and Miduchi’s horses. On the contrary if they were to go so far with being suspicious of me to keep lookout on both my inn and “Boil Manor” then they probably wouldn’t have accepted me into their party in the first place. It seems that’s how Toris and the others imagined it. I have no objections on that.

Well, it maintains a reasonable level of safety and the logic passes. Even if through some reason the letters were to be found and they read them, the only ones who would understand the content is reincarnated people and even if Faruergaz and the others see it in some meanings it’s just a matter of them finding out the truth. Adding even more to that the letter is written in invisible ink that requires holding it over a flame so from a glance it just looks like a white piece of paper. If you burn it after reading it then no evidence will remain.

In the first place since paper is expensive unless it’s someone with a reasonable amount of money they wouldn’t use it so often. When it comes to adventurers at best for something like making a map of the dungeon? Well I’m not the central piece for the job this time. It’s limited to nothing more than just a single safety method. I’m just conveying the movements of {Sun.Ray} on to everyone.

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Year 7445, Month 7, Day 6

I’ve stepped foot into the dungeon with the Rindobel couple and the other members of {Sun.Ray}. I’m not carrying my bayonet but rather just the normal long sword form. Including me the party is full with 10 members.

We spent more than half a day only killing the room bosses as we cleared through the 1st floor, then with three hours of rest in between we cleared through the 2nd floor the same way. Our earnings up until here are only the magic stones from the times we had no other choice than to fight and the boss of the room on the 1st floor {Gargantuan Spider} and the bosses of the rooms on the 2nd floor, an {Owlbear} and {Crimson Centipede}, which is just an

insanely huge bright red centipede.

When it comes to traps they try to take detours around them to avoid them as much as possible, that sort of thoroughly safe policy. It seems they try to avoid casually walking along the side of pitfalls like we do as much as possible. As expected I feel like that's taking it a bit far but this is probably a normal adventurer.

For the remaining bosses, I guess it's either because we repeated teleporting a number of times to pick a good location, or we only hit ones with slow movements, so we ended up just remaining careful as we got as close to the monster room as possible before running through all at once to avoid them. Just once we tried to take a detour to avoid a group of gnolls but were unable to and they started pursuing us. However, even that we just shot them with spells and arrows from a distance until they retreated. I finished off two of them the spell {Flame Bolt} as well.

There's no problem with the command of the Rindobel couple during combat. Though this is only obvious with them being one of the top teams. However, I was annoyed over how much time they used confirming the safety after the combat, then collecting the arrows, the magic stones, and such. Taking detours to avoid combat and running through the boss rooms to avoid combat as well, I understand the feelings and aim but..even if they repeat teleporting so many times it's rare that the same area will come out again so I didn't feel the need to be so concerned over it.

But, well, this is just my logic and not common logic. Even the current {Slaughterers} occasionally get injured by room bosses on the 1st floor. It's just my feeling that's strange that I'm convinced you can use healing spells at any time and normally. In the first place, the leader isn't be but the Rindobel couple. I should obey the policies of the leader unconditionally.

If the leader makes a completely foolish choice and furthermore there's leeway in time it might be okay to call them out on it but I should think that something like that can be done in either the teleport room or in a situation where I'm definitely sure there's no monsters around.

Even during my period in the SDF the first thing I was told was "commander's

aren't mistaken". Commanders always make the correct decisions and don't make mistaken decisions. That's why if you do everything you're ordered without missing anything then you'll win, is what it means. Of course, even if they're a commander, it's not like a God or anything else, since they're just a human this viewpoint itself is a mistake. The instructor and assistants all immediately said "this is strange" pointing out the contradiction. However, even if it is a mistake, and there's some reason to doubt it, the subordinate must never voice those doubts in the middle of combat. The ones who can propose things like that to the commander are just their aides, or if the commander is someone high-ranking then that's the role of the staff officer after all.

Then what should you do in the case that you've clearly been ordered to take action on said mistake? and there was an idiot who asked that question. The instructor started grinning without hesitation and said, "Give up and die since you had bad luck". Well it was a joke but it's not exactly a mistake. And then the instructor also said this. "If you don't want to force those sorts of feelings on your subordinates then frantically learn things and make sure you always give out the best decisions. If you do that then they'll think that by following your orders things will definitely go well. If it comes to that then..even if you gave out a mistaken order then the subordinates who believed in you can die while still believing in you from the bottoms of their hearts. However, if you don't want to hold responsibility over the lives of strangers, of your subordinates that much then you're not suited for a job as leader. I feel bad making the citizens pay taxes to spend on someone as useless as that so you should write up a letter of resignation right away."

If you pardon the opinions of those below you then a commander will be made light of. Adventurers aren't a military organization like the knight group but they risk their lives in combat and they're similar to an army in the fact that they're a group with the purpose of achieving their goals through combat. It would be fine to consider them a small army. Of course, almost at a probability of 100% the objective of them would be more trifling than that of a real army.

If a commander has been made light of once, then after that others will make light of their orders, and there's the fear that someone might not obey their

orders when it's crucial. That's why armies proceed with things under the premise that higher ups never make mistakes in their decisions. Putting aside the matter of whether that logic itself is correct or not.

Well, it's talk about my preparedness from here on out. The Rindobel couple is properly making sure to take every step necessary to keep us safe and prevent exhaustion as much as possible. As expected of the heads of one of the top teams for many years I was able to reconfirm that they're excellent leaders. Though I still don't have much to go off as samples but even then their orders and decisions during combat give off the sense of relief that a mature adventurer gives.

And then the first day ends, roughly 30 hours have already passed since we entered the dungeon. The date has long since changed and right now it's around noon on July 7th. We finally arrived at the teleport room on the 2nd floor and are getting some rest. Other than us there's several adventurer parties camping and resting.

"Greed-kun, how was things today? Are you tired?"

I ate the food that wasn't good at all, didn't have any bulk to it, and was tasteless and just as I was about to go to sleep, Koritto started talking to me. Up until here, along the way I slept for about two hours in the teleport room on the 1st floor but other than that I've always been tense inside of the dungeon, there's no way I wouldn't be tired.

"Well, I'm sure this is about right. No one was injured today and I felt relieved with Koritto-san and Meiria-san's command and orders."

"Really~ is that so. We're relieved to hear you say that as well."

Koritto made a brought smile after clearly taking a breath as if he was relieved. It can't be helped, I'll accompany him for a bit.

"Also everyone moved quite briskly. I'm pleased I was able to participate in a good party as well."

"Oh my, you sure do say pleasant things."

The wife Meiria joins the conversation. It would suck if this drags on...But, this is a good chance as well. Sooner or later gathering information is necessary so if

I can gather some of it this time then that means I have that much more to report to Toris and the others after I leave the dungeon. Pawns mustn't be negligent in putting in the labor.

"No, as expected I was just showing admiration that you were one of the top teams that has existed for quite a while. There's some things that are done differently with the {Slaughterers} so I was a bit perplexed though.."

"Yeah, since we have no leeway to fit in a porter to carry luggage after all..Honestly speaking, if Santosu hadn't died a short while back we wouldn't have thought about inviting you."

Yeah, that was part of why we chose this timing as well. We were a bit nervous whether you might buy a slave or invite someone else. But, it's someone who screwed up and got injured even under that sort of proper command. I'm sure it wasn't a big loss even if they die.

"Also, since we're not as skilled as the {Slaughterers} we can't clear through the floors in a short period of time as well right? I was worried you might think it was irritating."

"Not as skilled, there's no way that's the case! I think that everyone is plenty skilled. In the case of the {Slaughterers} they just plunge forward because there's a lot of sorcerers. I think that the skill of everyone here is higher."

In terms of caution towards traps and the ability to avoid combat as adventurers, the {Slaughterers} can't even reach the feet of {Sun.Ray} in skill. On the point of aiming for the lower floors of the dungeon safely, {Sun.Ray} is far superior to the {Slaughterers}. Although, this is still the 2nd floor. There's not many opponents that the top team would struggle against. I've only seen the orders the Rindobel couple can give out while completely calm and composed.

"Is that so..But I think that people will be injured from here on out. Greed-kun if you get injured say something right away. It's not as good as you but my husband can use healing spells as well."

"Yes, I'm in your care at that time."

"Yeah, we are as well. We can't afford to lose a person who can use {Cure Critical} after all. I'll heal you with the highest priority."

“Now then, Greed-kun, you...It will probably get even more harsh from here on out so you should sleep while you still can..”

Fu~ with this I'm finally released, and I was only relieved for a brief moment. The other members of {Sun.Ray} started talking to me.

“Hey~ ya Greed-san. Around how much do the {Slaughterers} earn? I heard a rumor that it exceeds 100,000,000 a month in just magic stones but there's no way that's true right?”

This sure is annoying~ really. In the first place I've already talked about things like that several times since the other day. Everyone who talks to me go straight to this...Let's share information between allies a bit more.

“Once we started making it to the 7th floor there were months when it was over 150,000,000 as well..Well, it almost never went that far though”

If we think of the time with the {Larva Purple Worm} as separate then there's still months where we enter the dungeon four times in a month so I said it a bit on the reserved side. Most of it's already known so there's not much meaning in trying to hide it.

The one who whistled was Rokasuto.Keinesutan, a male elf nicknamed Rokko. His level is 15. 29 years old. In terms of physical abilities he's close to his peak so his ability values are reasonably good. He's one of the front line of this party and uses a long sword and buckler shield.

“Then in that case I'm sure the cut is amazing~ as well right...It seems like it would be easy to get your hands on..”

“Get your hands on..What would?”

“Hn? A, ah, a..a much better weapon. Like a long sword from the sword merchant Fuggusu.”

He tried to cover it up in a bit of a panic before Rokko made an awkward face.

Incidentally, sword merchant Fuggusu is a sword making specialist blacksmith that has a workshop on the edge of Rombertia. He's well known for making high class swords with a beautiful design and is the primary blacksmith of the second knight group as well. The prices are around 3,000,000 — 4,000,000 Z for just

one long sword. They cost 3–4 times more than the price of a normal weapon made in Baldukk. In some meanings it's a store that the adventurers who use swords yearn to visit.

“No, I wonder about that. Since the swords from sword merchant Fuggusu are pretty popular. It seems it's not unusual be left waiting for even a year. There's probably no choice other than buying one at a weapon shop in order to get your hands on it sooner. In that case they'd probably be at a price you can't easily buy right?”

The wife of the Rindobel couple was on her side as she glared at Rokko with a cold expression but when she realized that I was looking she looked in a different direction and burrowed into her blanket.

“Ah..Yeah. If you buy one at a weapon shop, ev..even the cheap ones will cost 5,000,000 I'm sure...It seems like the expensive ones even make it to 8,000,000..”

Well, as expected swords of that class, only a handful of them are sold each year I'm sure. If the weapon shop doesn't take at least that much profit then I doubt it will work as a business. As far as I know, only Viruhaima, Anderson, and Meiria of the Rindobel couple are using long and short swords made by sword merchant Fuggusu. Also, it's cheeky but Angela's broad sword was made there as well. Although, Angela's sword was originally one used by someone in {Bright.Blade}.

Come to think of it Toris was going to try and order one last year it seems but gave up when hear about the one year wait. Though I have some attachment to Toris's long sword for the time I was in it's care when I fell to the 14th floor.

“Keinesutan-san, there's tomorrow as well, let's rest pretty soon. I'm the lookout in three hours.”

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Year 7445, Month 7, Day 10

We finally arrived at the teleport room for the 5th floor...It was a long journey... We took over double the amount of time it takes the {Slaughterers} to get here.

The 1st and 2nd floors took half a day so they were still fine but 14 hours to make it through the 3rd floor, 16 hours on the 4th floor, and when it came to the 5th floor it took close to 20 hours. During that time, other than the times we're in the teleport room at longest we only one 30 minute break and other than that we're always remaining tense.

Even though we spent that much time, we only fought in a boss room once on the 5th floor when there was an altar. The boss that was summoned was just four ghouls nothing special so I finished off two in no time at all with {Stone Javelin} and of the remaining two I cut down one with my sword to easily gain victory but. After the combat the shrine on top of the altar that opened was empty just as expected.

Two people ended up suffering minor injuries against the gargoyles but after the combat Koritto healed them with {Cure Light}. I offered to use healing magic as well but I was declined in order to save mana so I just ended up carrying their luggage and left them alone. I was only finally permitted to heal them when we arrived at this teleport room.

But you know, advancing through at such a small and stingy pace accumulating all that stress makes combat against the zombies of the 4th and 5th floors where you move your body around all that much easier. Though I say that, even that was kept to the bare minimum and in most cases we just run to gain some distance or detour around the monsters detection range.

Countless times, I wanted to say that there was no need to avoid combat to this extent but I somehow managed to bear, and just like that I endured without saying it. The moment we arrived at the teleport room on the 5th floor, since I haven't taken a shower in five days I was about to put my bags on the floor and stagger to the shower room but the Rindobel couple is probably first here I'm sure. Rather than that is food. It's crude but {Sun.Ray} has a kitchen setup here as well so I can finally have a decent meal.

All of the members of the party were happily taking out the ingredients that split up to carry and lining them up. We carefully lined up some pumpkin, carrots, vegetables that last a while, a block of bacon, and confirm the

remaining amount. Since we had planned to enter the dungeon for 8 days this time, it's fine as long as it lasts another 3 days. I'm happy that I can have warm meals here in the morning and night.

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Year 7445, Month 7, Day 11

Starting today we're on the 6th floor. However, as far as I know there's almost no traps you can take a detour around on the 6th floor. Just as I was thinking, they'll show me what they can do, before we departed there was a meeting(?) where they asked my opinion.

"Now then, Greed-kun, I want to hear a bit of your opinion. The opinion of you who hasn't just gained experience on the 6th floor but also the 7th floor. I think you'll definitely give us an effective suggestion but.."

"Even if you ask me for my opinion..In regards to what? I just heard about your method of advancing on the 6th floor but it's fundamentally the same...If I were to raise one point then, it's not that you get close to the traps but if you don't pass through the sides of them, then it's difficult to proceed to the 7th floor."

"..So you have to pass through the side of them.."

"I didn't know that.."

"But isn't that dangerous?"

"Yeah, last time didn't Bogusu and Yuriel die when they got caught in the trap?"

"That's right.."

"I don't want to get near it.."

"But, we heard that when they saved Ginger and Binsu they passed through the side."

"So it wasn't just because they were in a hurry.."

"Everyone, you're too loud. Be quiet for a bit! We can hear the opinion of a reliable person after all!"

Meiria warned everyone. There's no a single person in {Sun.Ray} that was underestimating me even though I'm a new member but there was the atmosphere at first of how great is a leader who got thrown out of his own

party. However during the combat along the way to here, since I didn't say a single word or complaint and just casually walked to here holding some baggage their attitudes softened quite a bit.

Now at the very least when it comes to everything other than the abilities to command and manage, it's safe to say no one is looking down on me. In other words, I've arrived at the position of while I'm unsuited (maybe) for being a leader but I'm reliable as an ally.

Everyone focused their attention on me after hearing Meiria's warning. Even if you say that~ I don't really have much else than that to say...Ah, come to think of it I guess I should say this as well?

"After that, it's completely unknown when monsters will teleport in so you need to remain cautious of all directions at all times and I think it would be best to change the formation for the 6th floor I guess?"

It wasn't just one point.

"Ah, we hadn't mentioned that far yet. As expected we have an exclusive formation we change to for the 6th floor as well. We don't have the heavy luggage anymore and we're more nimble after all."

Of course that's the case. I'm sure you just had another casualty several months prior so there's no way you wouldn't have changed the organization for the 6th floor right.

"However, we were able to hear a valuable opinion. In that case it seems like no matter where we end up teleporting to this time we should keep advancing...Greed-kun, this is the map we've been making of the 6th floor. After we teleport to the 6th floor if possible I'd like to hear your opinion."

"I understand."

Come to think of it they still haven't showed me the map since I entered {Sun.Ray}. Up until we cleared through the 5th floor I caught sight of the Rindobel couple periodically checking the map and consulting for a short while a number of times but I haven't seen the map itself.

"Everyone is ready right. Alright, then let's go..Mezoredoo"

Author's note:

Sun Ray.First Part Members:

Koritto.Rindobel(45)*can use magic

Lv. 17, Laios, male, spear

Meiria.Rindobel(43)

Lv. 17, Laios, female, long sword

Harukein.Fumizu(30)

Lv. 17, Human, male, battle mace

Rokasuto.Keinesutan(29)

Lv. 15, Elf, male, long sword

Kamain.Mishausu(28)

Lv. 16, Hobbit, female, bow, short-sword

Kevin.Firestarter(27)

Lv. 16, Dawrf, male, Battle Axe

Mifesu.Ransun(25)*can use magic

Lv. 15, Wolf-people, Female, Bow, Infantry sword

Kyumire.Biosukol(25)

Lv. 15 Tiger-people, female, Spear

Jerutodo.Ramiresu(25)

Lv. 14, Wolf-people, male, Spear

Alan.Greed(17)*can use magic?

Lv. 26, Human, Male, Long sword

Sun Ray.Second Party Members

Binsukoru.Zemyuneru(28)*second party leader

Lv. 17, Dog-people, Male, Spear

Virginia.Nyuman(28)*first party sub-leader

Lv. 15, Human, Female, Spear

Binnodo.Gekudo(25)*can use magic

Lv. 14, Human, Male, Long sword

Hisurura.Harurein(21)

Lv. 12, Elf, Female, Bow, Infantry sword

Rotorikku.Faruerugazu(17)*can use magic

Lv. 8, Human, Male, Long sword, spear

Fiorentso.Hirosukoru(17)*can use magic

Lv. 9, Tiger-people, Male, Long sword, spear

Sannose.Kumiru(22)

Lv. 11, Human, Male, Long sword

Rutsogu.Samyueruga(21)

Lv. 11, Human, Male, Spear

Dendoru.Sumaisu(26)*Rorikku's slave

Lv. 9, Laios, Male, Battle hammer

Karieru.Makusu(24)*Rorikku's slave

Lv. 8, Laios, Male, Battle axe

Chapter 191: Boar

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 11

We {Sun.Ray} teleported into the 6th floor and we immediately scattered and raising our vigilance in every direction.

After confirming the safety of our surroundings, the Rindobel couple confirmed the arrow on the pedestal of the crystal rod and looked for the number written beyond that. They found it right away. Right next to “OneEightVI” the number “34” was written on the wall in the {Common.Language}.

It seems that {Sun.Ray} has come here in the past as well.

After confirming the number on the wall the Rindobel couple started discussing something in a whisper while looking at the map.

Soon they called out to me.

“Now then, Greed-kun. If you have a map of the 6th floor I’d like you to show it to us.”

He~ you’re really saying that. In my own opinion I have the feelings that it would be unpleasant for you to make it to the 7th floor but even thinking about things in a favorable light in order to clear through a group of ogres on the 7th floor you at least need someone with Miduchi’s level of mana or else things will get quite severe so them making it to the 7th floor itself doesn’t matter at all. What I find unpleasant is the fact that we’ll no longer be able to monopolize the teleport room on the 6th floor. Although it’s not like it belongs to the {Slaughterers} or anything else so you could say it’s a mistake that I find it unpleasant in the first place.

“Unfortunately, I don’t have it.”

“Ho? A man of your level wasn’t able to keep it hidden when you left?”

After all they saw through it huh? I shrug my shoulders once and take out a map container that just looks like a slightly long flask hanging on my waist from

a glance. The map of the 6th floor is inside of here. It's one of the things I made sure everyone has because of the teleport traps. Of course, the content is the same as the one the {Slaughterers} use as is.

“Well, I don't mind showing you. This is the map of the 6th floor. Although, I was only able to take just this one when I left as I thought the 6th floor would be the most difficult. However..”

Not just the Rindobel couple but the entire party went stiff as they were paying attention to me.

“I won't explain every little thing. I don't feel like going that far and I haven't promised that much.”

“Yeah, we already know that. It's fine if you just show it to us.”

Maps of the dungeon are a shared asset for a party of adventurers. Normally they aren't thought of as something that belongs to any one person. Of course, if the party itself is made up of only one person then it would be different but normally you can't produce a map of the dungeon without borrowing the help of your allies. It's safe to say there's almost no cases of people handing the maps they used up until then over to a new party once they leave the old one. Normally when you leave your previous party you're strictly checked to make sure you aren't in possession of anything like a map and they're confiscated.

In the case that all of the members of the party end up joining a new party it's only obvious that the map information is still owned by them. In this case, rather than saying they joined the party, rather it's close to multiple parties merging but that only happens in the case both sides don't have a large difference abilities.

For example, in the case where Faruergaz and the others joined {Sun.Ray}, because of the large gap in their abilities, rather than saying they merged or combined, it's clearer to say they were absorbed. In these sorts of cases, I've heard that most often one of the conditions of being absorbed is to hand over the maps and information to the more skilled and powerful adventurers. Normally the number of people itself becomes the difference in power.

If the party ends up having some discord and splits up then there's cases

where both sides keep the map information as well but it's extremely rare for them to split up where both sides still have an equal amount of power. In comparison to that cases like me where the leader them self gets thrown out are rare in number but it's not like there's none at all. I've heard that even in those sorts of cases the maps are confiscated without exception as well.

Among the adventurers who enter the dungeon the authority of the leader is powerful but that's precisely why, someone who isn't suitable as a leader, or who's lacking the ability to manage the other members will easily be blamed and either forced to change or thrown out. No one would think that it's possible to stay alive long or find a huge treasure in the dungeon under an unreliable leader right.

On the contrary, precisely because the authority of the leader is powerful everyone wants to take up that position. People want to train with an adequate party, go independent, and then make their own party with themselves as the leader because of that. Particularly when it comes to the party leaders of the higher ranked adventurers in Baldukk their income becomes enormous. I think you already understand but a precise map is one of the most essential things for challenging the dungeon of Baldukk and it wouldn't be strange to call it of the greatest importance.

The fact that they're holding an accurate map will become that adventurers, that party's power. There's a lot of adventurers who see the dream of one day becoming independent and producing their own hidden maps. I'm sure that it's the same for this {Sun.Ray}.

“Well then, here you go.”

After taking the map from me Koritto looked at that and quickly started making a difficult face. That's only obvious. All of the numbers on the map are written in Arabic numerals. We somehow were able to get Zenom and the slaves to learn just the Arabic numerals. We read out the number written on the first wall we teleport into on the 6th floor and have them confirm our current position on the map. In the worst case if someone gets caught in a teleport trap, they need to search out a similar terrain from the map they're holding so it's not necessary for them to learn numbers in kanji to make it to

the teleport room on the 6th floor.

“It..It’s filled in this much?”

“Am..Amazing..”

“..Is this a pitfall?”

“..It seems like this is the symbol for teleport traps.”

“..I wonder what this symbol means?”

“..Since it resembles a pitfall isn’t it a pitfall..like a pitfall with spikes or something?”

“..None of the rooms have which boss is in them written down..I guess that means there’s no meaning since they’re killing all of them?”

“..But, these characters, I’ve never seen before, I wonder what language it is... It’s not Southern Ragudarious {Masasoirisshu}. Maybe it’s the {Migudarious} language?”

“..Mu..It seems that our current location here. The terrain seems similar to on our map.”

“..That’s right. It seems to be here.”

“..In that case..Fumu..It seems like we could even make it to the 7th floor.”

“Greed-kun, I think were here right now but do you think we could make it to the 7th floor?”

Even if you show me on the map you’ve just put back in my hands, there’s no way I could respond so quickly...

“..Nn, it seems I’ve come here in the past as well but..Well, I’m sure we can make it.”

“Dear, ahead of here we usually..turn back at the teleport trap here right..I think it’s worthwhile going.”

“Nn, I guess so..Alright, let’s try going huh? Then, everyone, let’s go.”

I fold up the map they returned to me and put it back into my map container. At the very least the fact that I’m in possession of a map of the 6th floor has been confirmed but this is a message to Faruergaz and Hirosukol as well. Well, it could be taken as a message to anyone else as well. I wonder who will notice it? It wouldn’t be strange for anyone to notice it though.

With Harukein.Fumizu nicknamed Hulk using the battle mace and Rokasuto.Keinesutan, nicknamed Rokko who's using a long sword at the front, the Rindobel couple in the middle, and me at the rear we started proceeding through the dungeon. Since you never know when a monster will teleport in on the 6th floor the rear is the most dangerous and exhausting. It took the shape of pushing the harshest job on a newcomer just as would be expected of a newcomer but since it's only obvious I don't have any particular complaints.

Just, if they wanted to make use of my magic then I think they should position me closer to the middle. If I'm at the rear when a monster appears from the front, as expected it's difficult to use attack spells in a hurry with all the people in the way.

.....

We've advanced about 1 Km heading towards the 7th floor. Along the way, no {Cave Boars} have teleported into us up to here but we were attacked by groups of {Vampire Bats} a number of times. We're killing all of them with bow and magic but the exhaustion of the magicians is intense. Though if I were to just rapid fire missiles I could finish them all up in a few seconds to ten seconds or so while yawning. I used {Flame Arrow} a total of five times and landed all of the hits. But, Koritto and Ransun each fired three and two shots of Flame and Stone arrows but each of them only landed one hit. Their aim sucks.

In order to recover our mana we remain cautious while splitting breaks up into a total of about an hour before advancing again. This is the reason we're so slow. It can't be helped though.

And then, we approached the first monster room. According to Meiria who's standing at the front and checked the room, the enemy is just one {Cave Great Boar} that's resting. But, since I was in the rear in a situation where no one would see my face (my eyes shining blue), I used the spell {Detect.Life} and there were three reactions. Though it's possible that two of them aren't {Cave Great Boars} and just {Cave Boars} as well.

Whatever the case when the {Cave Great Boar} stands up high it's height easily exceeds that of an adult over 4 meters high. It's length reaches over 4 meters as well. Just think of it like taking on an opponent the size of a six-seat

van. If you're pierced by its tusks even if you can avoid instant death there's no doubt you'd be seriously injured on the verge of life and death. Even from just a body slam Zulu was sent flying and on top of three bone fractures, he stopped moving.

After she confirmed the boss of the monster room, we returned about 200 meters away on Meiria's instruction and were given a simple strategy. First off Koritto, Ransun, and I will preemptively attack with attack spells. Simultaneously Mishausu will shoot it with some arrows. If we're lucky just that will be enough to defeat it but unless it hits a vital organ that's pretty much impossible. Next Haruku and Rokko will go in with their shields ready and build a line with Meiria and Firestarter using their sword and axe behind them. Behind that Biosukol and Ramires will charge in with their spears.

Ransun and Mishausu will continue attacking with the bow after that while Koritto tries to find gaps to attack with his spear while maintaining general command. I need to fight at the front line while trying to retain as much mana as possible. If circling around everyone is helplessly difficult then I can look for an opening to use magic after that.

Honestly speaking, I think it's the right answer to not use a scout on the 6th floor where boars are wandering around but since the {Cave Great Boar} is going to the trouble of resting for us, even if there's not much control to it at the start we should attack it all out before it notices us. If we let it stand up and start moving around it's huge and it has quite a bit of power so it's reasonably troublesome. Just wandering around in front of the monster room stirs up the air and raises the chances it'll reach their nose. And also, the attack spell I was instructed to use was Javelin. It seems they're taking into consideration encounters with monsters afterwards with preserving my mana but I'm sure it won't make much of a difference and unlike the {Slaughterers} we only have three people who can use magic.

I think we should hit it with the most powerful attack spells we can right now. Judging from the level of elemental magic he can use Koritto should be able to use arbalest type attack spells as well. If just Koritto and I were to use that class of attack spell to land hits even if it doesn't hit a vital organ we'll quickly gain the advantage. Additionally Ransun should be able to use {Stone Javelin} as

well. Even though that's the case he was instructed to use the attack spell {Stone Bolt}.

Even if you focus on the 7th floor, if someone gets seriously injured here~ won't it be terrible?

Well, it can't be helped. It was after we all confirmed the strategy for charging in and started to slowly approach the monster room again. We could feel the vibration from the footsteps of a large animal from the monster room. Ah~ it noticed us. What do they intend to do? With this? I glanced to the side at Koritto's face but he still just has his lips shut. Meiria who was standing in front opened her right hand and raised it before closing it. The signal for stopping and gathering.

We all gathered together slowly while making sure not to make any noise and while Koritto and Meiria were surrounded by everyone they whispered discussing something quickly before giving out new orders.

"It seems that we were noticed. Since it can't be helped we're changing the strategy. The members who are charging in first are the same. However, Haruku and I will go from the left and Rokko and Kevin will go from the right as we split up and charge in. Kimu you follow in soon after Haruku and I. Jeru you back up Rokko and Kevin from behind."

"In regards to magic if you three think you can hit it then use it. If it seems impossible then between Haruku and Rokko, Greed-kun you take the lead and I'll back you up with the spear. Kamu and Misu even in that case you two should back us up with the bow when you get a chance."

Well, there's not much else than that. Splitting up into three groups could be just right considering there's three opponents as well. If we approach a bit closer then they should clearly be able to hear the footsteps of multiple opponents after all. Though retreating in that case is all an option. It's not suitable for the image of a top team with their powerful combat potential but. It's not like anyone is looking either way.

Since there's nothing good that will come from agitating the opponent, we split up into three groups, and quietly started advancing like that.

After proceeding for a short while and it's only obvious that you can clearly hear the sound of multiple footsteps from the monster room. Everyone can clearly comprehend there's definitely multiple opponents. On my right side Koritto raised his left hand and raised three fingers before quickly opening his hand and lowering it ahead. Free combat between each of the groups and the opponents we find huh? Lowering his hand ahead is the signal for everyone to keep advancing. I wonder if he's noticed the fact that there's three opponents the same number as we have groups? Even so, it's quite the firm decision.

.....

There's already no more than 5 meters from the monster room. We can't see any monsters in the range we can see. I wonder if they're hiding on both sides of this entrance? Everyone fixes their hold on their weapons. Koritto and I will charge in first with me remaining cautious of the left and Koritto of the right, if there's only one opponent in that direction or none at all then we quickly turn around and participate in the battle on the opposite side.

I wait for the signal. 3, 2, 1, now!

I rush into the room and look to the left, and it's there! Two {Cave Boars}. Then in that case the {Cave Great Boar} should be on the opposite side. Rokko, Kevin, and Jeru pulled the unlucky number on their end.

I set my aim on the right boar of the two on the left side and charged at it. Obviously the boar is furiously dashing as well.

I cut at it while passing by it.

I run the long sword in my right hand along it's side as I run.

I run along making sure not to overtake Meiria, Haruku, and Kimu who were running in a position ahead of me from where we charged in. After all if I were to be at the front both of these two boars would aim for me.

The two boars came running over here at a furious speed.

Even these {Cave Boars} while they're not at the level of {Cave Great Boars} they're still quite huge and have a lot of force behind them.

The one on the right is my prey.

I run through the middle of the two.

I hold up my long sword in my right hand so it's easy to use.

If I cut it from the shoulder to it's front right leg then it should make Koritto's job easier with the spear.

There!!

Just look, this magnificent sword play!

No, I'm just cutting with all my strength though.

I felt the response of doing heavy damage with that attack in passing.

I feel like I hear a scream echoing out.

I quickly turned around to the right and while Koritto is taking it on with his spear I'll stab it from it's ass!

After cutting along from the left, this time I went from the right side, in other words if I make it's right front leg useless then it'll be powerless. I aim for the joint of it's back right leg from behind it's ass and sliced it in half. {Cave Boar A} quickly couldn't sustain it's weight and fall to the right in a pile of blood and dirt. Here, I'm done with you, this is about right. I guess next is either B or Great.

Shortly after thinking that, I heard some shouts from B who was on my left when we charged inside. Haruku is using the shield to skillfully parry the {Cave Boars} charge and it seems while it was troubled over changing directions he circled around to the side of it's head.

"Hmph!!"

With a thud Haruku's battle mace hit the back of the {Cave Boars} head. On the side Meiria landed a thrust into one of it's eyes. Kimu is stabbing it's shoulder with her spear. It seems like they'll take a bit more time to finish it off but there shouldn't be any problem.

Then in case the one who needs backup is the main dish the Great.

I immediately start running.

Bumo~ a large boars voice echoes out.

“Shit!! Ouch~!”

Rokko is rolling around while holding his stomach and training to endure the pain. It seems like he’s bleeding quite a bit as well but I can’t tell the details. There’s no time to use Identify.

Kevin is swinging his battle axe desperately as if to not let the huge boar get close.

Jeru is trying to hold his ground with the spear while back up Rokko but he seems to be drawing back from fear and unreliable.

There’s already several arrows stabbed into the body of the Great and it also seems to have been injured by attack spells as well. Though just from a glance none of them seem to have done much damage. I was about to yell “Just ignore that and back me up!” to Koritto but he seems busy trying to finish off the boar I half killed and above all I don’t have that sort authority.

I took off running at my full speed but I didn’t make it in time.

Kevin was sent flying along with his axe. Even then while he’s a small dwarf he didn’t let go of his battle axe but it seems he hit his back badly.

The one who stood at the front in Kevin’s place was me as I quickly swing my long sword and lightly cut the nose of the huge boar. With this it’s anger should be focused at me. But, well I’ve experienced fighting against this fellow to the point of being sick of it since last year. I have confidence I can win against it even one on one. If I just evade all of it’s attacks and continue hitting with my own then eventually it’ll run out of stamina and as a result I’ll win. It’s the truth. Though it’s difficult.

What’s scary would be if another {Cave Boar} were to come teleporting in at this moment and just that but it doesn’t seem like they can teleport into the monster rooms so I’m probably safe on that end. We’ve had something intrude while we were in the middle of fighting in the past but they were all jsut ones that teleported outside of the room and then wandered in from there.

“So..Someone..He..aling..”

Rokko seeks help in a voice that’s about to disappear as he crawls in his own blood. It’s unfortunate but wait just a bit longer. It would be good if someone

else comes along after finishing off the {Cave Boars} while I'm holding out but while I say that this great boar will die in a matter of time as well. I'll properly heal you up after that.

I make a half grin with just one cheek and after finding an opening on the center of it's head I was able to lightly cut it. It seems the back up from the arrows is still coming and there's already around 10 arrows in it's body. If you're going to do it I'd prefer if you aim for the eyes but I guess that's a luxurious desire from someone other than Bel.

Jeru who circled around from the side thrusts his spear. It doesn't seem to be a vital spot but he did a reasonable amount of damage and the great boar is trying to charge at me again even though it won't hit. I make a light smile while easily evading that and cut along the surface of it's body. Since it didn't hit, it stopped it's charge, and while it was changing directions I gave it a heavy attack.

And then, it's movements gradually started to dull. High class creatures with a lot of nerves like boars hate pain. In order to eliminate the one hurting it, it tries to charge at me again. When I calmly evaded that charge and..look, a line of spears held by Jeru, Koritto, and Kimu. Without hurrying I went to it's ass and cut at the base of it's back legs with my sword before jumping away. Shifting places with me Haruku hit his battle mace into the same place on the back leg.

Since he saw the center of gravity of the great boar start to shift, Haruku raised a war cry of, "Uo~~!!" while hitting with his mace a couple more times. That's quite the skill. If it wasn't Ginger or Gekudo at that time but this guy then I would have gladly dropped him into a slave...

It's started to get quite a bit weaker. There shouldn't be any more need for me to bear the full brunt but it's not worth easily letting these guys gain some experience points either.

"Move out of the way."

I said that to Haruku to get him to step back and then stabbed the long sword made from Special Forged Steel by Arnold and my father in between the gaps in it's ribs aimed at it's heart with all of my power. When I kick off and pull my sword back out and the great boar starts convulsing as it falls to the ground. I

wipe the blood and oil off on it's dirty fur, I want to use water magic but I endured it and just wiped it with a hand towel on my waist before putting it back in the scabbard.

Everyone is looking at me and cheering.

Ah, I have to disassemble it to gather the magic stones..This is going to be annoying~

I guess I have to dirty the sword I just wiped clean again...

"Koru, Gureed-kun, Misu you three check up on Rokko and Kevin. Everyone else let's gather the magic stones."

Thanks to Meiria declaring that I didn't have to dirty my sword again.

"Pl..Please help..gobo...I..I don't want to die.."

Rokko was heavily injured with a large hole open in his stomach. A bit of his intestines were coming out as well. The injury is too complex so {Cure} and {Cure Light} would at best just stop the bleeding. Even {Cure Serious} is vague whether it would close the wound, {Cure Critical} is necessary I'm sure. I've decided my own MP to be 39 that I'm willing to use in front of everyone. It's impossible to use {Cure Critical} twice.

I used {Flame Arrow} five times against Vampire Bats on the way here. If I think about the recovery from taking a break then there shouldn't be any problem if I use {Cure Critical} once. Incidentally Rokko's wound is a considerably serious wound and while his maximum HP is 110, right now it's just cut below 20. If the bleeding doesn't stop he won't even last an hour.

"Rokko! Give it your best! If we can just stop the bleeding.."

Misu ran up to Rokko's side and crouched down.

"Rokko! Ah, Shit!! Meri-san! I..Is really no good if it's my Note!?"

"I..I have a bit of the unnamed kind! If we can just stop the bleeding even now..It's no good.."

Jeru and Kimu are worried about Rooko even though they were ordered to gather the magic stones.

"Nn Mi..Misu..Ju..Just a bit more and, th..the third time I, would

have..gathered them..though..”

“Don’t move!”

Misu started concentrating with her hand on Rokko’s wound.

Leaving Kevin who hurt his back alone I called out to Koritto’s with a shout of, “I’ll use it”, and took off my glove while forcibly crouching down across from Misu. It seems like Misu’s {Cure Light} had effect on the wound and just the bleeding stopped but for a wound this large it’s like water on a hot stone. And with that Misu’s MP cut 6. It won’t recover anymore. Though the wound with his intestines coming out closed.

I carefully push his intestines back inside of his stomach and after putting my hand on his wound for plenty of time..as expected it’s not a hobby of mine to watch someone pale and suffering as they cough up blood in front of me. I took about 20 seconds to use {Cure Critical}.

“..A, Ah? Ama..Amazing..The wound is closing..That’s amazing! Rokko! Rokko! You’re already fine! You can relax!”

Misu is calling out to Rokko.

I wonder what I should do about my right hand covered in Rokko’s blood...

Even if I wipe it with a hand towel it won’t completely come off after all...

Chapter 192: Fitting In

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 11

After that, we rested for about two hours in the monster room to recover mana and then I used the spell {Cure Critical} on Rokko again. Though his wound has completely closed I'm sure the pain is still remaining but since I can't use healing magic consecutively right now it's something that can't be helped. It seems that Koritto is using {Cure Light} a number of times on Kevin who hurt his back.

Since we were able to hold back the pain to the level where we can start moving again, we decided to continue advancing just like that.

After advancing for a short while and we could see the first teleport trap since we teleported into this area on the 6th floor. The rock with the strange patterns carved into it are on both sides of the passage. After glaring at their own map Koritto said "that's it." and pointed his finger.

Everyone is gulping as they swallow. I'm sure they're afraid. It seems that other than the two I previously saved, no one has tried passing through the side of a teleport trap and the ones who remained that time still can't forget the fear of their allies suddenly disappearing from in front of their eyes.

"..I'll go ahead first."

I took the chance to say that and then walked ahead alone. There's nothing to it at all. It's not like you'll get caught up in the

trap just by passing through the side of it. It's fine to proceed carefully as well but if they're that afraid of it then we wouldn't be able to advance anymore.

I walk to the trap at a steady pace and then briskly just walked through the side of the teleport trap. Then I turned around and looked at everyone else who was watching me from about 30 meters behind.

I remained like that for a short while but they're just looking at me and no one seems to intend to move.

Look, it's not scary~

I let out a sigh and thought about throwing a rock at it or something but it might end up teaching them the precise range the trap activates within so I stopped. I'm sure they'll figure it out eventually but even we spent quite a bit of time investigating it. If you all want to know then put some work into it. What~ it's not all that much trouble at all.

I made a blatantly obvious large yawn and started scratching my cheek and I guess he thought I was looking down on him, Koritto made a mortified expression before moving. But, rather than approaching the trap he remained against the wall. It's fine even if you don't go that far. After Koritto passed through then one more, two more, and the rest of them passed through in order with stiff expressions as well.

After everyone had finished passing through to this side, we went back into formation again and started advancing forward.

.....

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 12

In the end we finally managed to clear through the 6th floor and

arrive at the teleport room on the evening of the next day. Someone else ended up getting injured every time the {Cave Great Boar} and {Quad-handed Apes} appeared in the monster rooms so we took a bit of time for using healing spells and resting to recover mana.

The shower, simple kitchen, beds made of dirt, and foot bath of the {Slaughterers} were all still remaining in the teleport room in the same form. In addition I thought Giberuti might be there but no one was around.

The members of {Sun.Ray} were dumbfounded seeing how much more comfortable the room was than the one on the 5th floor but for the time being we took turns going to the bathroom and other things before gathering at the side of the teleport crystal in the center of the room. I just placed my bags on the ground and went out to go to the bathroom as well. In addition I also took the time to carve today's date and time into the wall in Arabic numerals. I'm sure someone will notice it sooner or later. It should remain for about a month.

When everyone finished going to the bathroom and naturally our attention gathered on the Rindobel couple. They shook their heads horizontally and said, "As expected we won't last any longer. Let's return to the 5th floor." before grabbing the crystal rod. I guess that means they'd rather rest in the room we left our food and bags over here.

Everyone was making somewhat relieved expressions as they grabbed the crystal rod.

"Return us."

In an instant we teleported into the teleport room on the 5th floor and after everyone gathered at {Sun.Rays} camp we lowered our bags and started taking off our equipment before sitting down. For the time being we took a simple meal and during that time it seems we're going to make some food that takes a bit of work. I was leaning against the wall while slowly biting at the cucumber supplied to me but no one came to talk to me and they were just glancing over here occasionally while whispering about something.

After a short while, a voice was raised that meal preparations were finished. All the members who were resting including me gathered at the center of the camp. I received pork and vegetables cooked together, called kafu, which is like a badly made version of potof in my bowl and then some bread. And then we pray.

"All, Wind, Flame, Earth, Water, and then this dungeon. On the other side of the Toriwii, oh Gods of the world of loud bells, oh Myooya, once again today we offer up our gratitude for the blessings that give us life..Teson"

Well, the content itself changes a bit depending on the region it seems but it's a common prayer towards the temples. Teson is something like Amen and connects words together kind of like God, "So be it". The members of {Sun.Ray} often like to add this to things they say as well.

In the houses with deep faith it's used in place of "thank you for the meal" and said in prayer in the morning and at night as well. I prayed in the same way while biting into my bread and sipping the soup of my kafu which wasn't very good, I wonder if they were

stingy on the spices. We had planned to return to the surface tomorrow but I wonder what they plan to do? After eating and taking showers in order everyone other than the lookouts fell asleep right away. I did as well though.

.....

Just past midnight, I was woken up to change shifts for lookout.

Just the same as the {Slaughterers} they have lookouts shift in groups of two. Shifting every 2 hours is the same as well. There's 10 of us but since the leader's the Koritto couple don't keep lookout we secure 6 hours of sleep time. Haruku and I were on lookout.

"Greed-kun. That I would be keeping lookout together with you in {Sun.Ray}.."

Come to think of it, previously this guy requested to join the {Slaughterers}. It was Greed-san at that time but since I entered {Sun.Ray} he started using -kun. It's quite a well-mannered team in how they don't just completely drop honorifics. Although, I'm sure it's just that I still haven't fit in because I just entered though. The other members are all calling each other by nicknames after all.

"You never know what will happen in the world right.."

"By the way, we were really saved by you today...Though I don't think anyone would have died but if you weren't around we would have had to retreat after the first room I'm sure."

Hn, I guess so. Though I doubt have some doubts about whether no one would have really died if I wasn't there. As expected maybe it wouldn't have made it to the point of death? I'm sure the number of injured would have increased even more and it would have taken a

lot more time to clear through the 6th floor though.

"I'm glad above all else that I was able to be of use. However, if you were to ask my honest opinion continuing on the 6th floor is just a bit..that is~ a bit early I think?"

Since it was around the end of April I guess roughly two months ago..The guy named Santosu who was able to use magic decent died. It seems he was from the capital. According to Haruku, it seems thanks to that {Sun.Ray} lost a lot of their ability to go from one battle to the next in the dungeon. The Rindobel couple weren't able to find someone they thought was suitable as a replacement magician.

Well that's only obvious. When it comes to a magician who has multiple elemental magics at over level 3 then unless it's one of the semi-first rate parties then it's unlikely. And then, once they enter a party on that class it's not that easy to pull them out. All adventurer parties treasure their magicians. Particularly the ones with a high level of water magic that can use healing and produce drinking water, they're popular everywhere and offered good conditions. Even if they are a top team it wouldn't be so easy for them to recruit them from another party.

Also, {Sun.Ray} was originally one of the top teams that had a low ratio of magicians. If you mention numbers then in the past they had the same as other top teams five people but during that time they only have 16 members. Since they exchanged members who enter the dungeon in rotation, they would always end up with 10 members including at least four magicians to explore. After they heard rumors you could find large gold ores on the 5th floor they

switched their team organization to two parties of 8 and stopped with the rotation.

Even then at first, it seems that things proceeded pretty smoothly.

And then, the team that the Rindobel couple wasn't a part of lost two members at the same time on their first time going to the 6th floor last summer. Furthermore one of those was a magician (it seems it was Gekudo's littler sister Yuriel). After that they had no choice than to just kept exploring unable to replenish their magicians. It seems they temporarily switched back to rotations at this point as well. At the same time, they tried recruiting some new members not just limited to magicians but time just kept moving forward without them accepting anyone.

The reason this Haruku said he wanted to join the {Slaughterers} in February was because at that point he didn't think there was a future for {Sun.Ray} so he contacted us all on his own but as expected I think this might be a lie. If you think about it normally, would a veteran member, furthermore a man who has a decent level of skill really try to run to a different party just because things got a bit difficult in terms of the members? It seems pretty unlikely.

Excluding that portion I'm sure the details he just talked about are true but it's only natural to think that it was either an instruction from the Rindobel couple or even if it was his own decision he probably had some other expectation when he made contact with us.

Well, putting that aside, it was such a time that they met and got acquainted with Faruergaz and the others. While {Sun.Ray} had been

reduced down to 14 members at that point they came to know of Faruergaz and the others party of 6 that had 2 magicians and was still still wandering around the 1st floor. Furthermore both of them were said to be true knights.

Making it even more delicious the upper limit of two teams is 20 people. If these 6 people were to enter then they'd be able to organize two teams again. Not to mention both twos would reach full members and their total number of magicians would become six people. Adding to that it seems that they had purchased the detailed map of the 1st floor was the deciding factor but if you were to ask me, I think that one of the deciding factors was also that he was Count Faruergaz's eldest son.

As a result of discussing things a number of times, their entire party ended up joining {Sun.Ray}. That's why they split them up into a party centering around younger newer members and the clearing party with the veteran members at the core, while they intended to let the younger party slowly gain some experience as they raise them. It was such a time as that when one of the magicians in the veteran party ended up dying.

Even if they were to move one of the magicians from the newcomer party up, their skill at using spells wasn't enough to be considered veteran. It might have been fine to move over the last magician they had but as expected in that case let alone the 4th floor the party of younger members might even struggle on the 3rd floor.

Shortly after that, I was kicked out of the {Slaughterers}. Since it seemed like the leader of the {Slaughterers} could use magic

quite well and there was also the achievement of cooperating over the shower in the teleport room of the 5th floor as well. Since I saved there members in the past {Sun.Ray} didn't hold a bad image of me. Fortunately there was nothing that ever occurred that would have put us on bad terms either(Trying to send Haruku in itself wouldn't have directly connected to a breakdown in our relations.

And we turned him down after all).

Thus they tried offering a reasonable amount of compensation but thanks to the negotiations with the leader couple going well I ended up joining.

"Well, thanks to that I personally think that we were saved from you joining us."

Well that's true. The fact that one of the magicians from {Sun.Ray} died at the end of April was just as good of a chance for us as well. Though it's not a good thing to be pleased over someones dead but it was really good timing. It's not like I particularly had any sort of influence on the death of the magician named Santosu nor was I on friendly terms with him. Though thanks to him we have to change our plans a bit but as a result there's no mistake things were a bit easier. I'm deeply grateful to him for being useful to us. Though if you were to ask, I think it's more unfortunate for the other members of {Sun.Ray} who knew his face and talked with him when I think of their feelings.

"No, not at all. It was the perfect timing for me to join everyone at the bottom seat so I'm grateful for that. I have a reasonable amount of confidence in myself but after all it's difficult alone."

"Nn, that's only obvious I'm sure. I can't really say it in a loud voice but even I have my own objective and dreams as well. But, after all I found it to be impossible alone the same as you.

Particularly when it comes to this deep into the dungeon, there's no way to make it here alone."

Come to think of it previously, Haruku mentioned something like he was thinking about going independent was it? That portion might have been true. I'm sure each and every person has their own expectations and even the way of thinking is different. Even when it comes to parents and siblings, the intentions of each of them could go in separate ways or clash at times. I don't know the history of Orth very well but even on Earth there were countless instances in history where parents and siblings fought and killed each other. Much less when it comes to strangers, whether it be Orth or Earth, I'm sure there's not a single day where people aren't killing each other somewhere.

In my case, it could be said I have tremendously good luck that there's not a single sign of something like that for now. Thinking that I should just show my gratitude to someone.

.....

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 13

According to schedule we should return to the surface today.

Judging from things yesterday it seems impossible to make it to the 7th floor in one day. Though if no one were to be injured and we didn't have spend time waiting for mana to recover then we'd probably be alright but it's not something that we can be so optimistic over. I wonder what they'll decide to do?

"In any case let's try teleporting into the 6th floor. If it's an area with an altar room then we intend to challenge it. Regardless we still intend to pull out today just as planned."

Koritto declared that and everyone nodded in agreement.

"Greed-kun. If it's alright with you but could you confirm our location on the 6th floor? If possible I'd like to go as efficiently as possible."

It's nothing special to me and while we might struggle we won't lose so it's fine.

However, it might seem a bit unnatural if I just obediently accept it here as well.

"..Efficiently, is it...Well, if it's just informing you whether or not we've teleported into an area with an altar room then.."

I naturally move my hand to the map container on my waist while acting as if I don't completely agree with it and responding.

"Yeah, that's plenty. It's a big help, well then shall we go?"

In the end we arrived at an altar room this day and while we struggled a bit against the summoned boss of the room we still properly defeated it but after all the result was an empty shrine. When we returned to the surface it seems that the team of younger members lead by Zemyunel dug up a chunk of {Amethyst} on the 3rd floor. It's a large find that will reach 4,000,000 Z in sale price. The young members boasting was annoying. But, we were unable to find any items other than the magic stones. It can't be helped right.

.....

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 14

Starting from today until the 19th we have a full week off. During the time we were in the dungeon this time we the first part of {Sun.Ray} earned 2,240,000 Z in magic stones. Since I get an even cut that's 10% or 224,000 Z. The magic stones were sold in the morning and after lunch I went to "Mogorito Manor" to receive my wages from the Rindobel couple.

"Greed-kun, as expected of someone who was the leader of the top team. You worked quite splendidly. I really think it was great that we recruited you. We're counting on you next time as well." Koritto said that and praised me. They really have such good manners.

I thanked them for my wages and when I excused myself to the entrance of "Mogorito Manor" Meiria followed after me.

"If you have time, how about dinner tonight?"

"Eh? Ah, I understand. Where should I go?"

"I guess so..You can pass through under the name {Sun.Ray} at "Mikkusu". Come at 6:00."

"I understand. 6:00 indeed. By the way, do we always eat together with everyone like this after leaving the dungeon?"

Since they're using the name {Sun.Ray} to pass through to a private room then it should be a gathering of members. It's not unusual for parties to have things like this after making a profit. Thinking that I tried asking but it seems that's not the case. Then, while it's not at the level of "Dorureon", since it's a restaurant {Sun.Ray} is treating me at, I wonder if it's a meeting of leaders?

.....

When I returned to "Kairugu's Inn" Faruergaz and the others were

waiting for me. This morning, when we were cashing in the magic stones, they told me they wanted to discuss the rules of {Sun.Ray} this afternoon. They received their wages from this time this morning. When they announced the times they'd be giving out wages this morning mine was the last one so I ate lunch separately.

"I'm sorry about that, making you wait."

"No, we just arrived now as well. Well shall we go?"

Faruergaz said that before taking the lead as he walked down the street. However, we passed by several restaurants (an alternative to cafes) and came out to the outskirts of town. When I asked, "How far do you intend to go?" they just avoided my question. And then, we all stepped foot on the hills leading to the outer crater. Well then? I wonder what this means? As expected I have no idea what's going on. For starters I think it's unlikely but if they were trying to assassinate me it's too unnatural that they'd let me remain at the very rear like this...

After we climbed up the hill a bit we all ended up taking seats on appropriate rocks.

"I'm sorry about calling you out to a place like this. But, we didn't want anyone to hear the details of what we're talking about. This place has a pretty good view as well, if anyone were to approach we would be able to tell right away."

Faruergaz said while making a slightly apologetic face.

"Also, just in case we'll also talk in Japanese. So it would be fine even in the case that it's overheard."

Hirosukol said following that.

"..It seems to be an important conversation right. Neither

Kumiru-san and Samyueruga-san are around nor are your slaves after

all.."

When I replied like that the two of them gravely nodded.

"Yeah, we discussed it with them as well but putting aside Sanno and Ruttsu, but fundamentally my two slaves are just {Yes-men} so they're not very good for consultation with. Even when it comes to Sanno and Ruttsu they're still pretty young as well. We can't lightly talk about the fact that we were reincarnated either and in the first place those two have some parts that are too softhearted.."

Hirosukol started talking while looking at me.

"I want to ask frankly but Greed-san. What is your real objective for getting so close to everyone? Honestly speaking, if you were a pure Orth person then we probably wouldn't have held any doubts about you at all either. And then, you would have been very welcome."

".."

"We think that it's unbelievable you could split up so easily from Japanese people you met at long last. It's a confession but I don't like you. However, even then you're Japanese people. It's difficult to separate. That's why we started challenging the dungeon, we didn't want to go separate ways from the side of you all, is our true feelings."

Oh, he said it quite honestly.

"And also, if possible we also wanted to join together with you all, is a part of it as well. Unlike Nomu-san, I don't particularly dislike you though...Ahaha, excuse me. But, even I, thought was strange. I thought there's definitely some sort of objective behind it."

Faruergaz said a joke while still making a serious

expression.

"I see.."

Toris and the others also predicted that these two would be

suspicious of it. And they also thought it would be a poor plan to keep pretending to be white as well. In my own personal opinion I think it doesn't really matter even if I were to continuing insisting on white here. I thought I would talk about it based on how they come out with it the next time we talk. But, there's no meaning inserting my thinking in here. I might offer advice but it's not my role to be making the decisions this time.

"Well, it's only obvious I do have an objective. Just as you say, there's no way I would split up with other Japanese people that easily right?"

"..I thought that was the case...And, what's the objective?"

Hirosukol said somewhat disappointed. I wonder if after all he

really does just hate me and thought it would serve me right if I was actually thrown out? or is it still just my own self-centered delusion?

"That, do I really~ need to say it?"

"Certainly, we don't think we have any right to force an answer of you. No, or do we? In any case we'd prefer if you do answer. It's not just us but Sanno, Ruttsu, Denda, and Karimu, there's no guarantee their lives couldn't depend on it as well. I'd like for you to give us an answer here with no objections so we can relax.

Otherwise do you intend to harm us in some way?"

Faruergaz looked at me with a bit of a glare while saying it. Hmn,

I guess he was able to change a bit?

"I guess so..at the very least we aren't thinking of anything that would progressively endanger you all at all. It's strange saying this but I was able to imagine from the start that I would end up exploring the dungeon in a different group from you all. And also, it bothers me just a bit but if you thought that way then why do you try to invite me like that at that time? If you thought I was plotting something, then wouldn't it have been better to just ignore me?"

It's not as if I don't feel like I'm answering a question with another question but for the time being I already replied so it should be fine.

"I was originally against it..The one who invited you was Ko..It was Rodrick's own decision."

Ho? So they weren't a single rock?

"Just now, I might have said it like that but I thought that you don't have any intentions of harming us either. In that case I thought you might have some other objective. No matter how I think about it this situation is a minus to you after all.."

"That's right, since we don't know what that is that's why I thought we should ignore you. I thought it would be best to keep an eye on things."

Well, that's only natural. It should be something that any Japanese person thinks of normally. It's only obvious different from the other people of {Sun.Ray} and the Rindobel couple.

"The result of our consideration..we were suspicious of whether or not you were planning to make a huge profit off of the hidden fortune of {Sun.Ray}. Ah, I don't know if there's really something

like a hidden fortune. Please don't misunderstand. Also, I think that this is the most likely possibility but..are you investigating the method they obtain the temple notes? Since we're strictly sworn to secrecy even among {Sun.Ray} I don't know how you found out about it but depending on how you do it you could make a huge profit from it I'm sure. Although, I only found out about the temple notes recently myself as well but..when I found out I was strangely able to understand. Ah, so the aim was this huh? is what I thought."

"Yeah, that's right. If you can do business then even if there's a bit of dishonor to it you can quickly knock it away. I'm sure you could make a huge profit. But, that's something that the Rindobel-san's came up with after great pains. They're people that are quite intelligent compared to most on Orth."

Oh~ they've gotten closer.

"I see..if you're speaking about the temple notes, then I guess you mean the ones where if you collect a lot of them then they'll use healing magic on you, those notes was it.."

"That's only obvious. What else is there? Since they take so much trouble they're often overlooked but for adventurers they could be a great foundation to rely on in times of need. Even you think so too right?"

"I wonder about that..In any case I have no intention of harming you all and my objective is nothing that would endanger your safety. I don't know if you would be willing to believe me but if you don't then there's nothing more to talk about."

"Well, if it won't do any harm to us then I have no intention of

saying too much. We're pleased with our allies in {Sun.Ray}.

According to what we heard about the dungeon this time you participated quite actively and even saved them in a dangerous place. I think it's fine to trust in those words. As expected it seems to have abilities suitable for someone who was one of the top adventurers. However, if you intend to cause trouble for Rindobel-san then.."

Hirosukol said in a threatening way.

"Thanks to Rindobel-san we were able to make it to the lower floors all at once. If we were to say it truthfully then you could say Rindobel-san is our benefactor. Greed-san, don't forget that we're watching."

"..I'll take it carefully into consideration."

After that we talked about some normal adventurer stuff that was unrelated to {Sun.Ray} before returning to the town. However, you two, while you were saying things like that you're still listening to everything I say. When I tried saying that sarcastically they looked a bit embarrassed.

Chapter 193: Business?

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 14

After separating ways from Faruergaz and Hirosukol I returned to "Kairugu's Inn" once and wrote a report including a letter to Toris and the others before putting it into the harness. After that, I used {Cure} on Rokko, Kevin, Jeru and the other injured people twice each, and other than that once on Kimu who had a minor injury. Around the time I finished that it was getting to close the appointed time so I started on my way towards "Mikkusu". After arriving at "Mikkusu" just as I heard they took a private room. The Rindobel couple was already seated when I walked inside.

"Excuse me, I'm sorry for making you wait.."

I lightly lowered my head while sitting down in the comfortable chair I was offered.

"No, it's still a bit early of a time so there's no need to lower your head so respectfully over everything."

Koritto smiled while saying. Meiria rings the table bell to call the boy and ordered today's dinner course for three people.

"You're fine with wine right?"

I was asked about my drink so I replied by nodding. But, if they're only ordering three peoples portion then I guess that means no one else is participating but us. I could have sworn it was a meeting between leaders but...

We killed a bit of time making idle talk over pointless things and once the appetizers and wine were carried out we got into the main

topic.

"Greed-kun, I said it this afternoon as well but you did great this time."

"Yeah, as expected of someone lead one of the top teams, it was quite the good job."

"You're full strength is good and so is your bravery. Adding to that you're first-rate as a sorcerer as well."

"We made quite the good purchase."

Well, I don't feel bad being praised but how many times is this already. I'm already starting to get a bit fed up. I already can't do anything but make a dry smile. Do I really look such a mindless idiot who wants to be praised that much? Though I'm already at an adult age, maybe it just can't be helped since from their age in their 40s I just look like a brat?

"Obviously I'm sure you understand as well but magic is..particularly healing magic is extremely important to adventurers. However, even if you use magic to heal injuries they don't easily return to complete recovery and many people end up being in the care of healers even after they return to the surface."

Well I guess that's true. Even if you were to take an attack to the arm and the flesh tears while the bone fractures. Putting aside the detailed reason, in order to do something about an injury on that level you would need to use healing magic at least twice. Since it's necessary to use magic once each for the muscle and the bone fracture. Just now I said "at least twice" but this is really the bare minimum and depending on the degree of the injury it's normal

for twice to be insufficient.

If this were a cut to the abdomen and even your internal organs were injured then it's often that you need to have healing magic used even more than that. Since it's unusual to use healing spells consecutively like that generally they just use healing magic on the most serious wound or important internal organs and it's common to just ignore the rest. Going off the example from just now you would use healing magic to only fix the bone fracture and leave alone the cut wound to the muscle and skin itself.

Even if I say leaving alone the wound itself, as long as it's not far too dirty, or the bleeding itself wasn't too heavy then it's uncommon for someone to die with that as the cause. There's even blood clotting medicines after all...But, while it's only obvious really leaving it untouched is a problem as well. It takes an extremely long time for it to completely recover and it's only obvious but it hurts.

Going off the example from before if the muscle itself were to be cut then even if the bone fracture were to be healed until the muscle is healed the arm would still be useless. Even if just the bone fracture was healed there's not much meaning to just thinking of "using your arm", and if they really just ignore it then the muscle might never recover leaving them with a disability.

That's why there's a mountain of people who are under the care of healers and medicine even after they leave the dungeon when injured. Even if there's someone in the party that can use healing magic, if only one person was injured then a normal magician might be plenty to heal them but if there were multiple people injured

then they'll quickly run out of mana and in the end need to be in the care of a healer.

Since you can receive any level of healing magic for 50,000 Z, so it's still seen as the better option than enduring the pain and living in fear of a permanent disability, and it's not like it's extravagantly expensive either. If you have them use healing magic once, on one spot, for one type of wound then at the very least you can relax that you won't have any major disability. The only ones who would think of it as too expensive would be poor people with no money at all. Incidentally what type of healing spell the healer uses is something they decide after seeing the wound so the patient them self can at best express their wishes.

I used not just {Cure Critical} but the simple {Cure} and {Cure Light} a considerable number of times while in the dungeon this time myself.

"..I guess so."

"Since the pain still remains it often takes a considerable amount of time for the healing to be over as well."

Meiria said with a light smile that left me with a strange feeling something was off while she ate the delicious looking bacon and vegetable stir fry appetizer.

"I guess so."

"If it's a high class healing spell then their injuries will recover with a considerable speed but there's not many who can use healing spells at that level after all."

Koritto made suggestive sounds towards what his wife was saying while bringing some fish broth to his mouth. Ah, it seems they can properly use the knife and fork even though they're not nobles. I

showed a bit of admiration. I mean previously they were just grabbing their food directly with their hands like everyone else a while back.

"I guess so."

"Besides, even if you say they're skilled at using healing spells, it's not like they can use it on them self either."

Meiria said it again while drinking some delicious looking wine.

Well, normally it's impossible right. If the wound is light then it seems there's people who can do it but for the most part there aren't any.

"I guess so."

Since a while ago I've just been repeating the same line.

"It seems your techniques with magic are considerably high but even then it's not like you've become able to use {Cure All} yet right?

Ah, do you know the healing spell {Cure All}? It's the ultimate healing spell that's said to requires all of the magic special skills at level 5 or above to be able to use. If you just have this healing spell used on you once then the pain from the wound will be reduced to less than half in an instant and even if you don't use healing spells after that it recovers you to almost fully healed."

".."

I made a slightly bewildered face. Do they really think I'm lacking common sense to that extent?

"Oh my, judging from that face it seems like you didn't know."

"Oh? That's a bit surprising.."

Ha? I know it. In the first place, I can always use that magic at

the master level. Well, whatever.

"Since you're still young it might not be unreasonable that you wouldn't know it. But, putting aside the details of it's effects you should at least remember the name of the ultimate healing spell. In some meanings it's common sense after all."

"Iguesso.."

It's fine already. This wine is a bit bitter.

"Those who can use the spell {Cure All} around here is..other than high ranking sorcerers like the Royal Court Sorcerer there's almost none. It seems that a dark elf healer named Tukerin in Rombertia can use it as well though. It seems he has quite a few emergency cases and reservations so even if you were to go to Tukerin's place if he doesn't have mana at that time then he wouldn't use it on you."

That's only obvious. In the first place when it comes to a town with that size of a population I'm sure there's no end to the number patients (?) either way. There's no guarantee that he'd always have the mana remaining to use {Cure All}. Though I say that, if what Miduchi said was true then I think he would still have enough mana remaining to use it a couple times. But well, I'm sure this is something like an intro to bringing up the matter of the God Notes. It seems that Faruergaz and the others only just heard about it a short while ago but I wonder if they're in such a hurry to tell me about it because they're worried my magic skill levels could reach level 5?

"I think that Meri said it the other day but the welcome news we were talking about is this sort of thing."

After that the story they told me was as expected in regards to the charms from the temple, I was told in great depth just how important of a thing it was. Hmmhmm and it was just as nodding in agreement was starting to become a bother, the conversation finally moved forward. It seems they can get their hands on them at a considerably fast pace through some special route. But, I guess you could say it's only obvious, it seems that you need to make an offering at a higher price than usual. Previously, it was almost the exact details that Miduchi and I had guessed.

"That, even if it doesn't go to the point of making a company, wouldn't it be possible to make it into a business geared towards adventurers?"

"I really would like to do that but for the time being it's not like we can prepare a large enough number to make it into a business. And also, if it's how excellent you are then I'm sure you understand but the other party has their conveniences as well. We were only able to shorten it this far because we slowly earned their trust a bit at a time. It takes at least double the normal amount of money of 200 per one after all..Depending on the season and circumstances we've even been told 300."

"Well but after all it was just as I thought, as expected right...I'm glad that we could finish the conversation this quickly.."

Conversation this quickly you say..The one who dragged it out this far was you all...I haven't done anything but make noises that I'm still listening.

"Even if we were to just take adventurers as clients it's not like

we could sell that many of them as well and even as we are right now we can't get our hands on all that many. That's where we thought we'd like to borrow your power."

"You have your own company right? I don't know the details but it seems you deal in rubber products right. Don't you have connections with some of the nobles in the capital?"

Ah, well, I guess so. If they were to think of it as a business then even if they deal with poor adventurers they wouldn't be able to sell for much. Even then I'm sure they could get a fixed amount of profit and you could say they could make plenty to be called a large sum of money compared to normal people. Since it's important to make use of the mobilization power with numbers to go and buy the notes in the first place. Ah, I guess "go and buy" isn't the right way of expressing it huh? It's not something they've gained as a result of a business transaction where they paid the offering as compensation but limited to just the temple trying to return some of their feelings towards the offerings. Whatever the case, if you were to put it in reverse then you could say precisely because their mobilization power was limited they were only able to do business within the party itself.

"There's a lot of people in the capital and there's a large number of temples as well."

"If it comes to a company that sells luxury goods to nobles then it should be trustworthy as well."

I see now. Including the information I learned in the dungeon this time I was able to figure out that they aren't completely committing fraud. However, prior to that the way they split up the

teams for the first party, or rather the inclination that I noticed in the members they split up was bothering me. That I was placed in a position at the front is, well fine. I'm a newcomer and the former leader of the top team, I can agree with it because they needed to confirm my true abilities in combat in the dungeon in the true meaning. But, while we were in the dungeon this time I was able to identify a group which is compelled into sacrifices and a group fortified with skilled members that won't easily be injured.

This time, excluding the exclusively support Kamu and Misu who use the bow and spells, we were split up into largely three groups. Koritto and my group. The group of skilled members Meiria, Haruku, and Kimu who wouldn't suffer significant injuries. And after that was Rokko, Kevin, and Jeru who you could call a decoy group. Though it's still possible that it was just a one-time thing as well.

However, fundamentally while we were exploring and fighting we were split into these groups. Even if you're splitting up into groups, normally you take it into consideration so there's not a large difference in power between each of the groups. Even more so when it comes to the 6th floor where you might end up getting caught in a teleport trap if something unexpected happens so the abilities of the members that are split into groups should be carefully taken into consideration.

They shouldn't know whether if you get caught in the teleport trap you'll be teleported together with others or not. Since they don't

know that, it's only natural to take into consideration the possibility of several people teleporting at the same time. Even more so since they had the actual example of Gkudo and his little sister Yuriel ending up teleporting to the same area last year.

Saying it honestly, even I think that you won't end up being teleported together, just from what I can imagine and it's not like I have any sort of evidence or conviction that's actually the same.

Most likely, these three decoys are fundamentally easy prey. Up until now, when they just had one team with members rotation they probably had someone take up that role as well I'm sure, and now that they have things organized into two teams the second party might be a good fish tank for training new decoys when they need to be replenished. It's hard to call it a very desirable method but it's difficult to point out that they're clearly doing anything wrong.

I guess the Rindobel couple would like to escape from these sorts of methods and in some meanings deal directly with a major company.

Toris, Bel. It seems to be a bit different from your expectations.

However, it doesn't particularly matter. Rather than a complete success I personally would prefer if there's a failure somewhere along the way they can learn from. For that sake something like the lives of {Sun.Ray} members aren't a big loss, no matter how much my reputation falls or I'm made fun of by others, if we go to the 9th floor and end up finding a huge treasure then I'll have countless

chances to make up for it later.

In any case it's not a problem that I can give an immediate reply to either way so I should just stop it at earning some time for now. I repeated the answer "Please let me think about" while avoiding an answer until we ended up splitting ways. It's only obvious but I was told that all of the current members know about the temple notes so if I find it strange I can ask anyone about it and confirm if they really work but they asked me not to tell any of the other members about the important parts relating to making it a business from tonight's discussion. Also, it's only obvious but in regards to the temple notes as well, I was strictly told not to discuss it with anyone other than the other members. Even if you don't say it, it's not something you would normally talk about I'm sure.

.....

After returning to "Kairugu's Inn" I went to the stable to check my horse for instructions from Toris and the others and then I immediately left the inn again. But you know, they need to write things out a bit more concrete, this gives me too much room to think on my own. Also, they want a reply by tomorrow morning, that's too much of a hurry. That's reduction in points.

..I wonder who would be good. It's already past 8 pm so there might already be some members asleep. In that case..I don't know about the ones who have their own home but the one's who would be most likely to stay up late at night are..searching random bars is troublesome.

I steadily walk through the town of Baldukk with the lights from

restaurants and bars along the street, for the time being I'll try checking the inn where the person I'm searching for is staying. It's not a very high class inn. An inn that costs around 3,000 Z per night. I tried asking the owner or head clerk or whatever if they could call out the person I'm searching for. It's only obvious but I told them that if they're sleeping there's no need to wake them up.

However, in a few minutes the person I was looking for invited me to their room. The room was lit up by a lighting magic tool and judging off the time it took for them to come out and their clothes they probably weren't asleep.

"What's the matter at a time like this? Greed-san."

The person I was looking for, Binnodo.Gekudo asked me with a questionable face while offering me some tea.

"No, I'm sorry for stopping by so late at night. There was a bit of something I wanted to try asking about..I tried thinking about who would be best to ask in regards to it but I thought that you might still be awake.."

He's from a sub-Baron family. According to information from the Identify sub-window the sub-Baron Gekudo family are the governors of Matoson village in the King's Direct Territories. I can't tell as far as the state of business for Matoson village but I thought it wouldn't be as poor as Bakuddo was in the past. In that case it's possible they would make use of lighting magic tools in their daily lifestyle. Even if not a magic tool I thought it wouldn't be strange for him to stay up late with the light from a lamp. It seems it was the correct answer.

Though I say that during this season he'll still end up waking up tomorrow morning at 4:30. I need to leave before 9 pm at latest. There's not even an hour left.

"Binsu-san. As a matter of fact I just heard about the temple notes from the Rindobel-sans."

Hearing my words Binsu's questionable face changed to understanding.

"Ah, so that's what it was. I get it now. If it's the first time you've heard about the charms then I can understand the feeling of wanting to confirm it in a hurry...This is mine. Originally I had a more proper one but that time last year..that is, I ended up using it."

What Gekudo showed me wasn't a God Note or anything at all, it was just something like a security note carved into something like cheap parchment. It seems to be something the Rindobel couple wrote. The fact that 2,000,000 Z was left in their care is written on it. The date is December of last year.

"This is?"

"Yeah, it's something like proof of the offering in order to obtain a charm from the temple. In one or two years I'll receive a proper charm from the temple in exchange for it. Amazing isn't it?"

He said as if boasting about it. Well it's not as if I don't understand those feelings.

"Ho..After all, it will really end up becoming a charm from the temple right.."

"In regards to that I'll give you my guarantee. Since I've actually used one before myself. It's thanks to the charm that I was saved at that time. If it wasn't for that then I would have ended up

having to rest for 2-3 weeks."

I don't know if it's 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 but I guess not having to rest from one of the top teams for that level of period would certainly increase the chances of getting your hands on an amazing treasure. And also, depending on the case just having the amount of suffering from pain reduced is something you can't buy so easily with money. It's not like it will directly come in handy in the dungeon but since the effects you gain from it are real if you just think about it normally, it's certainly something considerably good to have as insurance.

"Do you find it strange? But, I'm quite grateful for it. I think that being able to enter the dungeon again without taking such a long break will connect to increasing everyone's chances of staying alive. Ah, no, it's not like I want to brag that my power is that great. Even if I'm like this I'm an end-user as a magician. There's times when a difficult battle could be made easier thanks to my magic. Also if someone gets injured then I can at least use {Cure} on them.."

So his allies don't fall into a crisis, huh. He has quite the splendid way of thinking. As expected of someone who received the education of a sub-Baron family. No, it's not like I have any basis for it though.

"Also, this is something I'll specially show since it's Greed-san.

This is the charm that Yuriel had before she died last year. Though it ended up meaningless since she wasn't able to make it out of the dungeon alive.."

"That is..I'm very sorry for not making it in time."

"Ah! No! I'm sorry as well for saying it in such a strange way! I

didn't mean it in that way!"

While Gekudo's face turned bright red as he went into a panic I

calmed him down saying I didn't mind it and used {Status Open} on the God Note he handed me.

【Proof: Yoranfinu.Gekudo Sub-Baron Second Daughter】

Nothing particularly strange comes up with 【Identify】. Though it's

not like this itself would be what uses {Cure All} on you so I

guess that's only obvious.

Well, if they're handing over real ones just as they stated in the

first place then it's not fraud. You could still call it expensive

but it's normally an item that would take you at least 10 years to

obtain. You say it's only obvious that it's expensive. I was able

to gain some proper proof. Of course, the possibility that Gekudo

is trying to deceive me isn't zero as well. It's not like I've seen

the real thing taking effect on Gekudo in person nor have I

actually gotten my hands on a charm and tested it out either.

However, I can't think of any reason why Gekudo would even go to

the point of using his little sister's God Note to deceive me but

to him it's still possible he feels a greater debt of gratitude

towards the Rindobel couple than to me.

However, there's no end once you start doubting everything. A

probably that's close to zero isn't worth taking into consideration

I'm sure. If you were to worry about things like that then you

wouldn't even be able to take a step outside and for the time being

I think he's someone who feels indebted to and wouldn't try to

deceive me. Even if that actually ended up being the case then it's

just a matter of me not having an eye for people and if I end up suffering heavy losses or losing my life as a result of that then I was just that much of a person.

And while I say that, this is my way of thinking from my impression of Gekudo and not that of the Rindobel couple. It seems that even after one or two years from taking the money they don't hand over the God Note. 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 is a large sum of money. If the person ends up passing away before they hand over the God Note then if they were to offer it at their grave (if something like that actually existed) or search out their bereaved family to return the money they took then they could hold their chests high without any blame for Fraud.

I apologized once again to Gekudo for visiting so late and after politely thanking him I left the inn.

I returned to "Kairugu's Inn" and including the details of the proof I found out and my own opinions I wrote a letter and put it into the harness of my horse.

Author's Note: (Translator: small note about healing spells

giving bad experience towards magic skills compared to attack spells)

Chapter 194: Training

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 15

The next morning, when I opened my eyes I went to the stables and checked the harness of my horse but the thing I wrote last night was still where I left it. I guess it's only obvious since the brat of the inn can't just take the horses out for a walk in the middle of the night.

I heard that {Sun.Ray} spends all of today training. It's training on the outskirts of town but the location is different from the {Slaughterers}. When I did some running as I headed towards the vacant lot at the end of the 8th road that I heard about and several people were already there doing forms.

When I got closer, it was Faruergaz and the others. I don't see Ruttsu or the two slaves anywhere. Even then since they arrived quite a bit early and are warming their bodies up they must be quite serious about it. I offered them morning greetings and then after grabbing a wooden sword in the corner of the vacant lot started doing forms as well.

Soon after the other members start to gather but quite a few are still missing. There's three people from the first party that aren't participating and even four from the second party. According to the Rindobel couple they can't train because they're injured. Hearing that I realized, it's certainly true if it was that then it would be impossible. However, it came out as a topic for a bit yesterday when I was talking with Faruergaz and the others but I guess everyone other than Sanno was injured? It would have been fine even if they didn't hide it. Though I guess they weren't hiding it.

Right now it's 5 in the morning but after training for about two hours like this, I'll have some breakfast and then if there's still some time leftover I'll return to the inn once and use healing magic on the injured people. After that I'll return back here by 10 and train until 3 pm or so before we break up. Of course, I was requested that if I have the leeway in my focus to try and use healing spells on the injured during that occasion.

I see now, I guess using healing spells on other people on the days off isn't an

obligation. I didn't realize this until I was told about it. Certainly using magic requires a reasonable amount of focus. Even if you were to be told to use up your long awaited day off putting in hard work for the sake of your co-workers, you've already healed them once so they won't die, and it's not like you're currently in the dungeon and it will connect to a drop in combat forces so I guess some people disagree with doing it? Though I say that, if I think about it calmly using healing spells is like acting a healer who normally gains 50,000 Z per spell used. Though they're members of the same party just using it on them for free is..and I guess you could say it's that sort of stingy nature.

If that's the case then things would be quite bloodthirsty.

We confirm our simple formations and just like the {Slaughterers} split into two groups for separate offense and defense training. I thought it would be 7 people on the first party team and 6 on the second party team but Koritto split off from the first party team to act as referee. Our numbers are equal. Well then, shall we do this?

In front of me while I was on guard with my wooden sword is Sanno, aka Sannose.Kumiru who's also holding a wooden sword on guard.

"Ehe..I've thought this from a short while ago but you know. Greed-kun, have you met me somewhere before? Quite a while back~"

"..I think that the first time I've properly greeted you was after I entered {Sun.Ray} though?"

"Hn...That's right isn't it. Don't mind it, I'm sure it was just my misunderstanding."

"Yes."

After Koritto gave out the command our training started. But, it's something I knew to some extent from entering the dungeon the other day but I was troubled right away. Putting it simply the second party members of {Sun.Ray} are quite weak in terms of abilities. Even the leader of the second party Zemyunel isn't anything special. I wonder if it's because it's combat versus people, they're slow to step-in, and the large swings with the sword and thrusts with the spear stand out. It's considerably better than Basutorial but they're attacks that excluding him even the weakest Gwine could endure for a short

while. If it was Angela wouldn't she be able to just endure them all to the end if she doesn't forget her shield? I need to make sure to go considerably easy on them. It seems that it's no good to directly attack the opponents body. Since they'll get injured.

Although, it's not like we'll actually end up fighting against people so those large swing attacks could end up hitting and aiming for doing heavy damage itself isn't a bad thing. But, right now we're split into groups doing practice matches versus people so isn't it somewhat important to match the training up to the opponent? Even if we were to take practice matches versus people seriously I don't think there's much meaning to it but I wonder what level of monster just this level of training is assuming? There's a question mark over my head.

In the middle of that, as expected of Faruergaz and Hirosukol the two who received investiture as true knights they seemed several levels better than the other members. Starting from watching the distance between them self and the opponent, the way of carrying their legs, the timing of attacks, the way to swing their weapons, all of their movements have proper training behind them and were splendid. If you were to ask which, then I think Hirosukol is above due to the advantage in his physique. It seems like he has more technique than Toris and Zulu as well. However, his fighting style as an adventurer is still lacking. If you look at it in the case of abilities as an adventurer then unless it's a humanoid monster he might even fail in comparison to Angela.

Previously, a short while after Toris and the others joined us we obtained some information about the training of {Verdure.Brotherhood} and went to do some reconnaissance. Their training wasn't something like this. Obviously, since we're up assumed to be against monsters in the dungeon the attacks were often large swings with power in them but the practice matches between members were more how do I put it, intense.

During the training of {Verdure.Brotherhood} they would put in some feints and try to confuse the opponent, make gaps and put in a sharp attack there. The one who is on the receiving end was serious as well and skillfully controls their shield, I think that the splitting of roles was done properly. Though it's training against monsters, both the {Slaughterers} and {Verdure.Brotherhood}

wracked their brains in training under the assumption of fighting things more powerful than monsters.

In comparison, in the case of {Sun.Ray} the second party seems to be considerably below the first party as things already are. Their attacks are too obvious. Ah, since recently our training has been done under the assumption of fighting ogres it might have naturally gotten close to versus humans. Though ogres are huge, they're still humanoid, and their height is close to three meters, but there's rarely ever any individuals that are actually three meters. They can skillfully make use of their clubs and occasionally while they're crude some of them come out using shield-like things as well so naturally the one taking on the role of the monster differs from other monsters in how they use the sword and shield considerably seriously.

Even when it became the first parties turn to go on the attack, it was attack training that matched up with the abilities of the second party members. Of course, the level of technique is going up though. Nevertheless, just this level huh..I guess that means the combat experience of the {Slaughterers} who fight countless times everyday in the dungeon is above. Well, you could say it's still better that they're just doing training. The only adventurers in Baldukk who do any proper training are the ones who are above second-rate and showing their faces around the 4th floor and the majority of adventurers don't even bother training. On days off they really are just (injured) resting, or playing around.

Just like that we trained for around two hours switching offense and defense a number of times and temporarily split ways for breakfast. I quickly ate some food and then went around Rokko and the other's inn using {Cure Serious} on the three of them one at a time. Since I left a bit of a gap to recover MP in-between, well there shouldn't be any problem. Just in case I tried checking my harness but the fact that my horse was still in the stable meant that the report was still in it as I left it. It seems it would be best to hope for some new instructions around this evening. Additionally I decided to add a new report with the combat ability of each of the members of {Sun.Ray}.

Just before 10 I returned to the training place of {Sun.Ray} and this time it centered around the members of the first party instructing the members of the second party on how to move in the dungeon without making noise, or how to

suddenly start dashing from there to escape monsters. Hohou, I can learn from this. We've never done anything like this even once.

Following that was training for when we advance in unknown territory. And training centering around the spear users over methods to discover pitfalls, crossbow and alarm traps was performed. This seems pretty much the same as us where we would proceed while hitting the ground with a stick but they had a trick to their way of hitting or rather, they only take one step forward after hitting from left to right in the shape of a fan that sort of extremely stupid form to it. To be more accurate hitting at a fixed speed and angle guarantees moving at the maximum speed maybe, I couldn't close my opened mouth.

Among them, Faruegaz, Hirosukol, Sanno and the others let alone {Sun.Ray} they're newcomers that have only been entering the dungeon for about half a way. Just like that they were making serious expressions while receiving advice from senior adventurers about things that we've overlooked until now like how to tie up clothes or luggage with rope so the flask at your waist won't make any noise or to prevent the sound of clothes when moving. Ah, these sorts of things, we just covered up in the {Slaughterers} with some appropriate rubber bands.

Come to think of it there's no members in {Sun.Ray} that use heavy armor like banded-mail or splint-mail compared to the other top teams. Everyone uses leather armor. I wonder why? It doesn't particularly matter though.

"How is it? {Sun.Ray}?"

Haruku called out to me.

"As expected of everyone. After all there's reason for being a top team. The training details even cover down to the fine details. Ah, that's right, I'm sorry for saying something rude like the 6th floor was too soon the other day. Since we ended up being ambushed and someone was even seriously injured, it seems that my opinion was a mistake. I apologize."

I'll just wash it away by saying some random flattery.

"..It's a bit different from just doing combat training right? I think it's important to pay attention to all of the members like this. You should properly learn from it as well."

Hirosukol said in a cynical tone of voice but there was no malice in the smile on his face. Judging from his state I guess he meant it as advice for me. By the way, I wonder what the bento for lunch today is?

“That’s right, there’s quite a bit for me to learn. Ah, Hirosukol-san, just now you forget to hit the right edge once, please be careful.”

“Mu, I..I see. Sorry about that..”

“Right, you should take one step forward while moving like you’re grabbing the upper side of the stick with your left hand and it’s faster.”

“Ah..Like this?”

“Nn~ after you finish hitting with the right end it would be better to step off with your left foot. Simultaneously the area you just hit previously is safe so place your foot there..it’s no good if you don’t remember the places you hit. You need to learn to do this without thinking about it.”

I was assigned to the normal department of the JSDF but when I was in SDF university I received the basic training of the engineering department. It was only once but I was trained in how to use the mine detector that was just introduced at the time that was like a vacuum cleaner. These are all words I heard from the drill sergeant at that time though.

The bento for lunch was porridge (not tasty), and some cooked pork (crude seasoning), and raw cucumber for vegetables (it was thin). But, there was plenty in amount, so I was able to properly fill my stomach.

We continued with our training into the afternoon. Each member has a part of their body designated and the one who is called out falls over with that part injured. It’s training for quickly changing the formation in the case that an ally falls over. I was amazed that there were rules for how to fall as well. Is there really meaning in going this far? Ah, since they often have people getting injured I guess there is meaning huh? Or rather, I also feel like it might be considered important training as well but after all I feel like it’s meaningless as well.

Well, something like how to fall doesn’t matter at all but they properly do training to change the formation I see. It’s said that when someone falls over in

the dungeon it's the most dangerous time for adventurers. It causes the other members mental unrest and is a direct fall in combat potential as well. In those cases rather than trying to take a formation to follow-up with that in a fluster it's not a theory but there's actually truth to making the body remember so you can reflexively do it when it actually happens, I've thought once again that it's something necessary. It's certainly something worth taking the time to perform.

After that was first-aid training. Ah, it's not the healing of wounds. Ah, no, I guess you could call it that as well. When an ally is injured, often times you'll use healing spells to do the initial healing but it's something that takes into consideration running out of mana in combat and being unable to use healing spells. Temporarily moving the one who fell to a safe place to prevent them from getting in the way, during that time a simple method to stop the bleeding, as well as exchanging information on the most effective way to use blood stopping medicine at that time, and it ended up almost like a course.

Combat is certainly important but adventurers have a mountain of other important things than just combat as well. There's a saying among adventurers of "Just because you're smart doesn't mean you'll become first-rate but if you aren't smart as well you won't make it as first-rate." I was like this when I first came to Baldukk as well. Thinking of the efficiency I used wind magic to make things easier maybe I've forgotten my initial resolutions since being taught effective spells by Karl and teacher Mila.

But, if I think more carefully about it, it's only obvious that it's better to make use of everything I can. It's fine if I just put effort on my own stage.

However, I never properly knew the details of other parties training up until now so finding out a bit of the actual state of things is a good learning experience. It's nothing much special at all and if I just figured that much out then that's plenty. Adding to that, I was able to understand that there's a lot of people who can't even make it as second-rate because they don't even do things like this.

.....

After training, we returned to town once and I went to use healing spells on Rokko and the others once more. With this they should already be completely

healed. Since I had time until dinner I went running and when I returned to my inn there was instruction from Toris...Ho~ that's quite extreme. I feel like it may hurt the conscience a bit but it's not a bad hand to play. Since I've heard a similar story from Miduchi before they might have made reference of that as well.

Well, even without that story, it wouldn't be strange if anyone of them were to think of it. However, these details, they sure are rough at using people. Well, it's a good thing to try and make the maximum use of the pieces you can use. Looking from their side, they probably assumed that I could easily do it, and I'm sure I actually can. It seems the {Slaughterers} are entering the dungeon starting the day after tomorrow. Also, they intend to finish making preparations 8 days later by the 23rd of this month. They must have included a bit of flexibility. They intend to put quite a bit of work into it. However, I feel they're overdoing things a bit. This is, another deduction in points.

After taking a shower and changing it was just as I was leaving the inn to have dinner at a random place when Jeru, Jarutodo.Ramiresu came looking for me. It seems he came to invite me to a popular restaurant among the members of {Sun.Ray} as thanks for the healing spells I used before.

The two of us walk through the streets of the town of Baldukk as it gets darker and arrived at the restaurant "Foton". It was a cheaper place than "Gonru" where we had my welcoming party. So this was the place that {Sun.Ray} always use as a gathering place. If the gathering place is at this level then I guess it makes sense that "Gonru" would be the level for a welcoming party for new members.

The other members of {Sun.Ray} were inside the restaurant and all ordering their own meals from the menu. Jeru and I joined them and I started drinking some cheap ale that seems to use less hops than beer. Ale isn't half bad either but I guess my own personal taste leans more towards beer being delicious because I'm a former Japanese person.

While I was eating some thinly sliced bacon and washing it down with ale and the Rindobel couple appeared making the restaurant almost completely reserved by {Sun.Ray}. They sat down at the same table as Jeru and I were

drinking and after ordering the same ale and some food they started talking to me.

“Greed-kun, how was the training?”

After taking a sip of ale Koritto said.

“No, as expected of the training of a top team. Everyone was moving energetically, I found it quite admirable.”

“Oh my, you say quite pleasing things.”

Meiria said that a bit happy.

“I don’t feel bad hearing Greed-san say that.”

Jeru was happy as well. Jeru continued asking me.

“By the way, Greed-san. Is it really true that the magic stones of ogres on the 7th floor really sell for 800,000 each?”

With Jeru’s statement the conversation that was going on around my table stopped.

“..It’s true.”

“Uo~ So that was true!”

“Even if we wanted to ask it was difficult.”

“I wanted to ask as well.”

“Amazing~ 800,000 from just one!”

“After all what the magic stone dealer said wasn’t a lie huh?”

It was an uproar like agitating a bee’s nest. They must have been restraining themselves and unable to ask during my welcoming party. But, even if they don’t ask if you investigate it you can find out, so they probably thought it wasn’t worth asking.

“I’ve heard that ogres are considerably strong monsters but can they easily be defeated?”

Koritto asked.

“I wonder about that. I don’t think they’re as strong as they’re said to be. They’re something like a slightly larger Hobgoblin. Of course you can’t let your

guard down with them. In actual fact among my previous allies there were several people who defeat them one on one. It was to the point where I thought everyone might be fine. Ah, of course I can defeat them as well.”

I didn’t speak any lies. If he uses the paralysis poison then now I think even Basutorial can defeat one alone.

“Eeh!!? Is that so...This is, there’s no other choice then to try going..”

I didn’t miss the instant Meiria’s eyes turned into dollar signs.

“But, the problem is the 6th floor right..”

It seems Koritto is a bit cautious.

“Ah, in regards to that. I think if you put me at the lead then we can clear through a bit easier.”

When I said it casually like that and the couple opened their eyes and objected to it.

“No way, that’s dangerous.”

“That’s right, if something were to happen to you..”

I guess they’re worried they wouldn’t be able to sue my company. The things they’re saying sound splendid but I’m sure they’re calculating things in their heads. Though if they hadn’t tried talking to me about things in regards to my company I wouldn’t have thought this either. Talking about things so lightly is the reason you’re easy to read.

“This is something I suggested realistically but I’m proud of the fact that I have quite a bit of combat experience on the 6th floor. If you want to place breaking through the 6th floor as the first priority then I don’t think there’s any option other than making use of me. I think it would be good to at least let me try taking the lead once. However, I’m quite grateful that you’re willing to take my safety into consideration.”

Well, with this I should be able to stand at the lead. It’s just a matter of skillfully guiding them.

.....

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 16

Starting the next day we started to put emphasis on personal combat training aimed against ogres. Just as we predicted. I spent the entire day using {Cure Critical} on the two slaves, Ruttsu, and Hisu from the second party. With this they can return to the battlefield starting tomorrow as well. Thanks to this I received words of deep gratitude from not just Faruergaz, Hirosukol, and Sanno but the leader of the second party Zemyunel as well. Well, it's fine.

.....

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 20

Just like this time continued to pass by and today is already the day we enter the dungeon.

The first thing we ran into on the 1st was a group of four orks so I used {Stone Arrow Missile} (there's no way of telling the stone bullets apart in the dark dungeon so no one can tell it's a missile) to destroy one of their heads, then after that charged in and from a position my allies can't see used {Air Blade} with my left hand and used the sword in my right hand to wipe them out in no time at all and I was yelled at after that. They said to move more carefully. Yeah, I get what you want to say. I was getting full of my head because I wanted to blow some stress. Sorry. I'll move more carefully.

The amount of time it took for us to clear through the 1st floor with me at the front was..8 hours. We made it through the 2nd floor in close to the same amount of time of 8 hours as well. The fact that it takes {Sun.Ray} even more time even though they have a map(especially since it's a map based on the one Gwine made of the 1st floor) is just a courtesy, I guess you could say.

.....

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 21

If you were to ask my opinion I took things extremely slow and cleared through the 3rd floor in over half a day. Even then if you were to look from {Sun.Ray}'s standpoint it's an abnormally fast pace. As expected I was told some complaints. According to them, "There's no guarantee that traps that aren't

shown on the map won't increase." That might certainly be true but that's just a method of teaching with no basis right. I've never heard of it happening after all. Putting it frankly, if you take too much time out of fear of monsters and taking detours it ends up taking far more time.

.....

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 24

After repeating to teleport into the 6th floor around 20 times, we picked a route with not many monster rooms. After that I walk about 50 meters ahead of the party alone and after that I use the spell {Detect.Life} to count the number of monsters in the boss room while pretending to scout. Since I gave the advice, "it would be best to use attack spells as much as possible from the start" the Rindobel couple was pleased that as a result there weren't any serious injuries.

Just as planned there wasn't anyone inside of the teleport room on the 6th floor that it took us 20 hours to reach.

There's a reddish-brown worn-out cloth covering the pot in the kitchen. Is something inside? is what I was thinking but I'm sure there's nothing in it. Giberuti isn't around after all.

Author's Note: some comments on the amount of pain and relief from various healing spells. Summing it up 0 = no pain, 10 = able to act normally, 50 = somehow able to defend and move while exhausted, 70 = barely able to walk, 100 = completely incapacitated from pain, the actual numbers changed base on HP, etc.. factors.

HP = hit point recovery rate. P = pain recovery rate.
The parentheses is the amount of pain recovered for each time it's used after the first. The efficiency falls even more when a different person is using it after the first.

- "Cure" HP 5%, P3(1)
- "Light" HP 10%, P 10(3)
- "Serious" HP 25%, P30(10)
- "Critical" HP 50%, P45(15)

“All” HP 90%, P70(21)

“Heal” HP, pain, disease complete recovery.

*Cure Light and Cure Serious’s water magic bonus don’t apply to pain.

Chapter 195: Carnivorous Plant

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 24

So we're carrying it out huh? I think while looking at the reddish-brown worn-out cloth that acts as a signal. I can't really get motivated for it but it can't be helped. I wonder who to chose..One or two people, depending on the case three people is fine as well. Since Misu can use magic as well, she's a definite choice. After that I guess someone as young as possible would be best.

"Shall we camp out in this corner over here?"

Koritto said to everyone. Hearing that, we all quickly started preparations to camp. We lower the blankets we were carrying and take the food out of our bags gathering it in the center. One of the members took out a simple miniature stove that makes use of magic stones, and after placing a small pot on top, Koritto created some water as they started making soup.

I guess everyone is tired sitting in a deformed circle, they're

just quiet with their attention on the flame and the pot.

Since the pot and stove are small it's certain that it's somewhat difficult to sit around it but Kevin, Jeru, and I were sitting outside of the circle.

Kimu is skillfully cutting up bacon and cabbage on top of a small cutting board before putting it into the pot with some salt and seasonings. If it's the size of that pot then each one of us will only get about a tea cup amount of it. During that time Misu was cutting off slices of ham from a smoked block of meat. Well, it's

raw ham. You put this together with Rikke leaves a type of mustard, and put it between galette bread together with mayonnaise before eating it. Incidentally the leaves of Rikke can last for 10 days without withering if you dig them up along with the roots so they're a leafed vegetable that is familiar between adventurers. They're a bit bitter and not very good but since they have a good texture they're preferred. My biggest complaint is I wish they would wash the leaves before preparing them to be eaten.

Jeru takes the pre baked galette from the mountain of food (they've completely gotten hard) and hands out one to each person. My role is to hand out one cucumber to each person. That's right, I was designated for cucumber duty of {Sun.Ray} along with Kevin. Since they're always eating just cucumber in my impression I thought it was an honorable role but that wasn't the case. Even then since it's being left to take care of the important food so I thought that to comfort myself.

Since they're reasonable heavy and quite bulky it seems everyone hates the duty. One per person, per meal. Since there's 10 of us we consume 30 per day. Since we usually bring an extra amount just in case it totals up to over 300 of them. Though they get lighter everyday, they're not the wilted ones handed out during training but the large and splendid kind. Ah, for a period of time Bel and Gwine were saying they were zucchinis but I think they're cucumbers. If you try eating them you'll understand.

The soup is finished.

Kimu goes around pouring soup into everyone's cups and the preparations to eat were completed. We pray as usual and then it's

time for the enjoyable meal time. While we're still exhausted it's the same for every party that everyone starts smiling during meals.

"Now then, everyone is about finished eating right..Then, Greed-kun, could you please tell us about the 7th floor once more?"

Meiria instructed me to talk about the 7th floor which I've talked about a lot up until now. I guess it's like a final review or something.

"I understand. The appearance of the dungeon completely changes from up until now on the 7th floor. Here, on the 6th floor the ceiling is extremely high but since there's plenty of light it's almost like the middle of the day. That's why different from the 6th floor you can see up to the ceiling. As far as I know there's no place like on the 4th or 5th floors where a portion is pitch dark so it's probably not necessary to bring along light."

I sip a mouthful of the soup from the cup in my hand.

"Since that's the case the field of vision is good but just as I previously talked about the passages of the dungeons are several times wider than up until now. In those passages there's trees growing every several hundred meters or so apart so while the field of vision is good, it's not like you can see far into the distance. The places with no trees growing are like plains or wastelands, or full of sand, there's various types. Also, we were never able to find any type of trap."

"Are the only monsters that come out really just Goblins and Ogres?"

Kimu said. She has her long tiger striped tail coiled around her sides and stomach.

"That's right for what appears in the passages. Though just the same as the floors up until now when it comes too boss rooms different monsters appear but I only know of the place that is full of sand and something like a fish lurks inside of that sand. Since it seems that move through the sand if we want to avoid going to that room then we'll need to teleport a number of times."

"Yeah, I remember that. We're depending on you to be careful that we don't end up teleporting into a place that leads to there."

Rokko's pointed ears are twitching restlessly as he said that.

"Of course. After that, in regards to the ogres weaknesses but they fundamentally aren't any different from humans. You could call their eyes, noses, the head from the neck above, or their chest where their heart is a weakness. If they bleed out a lot then they quickly get weaker and die. If you just think about it as taking on a slightly large person then there's not a big problem with that. Since the target is big I think it should be easy to hit with the bow but hits to the legs or arms won't do much damage at all. Please try to aim for the vitals like their face. If there's someone fighting in front of you then approaching plenty close so you don't miss the vitals is one option. If the first one we encounter tomorrow is alone or..up to just two of them then I'll take them on alone. Please use that as a reference."

"Yeah, tomorrow it's our first time going to the floor. Let's rest

already for today. Relax and get some good rest."

With Koritto concluding things my discussion ended. It's the details that I've talked about countless times these past few days.

Though this time it was a summary.

"Ah, that's right, there's a shower here as well but is it fine if we use it?"

Why are you asking me? I'm a member of {Sun.Ray} right now but. Ah, I guess we never talked about cooperating to manage the shower on the 6th floor.

"..I think it's fine since there's only benefits that come from sharing it on the 5th floor as well."

"Hn, after all that was the case. Well, just in case."

If the {Slaughterers} complain you intend to make it my fault? But, even if I was still in the {Slaughterers} it's not something that will run out, I wouldn't complain over something like using the shower...In the first place I intended to take a shower myself.

Koritto and I created some hot water and we all took showers in order and after feel refreshed we did maintenance on our weapons and leaving the lookouts all rolled up in our blankets.

.....

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 25

Everyone checks their own equipment and then we teleported into the 7th floor. It's only obvious but the surroundings are the usual 7th floor and there's nothing particularly different. There was nothing like Goblins or Ogres nearby that noticed us or we noticed them first either. It's a bit nostalgic, I can feel the sensation of

{Party-ization} as well. Everyone is raising their voices in surprise over the spaciousness and brightness. It was such a time when the order "Jump" came up in my head. Hmn, I guess that means preparations are complete. I quickly checked the pedestal of the crystal rod and look at the rock which the arrow points towards.

There's no sign. Let's return.

"This isn't a good location. Let's return."

We return to the 6th floor and teleported to the 7th floor again.

This time was no good as well huh?

We repeated teleporting a number of times. Just once along the way there was five Goblins about 10 meters away but when Haruku swings his weapon menacing them and they noticed or numbers they ran off somewhere.

And it was the 13th time we teleported. We teleported into a forest. When I checked the trunk of the tree the pedestal pointed to "four100117" was carved into it. And then, right beside that a red string was tied to a branch. This is the right place. I look around the surroundings and there's a knot in the bushes on that side as a sign. So that's the direction huh?

"This is a good place. It's one of the areas where the monster room will have trees growing and be a forest. Shall we go?"

Most likely there's only four monster rooms on the 7th floor. In the center is the teleport room and around 1 km to the North, South, East, and West of that there's large 500 meter or so rooms, the East and West are desert and the North and South are forests or thickets. Up until the end of last month what we had investigated by the point I left the {Slaughterers} was just over 80%. There was

just over 150 teleport destinations. Of those around 100 of them end up as dead ends and you can't make it to the 8th floor. In other words, you can't get to the monster rooms either. The remaining 50 locations are connected to the monster rooms at some point. I think there's probably around 200 teleport destinations in all. It's only my intuition but it's believed that eventually around 80 locations will connect to the monster rooms. And, even further around half of those are connected to one of the East or West monster rooms.

Since there's also preparation and confirmation as well we've only completely identified around 10 places at the correct answer. In other words, if you teleport around 20 times then you should get to the right place at least once. It was good luck that we were able to arrive at the correct place in half of that this time.

"Well then, please follow after me about 50 meters behind so you don't lose sight of me. If I raise my right hand then that means there's an enemy that I can handle myself ahead. When that time comes please watch how I fight. If I raise my left hand then it's an enemy that I can't deal with alone so I'll retreat."

After everyone nodded I started advancing at the front.

Since there's no traps we can proceed forward quickly. Though I say that we can't be negligent in our caution towards monsters so our speed still falls a bit but it's still an incomparable speed to the other floors. Occasionally I use the spell {Detect.Life} to check ahead of me.

And around 15 minutes after we started moving. When we had advanced around 500 meters. I was able to detect life roughly 200

meters ahead. The number is two. Since they're low in numbers it's not goblins. Judging from the distance they're probably in the forest a bit ahead of the brush in front of me. Making it even better that forest has some pretty thick vegetation growing close to it.

I raise my right hand and waved it ahead. I can see everyone keeping up about 50 meters behind me. After seeing me raise my right hand they stopped in place it seems. I quickly returned to everyone and whispered.

"It seems there's some in the forest beyond this brush. I got a glimpse of their backs as they entered the forest. I'm going to ambush them after this, when I finish off one of them I'll retreat to the plains and fight the remaining one there. Please remain in this forest while watching what it's like."

When I said that there was a reply of "Got it." as I turned around and started forward again.

I crouch down as I pass through the brush and carefully stepped foot into the forest. There's still close to 100 meters in distance from the ogres. In our activities on the 7th floor up until now we've confirmed that ogres don't recognize us until they either catch sight of us or we approach within 30 meters or so. Even when it's ogre mages if we don't approach closer than 100 meters then they don't notice us.

Around 50 meters ahead where the forest opens up there's two ogres leaning on the trunk of a tree as they doze off. I take the glove off my left hand and cut it lightly with my sword to draw some blood. After smearing my blood on the blade of my sword I quickly

healed the cut and put my glove back on. I take some throwing needles out of both of my gauntlets and put some paralysis poison on the ends of them before finishing preparations. I continued to hold on to one of them just like that. Then I started slowly using a spell. The type is {Ice Javelin Missile}. However, I'm pouring some mana into the warhead and changing the shape.

Like a long, thin, razor blade.

After deciding my aim I send the razor blade flying.

I may not have needed the {Missile}.

The razor blade that immediately reached it's target sliced through

Ogre A's neck as it was dozing off from the right side to the left

sending a shower of blood scattering around.

It wasn't instant death but it probably won't even last another 10

seconds. And then, I quickly threw a rock at Ogre B. Ogre B opened

it's eyes with that and after seeing me it grabbed it's club that

was rolling around by it's side and fiercely charged at me. After

all ogres are idiots. When Ogre B approached to an appropriate

distance I threw the throwing needle with paralysis poison on it

and after confirming it hit I turned around and ran at full speed

back to the North.

I quickly jumped out of the forest and when I returned to the

plains I had my beloved long sword in my hand with blood on the

blade. It seems the poison still hasn't taken effect as I can hear

the energetic footsteps of Ogre B about 10 meters behind me. It's

probably impossible for a normal person but even if it's an ogre it

should be at it's limit just trying to keep up with my full speed

dash.

By the time I had moved to about midway through the plains I

noticed a change in the footsteps of Ogre B.

Now then, I'll slowly take my time cutting you down.

When I turned around, it must have thought I was tired from running

and stopped, I passed through the side of Ogre B as it swung it's

club and cut the side of it with my sword while quickly moving

around behind it and cutting the back of it's knee. Ogre B's scream

rings out. I quickly cut the arm on the reverse side and after

wounding I put a bit of distance between us. An ogre that can't use

one arm and one leg isn't anything more than a target. Even more so

since the paralysis poison should have started to circulate.

Without letting my guard down I just keep cutting it when I see fit

and the movements of the ogre gradually get worse.

Is it about a good time?

I run past Ogre B's side and after turning around behind it I

thrust into it's chest around where it's heart is with all my

strength. I can feel the ogre start to convulse as I kicked off

it's back to pull my sword out.

After wiping the blood off my sword I put it back in it's scabbard.

Without pulling out the throwing needle, I pretended to be wiping

the blood off as I placed the weight on one foot and embedded it

deep into the arm muscle of the ogre. And then, with a smile I

looked in the direction everyone should have been watching

from.

Soon after everyone approached and started to take the magic stone

out of the ogre's chest.

After they wiped the blood off of the magic stone from Ogre B they

got excited seeing the color of it.

"There's one more rolling around in the forest over there that I ambushed."

And when I said that they were greatly pleased.

Just like this when there was only a few ogres we all attacked and

when there was a lot I would ambush them and reduce their numbers

as we continued to advance forward. Of course, I'm using throwing

needles so they don't notice the important points. Just as would be

expected of one corner of the top teams, if all of {Sun.Ray} takes

them on then they're able to defeat a few ogres without problem.

Twice, there was someone who was unable to evade and ended up being

grazed but since they weren't seriously injured, I quickly healed

them with {Cure Critical}.

Since there was a sign placed at the split paths which we had

decided on before-hand without getting lost we were able to arrive

at the monster room just past noon. According to {Party-ization}

the {Slaughterers} should be on standby around 150 degrees on the

opposite side from the entrance of that room.

"Now then, I'll go scout things out first. Once I know the numbers

of the opponent I'll return once to report. After that, I'll circle

around along the wall of the room. Let's discuss the timing of the

ambush once I return to report."

While we were having lunch and recovering our mana I proposed it.

We've defeated 10 ogres up until here. It seems like the members of

{Sun.Ray} are completely blinded by the money.

I went to scout and used the spell {Detect.Life}. There's 11

reactions in the center of the room. This is good.

After killing time for a bit I slowly returned and gave my

report.

"I said it before as well but the room is circular and has a diameter of about 500 meters. In the center there's 11 ogres. It seems they aren't moving so they're either sleeping, resting, or dazing out. If we're going to do this then I have an effective strategy though"

When I reported like that to Koritto everyone made delighted expressions hearing it. Right. If you can take out a total of over 20 ogres in less than half a day then it's a large profit after all.

"Fumu, what kind of strategy is it?"

I crouch down and draw out an illustration while explaining. I draw a large 1 meter or so circle and put 11 stones in the center of it.

"First, I'll carefully move along the way to the opposite side of the monsters. Everyone will enter the room and then please advance around 100 meters. If you carefully move while crouched down and not making a sound from one tree trunk to the next then you should be able to approach within 100 meters of the ogres without them noticing."

I place nine pebbles around 20 cm from the circumference. At the same time I put one pebble on the opposite side of the 11 in the center at about 20 cm from the circumference.

"This is me. Just like this I'll circle around the opposite side and slowly approach within range of using magic. Since I'll be moving a bit carefully it might take some time. However, once I enter the valid range to use magic I'll use my most powerful spell

the level 4 fire magic {Flame Arbalest} to finish off one in a single hit. Well~ if I hit one that's showing it's back to me in the back of it's head then I can kill it."

I said that and moved my pebble to about 15 cm from the 11 pebbles in the center and then after moving to within 10 cm I took one pebble from an ogre outside of the circle. Yeah, if I hit them from directly behind in the head with a javelin then I'm sure that should kill it.

"In that case, once the ogres realize they've been ambushed they'll come towards me or should try to come towards me. Depending on the case they might get confused and start just wandering around though. If it comes to that then I'll hit them with one more shot of {Flame Arbalest}. As expected if it comes to that then they'll realize which direction I am. And then they'll come towards my direction to kill me."

After seeing everyone understands from their faces I continue.

"If it comes to that then the ogres will have their backs to everyone else. There I would like for Koritto-san to please hit them from behind with {Flame Arbalest} as well. If things go well then with that we would have taken down three of them, even if that's not the case we should definitely be able to finish off two."

I said that while taking another of the 10 remaining ogre pebbles out of the circle.

"Together with Koritto-san, Misu-san please hit a different ogre in the back of the head with {Flame Javelin} as well. If Kamu-san and

Misu-san shoot arrows at the ogres in the same way even if that doesn't defeat them we should be able to injure them."

I take one more ogre pebble out of the circle.

"The essential point is that after I hit them with {Flame Arbalest} we need to get them to this point as fast as possible. Well, since ogres are as stupid as goblins it shouldn't be a problem even if we end up a bit behind though. There's 8 ogres remaining at this point. If we attack the ogres from two directions then they should split into two groups."

I split up the ogre pebbles into two groups of four and one group is in my direction the other group in the direction of everyone else.

"Until the four ogres approach everyone should please do as much damage as possible with magic and arrows. There might not even be a single one that falls over but it's important to weaken them. If it comes to this then everyone can take on four ogres with over double the numbers of nine people. If they're weakened then you should be able to win even easier."

I throw out the four ogre pebbles that went in the direction of everyone else.

"And, I will be focusing on running around. I think you already understand but I'm faster than ogres. They won't be able to catch up to me so easily but I'll still be running around in the area everyone isn't at in order to keep from losing sight of everyone one. Once everyone finishes defeating the ogres please finish off the ones chasing me. There's no problem~ I'm used to it after all. I'll show you can I definitely run around for 20 minutes or

so."

I move my pebble around randomly and move the four ogre pebbles with that following me.

"But, Greed-kun, isn't that placing just you into the dangerous role..Ah, but certainly you were fast at running. I'm sure you're used to it as well so I guess it's alright..Also, it's certainly true that ogres weren't as strong as I had heard."

Haruku looks at the stones while saying.

"Yeah, and if I'm the only decoy then it's easier for me as well."

I pat my legs.

"Greed-kun, I really think it was great that you entered {Sun.Ray}."

Koritto made a pleased smile as he said it to me.

..Probably several of them are ogre mages. And also, if ogre mages are included at best only about 1/3rd of them or three will chase after me I'm sure. After all not just magic but arrows will come flying from the direction everyone else is in. Even if it's impossible for the ogres to notice there's more people there the ogre mages will quickly make such a decision. Additionally, the ogre mages fire off spells with level 4 void magic.

"Then, after resting for a bit longer I'll depart. I think I'll probably have circled around in 20-30 minutes or so. My {Flame Arbalest} is the sign. Please don't overlook it."

I said that while drinking some tea.

"Hey~ Kimu, isn't Greed-kun amaz~ing.."

"Yeah, he's taking on the dangerous role of decoy all on his own and it's quite wonderful how even though he's still young he's able to think up such simple methods to defeat the ogres making use of

how stupid they are. I think it would be best for Jeru to learn something as well."

"Gu..But I guess that's true.."

Now then, it depends on the flow of events but I need to pick the person who's going to become a sacrifice for Toris and Bel. I erase my expression while thinking. If I think about anything unnecessary I feel like I might show a strange expression. This is a place where I'm being tested as well, not just for the sake of Toris and Bel but for the sake of my objective, whether or not I can leave someone innocent or an ally that I'm acquainted with to die. If we can't learn anything from here then almost all of these guys will die pointlessly.

Chapter 196: Dilemma

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 25

Koritto and Meiria are making somewhat difficult faces while talking about something and moving the pebbles over the circle I drew of the room. Che..Don't be thinking about unnecessary things. And, while I say that...

The last contact I received before we entered the dungeon, the {Slaughterers} were supposed to standby in the teleport room on the 7th floor until we came to the 7th floor and smoothly started to advance. Only after they gained confidence that I started moving through {Party-ization} were they supposed to move to the side of the monster room with a group of ogres they had investigated before-hand and only then were they supposed to standby there.

If you were to think of the monster room in front of me as a clock then we're at 6:00 and the {Slaughterers} are fortified at around the 1:00 direction. Since there's people vaguely moving around as well right now when I'm not in the room they might be relaxed and eating or something. Since I've always been tense the entire time I'd prefer they not casually be slacking off and eating. I guess that's a false accusation huh? They'll at least food right.

After we arrived at the monster room I was supposed to somehow negotiate a suggestion that lets met act alone and group up with the {Slaughterers} once, then if there's any discrepancies in the predicted circumstances I would have to report on them in a short

period of time. In the worst case if I can't take action alone then while the {Slaughterers} are on standby at the entrance of the monster room they would recognize my approach and hide themselves as they confirm my situation.

In the case that I'm not alone I received contact from Toris that when I approach then even if there's a bit of discrepancy, unless there's a sign from me that a fatal problem has occurred they would just watch as we pass by like that. Of course no major problem has occurred that would influence Toris and the other's plans so far.

Come to think of it I wonder if they're fine with their remaining mana. This morning, we teleported into the 7th floor at around 5 am. The time we finally started moving was around 5:30 am. Since it's just past noon now over 7 hours have passed. Along the way up to here, even if you were to run into ogres as long as you use the paralysis poison you don't need to make use of magic so if you were to use mana it's at most for looking out with {Detect.Life}.

"..do-kun"

Toris's void magic has reached level 4 but since he can't use fire magic in the first place he can't use {Detect.Life}. The only ones who can use it are Miduchi, Bel, and Ralpa the three of them but the spell absolutely consumes 10 MP. The amount of time it takes to recover that much is 50 minutes. It becomes 40 minutes if Miduchi holds on to the handle of her sword but holding on to the handle for 40 minutes straight is unreasonable right. Even if the three of them take shifts using it once every 10 minutes(I think there's not much meaning using it more often than that) then the total amount

of mana consumed would be 60 per hour. Compared to that the amount recovered is 36, that's only 12 per person. Since 7 hours have already passed even if we deduct the portion that's been recovered doing simple calculation the total would be 170..No, that's if you were to count everyone's MP. Since the upper limit of Ralpa's MP isn't very high she should only be able to use it once an hour, Bel would be twice, and I guess Miduchi would be three times? Bel would be consuming 8 per hour and Miduchi would even be consuming 18 an hour. Thinking like that then wouldn't both Miduchi and Bel have almost no mana. But, even then I guess you could say they have a considerable amount remaining?

"Greed-kun"

"Ah..Yes. I'm sorry, I was spacing out."

"Yeah, it's fine, don't mind it. However, it's quite something to be able to space out on the 7th floor. Would you mind coming for a short while? Everyone else gather as well."

A~a. Toris, Bel, judging from their state then it seems that as expected it was unreasonable.

"We tried thinking about the strategy from just now a bit but we want to revise it a bit."

Just look. These two have been the leaders of a top team for over 10 years. There's no way they would so easily accept a strategy that dangerous. Since you all know quite a bit about my power, you didn't take into consideration the feelings of someone who doesn't know right? Certainly in order to show them plenty of my power, I followed Toris's instructions and flaunted my skills quite a bit in defeating ogres but there's no way something like that would be

enough right. Well, this is experience as well. This is another deduction in points but I'll follow up this time.

"Everyone listen closely as well. Though I say revise it's nothing too big. We just want to increase the number of people who circle around behind the ogres. Ah, it's not like we don't trust you Greed-kun. I don't want you to misunderstand that."

Koritto said.

"We'll split our numbers up into six people and four people. Rokko, Kevin, Jeru. You all circle around behind the ogres together with Greed-kun."

Meiria continued to add on.

Ho? That's quite the firm decision. There's meaning in me taking action alone in order to get into contact with the {Slaughterers} as well but leaving combat forces for {Sun.Ray} was a bit part of it as well. Well, if you were to ask me then regardless if it's {Verdure.Brotherhood}, {Black.Topaz}, {Gehenna.Flare}, and of course {Sun.Ray} as well there's no difference that I'd prefer for them to quickly get wiped out if they intend to come to the same floor as us. Since they're in the way of us getting our hands on some treasure.

However, Rokko, Kevin, and Jeru huh? For them to magnificently take off the injured sucker members and push them on me even here. It's just what I think but this couple, they normally behave that way so no one will retort them on it but their true nature, it looks to me like they're ruthlessly trying to send their allies, or otherwise the suckers into their place of death. I'm sure they'll say it right. An appropriate sounding reason for it. Well, I am looking

forward to what they'll actually say even.

"Greed-kun, please circle around behind the ogres together with them. And then, we'll have you finish off one ogre with the first attack spell. With that as the signal, Misu, Kamu, and I will use attack spells and bow to finish off two more ogres. Up until here it's the same."

Koritto said while moving the pebbles in the same way as I just did.

"The problem is the next part. Whether or not the eight ogres will really split into two groups, honestly speaking we thought that was doubtful. For example it can be thought that they could completely ignore one side and all end up going to the other but there's not much of a problem in this case. The side the ogres don't come to can just attack them from behind with spells all they please and the advantage will quickly return to our side I'm sure. The problem is in the case that only one or two of them end up going to one side and six or seven end up going to the other."

I know right~ Normally you would worry about something like this.

Well, if it was just ogres then they're idiots so they would really split up jsut as I said in half but when there's ogre mages you really don't know how things will end up. Most likely I think they would just send one or two towards me since I was alone. After that the ogre mages would send the remaining normal ogres(probably 3-4 of them, depending on how things go five) towards the main group. In other words, I think they would split into three groups. The theory of ogre mages is for them to back up the side that has larger numbers with magic.

If ogre mages had better heads that could predict based on past experiences then they would send around two of them to {Sun.Ray} which has larger numbers to keep them in check and then use all of their forces to finish me off since I'm alone. Then after they finish me off they could hit the main group with all of their forces. Although, this is something would differ based on the terrain at the time, the positions of the ogres, and the situation so I can't say too much. But, since the Rindobel couple is obviously intelligent they're worried about this I'm sure. At the very least they've reasonably recognized my individual combat power. They're probably afraid that even with my high combat power I could end up being surrounded by ogres and end up useless. Honestly speaking, even I don't know if there's definitely ogre mages mixed in with the ones in the monster room. In the first place I don't even know if they're ogres. I haven't Identified them. The trees are in the way from approaching close enough to see them so I would have to get considerably close. Since the vision in the forest is bad I would almost definitely have to enter the detection range of the ogre mages and at that point there would be no more plan or anything about it. If we hadn't already gone over the process for attacking under the premise that we would be noticed then we would bring into close combat all at once I'm sure. Unfortunately the only one who can remain hidden while taking action without problem during that short period of time while scouting is just Miduchi. Though I say that, I'm sure this was already investigated by Toris and the others and since there's no

contact, I'm sure it's probably ogres.

In the case there's no ogre mages, if I were to speak my true feelings then even if I don't rely on something like magic or paralysis poison, if it's just at the level of six or seven ogres then if I lure them into the forest I have confidence I can slowly cook them up alone without a single scratch. However, I'm sure the Rindobel couple doesn't know my abilities are that high. They probably think I would just spend 20 minutes running around from four of them but they probably think it would be difficult for me if six or seven of them surround me all at once.

I think it's only natural for them to think I alone could take on six of them based on what they saw of me taking on two at once from the front with no tricks up to here. Well, I made sure all of those situations took place in the plains or wastelands so everyone could see them. I intentionally didn't do any other fighting than ambushing in the forest or thickets. When it comes to taking on multiple ogres as opponents the forest and thickets with trees all over the place is actually easier. As long as I'm alone that is.

The most important point of the strategy this time is "the decoy member who circled around needs to stay alive as they lure the ogres". At the very least they need to remain alive while moving around until the main group finishes defeating the ogres, if they can't continue to lead them around then there's no point to it.

"If it's only one or two that goes to Greed-kun then there's no problem. We already understand you can easily win at that level.

But, as expected wouldn't things get hard if it's six or seven of them? We would be troubled if you were to die."

The statement of the Rindobel couple shows they properly understand something close to the fundamentals of the two Lanchester's Laws.

As expected they have just what it takes to lead a top team.

They're on a different level from the other adventurers of Baldukk who can't think of anything but fighting in the dungeon. Including Zulu and Angela, the majority of the adventurers only have the level of understanding of an elementary schooler. Though even they've showed a remarkable level of progress while being in contact with reincarnated people so I'm sure they'd understand something at this level right away now.

"I'll be fine."

I already know but just in case I need to properly say it.

In other words, what they want to say is that they would be

troubled if I die before doing any damage to the ogres at all. It's not particularly like they're worried about my life. As proof of that look, just look at that expression. Both of the couple are completely blinded by their greed. Well even if we just defeat 21 ogres today then that's 17,000,000 Z or so. It's the same amount of sales as two cheap magic items. Of course their eyes would change colors. In order for them to think this way and make them think ogres are easy to deal with, I intentionally dragged them out into wide open areas and make use of paralysis poison in a way where it takes some time to take effect, it was quite difficult making sure they only ended up having to fight against just one at a time.

However, it's already a strategy they've decided on so it's not beneficial to get any pickier with it than this.

"No. It's fine to think of Rokko and the others as Greed-kun's escort. I'm sure that Greed-kun will primarily end up using attack spells but going from the timing at best you'll only be able to the first two attacks and even at best three hits right? You might end up missing other than the first one you use for the ambush and after that if you were to be injured it would be bad if you can't use healing spells anymore."

Including me the four of us on the detached force reply with consent.

"If six of them end up going in your direction then Rokko and the others you all somehow try to hold out with Greed-kun. In that case, we'll probably only have to deal with two of them though so we should be able to finish them off quickly. In the case that six of them come to us, if it's just two then you have Greed-kun as well so he should be able to defeat them quickly just the same.

After that it's fine as long as you come to back us up."

"Yeah, we've already fixed out that ogres aren't a big deal at all.

It's alright."

"Ah, if we have Greed-kun then we can even manage if seven of them come~"

"There's no problem even if we defeat all of them right?"

Rokko and the others are powerfully saying. Well, if they're coming to my side then I guess these guys are fine as well huh?

"Oh, Kevin, you've come out quite big that you'll defeat them all.

I'll put my hopes on you."

Misu said as if teasing him but her face was quite worried.

"Oh~ unlike that idiot Rokko I still have my charm after all. Even if I were to get seriously injured I can rest easy."

"Ah, Kevin's came last month was it? I used mine up last year the same as Rokko after all..Koritto-san is my charm still not ready?"

"Sorry about that, Jeru. You've already had to wait for over a year but..it seems there's some trouble with the funds to work around it.."

"Eeeh..Even though added an additional 300,000 in the spring as well.."

Jeru bit his lip as if he was troubled.

"How about paying even more on top of that again? I've done it such as that as well."

Haruku said it as if giving Jeru advice. After all this guy as well, is he one of the collaborators with the Rindobel couple?

Come to think of it previously, this guy was the one who tried to join the {Slaughterers} as well.

"..An addition huh..I guess it can't be helped~ If I pay again can something be done about it?"

Jeru looked at Meiria with an expression as if begging her.

"That is..I can't say anything in that regard. But, it might be better than not doing anything at all."

"Is that so..Meiria-san, when we return I'll pay out of the compensation this time~ That's why I'm depending on you for one quickly. Please try making the request somehow."

"Don't say anything too unreasonable..But, if we have the additional funds then it's easier to ask. Since it seems we'll have earned a reasonable amount this time, I'll try putting in a good

word for you as well."

"Ehe..I'm in you care. Koritto-san."

Somehow it's a conversation where I really start to pity Rokko and the other two.

.....

..Since we took a break, I guess it's about time to depart

huh?

"Then, we'll head out. Since I intend to move carefully until we arrive in the position on the other side it might take over 30 minutes."

"Yeah, I understand. In a bit longer we'll approach carefully as well. Hiding behind the tree trunks and crawling below the foliage even. There's no need to hurry. It's fine for you to slowly take your time. In any case we'll remain on standby over here until your ambush."

With Koritto's response as the sign to depart we walked off with the wall on right side. Of course Rokko, Kevin, and Jeru are properly following behind me as well. In the case that the ogres are the room boss, they generally don't notice you as long as you're walking along the outer edge of the wall. Strangely enough, even if you walk in the forest with almost fallen leaves the sound doesn't reach even 50 meters ahead and since there's trees growing all over the place the field of sight is extremely bad. The ogre mages are sensitive enough to presence that they can notice from 100 meters away but from the outer wall to the center there's 250 meters. It's easy to even just walk through without fighting. In order to circle around the ogres we need to walk in a semicircle around this circular monster room. The diameter of the room is

roughly 500 meters so we end up needing to walk close to 800 meters. Adding to that if we were to walk half of it, 700 meters or so we should pass right in front of where the {Slaughterers} are waiting.

Though there's almost no need to stand on end, even then we continue walking while being careful to not make as much sound as possible. I think we've already walked close to 500 meters. In another 200 meters or so we should arrive at the waiting point for the {Slaughterers}. If there's some thicket or rocks then they should be waiting behind those without standing out. It could be possible that Miduchi or so would find us and tell everyone else that it's not just me as they all remain hidden looking over here. Soon after I stepped foot into the room everyone I could detect with {Party-ization} gathered into one group and I could tell they weren't moving at all.

It was when the four of us were carefully moving forward. I felt an abnormality in {Party-ization}. But, what is it? These movements. Even though they were moving at all up until now it's as if they all started moving attentively in a panic.

This, is it combat!?

The same moment I thought that the order "Format it" appeared in my head.

This order means that some kind of large trouble has occurred.

I instantly used the spell {Detect.Life} but the only reaction I got was that of us {Sun.Ray}. It's only obvious. Both the boss of the monster room and the {Slaughterers} are too far away they're

beyond the detection range of {Detect.Life}.

"Giooo~tsu!" "Father!!"

They're too far away so it's just a mumble but I can hear the roars from a monster. It's probably an ogre. After that, it was just vaguely and furthermore difficult to hear, but that was, Ralpa's voice! Did something happen to Zenom!? Zenom's presence still remains on {Party-ization}. However he's not moving. Ralpa is close by his side it seems.

"Is it the voice of a monster.."

"Since we can hear I guess it's close by?"

"Since ogres are idiots they might be fighting over a goblin."

"No, it's possible it's the {Slaughterers} as well."

"Che..It would be good if they don't get in the way though.."

Everyone is saying whatever they please. They're standing still looking towards the center of the monster room. If we can hear it from here then that means the bosses of the monster room should be able to hear it as well. The {Slaughterers} were gathered together at an entrance of the monster room just the same as the main group of {Sun.Ray}. They aren't 20 meters away from the entrance of the room. Also, they shouldn't have smeared paralysis poison on their weapons yet as well.

Since they couldn't know when I was would move, if they smeared the poison on their weapons too early then it would just dry and be more difficult to absorb into the wounds reducing the effect significantly. During the time I came up to here the paralysis poison I put on my throwing needles has dropped in effect considerably as well. It was quite troublesome reapplying it

without being seen by everyone else.

The orders "Abort it." "Make it possible." and "Fainted." continue to enter my head.

There's a high chance that the plan is suspended, the details mean that someone was seriously injured to the point of being unable to continue fighting.

In a matter of moments I organize the situation in my head.

It's pretty much settled that the {Slaughterers} were ambushed by some monsters while on standby. Since they have people who can use {Detect.Life} it's unlikely they overlooked an ogre approaching from somewhere. This is, that. The revival or replenishment of monsters. The whirlpool of fog-like stuff occurred and some monsters were born there. I don't know the terrain is like over there but since there's a lot of vegetation in the monster room in front of me the field of sight should be pretty bad. If they were in one of the wasteland like areas with rocks all over the place then there's plenty of light so if they even just a bit of distance away it would be difficult to notice the fog and light.

Most likely, several ogres revived at the same time nearby and they were ambushed. Working under that assumption someone suffered a serious injury as well. Whether it's just Zenom or there's even more is unknown. They should be reasonably low on MP as well, this is bad...

Adding to that, it's possible the bosses of the room could have noticed. Though I can't be sure of that much. Toris and Bel's idea is already suspended from the point this order came from Miduchi. It doesn't matter whether {Sun.Ray} ends up getting wiped out or

whatever happens but the moment the {Slaughterers} ended up suffering any damage it's already a huge failure. It's hard to proceed in this situation but there's already no choice but to abandon Toris and the others plan and proceed with my own method. However, that was really the worst possible timing I can think of. How should I go about turning this situation around...I was able to organize up to here within one second and made my decision. "Everyone, I'm very sorry. I'm going ahead. Everyone you should run back as fast you can and get away from the room! You should still plenty be able to make it in time."

Without waiting for a reply I switched over to dashing at my full speed. Those fools, they were told to not separate from me. Make sure you properly...come along late! Rokko and the others followed after me in a panic but I steadily pull apart from them.

I quickly accelerated to my top speed. Toris has stopped moving. Probably Gwine as well. I felt something snap in my head. Remain calm. It's fine for the heart to burn hot but cool down the consciousness. The trees flow behind me as if they're flying. Right now even with my sword in hand and my rubber protectors equipped I'm sure I'm faster than the recent {Usain.Bolt}. Zulu from once upon a time is no longer a match.

"Miduchi!!" Who's voice was that? Ralpa huh? I can't see anything outside of my field of sight other than straight ahead.

Shit..Just now {Party-ization} stopped working! Miduchi was either knocked unconscious or suffered a serious injury to the point where she couldn't even maintain her Unique Ability or..I don't even want

to think about it but she died.

I bit into the end of the glove on my left hand and pulled it off.

It's not good, stop getting too hot. Aim to remain calm.

I won't be able to use magic anymore.

If I turn around that corner then it should be right in front of my eyes.

Make it in time!

I turn around the corner and jump over the rocks lined up in front of me while firing off consecutive {Stone Javelins} from around two meters high. The MP efficiency will drop a bit but in order to maintain the balance of my body I need to omit pointless movements. From around the brow of my forehead stone spears are launched off one after another. It's fine even if they don't hit.

The {Slaughterers} were fighting with ogres. There's a lot of ogres. One, two, anymore than that is fine as a lot.

There's no time to even being using Identify, I jump over Miduchi who's laying on the ground and after going to the side of Toris who I felt the reaction from last and I quickly stuck my hand into the gaps of his banded-mail while using {Cure All}. I guess he was done in by an ogre but it was good luck the metal ring was crushed.

Since he's looking over here and trying to say something it seems he's conscious. When I whispered in a small voice, "leave the rest to me" he relaxed and closed his eyes.

Following that I forcibly stuck my hand below Zenom's armor as he was laying face down and used {Cure All}.

I think that Zenom had just lost consciousness. Since Ralpa was in the way taking off about half of Zenom's armor so I kicked her in the ass to move her out of the way.

""Al-san!""

"A begyu!!"

"Mas-reed-sama!"

I immediately returned back to where Miduchi was and put all my power into it to tear off her leather armor. Her left side was largely and unnaturally dented along with her leather armor. I quickly used {Cure All} two times, three times. Incidentally her breasts were safe. Her heart wasn't damaged. When I used Identify her condition was Reflex Seizure. Thank goodness.

I quickly stood up and gave orders one after another, "Angela to the left! Basutoral you back her up! Gwine you fall back just like that, Bel back her up! The idiot, get to work already!" while charging at the ogre that Gwine was taking on as she covered for Zulu.

There's already no time to hesitate with using magic. I cut the side of the ogre that was swinging it's club at Gwine as she retreated as I passed by it and after circling around I put my left hand to it's wide back while using {Air Blade} consecutively. Since it fell to it's knees I made use of the fact that it could reach and stabbed my long sword in where it's heart should be.

I pull my sword out while ordering Bel once more, "Bel, take care of Zulu!", and charged at the two Angela was taking on.

"Nu~ryaaaa~!!"

With a flash of fighting spirit I cut the back of the knee on the left leg of the ogre on the left and making further use of that momentum went to cut the back of the knee of the right leg of the next ogre as well. However, it's reaction was better than I thought and it avoided it. I suddenly stopped while lowering my upper body

and above the top of my helmet I heard the sound of wind being cut as a club passed over.

"Ah, Sla..{Slaughterers}!"

"Why are there ogres here!?"

"Is that, Greed-kun?"

It seems the three suckers finally circled around the rocks and arrived.

After raising my upper body I lightly cut the side of the ogre that was swinging it's club and this time it started to swing at my feet so I jumped to evade it. I quickly used the end of my long sword to cut it's throat. Blood spurted out of it's neck like a fountain.

The ogre let go of it's club in a panic to try and hold down it's throat when I cut it's stomach in a straight line this time causing it's intestines to spill out.

I quickly looked towards the other ogre who's left leg tendon I had cut and Angela was parrying it's club with her buckler and I watched as Basutorial thrust in with his spear aiming for the gap that created. Gwine followed up by trusting her spear into it's heart with a powerful step in as well. At the same time the {tomahawk} Ralpa thew stabbed into the ogre's face.

It should already be fine. When I looked around there was the corpses of five ogres rolling around. I guess they defeated one?

No, two before I came along huh? One of them had it's arms and legs completely cut off. Miduchi probably did it. Gwine is going around finishing off the ogres that still haven't completely died. Bel raised her face after she finished using heal spells on Zulu and after confirming Toris was alright she walked towards me.

Angela quickly came and knelt in front of me with her head down

while saying, "Greed-sama, thank you for the assistance in such an emergency." Just now, didn't you mistake master and Greed-sama. Don't be making such a satisfied face.

Ralpa who was still in the posture of throwing her axe ran over to Miduchi in a hurry and covered her body with the remnants of the leather armor I tore off. It seems she's checking her pulse at the same time. Well, it's fine. She's properly looking at Miduch after all.

Basutorial looked over the surroundings for just a bit before kneeling beside Angela and lowering his head while saying, "Thank you very much." This guy, has he still not escaped from his slave disposition?

Gwine came to my side at almost the same time as Angela and lowered her head while saying "Al-san, we were saved. Thank you very much."

Soon after Bel arrived as well and offered me her gratitude just the same and after that said, "If we can be useful in some way please order us." She was making an apologetic, pathetic, and slightly afraid expression.

"Hey, you, Koloil-san was it? For you to not have realized an attack from ogres, the {Slaughterers} have fallen to the ground I see."

Kevin put his battle axe back over his shoulder again while saying.

"Stop it. It's not strange for these things to happen. And I don't hate the {Slaughterers}. I even think with this I was able to repay some of my debt to them...And while I say that it was Greed-kun who

repaid it though, huh? I didn't do anything at all.."

Jeru said to Kevin.

"Right now isn't the time to be saying something like that right?

Greed-kun, what should we do?"

Rokko warned the with a composed voice and put the attention on me.

Right, we need to hurry.

"It's possible the boss ogres could have noticed. It wouldn't be

strange for Rindobel-san and the others to have come out as well.

Though I say that I'm sure they haven't advanced very far. We

should take over the ogres from here. The ones who will take over

the role as decoy will be me and the members of the {Slaughterers}

here that can still move. Everyone else follow a bit behind me.

That's fine with everyone from the {Slaughterers} as well right? I

won't let you disagree. It's necessary for you to work at least

that much."

"Eh? But, is it fine? Things like the cut will be

troublesome.."It's fine. I won't recognize them making claim on

that. It's even possible they could have ruined our plan after

all."

I interrupted Rokko as he started talking and said. It's a

considerably forceful reasoning. In the first place, no matter what

sort of plan {Sun.Ray} was going to take it's unrelated to the

{Slaughterers}. It's not like they tried interfere after combat had

already started or steal the prey from the side. It's not strange

for there to end up being combat anywhere in the dungeon other than

the teleport room in the center of the floor.

However, that shouldn't be amusing for {Sun.Ray}.

"You could say the original cause is that I reflexively ran in and

saved them. We'll have them return that debt to us here. Let's have them pay it back to us by working for free. All of the magic stones within the room belong to {Sun.Ray}."

I forcibly declared that and looked at the {Slaughterers}. Even if we were to follow the original plan, the chances of accomplishing aren't completely zero but they've certainly decreased. Forcing the {Slaughterers} to work for free and increasing the number of people who take on the danger shouldn't be a minus for {Sun.Ray}.

"Bel remain here and look after the injured people. Ralph, Gwine, Basutorial, Angela, come with us. I'll work you hard."

Bel was looking at me with an expression like an abandoned puppy but quickly seemed to understand.

I'm sure you're not composed right now and above all else it's necessary for you to heal the people who are fallen. Endure it.

"Since we don't have any time let's hurry. I'll advance at the front leading them. Everyone else please follow about 20 meters behind. I'm depending on your backup once the combat starts but there's no need to overdo things. Well then let's go."

After I said that to the three suckers, I turned around and we started following the arc towards the center of the room. From here on out things are improvised. I need to try and do things well. Even if I don't say anything the members of the {Slaughterers} followed with me at the head in the formation {Wedge One}.

Author's Note: TL: note on the time for monsters to respawn

being longer the higher level the monster. It roughly doubles in seconds, at around level 10 monster it takes 512 seconds, and for

{The Gazer} at level 25 it takes 16770000 seconds, or over six months. (Though in the settings {The Gazer} spawns at level 21) <-- that's just for after the spawn fog starts until it appears.

The time between when the fog starts to appear is 10 hours + the floor level. 1st floor = 10 hours, 6 floor = 15 hours, etc...

Chapter 197: Triage

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 25

While I started walking off, I don't want to hurry too much. It's a plan made on the spot so I want to think if there's any rough ends remaining. But, it's also a fact that there's no time. After I started walking without even advancing 50 meters a group of ogres got caught in my {Detect.Life}. After all it seems we caught their attention from the sounds of combat over here. With a few seconds between I used {Detect.Life} once more. It feels like they're slowly and carefully moving from the center of the room to the direction we are located (going clockwise the direction of 12-1).

I clench my fist and after raising my left hand I raised everyone's caution. I quickly opened my left hand and after shaping it like an O I waved it from front to back. It's a signal for the {Slaughterers} that "the opponent is approaching us". Since it's not my right hand it also signifies that we can't see them yet as well. The three suckers have no idea what's going on I'm sure but it's fine as long as the fact that something is happening is conveyed.

Ah, shit. I want to properly have a meeting and go over a plan but there's no time to be taking it easy and I don't want to cause an unneeded misunderstanding with the three suckers of {Sun.Ray} as well. Even if I just talk about a genuine versus ogre plan it would be troublesome if they misunderstand. Since idiots believe in

whatever they want to believe. The three suckers should understand the series of events they saw but I don't want that to give the other members a strange impression when they hear about it later.

In reality I'd prefer to hide around here and aim to ambush the ogres when they approach but this time things won't go so easily.

We slowly advance and close the distance. I want to advance another 50 meters before they notice us. I tried using {Detect.Life}.

They're still 180 meters or so away. I raised the speed of advance and moved another 30 meters ahead. I tried using {Detect.Life} again. The distance should have already cut 140 meters. If we advance another 30 meters ahead then they might notice us before we can hide.

It can't be helped so after advancing another 20 meters I hit in a thicket of bushes that was in just the right place and gave everyone else the order to hide as well. When I turned around it was just as the three suckers tried to hurry and hide behind some nearby bushes and trees after seeing the {Slaughterers} movements.

I tried looking in the direction the ogres were approaching from with Identify vision but there's too many things in the way so I can't get a look at them. I'd like to at least confirm the number of ogre mages. You can't tell the difference between ogres and ogre mages from just looking. Only when you check their status or otherwise use Identify can you determine they're ogre mages from their magic special skills.

It's probably impossible for them to not notice us before I can get

a glimpse of them~ In that case, it should either be one of the ones in the center of the group or near the rear, or at least I can only make that sort of indefinite judgement. If I can at least see them giving out some sort of order then I would be able to guess that's the ogre mage but there's no time to be leisurely waiting around I'm sure.

My aim among the already largely reduced options is for the main group of {Sun.Ray} to somehow end up in a melee and suffer serious injuries that won't be fatal. Hopefully multiple people, if possible including the Rindobel couple, and ideally everyone. Ah, it doesn't particularly matter if the three suckers end up injured or not. And, then I'll have the Rindobel couple do a triage.

There's already no other option than that. For that sake I need to at least start things out a bit flashy in order to get closer to the original plan and tell them that combat has started.

I can't properly convey my will to the other members of the {Slaughterers} but they should already understand the original plan has failed. I'm sure Angela and Basutorial won't say anything unnecessary unless I give some sort of order. I can relax in regards to Gwine as well. The problem is Ralpa but since I just kicked her in the ass a short while ago she'll probably remain quiet for the time being. She will right? If she doesn't then as a punishment I'll force her to kill all of the members of {Sun.Ray} before things become even more troublesome. If it comes to that then the reincarnated people won't be swayed to my side anymore though. Additionally we'd have to ambush the second party of

{Sun.Ray} on the 3rd floor and finish them all off including

Faruergaz and the others.

Ah, after all I think I would have been able to relax more if I had

left Ralpa and brought along Bel. From an unexpected negligence

(though I feel saying that is harsh) they were ambushed by ogres

and starting with Zenom and Toris, Miduchi, Zulu, they were all

done in so there was no shit or anything about a plan anymore. I'm

sure I'm under shock as well and above all else it hurts that I

didn't have any other option than to leave Bel for healing.

I order everyone to remain on standby there while quietly sticking

my head out from the bushes. I looked in the direction of the

center of the room but after all I can't see any ogres. I use

{Detect.Life} again and they're about to cut the 100 meter point in

distance. It wouldn't be strange if they noticed anytime now. Since

they'll notice even if we just ignore them, it's a higher priority

to close the distance even just a bit more and make sure the

distance between the ogres and the main group of {Sun.Ray} is

closer.

I give everyone the order to charge and run off all at once. I

guess my head has already cooled down, unlike before I can see the

trees clearly.

.....

There.

After dashing close to 70 meters all at once and I discovered the

group of ogres about 30 meters ahead. It's only obvious but they've

already noticed me as well. I jumped over the bushes landing and at

the same time I looked as far as I could see behind the ogres and

used the spell {Audible Clamor} to make it seem like someone was running through the bushes. Of course the sound won't reach my ears but I'm sure the ogre mages would notice it. Simultaneously I used the spell {Flame Arbalest Missile} aiming at the ogre around the center.

The one that turns around or reacts should be the ogre mage. It seems the one I aimed at was the ogre mage. The instant it noticed my {Flame Arbalest (Missile)} it imprudently hid behind the back of a nearby ogre. If I put some effort into it then it's not as if I can't still hit but putting aside a slight change in the trajectory, if I shift the trajectory of it in a showy way then I won't be able to claim it's {Flame Arbalest} anymore. Since the flaming spear stands out, there's a high chance the three suckers can already see it.

Since it can't be helped I just let it continue forward and shot through the face of the ogre used as a shield.

Also, it seems that a different ogre mage from the one I aimed at turned around and pointed from behind several ogres. I'm sure the ogres can't determine if we're the decoy or the main group but they'll come to attack with a reasonable number. If it's the level of being vigilant for ambushes from behind then it's only obvious for ogre mages.

It seems I can manage one more shot.

I aim at a different ogre with it's club in hand running over here and sent one more shot of {Flame Arbalest Missile} flying. However, the true aim of this one was the ogre mage(probably) that is behind it and seems to have stopped moving to concentrate and use magic.

The flaming spear moves in a slight arc to pass by the side of the ogre while I take out my sword and move to make sure I don't lose line of sight, it continues flying towards the individual that seems to be an ogre mage and beautifully hit it in the chest. It probably won't instantly kill it but I think I sealed it's magic and I'm sure it won't be able to move much either way. But, if I stand out this much then there's no way the ogres that were paying attention over here should set anyone other than me as their first objective.

"Aa!!"

"It missed.."

"Che!!"

I heard those sorts of voices from behind when my flaming spear passed by the side of the ogre that was coming towards me but soon after,

"Ooh!!?"

"Amazing!!"

"I thought that was the case."

and their voices changed to that. They sure in good condition, the three suckers.

Angela runs past my right side and silently charged at the ogre that was coming towards me. On the opposite side Ralpa advances while keeping her body low and when she passed in front of me she took up a position to cover Angela's blind spots. I advance to about five meters behind Angela on the left side as well and slow down the following two ogres that came charging. Since I went through the trouble of standing out I need to make sure to stay near the front where I'm easy to target. I need to take my time and

drag things out here. The spectacle I got a glimpse of through the gaps in the ogres was one or two ogre mages behind the three ogres in the front looking carefully to their rear.

There's nine ogres remaining capable of combat. It seems they're sending half of those to the rear and half over here. And, while I say that after all the ones dealing with things first is the ogres and the ogre mages are still standing in the center giving out orders intending to back them up with magic.

Since I'm standing at the front taking on two of them alone, it must have thought I would be easier to deal with so another ogre came along. But, it must have seen that Basutorial and Gwine were fortified right behind me or were being careful because it moved to take a detour in a different direction.

"We'll hold that one done!"

I heard Rokko's voice. At the same time I felt their footsteps move from behind me to the left side.

"Don't try to do anything unreasonable!"

Just in case I called out to them but since I was focused over there and one of the ones in front had an opening, I couldn't help but reflexively hit with a serious attack while evading it's club. I ended up cutting deeply from it's left side up through it's right breast. I avoid the ogre that let out a showy scream and started rolling around as it holds the wound, a~~a, and regretted what I did.

"Oo!! As expected! Everyone, follow after me!!"

"O!"

"Even I can!"

The three suckers were facing off against the ogre that tried to

take a detour around the left side. Putting that aside, since there's only one ogre remaining in front of me, it's true that I've regained quite a bit of leeway. I carefully maintain the distance between the ogre, since Gwine and Basutorial are keeping it in check, I used the spell {Audible Clamor} again to cause a sound to appear in the far distance. At the same time I threw a throwing needle at the ogre the three suckers were facing off against. I'm sure it won't be very effective but it's better than nothing. The ogre mage reacted immediately and while scolding it's subordinate I could tell it sent some over there. At the same time I noticed that one of the ogre mages started concentrating. I wonder if I should seriously injure it and completely seal it's magic? No, there's still another hand I can play. I immediately went around the side of the ogre in front of me and jumped out to a point that stands out. A stone spear came flying at me at almost the same time. The timing is important.

"Waa!!"

I swing my sword and pretend as if I'm cutting from below while creating a small {Anti-Magic Field} the size of my palm and received the stone spear with that erasing it. Since everyone is in the middle of combat it was already in my prediction that no one could see anything more than me cutting away at it in the middle of the air with a divine level of sword technique. Since fall of last year, when we're training incantations in the dungeon I practiced it together with Miduchi.

I thought I would hear voices of admiration from everyone but that wasn't the case. Gwine and Basutorial are still busy trying to keep

the energetic ogre in check to follow me up while I'm doing meaningless things and it seems Angela has landed a number of attacks but none of them are fatal blows and the ogre is still plenty energetic so she's not in a situation where she can look elsewhere. Ralph has her back facing me and is supporting Angela. The three suckers are frantically trying to take on one ogre and already no longer paying attention to my actions.

"Gioo~ooU!!"

Seeing it's magic erase only the ogre mage raised a voice of resentment while glaring hatefully at me. So you're the only one huh, that recognizes my worth...But, ogre mages have considerably good heads. I'm sure it'll notice right away.

"Keep at it!!"

I left those words while cutting the back of the left knee of the remaining ogre and at the same time as it fell to one leg and glared at me I charged towards the ogre mage. Ah, judging from Angela and Ralph's state they should be able to keep that up forever. Since Gwine and Basutorial are using spears against an ogre that can't use one of it's legs they should be alright as well. No one cares about the three suckers. Since there's three of them I'm sure they'll manage somehow. If one of them were to be seriously injured, I'm sure Gwine and Basutorial would finish things up right away and go to heal them.

Since it's realized that using magic is pointless against me, it went to aim at someone else but it was necessary for me to approach it to seal that.

Ahead of me a flaming spear came flying and was evaded by one of

the ogres that went to the rear.

It seems they finally arrived.

"Guge~ouo~gyaru!!"

"Gu? Gu!!"

It seems the ogre mage gave out some kind of order and I heard the sound of ogres running off to the rear. At the same time the ogre mage that ordered it moved to follow behind them. The direction I was heading has one ogre mage standing on guard with a club glaring hatefully at me, one that seems to be an ogre mage that I hit in the chest with the flame spear still screaming, and the corpse of the first ogre that I killed that was used as a shield.

Idi~ot, as if something at your level could fire off a spell that fast.

I smiled seeing the ogre mage that tried to start concentrating but gave up right away.

It tries to use the club in it's hand to attack me as I approach running along.

I roll to avoid the wide swing and circled around behind it while cutting it's right knee.

"We've already defeated three of them. We're taking on four right now! Four of them are heading that way!"

Just in case I shouted in a loud voice warning them.

"Ah!"

This voice is probably Koritto. It took the shape of an assault but the four ogres that went towards the main group of {Sun.Ray} are just the quota I had mentioned at the start, or rather I've already taken responsibility for the things I said. If they can hold out for around 30 seconds after hostilities start then it should be about a good time.

I leisurely avoid the club the ogre mage is swinging on one leg and lightly cut it's arm. At the same time I used the spell {Air Hammer} right in front of the ogre smashing it and while it was flinching with it's eyes closed I stabbed my sword into it's right chest. I quickly jumped back and after finding another opening cut at it. It seems that the Ogre Mage that took my {Flame Arbalest Missile} to the chest is still alive but considerably weakened and already on the verge of death. It's just for a short while but I can relax and fight here.

I glanced back in the direction I came from and it was just as Ralpha jumped to swing her axe down on the right shoulder of an ogre. After taking an attack from the axe the wound almost seemed to burst open sending blood flying in the surroundings. Gwine and Basutorial are fighting safely as well. I'm sure they could already finish it off at anytime if they want. It seems that the three suckers have wounded the ogre somewhat and they're all still moving energetically.

"Gobu!!"

""Haruku!!!""

""Haruku-san!!""

"It..It's no good. Hi, retreat!!"

""No way!!?""

Oh my~ are you really going to retreat abandoning your wounded allies so easily? That's unexpectedly cruel. But, it's also a good strong decision to avoid being wiped out as well. However, for Harukein.Fumizu to be the first one taken out. I did wonder how a battle mace with a reasonably short reach would do against ogres

but I guess first off was you huh? Since he can use the shield skillfully I thought he would hold out a bit longer. But, his voice was quite small. I wonder if they're a considerable distance away?

"Kamu, come back! We're retreating!!"

Meiria's reprimanding voice echoes out.

"But!"

"Agu!!"

"Meri!!!"

""Meri-san!!!"

"Shit!! It can't be helped, hold out!!"

The two front line members using the long sword and battle mace were injured. Is it about a good time? But, I see that he decided not to retreat anymore the instant his wife was injured. It's quite self-centered but I guess that's the nature of people. It's not worth criticizing them over. Rather than something like that this situation is ideal. I wonder if you could say I'm loved by God?

"Ha!!"

I let out a small breath while cutting the left upper arm of the ogre mage and while quickly turning around I cut it's left knee.

"Go~e!!"

With both of it's knees done in, completely kneeling on the ground the ogre shrunk to about the same height as me.

"Shaa!!"

I quickly thrust my sword into it's throat and pulled it out. I'm sure my body is already bright red from blood spray.

"Hurry up and finish them off!"

I shouted that behind me and thrust my sword into the heart of the

ogre finishing it off. I immediately took off running towards the main group of {Sun.Ray}.

"I'm heading to back you up now!"

I shouted like that while holding my sword up and dashing.

About 100 meters away a blood-stained battle was taking place.

Haruku is collapsed facing the ground, Meiria is leaned over with her back to a tree while holding her side. In the vicinity of that there's three ogres holding their positions and a bit to the rear is what seems to be an ogre mage yelling gyagya giving out orders.

{Sun.Ray} has completely lost their proper front line with power while Koritto and Kimu are standing at the front line desperately trying to hold the three ogres in check with spears. Misu and Kamu have taken up the role of attackers with magic and bow.

Of course the three ogres aren't unharmed either but it's not like they're using paralysis poison so they're still in good condition.

The ogre mage has started concentrating. I could only confirm Kimu but she's making an expression close to despair.

"Uooo~!!"

I raise my sword above my head and swung down cutting the ogre mage from behind with all of my power.

"Gyaaa~!!"

A raspy scream overflows from the ogre mages mouth as the concentration for it's magic is cut off. While it was flinching I cut it down to size and then stabbed through it's heart from it's back finishing it off before running to the main group. The ogre on the right suddenly threw the club in it's hand at Misu in the rear

and it ended up hitting her in the stomach when she was aiming with her bow. Koritto thought it was his chance to thrust with his spear but he was blocked by the ogre in the center and it was parried.

There the empty-handed ogre on the right lunged forward and grappled with him.

"Gooo~!!"

Koritto raises a battle cry. The Laios skill, Instantaneous
huh?

While Koritto was brushing away the club with his spear, the ogre in the center grabbed the spear Kimu thrust forward with its left hand. There it was stabbed with an arrow but its movements only dulled just a bit and it pulled the spear as if it was nothing at all. The ogre on the left swings down its club intending to crush Kimu's head.

"Kimu!!"

Someone shouted but I'm sure none of them will make it in time anymore.

Excluding me when I use wind magic on my back and fly over in an instant.

"To~!!"

I flew into the ogre on the left body slamming its left shoulder shifting the trajectory of the club it was swinging and immediately swing my sword towards the back of the ogre in the center.

"Aa!!"

Even then it seems that the ogre's club swinging towards Kimu crushed her right arm as it's bent in a strange direction while Kimu is holding her heavily injured right arm and writhing around on the ground in pain.

It's alright, you won't die from just one arm.

"Seah!!"

The ogre that I rammed into was stomping it's feet without knowing what even happened as I stabbed it through the heart. I quickly kicked off pulling my sword out and moved around keeping the ogre in the center in check while cutting the ogre that Koritto was grappling(!) with. It's fine if I can just get the ogres to focus on me.

"Ha!!"

I immediately jumped to the side evading the attack from the ogre in the center.

"Fmph!!"

I saw Koritto punching an ogre. Even if you have Instantaneous, attacks with your bare hands won't do much damage. Rather~ this old man is an idiot. He might just be too agitated and all the blood is rushing to his head. I need to hurry. I cross swords with the ogre in the center as it was swinging it's club at me, I wonder how much longer it will take to defeat. There's no time to spend thinking.

"Ri~aaaa!!"

I swing my sword considerably frantically and tore up the arm of the ogre in the center. The ogre's face twisted in pain and it seems to be cursing something. I calmly evade it's attacks and swing my sword. I land my attacks one after another and I don't think it took much time at all before I sliced it's throat.

I immediately turned to face the ogre on the right but Korrito's right arm was being held by the ogre's left arm as he was being hit.

I changed my stand to quickly thrust my sword into the ogre's side
but Ralpa came flying in smashing her {tomahawk} into it's head
killing it instantly.

"The other side?"

"I sent Angela and the others over there. As expected I'm sure
they're already finishing up."

Ralpa replied while swinging her {tomahawk} to get the gray matter
stuck to it off.

"Go and take a look."

Ralpa obeyed without showing any sign of complaint and went back.

After all it seems she had some thoughts on it as well.

"Misu! It's already fine! Kimu you calm down as well!"

The only one unharmed Kamu screamed while looking at Misu's
condition.

"Gwa..Hea..healing.."

Koritto looked up at me from the ground while saying with the left
side of his face swollen and his right arm that was grabbed bent in
an odd direction.

"Why didn't you come even sooner!"

Weakly but even then firmly Meiria started telling me off.

"I gave it my best but even then I'm sorry for arriving late to
back you up."

I crouch down by Haruku's side and turn him face up while
saying.

"There's four people that need {Cure Critical} as soon as possible.

Meiria-san, Haruku-san, Kimu-san, and Misu-san. Who should I use it
on? I've used a considerable amount of mana in the combat up to
here so I'm already at the limit."

It seems Meiria was hit with an attack spell. When I used Identify

her condition was Stab Wound. That's unlikely to be from a club. But, while it's true she's seriously injured she should be fine even without {Cure Critical} right away. I thought Haruku only took an attack to his waist but it seems his ribs were stepped on after that as well. His condition is Blunt Wound and Organ Rupture. It would be best to use it on him. I'm sure Kimu is in pain but honestly speaking if it's just one arm then even if we ignore it for a short while it won't endanger her life. Misu is..in the same condition as Haruku but not as seriously injured as him it seems.

"Mu..I guess that's true..I guess so, then, Mei"I think that Haruku-san is in more danger!"

When Koritto tried to say something he was interrupted by Kamu's shout.

Chapter 198: Accusation

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 25

"I'm asking the reason why you didn't come even sooner!

Gu..Ow!!"

Oh my~ I guess it's no good even if I try to cover it up by

apologizing. Though I say that, even under unexpected circumstances

I fought the best I could, even that was close to my best effort

though~ Of course if I were to go all out with my full strength

then I could freeze everything all at once in ice or use attack

spells on the level of {Heavy Catapult} class with {Missile} and

made it before even a single person was put in danger.

"It's because my abilities are too low. I'm very sorry I wasn't

able to meet up to your expectations."

"Stop, Meri. Right now isn't the time to be saying something like

that! Greed-kun, I'm fine so quickly heal Meri! There's a hole

opened up in her stomach!"

Koritto tries to calm down his wife who's suffered a serious injury

and already can't make normal decisions while saying. As far as I

can tell your injuries are pretty bad as well though.

"Greed-kun! On Haruku-san! Quickly!"

Kamu shouts. She's suffered a pretty serious injury and is in a

dangerous condition but judging from her state she should still

last a while longer. But, I've probably already dragged it out

plenty. Rather~ someone say it. {Sun.Ray} must have never taken

this much damage all at once before. Everyone is considerably

panicked.

"I'm alright, look at Haruku-san."

Kimu holds her crushed right arm while saying.

"U..wu..It hurts..Hurry up and heal me!!"

"That..That's right! Greed-kun! Listen to what the leader says!"

I ignore the yells of the Rindobel couple, Meiria and Koritto and crouched down to the side of Haruku who I just flipped over and while ignoring the shouts from the Rindobel couple on the other side I took about 20 seconds to use {Cure Critical} on Haruku. For the time being his Ruptured Organs should be considerably better.

This time the Rindobel couple started a married couple fight.

"Then you use healing magic!"

"You can tell right! It's impossible for me right now."

"Why!? I'm, seriously injured!"

"Even I'm heavily injured! There's no way I could use something like magic!"

I ignore the Rindobel couple who's quarreling and went to Misu before using {Cure Serious} on her, then turned around crouching down expressionless by Meiria's side as she was raging and used {Cure}.

"Since it couldn't be helped I used {Cure Serious} on Haruku-san, Meiria-san, Misu-san please endure with just {Cure}."

It was just then. The three suckers arrived.

"Oh!? What in the world is this!"

"Did anyone die!?"

"We finished up things on our end, Greed-kun."

"Rokko, Kevin, Jeru! You're all safe right!? Any injuries?"

After checking Haruku's condition Kamu looked up and raised her voice half in surprise and half in joy.

"It's only obvious we're safe. Something like an ogre if you just

remain calm while you're doing it we already knew things would be fine."

"That's right~ I finished it off with my axe!"

"Kevin didn't you only end up hitting just that last time. I

attacked it way more times with my spear."

Behind them Gwine and Angela followed along. Since they were a bit

of distance away they were difficult to notice but they have good

timing. I used Identify and their MP was full. I meet glances with

them and say.

"Gwine, I'm relying on you for healing! There's five injured

people!"

"Eh? But.."

Gwine might have just come along to check on things. Right now,

since I'm a member of {Sun.Ray}, she might be thinking about

healing the injured {Slaughterers}.

"I'm begging you! There's even someone who's life depends on

it!"

Angela whispered something to Gwine in a small voice. I'm sure

she's just saying something like listen to what I say.

"I understand."

After saying that Gwine trotted over and first spent the expected

10 seconds or so to sue {Cure} on Haruku, then additionally Kimu,

Meiria, Koritto, and Misu. During that time I asked Angela to once

go and check on the {Slaughterers} and if everyone can move to

bring them here or if not then bring back contact from them.

"I think that using {Cure} once more is probably my limit."

With slightly frightened eyes she asked me who to use it on one

more time.

"On me."

"On me."

"Use it on her."

I ignore Meiria and Koritto while pointing at Kimu.

"Greed-kun, I don't really want to have to say things like this but listen to what the leader says."

Koritto said that warning me but I've never heard from anyone in {Sun.Ray} that you're the official leader. Though judging from the atmosphere when they first came to negotiate with me and how they're always giving out orders inside of the dungeon, it's easy to guess that the couple is the leader. I wouldn't put it into words because it's way too difficult as an excuse though.

"Right now we're not in the middle of combat and we just finished defeating the monsters of this room just a moment ago. I think this is a situation we can relax for the time being. First off, I thought it was only obvious to start off healing those who were seriously injured."

I said as if I was a bit surprised.

"Don't say such selfish things!..Ouch! It's troubling if you don't follow our orders."

"That's right! In the first place whether or not it's a serious injury is something I the leader decide."

"In the first place, what did you just say to that Dog-people just now? If the {Slaughterers} can move then bring them, what are you selfishly deciding all on your own!!"

"Yeah, I agree completely. I'm grateful that you got her to heal us but would you please stop with the selfish behavior?"

I shrug my shoulders hearing that and reply.

"That is..I'm very sorry. I'll drive the {Slaughterers} away if they come. Since there's other people who can use healing spells, I

just thought they might be useful but.."

"Say that first!"

"In that case it's a different matter! Hurry and go call them! It's not like you're of any use remaining here either way so go and lower your head to the {Slaughterers} if you have to!"

Oh~ that's convenient for me. The two of them are agitated and completely losing themselves after suffering somewhat serious injuries. I think the only reason they can shout that loud is because Gwine and I healed them but I'm sure they've already forgotten that.

"I understand."

I said that and turned around leaving Gwine as I ran towards the {Slaughterers}. Along the way I encountered Angela who was on her way back and brought her with me back to the {Slaughterers} as well. It seems that Miduchi's consciousness isn't returning. Well, if I go then it should be fine.

.....

This is something I heard from Gwine afterwards but it seems the situation had turned into this during the time I left, got the {Slaughterers} and came back.

"Hey now, what is it, what in the world happened?"

That sort of question came from the three suckers. Hearing that Kamu explained the circumstances the main group of {Sun.Ray} fell into.

It seems that after we left the main group of {Sun.Ray} departed a bit early. It seems the reason they left early was in order to approach carefully they decided to take their time remaining vigilant. However, it seems they couldn't seem to approach the

ogres. This is probably because the room boss ogres started to approach our direction. After a short while when they noticed the combat had started from my spell Koritto gave out the order to advance in a hurry.

It was inside of a deep forest but as expected the light from {Flame Arbalest} stood out. After they advanced Koritto started with firing off an attack spell. Following that it seems that Misu and Kamu used magic and bow to attack as well but they supposedly all missed other than Misu's attack spells.

Even though they were supposed to match up the timing, since Koritto missed with his first attack it seems Meiria made some complaints. But, soon after that my warning reached them. Since only four ogres were heading towards the main group, {Sun.Ray} thought it would be easy for them so they put Meiria and Haruku as the front line, Kimu and Koritto would back them up with spears, and Kamu and Misu would provide support with bows, if possible then Misu would also use magic to back them up, they decided to attack with the formation we originally planned on.

That was good during the time hostilities opened up. Meiria and Haruku confidently met the enemies and Kimu still had composure as well. The reason being because only three of them came to the main group and one was just shouting gya~ in the back not approaching. However, the individuals they were against were all unexpectedly fast and things quickly changed over to a hard fight. But, they assumed that just the same as up until now they would start to get weaker right away so Meiria and Koritto called out while calmly

dealing with them.

But, that quickly ended up meaningless. Haruku was defeated by one of the ogres. As expected it was difficult for Meiria alone to take on three ogres. Koritto gave out the order to retreat but it was when Kamu claimed they should save Haruku, since Meiria ended up paying attention to Kamu, she ended up taking a hit from an attack spell from the ogre that was in the back they had forgotten about up until then.

In order to not let anymore victims than that appear {Sun.Ray} decided to stand their ground and fight desperately. It seems they were also hoping for me come running and rescue them as well. Shortly after I appeared and defeated the ogre that uses attack spells, then soon after arrived at the main group. However, it was then that Misu ended up falling over after being hit by a club that was thrown, Koritto ended up grappling with an ogre as well, and Kimu ended up having to take on two ogres alone.

It was obvious that if I hadn't quite literally came flying to make it in time then Kimu would have died. I finished off the two ogres that Kimu was taking on and it was then that the ogre who was focused on Koritto ended up taking an attack to the head from the woman from the {Slaughterers} and died instantly, all of the ogres that the main group was against were wiped out.

Hearing that the three suckers said that they took on one of them and in the end were able to defeat it without reinforcements from the {Slaughterers}, also, it seems they even started bragging about how they circled around and even rescued the {Slaughterers} who were in the middle of combat as well. Obviously, Meiria criticized

those three.

It seems she even said that they didn't just ignore the

{Slaughterers} and come to rescue them right away was betrayal of {Sun.Ray}. However, if you think about the timing of the series of events it's certainly true that the {Slaughterers} were in combat before {Sun.Ray} ambushed the ogres and even if they were to have ignored them the {Slaughterers} could have won without a problem but in the worst case if the ogres defeated the {Slaughterers} the ones who would be pincer-ed would be {Sun.Ray}.

Furthermore, I supposedly noticed that one step ahead and

immediately ran to rescue the {Slaughterers}. During that occasion I even told them to return and group up with everyone. The three suckers didn't know that it was the {Slaughterers} in combat at that point and since they thought it might possibly be a dispute between ogres they followed after me. Of course, it's also because they were ordered to escort me.

They couldn't catch up to me at all as I took off running at a

tremendous speed and when they finally arrived on the spot the combat had almost completely finished. Leaving just one person to look after the injured {Slaughterers} I forcefully added the ones who could move to our forces and immediately headed to the South (6 o'clock) where the room boss was. Just as reported there were 11 ogres there. It seems the ogres were moving to the North(the direction of 1 or 12 o'clock where the {Slaughterers} were fighting) from the center of the room.

Just as planned I finished off two with magic then cut another one down in no time at all, and after finishing off the one that was

even further in I headed towards the main group. How would it have even been possible to go and rescue them any faster than that, the three suckers went on talking like that. However, even then Meiria tried to insist that it's only obvious for them to put priority on rescuing the leader of the party who is the brains and gives out the orders, but it was then that they pointed out the magic only came flying after the the decoys had already started close combat even though it was originally planned to attack them at the same time.

There Koritto noticed the disadvantage in their claim so he started saying that if something unexpected happens you should return and report it first. I can't say anything to that either. However, even if the three suckers would have returned there the {Slaughterers} had already entered combat and they said they couldn't even tell if that combat had developed in a way that was an advantage or was an unfavorable situation. In the first place, they had no confidence on whether or not it was even the {Slaughterers} in combat. Even if the {Slaughterers} were carrying out combat in their favor, they might have ended up starting combat with the room boss first and it was possible our prey could be stolen. Even if it was unfavorable while the winning ogres might not have grouped up with the room boss it would have still ended up a situation where ogres were alive and right nearby and in that case it's possible they might have intruded during combat with the room boss. It's the same even if it wasn't the {Slaughterers} who were in combat and just a dispute between ogres or ogres and goblins. Even

if they were to return they insisted that they should have at least confirmed that far.

On top of that, it may have been thanks to my intrusion that the {Slaughterers} won, then not only did I forcefully push the role of decoy on them, I even deprived them of their right to the magic stones of the ogres in the room, so they claimed I ended up creating a development that was favorable for {Sun.Ray}. We ended up with more forces than originally planned and furthermore there was no need to pay any compensation to those increased forces. There's rarely anything as convenient as that. In the first place, we accomplished our roles as decoys plenty, is what they said.

When we returned it was just as the conversation reached that point.

.....

Thanks to Bel's treatment Miduchi regained consciousness and opened her eyes as well. Bel ended up healing Zulu's injuries as well and for the time being it seemed like there would be no problem even if left alone. Miduchi still had over 100 MP remaining.

"Basutorial, Angela, keep a close lookout to make sure no one comes, one minute is fine."

After I said that I used {Cure All} on Zulu consecutively and completely healed him. Just in case I used an extra {Cure All} on Zenom and Toris and their injuries were completely healed.

Miduchi's injuries I had already completely healed so now that her consciousness has returned, there's no problem. Ah, it seems there's still some dull pain but that should disappear pretty soon

as well. However, I need them to be able to use magic. I guess I'll use {Cure All} a couple more times.

"Toris, Bel, I'm sure you already understand but the plan is already suspended. I'll save the details for later. Right now it's necessary to recover as much as possible. I'm sure Bel doesn't have much mana remaining but look after Zenom and the others. Toris and Ralpa you come along with Miduchi and I. Other than the situation that you were saved by me when you were ambushed don't say anything unnecessary. Toris you alone think carefully about the things you need to say. Since you're the leader. After that Miduchi you don't need to use healing magic until I say. Ah, after that, make sure that you all spend plenty of time casting it. There's no time. Everyone else gather the magic stones from all of the ogres and bring them along. Then, let's go."

Accompanied by the three of them I returned to where {Sun.Ray} was.

.....

"You're slow!..Ouch!"

Meiria raised a shrilling voice while criticizing me.

"I'm very sorry. Toris, Ralpa, please heal her."

"Eh? Weren't you defeated?"

"You were defeated as well right?"

"You can already use magic?"

The three suckers each said.

"The remaining magician used healing magic on us. Since she has an extremely high amount of mana. It's already fine. We can even use magic."

Toris replied as if it was nothing at all. Toris and Ralpa obeyed my words without showing any dissatisfaction in their expressions,

after crouching on Meiria's side Toris used {Cure Serious} and Ralpa used {Cure Light} to heal her. The pain should have softened quite a bit. Following that just as he requested they used healing magic on Koritto as well.

After that, I told Toris to use {Cure} on the other injured people.

As expected with that they should have gotten quite a bit better.

"Haruku-san, if he has that many healing spells used on him then he should already be fine right?"

"How about Misu?"

"Kimu, is there still quite a bit of pain?"

"I'm already fine, let's go to the temple when we return."

The three suckers and Kamu were calling out to each of the injured.

"That's right! We have the charms! Didn't we hand out charms to everyone! It's fine even if you put off healing for later."

"Yeah, particularly Haruku he should have two of them. It's not like he'll die right away, it's only obvious that you start healing from the leader."

While the Rindobel couple was each saying that Kamu let out a sigh and said.

"The charms are certainly something wonderful but they can't be used unless we go to the temple. If we don't make it in time aren't they completely meaningless..In actual fact last even Yuriel had a charm on her."

Everyone focused their attention on Kamu. Since it's not urgent situation like just before and there's no particularly pressing matter now, there's no problem with disputing that itself. However,

while it could be explained away in the continuing disorder right after combat finished but right now it's completely taken on the shape of conflicting opinions.

"..Ffu...It still hurts quite a bit...Let me say it as well."

Haruku started talking.

"Koritto-san, Meiria-san. You two, were those sorts of people I

see..Honestly speaking if Greed-kun hadn't use healing magic on me there then I might have died. Though I left them in the room on the 6th floor but it's certainly true that I have two charms. Since I

luckily have never even needed to use them once until now.."

He had Rokko hold his upper body up and when Haruku somehow managed to speak that far he started coughing. But, he quickly continued his words.

"Thanks to the {Slaughterers} just now I was somehow able to recover to the point where there's no need to worry. As expected I still haven't completely recovered but..even then I was able to escape the dilemma. I heard all of the conversation from just now. In the first place, if you two can yell that loud then there's already no need to worry right.."

He started coughing again for a bit. I secretly exchanged glances with Miduchi.

"I still have plenty of mana remaining. I'll use a healing spell.

Please relax and lay back."

Miduchi advanced forward and crouched by Haruku's side while saying.

"Ye..Yeah, sorry about that. I'm saved.....oo!! This is amazing."

After Miduchi used {Cure All} on Haruku she immediately went to

Meiria's side and used {Cure All} on her as well.

".....Eh....Ah.."

On Koritto beside her as well.

".....O...Mu.."

On Misu as well.

".....No way....It's unbelievable.."

On Kimu as well.

".....Aaah!!....This is the same as with the charm?"

"As expected I'm about at my limit. But, with this I think you

should already be close to completely healed. In a short while

almost all of the pain should disappear as well."

After she said that she lined up besides Toris and Ralph with an

expression as though she was exhausted from concentrating. Well,

she won't come over to my side.

"This, is it {Cure All}?"

Misu asked Miduchi. Miduchi silently nodded. Seeing that Kamu and

the three suckers were completely surprised.

"Huh?"

"What was that?"

"You're lying right.."

"Thanks, that is, you used quite a bit of mana right?"

"If it's like this then something like the charm is

unnecessary.."

"So..So the {Slaughterers} had this sort of amazing~

sorcerer."

"Hey~ Kalstalan-san. Let me join the {Slaughterers}."

"Wha..Me..Me too!"

"Oooh, me too!"

"Just before I finished off that ogre! I'm more useful!"

Now then, from here on a bit of acting is necessary. Make sure you

do it well. Thinking that it was just when I was about to exchange

glances with Toris.

"You're loud! Shut up. First off just like with Kamu you should start by thanking them. You..Kalstalan-san was it? I'm sorry about that. I was really saved. Thanks."

When Haruku thanked the four {Slaughterers} starting with Miduchi then Misu and Kimu each started thanking them as well.

"It's fine. And then, in the first place if you hadn't saved us when we fell into a dilemma then we might have died as well after all.."

Toris looked at me while saying that. After that he continued lowering his head to me.

"Al-san. I was mistaken. You're a person that we need. The reason the harmony in the party was disturbed was originally because of these two fighting. Due to the events this time these two have greatly reflected and I'm sure that jsut the same as me they realized that we need you. This time, the only reason we {Slaughterers} are still alive was because Al-san came along and took command."

Eh~~ are you seriously saying that here? I guess it's fine though.

If you're going to do it then I wish you would have at least saved it for a slightly more dramatic scene...

"We need you. Last month, please forgive us for abusing Al-san's kindness and looking down on you. Please return to us. Look!"

Toris put his hand on the back of Ralpha and Miduchi's heads while forcing them to lower their heads to me. Gwine is lowering her head as well. Don't do that here..Do it on the surface. This is troubling...

"I don't want to hear that sort of talk right now. Save it for

later."

I coldly declare and then look at the Rindobel couple, Koritto and Meiria. They're the only ones who haven't thanked the {Slaughterers}. Toris is making an expression like he failed. Well, that expression isn't all that unnatural right now.

"Wha?"

"What is it? That look?"

The two of them looked at me with looks of discontent.

I immediately returned my glance to Haruku and started talking to him.

"Haruku-san, there's something that I thought was a bit strange."

"What is it?"

"This winter, when I was still acting as the leader why you come and ask to join the {Slaughterers}?"

I said while looking at Haruku quietly. He made an expression that could be taken as self-derision. At the same time a change appeared in the expressions of the Rindobel couple.

"Haruku!"

Koritto raised his voice.

"Let's stop already. We've been together for five years but now that a person who can use the real {Cure All} has appeared it's already impossible right. Raizakku, Kemi, Misa, Rinkosu, Maraiyu, Fedo, Jakki, Dagurun..everyone was used conveniently by you two and died. How much did you suck out of them...Greed-kun, the matter this winter was.."

"What do you intend to say!?"

"Shut your mouth!"

The Rindobel couple suddenly stood up and tried to charge at

Haruku.

Chapter 199: Shield

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 25

"Gwine! Ralpa!"

Toris immediately commanded. Almost as if pulled along the two charged at the Rindobel couple. Gwine is holding down Meiria and Ralpa is holding down Koritto. Both of the couple has plenty of strength but even if they're Laios, we just finished healing their serious injuries now. They were easily able to hold them down it seems. If you were to ask what I was doing, then I was reflexively observing Meiria's state. Her face was twisted unattractively with regret.

"We only just used healing spells on you. Though it wasn't anything life threatening, it doesn't change the fact that it was a serious injury. Please rest for a bit."

Miduchi said with an indifferent tone of voice while looking down at the Rindobel couple as they were held to the ground.

"I'm very sorry for causing an uproar while you were in the middle of talking. I won't let anyone interfere with Al-san's conversation."

Toris apologized to Haruku and I.

"Let go!"

"Let go of me!!"

The Rindobel couple is struggling under Gwine and Ralpa. Kamu who was dumbfounded seeing this development on one side of Haruku walked forward and crouched down near the Rindobel couple.

"Koritto-san, Meiria-san. I'm interested in what Haruku-san was going to say as well. Please be quiet for a short while."

"Kamu! What are you saying!"

"That's right, don't be fooled! Hey, Rokko, Kevin, Jeru! Get these two off of us!"

As expected they excluded Misu and Kimu who still needed rest(?).

"Eh? Ah?"

"What's going on?"

"D..Don't ask me."

The three suckers can't keep up with the sudden developments.

"Rokko, Kevin, Jeru. Switch places with them and hold the

Rinbodel-sans down. Make properly sure they can't move."

Misu looked up at the three suckers and said while still sitting down.

"Yeah, we're depending on you three since you're still unharmed. My arm is still..I think I can manage it in a bit longer though."

Kimu said with her back to a tree while rubbing her right arm.

"O..Oh~ Leave it to me!"

"Now, let's change places."

"Sorry about that. Leave the rest to us."

Since for the time being instructions came to the three suckers on what they need to do they happily took over the role of holding down the couple from Gwine and Ralpha.

"Hmph..Additionally put a gag or something on them while you're at it..And, sorry about that...First off, Greed-kun I'll reply to your question. After that I want you to listen to my story for a bit.

Everyone else, that's fine right? Listen well.."

When Haruku said that the Rinobel couple started making a

disturbance again. Seeing Kevin and Jeru holding them down, Rokko

took a hand towel from his and Kevin's waist and sealed their mouths with it. That sure is filthy~

"In regards to me trying to join the {Slaughterers}, that was one of the plans that the four of us, Koritto, Meiria, Bin, and I drafted. Putting it simply we were testing the {Slaughterers}. Just now, Rokko and the others said they wanted to join the {Slaughterers} as well but every time the topic of the {Slaughterers} came up we couldn't stand it..Though to be more accurate the ones who couldn't stand it were those two and Bin...Last year, the first time Bin acted as a leader and we challenged the 6th floor, I'm sure many of you can remember it right?"

The members of {Sun.Ray} exchanged glances while nodding. Though everyone..was making uneasy faces.

"Last summer, I think there's a lot of members who remember the uproar when we ended up finding a route to make it to the teleport room on the 5th floor that only goes by three monster rooms...Ah, it will be a slightly long story. Greed-kun, and also the members of the {Slaughterers} I'd like for you to be patient and listen for a short while. And then, as a result of investigating that route, we confirmed three teleport destinations that can reach it. In other words, if you put some work into teleporting from the 4th floor to the 5th floor then it's not like you can't make it there. Do you remember the night we finally made the decision to go to the 6th floor?"

The members of {Sun.Ray} all nod in unison.

"There's no way I could forget. There was an uproar that we would

finally overtake {Verdure.Brotherhood} and line up shoulders with the {Slaughterers}, we could become the number one in Baldukk."

Jeru muttered.

"Yeah, that's right. Additionally, remember back to the people who were selected at that time. It's fine that Bin was the leader. He and I would often switch out after all. Well, with Bin as leader and I as the sub. It was Bogusu, Ginger, Binsu, Yuriel, Jeru, and Hisu those eight. I'll talk about why those members were selected after."

The three suckers started listening with serious expressions. Misu, Kimu, and Kamu were making shocked expressions.

"That time, when we ended up getting caught in the teleport trap, we got separated from Bogusu, Ginger, Binsu, and Yuriel. Jeru, you were there too. You remember right?"

"Yeah, like I could forget.."

Jeru bit into his lip while making a mortified expression as he held Koritto down.

"The {Slaughterers} saved Ginger and Binsu. At the extraordinary price of 500,000 per person. Additionally you even went to the trouble of carrying Yuriel's corpse. I was happy at that time, Greed-kun."

"No.."

It's nothing much. No, it's nothing too special. Though it's fine if you say even more.

"There was nothing we could do about just Bogusu but when we returned to the surface there was no other choice than to tell Rindoel-san and the others just as it happened. Bogusu and Yuriel.

Since we lost the two magic users, and our numbers were reduced, for a short while after that we had no choice other than to enter the dungeon with a full party of members. Though this was just returning to originally so it's not really related..Ah, sorry about that."

Seeing Haruku cough here and there Toris took out his flask and handed it to him.

"I, thought about it. We're no rival for the {Slaughterers}. You carelessly saved the members of a different party on the dangerous 6th floor and it's not like you pushed that favor on us either. Even though it was a cheap sign of gratitude that didn't match up to the danger you went through you smiled and accepted it without a single complaint. Even though you should have gone through a reasonable amount of trouble to carry the materials in you let us use the shower at no cost. Regardless of the fact that most of your members are still at ages close to children, your abilities are extremely high. Though it's also because a number of them can use magic but you're earning the most in Baldukk and stepping food on the most dangerous floors. If you really wanted to I thought something at our level you could have easily make light of us without even trying."

He~? That's quite the high assessment.

"But, Koritto-san and Meiria-san, and also Bin were different. Most likely, I think that everyone was the same. Several years ago, Meiria-san said it right? Aren't you mortified that a group where 1/3rd of the members are still brats is earning more than {Sun.Ray}? like that. Even though it was only obvious that

Koritto-san was mortified as well...Well it wasn't just limited to Koritto-san, I'm sure anyone would be mortified. Even I was. However, I realized it at that time. The {Slaughterers} are somehow different from normal adventurers..Then there's the matter this time. The Rindobel-sans easily tried to abandon me."

..Fumu.

"It could be that there was others who knew the same as me but you didn't want to accept it right? Everyone was saying it normally right...Well it's fine. In any case since our combat forces decreased it had already become difficult to enter the dungeon with multiple parties. We wanted to replenish our forces from somewhere but there's no way taking in the riffraff around there would be much of combat potential. If they don't have at least the abilities of a top team then they might end up slowing us down after all.."

"Well, I guess so."

"I know."

Someone muttered.

"In any case we somehow wanted to replenish our forces. There what we set our sights on was the {Slaughterers}. Was it near the end of the last year? Around the end of summer the dark elf sis joined you followed by another young fellow right? The young Cat-people guy. Up until then we heard rumors that the {Slaughterers} might split their party into two as well but since there were 10 people, we couldn't be sure of it. However, after seeing you enter the dungeon with 11 people we were convinced of it. If it's this then if things go well we might be able to pull out one or two members."

The Rindobel couple started struggling again but they're still being properly held down.

"The Rindobel-sans, Bin, and I discussed it a number of times. In any case there was no starting it unless we investigated things. While were investigating things we found out that you were reasonably familiar with those knights who came along. You often ate meals together with them right? That's why first we decided to get close to them. Since it was certain they were true knights after all, they should have a reasonable level of abilities as well. We even thought that depending on the case it might be good add them to put our forces back into order."

Haruku took the rubber cork off of Toris's flask and drank a couple of sips.

"..Fu..Even though Rodrick and Fio were true knights, since they were newcomers as adventurers the Rindobel-san's were easily able to approach them. However, it seemed like they didn't really understand how strong the {Slaughterers} were either. There we decided to try testing things out. We thought of sending someone in and then trying to invite them from inside. You can already guess the method to invite members right? It's the charms. The fact that I had real charms was one of the deciding factors. After that, we got the information that you were looking for a combat slave who can already use the shield skillfully. Conveniently I had a bit of confidence in my ability to use the shield. It's something that's often said in the rumors right, something like a group of softhearted, brainless brats would easily accept it was it right?

Koritto-san."

Koritto is silent, he's not replying at all.

"I thought it was impossible. I could feel it when I talked to

Greed-kun previously. There's no way you would make someone like me into a companion, even more so I thought you were such a fool that you would get caught in this sort of trap. Of course I said that.

But, since Bin said that if it succeeds we profit and even if it fails we might be able to shake you up so I had no choice but to do it. However, the {Slaughterers}..saved Binsu and Ginger. You saved them for an amount of money that was almost free. You even let us use the shower on the 5th floor. In the worst case if you chose to accept me I intended to say something about it. That's why I was even relieved you turned me down. After that even when I was told to go again I just pretended to do it."

Honestly speaking, I did find it strange he backed off awfully

easily and didn't come again after that though...Since going off the timing Faruergaz and the others joined {Sun.Ray} several months after that I didn't think too deeply about it. So it was that sort of thing huh?

"It dragged out a bit long but just now was my reply to Greed-kun.

Next is..in regards to the members selected for going to the 6th floor the first time...Hey, Rokko, tie up those two with some random vines."

It was just then, Zenom and the remaining members of the

{Slaughterers} started to arrive as well. Zulu came over to my side and knelt before handing up the magic stones.

"We appreciate the rescue. Greed-sama. In regards to saving us, I

bow before you offer my gratitude. These are the magic stones of the ogres we were up against. Though it's something meager, please accept them."

When Zulu said that, Zenom, Bel, Basutorial, and Angela who came along as well lowered their heads. Angela and Basutorial are kneeling. Matching with that Toris, Ralpha, Miduchi, and Gwine also lowered their heads to me again.

I received the five magic stones from Zulu and just like that place them in front of Koritto and Meiria.

Rokko was using his knife to cut off some vines from a nearby tree and using that to tie up the Rindobel couples legs and arms. Of course, he was borrowing the help of Kevin and Jeru as he did it.

Haruku looked at their state with a slightly sad face before starting to talk again.

Is it about time?

"Starting from here is a story that is unrelated to everyone in the {Slaughterers}. However, I don't think you'll lose out listening to it. Just as everyone knows, I joined {Sun.Ray} a bit over five years ago. Before I entered {Sun.Ray}..when I was even younger I had my own party. We didn't have a second name, we were just a normal six member party. There we ended up screwing up and I lost my five members. There was an idiot who fell in a pitfall on the 3rd floor, while we were trying to save him we were ambushed by monsters. We fought desperately but in that combat four people died. The one survivor and I escaped the dungeon as our lives depended on it. However, we didn't have any money. I ran into the

healer but they would only use healing spells four times. That fellow had taken spears all over his body and needed even more healing.."

Someone gulped.

"..Since it couldn't be helped I decided to sell myself as a combat slave. The ones who bought me were a party that was earning a decent amount at the time called {Twin Gold}. The person who was the leader there bought me. I was 10 gold coins. It's a good price right? Eh? Why did I go that far? Ah, the one who was injured was my little brother. In any case, thanks to that my little brother was saved. I brushed my chest in relief that time. But, with me the {Twin Gold}s had just 10 members. There was no room for my little brother to enter."

Haruku drank some water.

"..Feeling apologetic towards me my little brother tried frantically to enter the dungeon and earn money to buy me back. But, as expected alone..Since it couldn't be helped he gave up on the dungeon and started being a normal adventurer. Ah, he's still alive. The one who bought me was Koritto-san. He bought me and released me right away. It was just by chance but the {Sun.Ray} at the time caught a glimpse of {Twin Gold}s combat in the dungeon. It's strange saying it myself but during that time my combat abilities were quite something. Koritto-san probably wanted my power and had expectations there. I was grateful. I thought I wanted to be useful to these people. I thought I would even do whatever they asked. I was only thinking about doing whatever I could to be useful to them and pay back my debt as soon as

possible."

..My throat has started to get dry as well. I'll drink some water.

I took out my emergency use bag and drank some water from a flask that resembles Toris. It's bad. I filled it with water from the well before I entered the dungeon but that was already three days, no, I guess four days ago. I guess it's still better it's not rotting.

"This is where the charms everyone knows about becomes related. The time when I found out about the charms, I thought that if I just had this at that time I wouldn't have had to become a slave. At the same time I didn't think that the Rindobel-sans were making spending money with it at all. It takes time but if you can get your hands on the real then then they'll use an amazing healing spell on you. It's something that normally you can only get after visiting the temple for 10 or 20 years. Though that takes a bit of time, you can get your hands on it this fast. Even if it's expensive, I thought it was only obvious if they earn a bit of profit from it. Everyone else thinks so too right?"

All of the members from {Sun.Ray} are nodding. Is it still not yet?

"That's why I didn't just pretend not see it, I even cooperated. At first, I just thought that those who wanted the notes but ended up suffering serious injuries before they recieved them were just useless as members. We even sucked all we could get out of them before attacking them from behind in the dungeon and finishing them off. Eventually, I finished paying off my debt and my body returned back to normal but even then my gratitude to the Rindobel-sans

didn't fade. Since {Sun.Ray} had already become a corner of one of the top teams and we were earning quite a bit as well, I continued to think that if the Rindobel-sans took a bit of a large share from that it was only obvious. But, the price of the reward just kept escalating. Since I luckily never suffered any serious injuries up until here I got off with just two of them but..Jeru, you, how much did you pay in reward for the charm you've asked for right now?"

"If I remember correctly it was 4,000,000 around last May, 500,000 in the summer, after that was..Another 50 and then 30 in the spring for a total of 5,500,000."

Jeru counted on his fingers. The answer was incorrect but as expected I guess he can do addition.

"At first it was just 2,500,000. Now they start off taking 4,000,000, and then it costs even more additional money. It's a good business but if there's a person in Baldukk who can use the real {Cure All} then it would bankrupt. It's already impossible Rindobel-san."

Haruku said while looking at the Rindobel couple and soon returned his glance to everyone else before continuing.

"You get it right? Everyone is suckers. Of course, if you can properly be recognized by the Rindobel-sans for your combat abilities then you can escape being a sucker. It was the same for me and Bin, and after that Misu and Kamu as well. And, if you gain even more of their trust then you can become a leader like Bin and I. In the past, there was also Maraiyu and Misa. Both of them unfortunately were killed when we ran into the ice monster on the

5th floor. Bin and I were their successors."

I took another sip of water. Since it's after doing some physical activity your throat dries quite a bit.

"Try to remember back on it. Bin and I were often saying to pay money for the sake of the charms right? We suggested that it was reassuring just holding on to them right? It's not particularly like we deceived you. It takes time and money but it's certain that eventually a proper charm will come back. However, it's only for the people who can manage to stay alive with their own abilities for a year or two after they join."

Things get noisy. Koritto and Meiria are still caterpillars.

Huh?

"For the time being we were still one of the top teams. Since just like this we've come to the 5th floor, and now it's the 6th and 7th floor but we required people with over a fixed level of abilities to enter our party. However, it was just that. If we were to use some extreme logic then they're fine as long as we can use them as shields when we're on the deeper floors. Of course if they're a sturdy shield then it's greatly welcome. Here remember back to the members that went to the 6th floor last summer. Since that was the first time. Putting it frankly, investigating the 6th floor was the primary objective. How many monsters are in what places? What kinds of traps and how dangerous they, that was the primary objective of the investigation. Of course even if we say it's dangerous it would all be pointless if we end up completely wiping out. A reasonable combat formation was necessary."

However, this Haruku, he really just keeps going on and on talking.

Is it a grudge for almost being abandoned? If they had really retreated right away at that time then it's certainly true he almost definitely would have died after all.

"However, including the ones that died, our members at that time.

Remember back. It's a floor we were stepping foot on for the first time. Don't you think it's only obvious to go with your best members and furthermore a full party of 10? It would have been only obvious to go with Koritto-san, Meiria-san, me, Bin, Misu, Bogusu, Kamu, Binsu, Kimu, and Rokko. It would have been best to have as many magic users as possible but as expected Yuriel and Santos weren't quite there yet...Among those less than half of that only four people actually went to the 6th floor. That time, wasn't it because Jeru and Hisu said they wanted to go. Yuriel was because as expected there weren't enough magic users, Ginger is..That is..I think that Greed-kun already knows but she's my woman after all."

Jeru froze up with his eyes wide open. Rather~ I didn't know that.

It's good I didn't demand her body...Though I didn't have any intention of it. Though because of Ralpha I ended up having say a stupid joke. Ah, I guess he also felt indebted to the {Slaughterers} because we saved his woman as well. Though it already doesn't matter at all.

"That was shortly after Jeru paid 4,500,000 Z. Hisu had paid over 4,000,000 as well. Incidentally, Rokko had been saying he'd pay, he'd pay but he still hadn't paid yet and Kimu had only just received her charm...Do you get what I'm trying to say? Originally,

you all were sacrifices for when an absurdly strong monster appears in the boss room. Ah, of course it's still true if you were to return safely then that's all the better though."

Ah, I might have started to feel like going to take a piss...

"But already, everything doesn't matter anymore. Even though I worked so hard for them that easily, they abandoned me like useless trash, and just like this we even found out there's a person who can use {Cure All}. It's already over for {Sun.Ray}..I'll confess everything when we return!"

It was then that Meiria started furiously writhing around and simultaneously she tore through the vines tying her up with sheer power and took the hand towel stuck in her mouth out. Instantaneous huh...

Since her actions were far too sudden when everyone was shocked and couldn't move, I was the only who noticed Meiria hadn't used her racial special skill yet and was being cautious of it. Meiria was probably being patient until the pain disappeared.

I gave her a round kick to the face and when she fell down I sent a kick flying with my ebonite tipped boots towards her mouth. Then I stuck my long sword in front of her eyes.

"Keinesutan-san, I'm sorry for the trouble but could you please tie her up again?"

I smiled and said to Rokko. After all this guy is the one who got the vines and tied her up.

We waited until Rokko finished tying her up again.

"Now then, it seems like the story is already over, how is everyone's injuries? Since Meiria-san was able to move, I think that quite a bit of the pain should have disappeared but.."

After all it seems they've recovered quite a bit.

"Since it's a waste let's gather the magic stones from the ogres.

Since the five over there belong to {Sun.Ray}, our earnings for today are 26 of them. They're worth quite a bit, these things."

After I said that I took the initiative to go around gathering the magic stones. Since we split up while doing it we finished gathering them all in a bit over 10 minutes. The {Slaughterers} seemed out of place but it was necessary to keep lookouts for Koritto and Meiria, and if it's them there's no chance of them breaking through so I left them to keep watch.

"Then, shall we return? Ah, everyone from the {Slaughterers}, thank you for your help. I would like to continue with a friendly relationship from here on out as well."

""Al-san..""

Toris and Bel were making faces like they were about to cry. What are you remaining quiet, there's something for you to say right.

"Please come back."

Miduchi advanced forward and said. I already heard that. In reality you're the one who should be saying it first right.

With a severe expression I just stared at everyone in the

{Slaughterers}. The members of {Sun.Ray} are just silently watching over.

There's no helping it just having a staring contest.

I let out a single sigh and opened my mouth.

"I said to leave that discussion for later.."

I said that while positioning it so the {Sun.Ray} is behind me and can't see while winking repeatedly.

It seems Miduchi realized it.

"I understand, we'll slowly talk over that matter when we return to the surface...Also separate from that, everyone from {Sun.Ray}, I can certainly use {Cure All} but I'd like to avoid unnecessary chaos. Would you please remain quiet about the {Cure All} from today? If anyone were to come asking me to use {Cure All} on them that would mean one of you ended up exposing it and from that point on {Sun.Ray} would become our enemies. Of course, we wouldn't do something like attacking you but you should take care of your good health and remain careful when walking alone inside of the dungeon."

That's right. Even in the first plan that was something Toris or Bel were supposed to say. You too as well stop making faces like you've suddenly remembered it.

"..That's certainly true. Got it. I promise not to say anything. We have one request to make as well."

Karuku replied. Now that the Rindobel couple is restrained he's naturally acting as the leader.

Though it's certainly true there's no one else suitable for it.

"We intend to hand these two over to the knight group when we return to the surface. Of course, we have other members as well so we'll decide on that after discussing it with them though. In the first place since we don't even know what kind of crime they could be accused of so we might end up lynching and killing them. Though that's the same for Bin and I as well. If we luckily don't end up being killed I'd like you to act as witnesses for my testimony.

Right now other than Greed-kun, there's no other nobles here."

"In regards to that we'll promise as well."

Toris replied.

"Also, in regards to our leader but you'll return him when we return to the surface right?"

Bel said with a tearful voice. Hey now, are you an idiot? Exactly how shocked are you.

"The one to decide that isn't us. Ask the person himself. Right now, {Sun.Ray} has in essence lost it's leader so no one would blame him for leaving. And also, at the very least until we return to the surface it seems he intends to act together with us after all. I'd like him to act as testimony from a noble that was a member of {Sun.Ray} during the day of judgement as well. Additionally, in order for us to make it back to the teleport crystal to return on the 7th floor we need him as an escort. Since it's certain that these two have already recovered from their wounds, we never know when the husband might try to use magic. We'll need his help at that time as well."

After we split ways with the {Slaughterers} we returned the path we originally came from. Of course, we took the map from the Rindobel couple so there's no getting lost I'm sure. There's landmarks as well.

"Ah, I'm going to take a piss really quick."

I said that and turned around to enter the bushes when Rokko grabbed my arm.

"Sorry but do it here. It would be a problem if you use magic when we're not looking as well. Misu is saying she still hasn't

recovered her mana after all."

..It would have been great if I hadn't had a drink of water. As expected I wasn't forced to do it with everything seen but being at a distance where the sound can be heard is unpleasant. If it was the large one then even the smell would reach...

Chapter 200: Exposure

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 25

On our way back since we took the same path we came it was a bit easier than the way here since we didn't encounter any ogres. In regards to the Rindobel couple but putting aside the wife, the husband is a magician. On Rokko's suggestion Kevin and Jeru broke the fingers on both of his hands to make it so he can't use magic. Also, in order to prevent the two of them from exchanging looks or discussing things we properly left a distance between them as we brought them along.

During the time we were returning everyone was asking Haruku various questions. But, it's only there was some things that Haruku didn't know either. During those times they directed the questions to the Rindobel couple but neither of them would give a reply.

On the way, Kamu who wasn't remaining quiet without joining the conversation the same as me said to everyone.

"This time, by chance I wasn't injured. That's why I might not have the right to say anything. But, if we had made even a single mistake I think the chances were high I would have suffered a serious injury as well just like that. Though since Greed-kun is here I don't think I would have died...But, I can't forgive what the Rindobels did...I think I've paid 7,000,000 for two charms up until now. I used one of them but I still haven't received the other one.."

Hearing that Misu replied.

"It's unrelated whether you were injured or uninjured. In the first place didn't we already hear that this wasn't something that just started this time. On the contrary if it weren't for this time then I think we would have been preyed on forever. Right now, even this moment I feel like my insides are burning up to the point I want to hit them with a {stone Javelin}."

Rokko and the three suckers are saying, that's right, that's right, as well and pushing the Rindobel couple.

"Kevin, Jeru, stop doing such dull things. We can do that sort of stuff as much as we want later. Rather than that we need to properly remain cautious...Though I don't think they can do anything at this point. I won't recognize these two as leaders anymore. Even Bin I can't think of as an ally anymore."

Kimu said as if spitting it out. Hearing that everyone made angry faces while agreeing.

It took until evening for us to return to the place we teleported into the 7th floor.

A short while before we grabbed the crystal rod to teleport to the 6th floor Haruku said to me.

"Greed-kun. After this if you were to return to the {Slaughterers} there's no one who would blame you. No, in the first place I'm sure there's no one with the power to blame you... If possible, I'd like for you to stay in {Sun.Ray} and bring everyone together but I don't know what will happen to those two, including myself and Bin. I think the chances are even high we could be lynched and killed.

..Ginger might throw a rock at me as well...Honestly speaking, if

the four of us end up leaving {Sun.Ray} our combat forces will drop to the floor so there's probably no merit to remaining. It's difficult to say anything unreasonable. Since the {Slaughterers} have already say they want you to return, I think it would be more intelligent to ignore this {Sun.Ray} and return...Since you're still young I'm sure you have your own pride but it's the best when they're still lowering their heads like that. I think it would be best to just honestly return."

It was a bit unexpected that he would say this far.

"Even if they decide to lynch you, you just intend to silently obey?"

I wonder if he obediently intends to abide by the judgement of the members?

"..As long as they properly think about the order..If everyone wishes for a lynch then I intend to silently obey. I don't know what Bin will do but he's not the type to just quietly be finished off. I'm sure he'll resist. That's why, we need to get to the point of restraining him. If I'm the last one of the four to be killed then I intend to just quietly die. Now that I've already exposed everything to the public, also, since I was the first one who confessed all of it, I'm sure that's my responsibility."

Before we noticed everyone had gathered around us and was listening in on what Haruku said. By the point we arrived here Koritto and Meiria, the Rindobel couple were tied up again by both their arms and legs. We've properly gagged them as well. Hearing they might be lynched fear appeared on their faces but no one tried telling them to relax.

"It's just right, everyone make sure you listen well. Alright, don't forgive me. Don't misunderstand. I'm not doing this because I want everyone to pity or sympathize with me, even more so it's not like I'm reflected on my actions up until now. I've just snapping at this couple on the spot for cutting me down after all these years. Everything these two two have built up, I just wanted to destroy everything. Don't forget it. I'm a man that in the past killed his own party members from behind who had done nothing wrong at all."

After saying that he took a breath and continues his words.

"..From now on everyone, for the time being look to Kamu for instruction. Rokko is older but since you're too much of an idiot, even if it's only temporary give up on leader. In terms of ability Greed-kun is fine as well but he only just entered {Sun.Ray} after all. If he blatantly tries to approach then it's possible Bin will get cautious."

He said that and grabbed the crystal rod while everyone looked daunted. Four of us including me forced the Rindobel couple to grab the crystal rod while they were struggling.

"Barruhato"

And then we teleported into the teleport room on the 6th floor.

.....

The {Slaughterers} were waiting in the room. Since there's only a distance of about an hour from that monster room to the teleport room on the 7th floor, it's only obvious they would arrive here faster than us. After the {Slaughterers} confirmed that I safely

was able to return here and they said "We're going ahead" while looking at {Sun.Ray} gathering their belongings and teleported to the 5th floor. I feel like we'll end up meeting them again around the 4th floor.

"They were worried about you right."

Misu smiled at me.

I just shrugged my shoulders while gathering my bags as a reply.

"Kamu, confirm the plan."

Haruku said to Kamu. If we're unlucky then it's possible there might be other parties on the floors above this. Even the remaining three top teams, it's not as if they don't come to the teleport room on the 5th floor at all. It would be troublesome if we end up being overheard while talking after we teleport. It's best to think that this will be our last chance to discuss things without anyone else definitely overhearing us.

The discussion centers around Kamu and we went over the arrangements to restrain Zemyunel.

The time right now has just passed 6 pm.

The members of the second party of {Sun.Ray} are most likely still searching for ores on the 3rd or 4th floors while using the teleport rooms there as a base. It seems that judging from the time they'll return to the room at latest in one or two more hours.

We confirmed the procedures in both cases of whether they've already returned or haven't returned yet. Since it's the teleport crystal room you could say the salvation is that there's not much need to worry about anyone interfering. There's no way other

adventurers who were already in the room would meddle after all.

In any case, we considered restraining him without giving him a chance to say anything. Centering around Kamu the ideas were gathered together. Fundamentally Misu will(it's only obvious though) act as if she doesn't know anything and freeze even just one of Zemyunel's legs in ice, with his movements largely dulled Rokko and the others will lunge at him, remove his equipment, and tie him up.

At first the role of freezing him in ice was thrown to me but if a newcomer like me were to suddenly do that, putting aside Zemyunel himself, Ginger, Binsu or the others who don't know the circumstances might react so I said that refusing it.

I had the feeling that if things came to that Hirosukol would gleefully point his sword towards me after all. If I'm careless he might end up using an attack spell. If I'm suddenly hit with an arrow type attack spell from close range even if it's me I can't evade it and if it hits the wrong place I might suffer a serious injury. Pardon me from something like that.

We broke Koritto's fingers again when they still haven't recovered causing him to pass out and chipped away at his will to resist again before we teleported consecutively into the 5th and 4th floors. Just as I guessed the {Slaughterers} were on the 4th floor but I just lightly nodded towards Toris. It seems it's fine for them as long as they can confirm I'm safe. Other than that, there was equipment in the corner of the room that probably belongs to {Gehenna.Flare}.

Kamu, Misu, Rokko, Kevin, Jand Jeru those five went ahead to teleport. In the worst case, if the second party is in the 3rd floor teleport room then they'll charge as Zemyunel first and restrain him. If we all teleport together he might see the Rindobel couple tied up and be suspicious of it after all. After waiting for about 5 minutes the remaining five of us teleported. When we teleported to the 3rd floor there was an uproar. There the five of us teleported in late. If you teleport in from a lower floor you end up being placed in random places that are open around the room. Kimu ran over to Koritto who's legs are tied up and kicked his still broken fingers that were tied behind his back. I quickly looked around the room and after discovering Meiria stuck my sword to her as well.

Zemyunel has his right leg solidified in a large block of ice like a jerry can and Rokko is on top of him punching him. Ginger and the other members of {Sun.Ray} who don't know the circumstances are trying to stop that. Misu is holding out her right hand with it stretched out to hold those second party members in check. Under Kamu's order Kevin and Jeru are knocking Zemyunel about quite a bit as well. And then there's 20-30 outsiders watching and jeering that on from a distance.

"Greed-san! What is the meaning of this!?"

Faruergaz shouted but I didn't even turn to look at him.

"Shut your mouth, brats!"

With Haruku's roar the tumult all of the members of second party of

{Sun.Ray} were making stopped in an instant.

"Is it a {Coupe}? Or an hijacking? Regardless I'd like an explanation that I can agree with!"

Hirosukol said in protest but from just a single glare from Haruku

he shut up.

Rokko and the others are using the rope they prepared to tie up the

Rindobel couple and Zemyunel together.

"I'll explain things now so remain quiet."

Haruku said that and went to the side of Zemyunel who is gasping

from beating beaten half to death by him and sat down. I guess he's

saying to tie him up as well. Urged on by Kamu, Rokko and the

others tied up Haruku without even making an apologetic face. I

guess that's only obvious, after all I'm sure they hold a

grudge.

.....

Haruku exposed everything he knew.

"This is just about all of the outline of it..Sorry about that,

Ginger. I was this sort of man."

Haruku made a smile that could be taken as self-derision and turned

his eyes away from Ginger.

"Everyone, you can feel free to lynch us or hand us over to the

knight group, whatever you want. I won't complain even if I'm

lynched and killed right here and now. It's fine if you hand us

over to the knight group but I don't really get what kind of crime

it would be. But, since Binsu is here after all. If you were to

make an accusation I think the knight group would listen to it. I'm

sure it's not like the preparations have been made for your charm

yet after all."

Binsu aka Binnodo.Gekudo is the third son of a sub-Baron family.

His litte sister Yuriel aka Yoranfinu, who died last year was the

second daughter was it? If I remember correctly the punishment for

fraud in Marquis Webdos territory was 1 lash with the whip. Though I don't know if it's the same in the royal territory but I doubt it would be much different.

However, I don't know when it's a case where the victim is a noble.

I'm sure it'll get a bit heavier but I don't think it would go to execution. Most likely the number of lashes would increase. They might demand an even larger fine? I don't know if it changes when it comes to principal offender or accomplice either. I feel like it probably wouldn't change.

But, if Binsu's accusations are recognized then if the other

members of {Sun.Ray} who paid money accuse them as well then theirs might be accepted too. Obviously the number of times they're lashed with the whip will increase and the fines will increase as well. I don't know how much wealth the couple has amassed but I'm sure not just a few hundred million will be enough. They probably can't avoid being made into debt slaves. Prior to even that if the lashes increase enough it's very possible they could die before that.

But, rather than something like that the problem is what to do

right now. Though I say that, I have no intention of saying anything unless I'm asked.

"The money for the charms..What's going on with it!"

Binsu yells. It's only obvious.

Even he's been continuing to pay money since the time he wasn't

rich. 2,000,000 was it? It's cheaper than the other members but even that's 2 gold coins. It's plenty to consider a large amount.

"Binsu, calm down for now. Let's discuss what to do. After that, it's just temporary but I'm the current leader of {Sun.Ray}. Listen to me."

Kamu is calling out not just to Binsu but to Hisu and Ginger as well.

"Rodrick, Fio, Sanno, Ruttsu. How about you all? You all heard about the charms last month right. Did you already pay for them?"

She continued calling out to Faruergaz and the others.

"Ah, that is, I paid 2,000,000..Also, 4,000,000 for both of my slaves.."

Faruergaz replied with a pale face. Seriously 6,000,000....That's not even a joke anymore...

"Uu..I paid 100 as well.."

Hirosukol replied with a pale face as well.

"I..I did 500,000.."

"I did 500,000 as well.."

2,000,000 for these three huh? In terms of damage they're probably the lowest.

"When did you pay?"

It was near the end of last month for everyone. Roughly one month ago.

"The amounts are all over the place but the number of victims increased by four..Haruku-san. Do you think they've already started moving to obtain the charms?"

Kamu crouched down on the side of Haruku who was tied up and left rolling around while asking.

"They might have already started moving for about one persons portion. But, most likely they haven't even properly started moving

yet...I've already spoken everything I know. If you want to know anymore than this ask the person them self."

Haruku replied with his hands still tied up behind his back.

Hearing that Kamu sighed once, nodded that that's true, and then stood up.

"Kevin, take off Koritto's gag."

Ordered by Kamu, Kevin took off Koritto's gag.

Kamu pulled out the dagger at her waist and stuck it in front of Koritto's eyes before crouching down again.

"Answer my questions. I won't forgive any lies. If I think it's a lie then I won't forgive it either. I won't forgive remaining silent as well. First off, have you already started moving to obtain the charms with the money you gathered from everyone?"

"..Obviously. I haven't deceived anyone."

"Got it. Then, then you've already used all of the money you gathered from everyone as labor expenses is what that means right?"

"That's right.."

"I'm sure that you can't say anything but that. That's fine. If you said something like you still had it then that itself would be fraud after all."

"That's why I said I haven't commit any fraud. Rather than, let me say one thing."

"That's no good. I already know that you're good at talking. It's fine as long as you answer our questions."

Kamu flatly replied and continued.

"How did you move in order to obtain the charms?"

Around this point there were voices raised in question from the surrounding adventurers. In regards to charms and maneuvering

around. I'm sure it's already common knowledge that there's internal discord between {Sun.Ray} but in regards to the cause for that, they must be questioning it because even when it's being talked about right in front of their eyes now they can't understand it.

Misu who was watching over the four rolling on the ground stepped up and glared at the surroundings while saying.

"You're all too noisy, don't interfere in our business. If you can't remain quiet then go off and earn on the 3rd floor or return to the surface."

Somehow I completely had the impression of her as a loose person but as expected of a member of a top team. With just a single line and glare she silenced the masses. Rather, I'm sure it's because no one wants to make {Sun.Ray} into an enemy after all.

After confirming the surroundings have gotten quiet Kamu started interrogating Koritto again.

"Who do you have making maneuvers for the charms? Which temple is it?"

After all it was just as I imagined, they gathered up and bribed some appropriate individuals and had them line up at the temple it seems. However, I guess they were afraid of it being exposed by the adventurers, they were doing it across multiple temples in Rombertia. They also said since the cost of buying it isn't fixed there's a difference in the amount they charged for it. Though I think that's not the case. I'm sure they just made it cheaper for nobles right?

"What was that about having special connections! There's nothing

special or anything at all about that!"

Jeru shouts. However, the fact that they were able to think of it, put it into practice, and get their hands on a reasonable amount of real ones is something that honestly deserves praise. In the first place, you all paid money because you accepted that didn't you?

"After this we'll investigate whether you were really in the middle of maneuvers and even if you were in the process of it whether you properly paid all of the money from everyone. I'm sure if it came to hiring people then you should have someone in the capital gathering people as well right? Tell me their location and how to get into contact with them."

She said that while trying to ask about the contractor that dispatches the labor but he stubbornly wouldn't reveal it. Though there might really not be one. Just from what I've confirmed they always make the day of a full moon a holiday but for {Sun.Ray} close to half of the month is a holiday. It wouldn't be strange even if they went to the capital and called out gathering up the poor and broke themselves.

"I've already told you everything! We haven't deceived anyone!

That..That's right! Rather than that, Greed! You bastard! You're the one trying to deceive us right!"

Huh? The fact that I left the {Slaughterers} just in appearance doesn't count as deceiving. The ones who misunderstood at your own convenience and invited me is you all. I never said a single lie in regards to the ogres as well. I just didn't talk about the information that they're weak to paralysis poison or that ogre

magicians might be mixed in as well. I didn't think they would ask about something like that pinpoint but in order to avoid the clatter later in the off chance they do ask I think I did said "that might be the case".

"Deceived? What in the world are you talking about?"

"The ogre magicians! I won't let you say you didn't know! Even though you explored the 7th floor all the time with the {Slaughterers} over there..you should have known about them!"

"Ha? I was wondering what you were going to say but that? Then on the contrary I'll ask you but you've been an adventurer for over a decade so I won't let you tell me that you didn't about the existence of ogre magicians, ogres that can use magic. Or else what is it? If humans, elves, or dwarves ever appeared as enemies in the dungeon, do you really think they wouldn't use magic?"

Since it seems ogre magicians often attack the caravans carrying food along mountain roads in Kanbitto to the East, isn't there quite a few people here that know about them? Everyone who doesn't know about ogre magicians please raise your hand."

After I said that I didn't just look around at the members of {Sun.Ray} but at the adventurers surrounding us. Previously, it's something that the members of the {Slaughterers} talked about before we challenged the 7th floor for the first time. Let alone ogre magicians, the only ones who didn't know about ogres were I who came from the remote country side, and Bel and Zulu who were born in Devas. Though it seems Gwine didn't know how strong ogres were. Since she was a merchant that only circled around the royal territory, so that's not unreasonable.

It's only obvious for Zenom who had actual experience against one, Toris and Angela knew the name as well. Also while they had never seen an ogre mage it seemed like they had at least heard of them. Just as predicted the number of people who raised their hands was low enough they could be counted. In {Sun.Ray} including even Faruergaz and Hirosukol, everyone from the first and second parties knew about them.

Well, I'll admit it's sneaky. Since it seems that ogre mages only appear on the mountain roads in the space between Kanbitto and Rombert so if you were to see a group of ogres other than there you normally wouldn't worry about an ogre mage being mixed in with them. However, it's already been investigated that they're known as an extremely powerful monster. There was plenty of time to investigate them..I killed one for the first time last year after all.

"Also, if you'll allow me to add to that but this is the first time I've genuinely fought against an ogre mage. When I was in the {Slaughterers} we almost always ambushed them and finished them off before they could use magic. Ah, even if you check their status it only shows them as ogres. Only after you check that they have magic special skills can you identify that they're not ogres but ogre mages."

I said that and shrugged my shoulders.

"That's right, what Greed-kun is saying isn't strange. We just assumed that ogre mages wouldn't appear other than in the North of Mount Kinru. Well I also feel like it would have been nice if you had at least said one word about them though...And also, wasn't all

of the information that Greed-kun explained to us correct? It's the same for his movements and combat abilities. Even this time it was a group of 11 ogres with ogre mages mixed in that we attacked but I heard that Greed-kun was the one who defeated all of the ogre mages.

He even defeated them right in front of our eyes. It wasn't just the ogre mages but even most of the ogres were defeated by him alone. Out of 11 ogres there was he defeated 7 of them himself. I even saw him defeat another 1 or 2 of them shortly before that as well. Didn't he even try to take on the most dangerous role of decoy by himself at first? I don't want to say something like this but isn't it strange that even though you all had six people you weren't even able to defeat one of them! If Greed-kun hadn't gone over wouldn't you have even been wiped out!?"

Rokko said. Did he see me cut down the ogre mages magic? No, I guess if he checks the status of it while collecting the magic stone afterwards then you can tell huh?

"..In regards to that we're equally at fault as well..Since Misu, Kimu, and I were all in that group after all..I wonder if it was just strangely strong individuals that came.."

Kamu said. I guess she was able to carefully observe since she was in the back firing arrows?

"There's no way that's the case right. Even the ones we were up against weren't any different from the ones up until now. And also, even the ogres that went over there were quickly finished off by Greed-kun right? They're the same."

Kevin said. Oh~ I'm sure the effect wasn't very good but I did hit

it with a throwing needle after all. It's movements got a bit duller right?

"Though if I think carefully about it, since it was a room boss it wouldn't be strange if there was a slightly strong one mixed in as well."

Kimu said. Ah, I guess there's that way of thinking about it as well. But when it comes to the room bosses on the 4th floor, occasionally you get {Ork Zombies} instead of {Ghouls} but they're no different from the ones in the halls. Of course, the ogres are the same ones as the halls as well.

"And also, just as Greed-kun said at the start, only half, four of them came over to us.."

Misu said. Yeah, I'm thankful for the praise but that was completely by chance. I mean it's not like I can do things to that point. Though it is true that I made sounds in the rear of the ogres urging them to remain cautious of the rear though.

"..Something like ogre mages doesn't matter at all. We've gotten off topic from the charms but the problem during the combat with the ogres was that they tried to retreat right after Haruku-san collapsed. It was clear to everyone that he was still alive. Also, it was clear that Rokko and the others were still fighting on the other side as well. Up until there it wasn't clear at all if there even were any ogre mages. Since they never used magic. Well, even if everything up to there is fine, following that right after Meiria was injured by the ogre mages magic you suddenly said something like holding our ground. Retreating after one person is taken out, then remaining after it's two people isn't that strange?

After that, after the combat, the order for healing was clearly strange as well.."

Kamu summarized it all together...I thought that Koritto wouldn't be able to answer back to that but when he said, "Meiria is a leader. It's only obvious that leaders and everyone else are different." it just poured oil on the fire. Those words themselves aren't mistaken but isn't that when someone other than the leader says it right. I don't know why but for some reason it reminds me of customers who say, "the customer is God". Simultaneously I also remembered a manufacturer that said the "seller and buyer are equal". It's the same as those, while they all might be the truth, there's people who are allowed to say it and people who shouldn't be saying it. Even in our past life among splendid members of society there were a lot of people who would say things like this so it's not strange for Koritto to say it but I wonder if somehow I wanted the people of Orth to remain simple?

Hearing that not just Ginger, Binsu, and Hisu but Sanno, Ruttsu, and Faruergaz and the others all were enraged. A short while after their conversation continued, Jeru started talking as if he was irritated.

"It's already fine. I'm grateful to Haruku-san for helping us realize it but after all I can't forgive this. In the first place, I don't like how they're acting so composed. You know I'm sure its just, since they still have plenty of unsigned charms remaining they thought they could cover it up. Though things won't go that way. Just now I remembered, Santos's portion.

He died in April. You know, he was born in Rombertia. I've gone to

his parent's house before as well. Since three months have already passed since then, you have no way of covering it up. Did you properly send the money that Santosu paid to his family? Of course it's fine if it's a charm as well though. Ha..Judging from that face I'm sure you didn't pay them. These people, I can't forgive them. Even if we push them out on the day of judgement, since either way it's not like our money will come back, let's just finish them off here."

After saying that he stuck the end of his spear to Koritto's chest.

Though I thought about looking for the timing to bring up the matter regarding Santosu.

Ginger is looking sadly down over Haruku.

Haruku was making sure not to meet eyes with Ginger.

Chapter 201: Gamble

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 25

Now then, I wonder what we should do about this. I don't think there would be punishment even if we just quietly watch the four of them get lynched but just watching a lynching isn't really a hobby of mine either. In the first place, they're pieces gained with such trouble..though I guess they're not that much but..so it's necessary for them to work a bit more.

"Please wait just a minute! Do you intend to lynch and kill them here!?"

I said to Jeru as if I was a bit flustered.

"Yeah, that's right. I can't forgive these two! Of course Bin and Haruku are guilty as well. There's no doubt these guys were playing us the fools and living the good life!"

Jeru has completely gotten emotional...Though it's not unreasonable. Of course, it's the same for the other members of {Sun.Ray} as well.

"Come now. Even if you don't get that angry they can't run from you. Putting aside handing them over to the knight group, wouldn't it be at least good to get back the money for the charms you never received? If it's like this then, something that could be returned won't come back."

I said that and nodded while looking around at everyone's face.

"Also, putting aside whether or not they were deceiving you, there's one point that I found strange. Why is the amount different

for each person? I would like to hear a clear answer in regards to that."

"I heard that it's because the amount of money needed for the maneuvers differs at that time but.."

Hirosukol replied to my question. Faruergaz is nodding as well.

"Nn~ is that so? Faruergaz-san and you all, did you all pay together?"

""Yeah.""

"What was the cost per person?"

"We were told it's 2,500,000 Z. That's why we still haven't paid the full amount but.."

Well, it might really be worth that amount if you can make a complete recovery from serious injuries that put you on the verge of death. Things around that area will differ based on values in regards to injuries and the amount of money they have so I can't say anything. However, since they still haven't paid all of it, it seems Faruergaz and the others are about out of money I'm sure. I think Hirosukol probably questioned riding Faruergaz's back even for the charm so the 1,000,000 he paid was probably his private funds. In regards to Sanno and Ruttsu I think it's probably the same.

"..A total of 15,000,000 Z for six people is it..That's quite the amount of money. By the way Keinesutan-san has paid over 5,000,000 but is supposedly still in a situation where it hasn't come back yet. Adding to that it seemed like it was still going to require paying even more. I've heard that Ramiresu-san and Harurein-san paid over 4,000,000 as well. I haven't heard whether these two

already have received a charm or not though. Gekudo-san paid 2,000,000 as well, and you haven't received it yet right? Ah that part doesn't particularly matter. Even if the price changes based on the time. Just, I found it strange how the difference in price was far too large."

Hearing my words Rokko, Jeru, Haru, and Binsu were remembering back to the amounts they paid.

"I'm sure even if we ask they won't give us a proper answer but the actual amount required for getting the charm is probably not even 2,000,000. They probably either demanded more money from people who were quietly waiting and didn't demand it from the ones who seemed loud or looked for an appropriate time and really handed over the charms they prepared. How about it, Koritto-san, Meiria-san?"

The Rindobel couple was just sulking with a sullen look and didn't say anything. Although, Meiria is still biting on a gag so she can't speak either way.

"I think it would be fine to take the fact that they're remaining silent as accepting it. Well, if you look at their faces it's obvious. Now then, the problem is the money that everyone paid them. As expected it's this amount. I think they would be concealing it somewhere. The temple is suspicious I'm sure. I'll explain as there might be some people who don't know but while it costs some money who you can store things at the temple. Of course even money is fine. They'll safely store things up to a fixed size away. If you were to lynch them here and kill them the money won't come back. Even then if you're fine with it, then I won't say anymore than this."

"..I understand, if we still haven't handed over the charm and you want us to return the money, then we'll return it...But, think of the charms as being something you'll never get your hands on again."

Koritto said. The first part was probably because he wanted to keep his life but the latter part was probably his goal.

"He's saying this but do you still intend to continue?"

Jeru withdrew his spear.

"Is that fine for everyone else as well?"

I confirmed that everyone in {Sun.Ray} had nodded.

"Well then, Mishausu-san, I leave the rest to you."

Kamu made a surprised expression when I threw the conversation to her but quickly tensed up.

"For the time being, shall we return to the surface..But..you all,

be grateful to Greed-kun..Since it saved your lives...Ah, also

before we return we need to confirm this as well. If we're not

going to lynch them here then we need to decide what to do."

After she said that she looked around at everyone. But, no one is saying anything and just looking around.

"Greed-kun, since you had a reason enough to stop the lynching,

didn't you have some kind of idea? Would you please tell us about it?"

"Not really, it's not like I have any special idea. It's just that

I thought even if you hand them over to the knight group like this

the money wouldn't come back..However, even if everyone's money

comes back, it's not like you would be fine with that right? Since

I'm sure it's largely a matter of feelings as well."

"That's certainly true."

"That's why, what's important is to first get the money back. After

that it will come down to how to dispel those feelings. But, the conclusion has almost already been decided here. That you wouldn't forgive them. However, I can't get rid of the feeling that you're being controlled too much by momentary feelings as well. If we return to the surface with them still restrained once then then they'll become the third party, if possible it would be best to have a different third party other than the knight group look after them and during that time to recover the money or come up with the means to recover the money but how about it? There's not much meaning in rushing with it right?"

"If it comes to watching them then I think the knight group is good though?"

"That's fine as well but if it comes to that then most likely I can't imagine they would let them go to retrieve the money they're hiding somewhere."

"Then, who do you think would be good?"

"I'm fine with it as well. Fortunately I'm still a newcomer to {Sun.Ray}. I haven't suffered anything that could be called damage. You could say I have almost no relationship or interest in these four. Ah, of course we can also hire people to make sure they won't run away. Fortunately everyone from the {Slaughterers} who are hoping for my return are waiting over there with hopes of being employed after all."

Partway through I faced the {Slaughterers} while talking.

"Al-san, if you'll return then we won't mind doing anything. Please give us any order."

Toris said that and lowered his head to me. The onlookers got a bit

noisy again. That's right, say it properly in a place like this.

"Nn, I can't promise you. But, if you want me to return then show me that you can be useful. I guess so, for the time being we'll hire you all for 10 Z (1 large Shizu) per day. Mishausu-san, I'm sure there's no problem with the {Slaughterers} in terms of abilities. Even in the worst case they won't let them get away. The expense is..nothing special so it's fine if we make it my treat but it's better to do these things properly. I'll bill you later on."

"Pu..If you're okay with that then it's fine. Let's leave these four in the care of the {Slaughterers} afterwards. Is everyone fine with that?"

It seems there's no objections. I thought Faruergaz or Hirosukol might be against it but there was no need to worry.

They were making expressions drained of life.

Since we finished our conversation we teleported to the surface.

.....

After listening to my prediction we all left the dungeon and walked straight to the temple. There's two temples in Baldukk but the small one currently has no priests(someone comes on full moons) so the only option is to go to the large one. The 20 of us walk through the town of Baldukk that's become completely dark until we arrived in front of the temple.

The Rindobel couple including Bin and Haruku are tied up with rope but the 16 of us are surrounding them fortifying the area, no matter how you think about it escape is impossible. In the first

place Koritto's fingers are broken. I broke Meiria's teeth.

Zemyunel was beaten up quite a bit and has his tail between his legs. Haruku is the only one who's as energetic as he was since he was healed but no desire to flee can be seen in him. Even if they were to try and run in this situation they would just get caught right away and dragged back though.

The temples don't run business 24 hours so we ended up setting up camp in front of the temple like this until tomorrow morning. Of course with everyone. Since I didn't pay any money and don't have any grudge I wanted to return to the inn to rest but I read the atmosphere and decided to endure it. On the way here Faruergaz sent his slaves to go and buy some food.

In the morning, after confirming that the members of the temple arrived at work Koritto along with his escort Kamu entered the temple.

The priest or whatever at the entrance used {Status Open} on Koritto and said the words we told him to ahead of time. "I'm cancelling the contract on my locker so I'd like you to bring all of the contents of it". The only one allowed into the locker is the person them self after their {Status} has been confirmed. Other people even if they're family aren't allowed inside. However, if you cancel the contract then it's a different matter. Since it's just a matter of bringing all of the contents of it, there's no need for the person them self to go.

Shortly after they returned with an inflated sack that we had prepared ahead of time.

It's not as if I don't feel like this is overdoing things but since

everyone's worries are quite natural(Since there's no meaning if Koritto intentionally limits the amount of money he takes out and says "This is all the money we have remaining.") I decided to remain silent without meddling.

Since the Rindobel couple's room at "Mogorito Manor" was too cramped Kamu paid 10 silver coins and reserved the usual "Foton" from this morning. Everyone returned to their inns once in order and went to grab their certificate of payment like things. Kamu said to come back quickly without doing anything unnecessary. That is~ this sort of situation after all. There's no way they'd be allowed to relax and take their time or take a shower.

We counted just in case but Koritto and the others entire fortune in just gold coins was over 190 pieces. If you include gold Shu as well then it was close to 200,000,000. Even if you force them to pay back all of the damage at the current point that leaves 160,000,000 remaining. It's not as if there wasn't anyone who tried to put their hands on that but Kamu stopped them with a glare.

"Now with this, there's already no one who hasn't gotten the charm or their money back right? Everyone's definitely gotten their money back right?"

After everyone nodded to her, Kamu returned the money to the sack again. After that she gave the certificates of payment or whatever to Misu and had her burn them.

"We returned all of your money. This is fine right?"

Koritto said to Kamu.

Kamu ignored those words and told everyone.

"Now then, we finished adjusting the money. However, I think

everyone already knows we can't finish things with this. Just like Greed-kun said yesterday, I'm sure some time is necessary to cool our heads down."

She said before looking closely at Faruergaz's two slaves and sat down on a chair while saying, "You two, I'm sorry but could you go and call out the {Slaughterers}? Once they get here everyone can rest for a short period."

However, if it's this time then most of the {Slaughterers} should be running. They'll probably be running for another hour or so. Since it couldn't be helped I said, "Most like they're in the middle of training right now. I think they'll return within another hour or so. After that they should have breakfast so I think that would be the easiest time to catch them. If they wait in front of Boil Manor then they should all come back once." Since Zenom doesn't go running. As expected I doubt they would go and eat breakfast scattered after that.

Everyone has quite a bit of fatigue built up but if it's just this level then if they were thinking of clearing through the 1st or 2nd floors without me then it would still be easier having less targets to be cautious of. For the time being we had some breakfast and waited for the {Slaughterers} to return. Just in case the two slaves bought some breakfast and went to Boil Manor early with it in hand.

After leaving watching the four to the {Slaughterers} we all returned to our inns and it was decided we'd return here again in the evening. It seems that Kamu and Misu are going to take turns remaining. Since they're both women I'm sure they at least want to

take a shower, either their sense of responsibility is too strong,
or their anger is..being a leader is hard right.

.....

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 26

After resting plenty until evening I leisurely walked back to

"Foton" again. I'm finally going to be released from this
unpleasant situation. I wonder what I should do to punish Toris and
Bel who were the center of making the plan, I let a variety of
pleasant ideas run through my head while walking through the town
of Baldukk as it turns to evening.

Oh, there's a delicious smelling scent. I wonder what I should eat
when I arrive at "Foton". But that place, no matter what you eat
it's not very good. It's a place that's only redeeming feature is
the price is cheap after all...While thinking about such fruitless
things and walking down the road there were several faces I know
walking from in front of me.

It's Vurihaima and others from {Verdure.Brotherhood}.

"Yo~ Greed-kun. It seems like things have gotten quite crazy on
your end."

"Ah, Viruhaima-san. Well, there's no need to worry. Things will end
up however they go."

"Greed-kun, he's making this sort of face but don't mind it.

Recently all our leader has talked about is you. We were starting
to wonder if he's a maiden in love. Here, feel free to head off
already. Right now, things are difficult right?"

Basu cut off Viruhaima as he was about to continue saying something
and told me to go ahead.

Ever since the incident with {Bright.Blade} I've been able to talk

quite friendly with him but unlike old man Viruhaima he's a man who is just as he looks with a good atmosphere to him. Taking advantage of his words, I quickly passed by and entered the door of "Foton".

It seems I was the slowest one. Though that's the case it seems most of the members arrived at a time not much earlier than me and were drinking some disgusting ale and eating cheap food.

"Everyone's gathered right. Everyone from the {Slaughterers}, thank you for your cooperation. It could be possible we might contact you again tomorrow, I'm very sorry but at that time we're relying on you again. If there's no contact then don't worry about us."

Kamu said that and politely lowered her head to the members of the {Slaughterers} who were lined up in seats along the wall.

"It seems I was late, I'm sorry about that."

I lower my head to everyone and sit at the edge seat while ordering some beer, cooked beans, and roast pork.

"Now then, everyone has gathered. And then there's no one here except for {Sun.Ray}. We can talk freely."

Kamu stood at the side of the four who are sitting on the bare ground, with her hand at her hip as she starts talking. Since Kamu is a gnome her height is considerably low. Though her face and figure are those of a splendid adult but I'm sure if you saw her from a bit further distance away she would look like either an upper grade elementary or middle school student, it just looks like a class president with a good physique is talking.

"Please wait just a minute."

The one who said that, stood up, and glanced at me was Hirosukol.

Is he going to pick a fight with me about something again?

"Is Greed-san a member of {Sun.Ray}? It seemed like they were saying something about him returning to the {Slaughterers} again yesterday though.."

Ah, that sort of thing. However, I wonder what it is. Even with how gentle I am, I'm starting to get pissed off.

If you want to fight then I'll be your opponent at any time.

"Hey, Fio!"

Faruergaz pulls on Hirosukol's sleeve. Furthermore, some stifled laughs came from the members of the first and second parties of {Sun.Ray}.

"Fio, I've already that you don't really like Greed-kun. But you know, I don't know about the future, but right now Greed-kun is a member of {Sun.Ray}. I'm sure there's already people who have heard but it seems you don't know. In addition, I'll tell you about this time starting from the beginning. Since I want everyone to sort through the situation once more let's discuss things well."

After saying that Kamu started talking about all of the events that happened on the 7th floor from the start. Everything from when we teleported into the 7th floor until we returned. The parts she doesn't know (the fact that the three suckers and I saved the {Slaughterers} who were partially collapsed from an ogre ambush and the ambush we did on the ogres after that) were appropriately followed up by the three suckers. It seems it was only Faruergaz and the others that didn't know about things around there. Did they stupidly honestly just return to their inn and sleep?

The one who directly exposed the details about the things the Rindobel couple were doing this time was Haruku but if you were to

look for the cause of that it was originally because the Ridnobel couple decided to abandon Haruku when he was on the verge of death. That decision itself wasn't definitely not something to be praised over but having said that it's not something that people who weren't on the spot have any right to talk about. The problem is right after Meiria was hit with a spell from an ogre mage they immediately flipped that decision over.

The first point that can be raised here is whether the decision to retreat the moment Haruku was defeated was proper. Before Haruku was defeated I had already given them the warning, "We've already defeated three. Right now we're fighting four more! Four are heading that way!" and everyone heard that. At that point it's already not just a matter of abandoning Haruku alone but the result could end up abandoning the four of us in the decoy group as well.

At this point the decoy group had gained the cooperation of four members of the {Slaughterers} and were fighting in favorable conditions but since Koritto and the others didn't have that information so the decision to abandon the decoy group as well was recognized by everyone. Just, in my opinion if there were three unexpectedly strong ogres in front of me and a veteran front line warrior gets defeated in a single hit then even if I have other allies further in, I can't deny taking into consideration retreating once to prevent anymore damage and then reorganizing. Of course I have no intention of progressively agreeing with it either.

Next is the time when Meiria was defeated by a spell from an ogre mage. Certainly I didn't mention anything about the ogre mages. But, they arrived at the conclusion that I can't be blamed for that itself. The problem is, there was a power monster called an ogre mage that they didn't know about until then but even after they established the fact that it was included in the group of ogres, just because Meiria collapsed he withdrew the order to retreat and chose resistance. Even though the forces on our side were reduced and the fact that there was an ogre mage included in the opponents forces became clear, so it's safe to think that they were more powerful.

Furthermore it was a 180 degree change of plans in an extremely short period of time. Everyone expressed that they couldn't agree with this decision. In regards to that as well, I thought that people have that portion, since Meiria is Koritto's wife, I thought it was just a matter of her being more important to him than the other members. Although, if you look at it from the standpoint of a leader who has responsibility of stranger's lives then how about it? and I can't just agree.

Well, on my end things came to me like a revelation at that point.

The situation was far too convenient after all. Even if you just look at those two points their faith in the Rindobel couple would plummet. Even though he can abandon his allies, he didn't just not abandon his wife but even after confirming an increase in the opponents forces he chose to continue fighting, so it was like forcing his allies to stand in their place

of death.

And then even though it was an almost completely hopeless situation, when I crushed even more of the opponents forces and broke through, completely turning the dangerous situation around, they spit out unreasonable words towards me. Seeing and hearing all of that Haruku exploded. On that momentum he ended up exposing all of their past wrongdoings.

Well, in my opinion I had somewhat predicted their past and current wrongdoings though I didn't have any confidence in it. It was just at the level that Haruku might have been cooperating with them to some extent, I didn't think that they were progressively sending allies in to die or attacking them from behind. After Haruku was crushed by an ogre and face down on the ground in pain, I used the spell {Suggestion} on him while lifting him up but the effect it displayed far exceeded my expectations. Since I used the hole I have opened in my glove for using Identify to make contact with him there was no need to worry about any light leaking as well.

It was my own expectation that Kamu would tell them off about abandoning Haruku and then if that could be planted into Haruku the Rindobel couple would lose some of their cohesive power, or something like that, adding to that if I could put emphasis on my great efforts in saving everyone from a crisis then Haruku would be grateful to me, if things went well he might have adored me, then it might not be bad to take advantage of that and hijack {Sun.Ray}, or at least that's what I was thinking. Even in the worst case I thought I would be able to pull out Haruku and return

to the {Slaughterers} with him.

Well, he was far more useful than I had calculated but it's not like Haruku him self reformed from the fact that he was betraying everyone so I don't want that sort of person as my ally and now I have no intention of recruiting Haruku. Even if I could save him I don't feel like it. That goes the same for Zemyunel who's sulking as he's still got a gag in his mouth.

"..In the end it was the Rindobels that exposed it themselves.

Haruku was stunned by that and ended up confessing everything. Different from that, Greed-kun saved us from a crisis. He made use of his quick witt and put a favor on the {Slaughterers}, though there is a part where he forcefully made them cooperate but it's certain that we were saved thanks to that."

"I'm sorry, everyone, Greed-san. Fio is..Greed-san had"I'm very sorry! I said something stupid to Greed-san as well. Please forgive me."

When Faruergaz was about to say something following up for him, Hirosukol covered it up with a large voice while apologizing. It's fine as long as you understand...

After that as a result of everyone talking it over, we came to the conclusion that the charms of everyone who was able to get their money back this time and whether or not they were already moving towards obtaining them was an important point. What was the focus point there was the method to obtain the charms. Even if we asked Koritto and Meiria they would just evasively try to smooth words over and not give an answer. Though if they've already started moving to obtain them I think there's not much meaning in hiding

the contractor. Well, they probably weren't moving though. Since Haruku said they would spend about a year or two watching over things to see if they could be useful, or something like that, I think it's not impossible they wouldn't be able to say it. Since Kevin was getting irritated he proposed torturing them and we managed to get them to spit out the method to obtain them. After all it was just as I imagined there was no intermediation contractor. On the day of the full moon they would go to the capital, call out to poor people and the broke, hand them some money and have them line up. It seems they would buy back the wooden tags they came out with for double the price they paid. In order to confirm things like that it will take some time. There's no full moon until the 17th of next month. In the end it became necessary to confirm things by wandering around near the temple in the capital and the poor people areas this day.

In any case we ended up going to the couples inn "Mogorito Manor" and dug through their room to find the wooden tags they had been buying from a while back but we were only able to discover 340,000 Z worth of wooden tags. Not to mention of that 100,000 Z worth was charms signed to Meiria when you use {Status Open} on them. This ended up being the deciding factor, even though they had received a total of more than 30,000,000(Even taking out the 10,000,000 Faruergaz and the others who it hadn't even been a month since they paid over 20,000,000 had been paid since quite a while back) the fact that they only had this few a number of charms was established to be nothing other than fraud.

We sent a messenger to the knight group and confirmed what kind of crimes they could be accused of from the official in charge of judicial affairs. And then, after all it was charges of fraud, not to mention the fact that two nobles (Gekudo and Faruergaz) were included was seen as a problem. Since they were caught in the middle of the crime and there's a lot of testimony they would definitely be charged with the crime. Additionally, if they really hadn't delivered any money to the family of magician who died in spring Santosu, then no matter what they say they wouldn't be allowed any excuses.

Also, in regards to the act of attacking someone from behind in the dungeon in the past, the response was they had no choice other than to ignore it. Since there's a lot of unclear points about the situation at that time and since you can't easily tell if it was a monster or a person in the dungeon, in the first place even if you call them parties they're not official recognized as allies(they're just people entering together at their own convenience, so they can't deny the possibility that it was a dispute over how to split up some treasure) so that point was the reason. Also, even if there was a noble who ended up as a victim unless there was testimony from another noble who saw it, they probably wouldn't make a decision based on just the testimony of a Free Person like Haruku so they had no choice but to ignore that one.

However, the punishment for the crime of fraud against a noble was severe. Even when their peerage was the lowest sub-Nobility it adds 10 lashes with the whip on top of having all of their assets

including real estate confiscated as a fine, and even included exposing their heads on the prison gate. Furthermore, in regards to the two accomplices who weren't the main offenders they couldn't say anything until the judgement but most likely they would get the same punishment.

For that sake, right now we've handed over the four to the knight group as suspects. On that occasion the bag of their assets excluding the money they were owed, Kamu handed it over without touching it. According to Kamu in order to continue as a leader of adventurers the most important thing is trust between allies, so if she were to put her hands on the money there, she wouldn't be able to gain their trust. Well that's certainly true.

Furthermore, it's something I found out later but the Rindobel couple owned several houses in the capital.

Normally they were lending them to people and taking rent. They must have dreamed of living in one of the better of those houses when they retired.

.....

Now then, the problem is me. After we handed the four of them over to the knight group, in front of the gate to the knight group station, I said to Kamu and the remaining 15 members of {Sun.Ray} that I would be leaving the party. This is a gamble. But you know, everyone's expressions when we obtained the magic stones from ogres, their faces when they were showing admiration for my combat abilities, their faces moved to tears when I magnificently ran up in a crisis and saved them, it's just my prediction but...

Chapter 202: Success and Failure

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 25

"I see..After all..I thought of it on the 6th and 7th floors. That Greed-kun was far stronger than any of us in {Sun.Ray}. Let alone, with the matter this time {Sun.Ray}'s combat potential fell quite a bit. It was quite irritating right?"

That was the reply from the temporary leader Kamain.Mishausu after hearing my words that I was "withdrawing".

"..Those guys from the {Slaughterers} that we fought together with on the 7th floor, they were strong.."

"Yeah, just as rumored that Dog-people combat slave named Angela was considerably strong but that axe user woman, Ralpa was it? She was even above that."

"Also, there was those two using the spears, the dwarf woman and that Cat-people guy newbie, they were fighting calmly against an ogre as well.."

"I guess if you can't at least do that much then the 7th floor is harsh."

"Even when they were like that if they get ambushed suddenly a number of them can get taken out~"

"..That's right, though, those magic stones were amazing~ We got 26 of them this time right?"

The three suckers, also known as, former three suckers are talking.

"It can't be helped..If those four end up disappearing then our only decent front line members are Rokko, Kevin, and Fio..It's not as if there aren't any other but they're considerably lower

compared to those three after all.."

Ginger, also known as Virginia.Nyuman said disappointingly. Hearing that Kimu, or Kyumire.Biosukoru said, "We really want at least of our party to be made up of a strong front line right.." and the surrounding atmosphere turned gloomy.

Other than Hirosukol who's name was just brought up there's

Faruergaz and the others, Rutsogu.Samyueruga uses the spear, and his two slaves are all capable of standing on the front line.

However, there's no other way of putting it than that their abilities clearly fall in comparison to the other three. It's only obvious for the 7th floor but even then 6th floor is probably impossible. In other words, if things continue just like this then {Sun.Ray} will be at their limit on the 4th floor. It's not as if the 5th floor is completely impossible but you can guess they would struggle quite a bit and depending on how things go they might even have to prepare for some sacrifices.

""Umm,""

Both Mifesu.Ransun and Hisurura.Harurein were about to say

something but showed restraint for each other and choked up on their words.

"Umm, even then I would like it if Greed-kun remains together with us. Of course this is simply my hopes. I mean, if you're with us then just that is reassuring."

Misu properly looked me in the eyes while saying it. Her wolf ears stood on end and her tail shook.

"Yeah, I thought so as well. It's not like I've seen Greed-kun fighting but just from what I've heard, you have a lot more skill

than even Haruku, Bin, and Meiria. If a person like that were to leave what would happen to us in {Sun.Ray}? Depending on how things go someone might die?"

Hisu raised one of her beautiful pure blooded Elf features that is her eyebrows up while saying it to not me but Kamu. Well, what she's saying is true.

"I already get what everyone is saying and want to say. But, try thinking about it for a bit. Just now Jeru said it. The number of magic stones we obtained on the 7th floor this time was 26. Though we still haven't sold them yet so I don't know how much they'll be worth but just from what I could tell, they'll all add up to easily over 10,000,000 Z..I guess so, I've never seen something like that and I'm sure it'll largely exceed it. If they really have a price of 800,000 Z each then they might actually make it to 20,000,000 Z...This, we earned it in just a single day on the 7th floor. If Greed-kun returns to the {Slaughterers} then he'll become the leader again right? In that case he can expect a considerable share. If we could promise him conditions that are even more appealing then that he might have room to think about it though..If I think like that then I can't stop him."

Kamu said instructing everyone.

"Then, wouldn't it be fine to have Greed-kun be our leader?"

Binnodo.Gekudo said it as if he thought of something completely great.

"Even then I wonder about that..Since our members are lacking in abilities, I'm sure it would be more difficult remaining with us.."

When Kamu replied like that the three suckers questioned, "Did you want to be the leader that much? It's not as if I don't understand though.."

"It's not particularly as if that's the case. But, even I have some desires. The more earnings there are the more a good leader profits. However, I don't have even the slightest bit of confidence I could bring everyone to the 7th floor. More so, with the remaining members..Let alone the 7th floor even the 6th floor is completely impossible..The 5th floor might be dangerous as well."

Kamu replied while looking down. I wonder if it's about a good time~

"..Can I speak for a bit? It's strange saying this but it's already possible to obtain the charms in a short period of time. It's fine if you just do the same thing the Rindobel-sans did."

When I said up to there everyone's eyes were sparkling as if to say, "I completely forgot" while talking to the person next to them. I still haven't finished speaking.

"I'm sure it'll cost quite a bit less money. However, even then I think that would at best be one or two of them every few months. You might not be able to rely on them very much. Those of you who went together with me to the 7th floor the other day please try remembering. It's certainly true that the charms are reliable but they're useless unless you can return to the surface right?"

Several of them remember how Miduchi forbid them from speaking.

"It seems some of you remembered...Like I said just now, after this

I intend on returning to the {Slaughterers} but if there's anyone who wishes, no, it's fine for the {Slaughterers} to take up of all of you together. Of course, I'll be splitting the parties based on true skill. Please pardon me for a slightly impolite way of putting this. It's strange saying this but with everyone's current abilities, normally not a single one of you would be accepted into the {Slaughterers}. I think this would be easier for you to understand after seeing my work. Please don't glare at me like that, Hirosukol-san. I properly asked to be pardoned at the start."

Don't make that sort of face. I get your feelings though. No, the reason I'm putting it this way is because I really feel bad about it. However, even if I say it in flattering words it can't be helped. I thought it would be better to say it properly from the start.

"In that case, it would take the shape of the {Slaughterers} absorbing {Sun.Ray}. Yeah, I don't mind it at all so it's alright. I can already guess how other people will talk about it. But, I don't really see it as a problem. If they have any complaints then it's fine if they say it directly to my face. Well, rather than something like that, please let me talk a bit about in the case you accept my idea."

Kamu, Misu, Ginger, and Binsu were saying that if I did something like to the {Slaughterers} and then we absorb {Sun.Ray} I would be slandered as "Greed joined {Sun.Ray} in order to absorb them from inside." Of course~ I'm sure there will be people who say things

like that. But, people like that don't matter at all. If they want to say it just let them say as they please. A certain portion of it is the truth after all, regardless of whether I complain or not, the people who want to believe in rumors will believe in it.

In the first place even when things were going smoothly for the {Slaughterers} I had a mountain of slander and defamation said against me like "He's been carried by Zenom and the two combat slaves" or "Even though he's just a brat with no skill..They're just letting him act as the leader because he's a noble and has a company so he's convenient." Even further back it was even "they're just digging through the monsters other adventurers defeated." and those sorts of harsh things were said about us.

Even if some more variations of that started to appear at this point what is there to it? Ah, the thing that was said just a while back, "he's lacking in management abilities for a leader", those sorts of slander actually hit home a bit though. Compared to that something like, "He did something in order to achieve some objective" is still better to hear.

"Of course it will be the case, I'll split up the teams based on true skill. Judging from the number splitting into a total of three teams would probably be appropriate. I'll say it honestly.

Currently there's no one here that I think would make it in a team aiming past the 7th floor. It might be different if you were hiding your true abilities during the time we were training together though. That's why just the same as you have until now I would have everyone split into two groups. For each of those two groups, I'll

send out one or two members, including myself from the {Slaughterers}. Of course someone who can use healing magic. Fundamentally I'll have you obey those people but after repeating that several times, if there's anyone suitable for it then I think I'll start to have that person act as the leader of the team."

There were several people who were making openly discontent faces.

That's only obvious. Since normally the leader is the one who decides the compensation.

"And, in regards to the compensation but in the case that we send the leader from the {Slaughterers} during the time you enter the dungeon with them, other than that leader being counted as two peoples worth of share, the earnings will be split up evenly among everyone down to the 1 Z. If there's no helping some from being leftover then that money will be used to buy food for the next time. Ah, we count combat slaves as one persons worth as well but obviously that compensation will be paid to the owner. Furthermore, we calculate the leader as two peoples worth but that leader would only be paid for one persons worth. The remain one persons worth would go to me but things like food, consumables, and the entry tax will all be covered by me. That's why most of it will end up disappearing I'm sure. Well, I need at least that much of a profit. I'll talk about the reason later but I think you'll be able to accept it."

Surprise was showing on everyone's faces other than Faruergaz and Hirosukol. These two probably think this is only obvious so it

can't be helped. However, the only adventurers who make use of these conditions are fundamentally those who just came to Baldukk or adventurers who have only just started and don't earn much income, nothing but newcomers. It's because they don't have enough experience and they don't have any of the harsh combat experience on the lower floors so they don't understand the importance of a leader.

Therefore, to members of a top team like {Sun.Ray} it's an extremely unexpectedly method of splitting up the compensation. If you were to ask me, rather than carelessly trying to make claim on the leader, everyone other than the leader obtaining a reasonable amount of money, that sort of method which just looks impartial is what I wanted to use. If I say it like this then not only is there no high income benefit to being the leader but you would have to worry about the other members assessment and the responsibility so I thought it wouldn't be that easy for anyone to want to claim the role of leader.

"I'll without a doubt get the leader dispatched from the {Slaughterers} to agree to this. Also, if it comes to that then it's also true that persons income will decrease from being with the {Slaughterers} so there's no guarantee that the same person will always be the leader. Including myself, several of us will alternate shifts."

Since this was completely natural they just honestly nodded to it.

"However, from here on is the important part. For a short while I'll keep an eye on things like they are now. But, after that if

there's someone among everyone that seems like a suitable leader then I intend to request for that person to be the leader of that team. In that sort of case, that person will decide on the compensation. What I want you to understand here is that in order for that person to act as the leader of the team they must be able to get everyone in the party to accept the method of splitting up the compensation. If even one person has complaints then I won't use them. It's fine for the leader to decide on whatever method for the compensation that they want but please think that you won't be able to take a method that will cause any complaints. Also, even in that case though, just when it comes to dispatching members for the current {Slaughterers} we'll request an even share of the compensation."

I clear my throat.

"After that, I'm thinking of purchasing several new combat slaves.

I'm thinking of putting those sorts of slaves into the teams with everyone else but in that case, fundamentally it's fine if you don't take into consideration the compensation for those slaves.

I'm sure their abilities will be low after all. But right now, the combat slaves in the {Slaughterers} have suitably high abilities so I'll request compensation for just them."

I said it like a joke but everyone was nodding. It sure is easy when there's no one with proper experience as a leader around.

"Also, as a privilege for {Sun.Ray} being absorbed by the {Slaughterers}, I'll adopt everyone as guards for Greed Company. As expected I won't go to the point of paying wages though. However,

when it comes to calculating and paying the troublesome taxes with the government office the company will take care of that. And also, in the worst case but if you were to suffer a serious injury in the dungeon and unfortunately be able unable to work as an adventurer anymore, just like that we'll let you work for Greed Company and properly pay wages based on the work you do.

If you're feeling uneasy about these things then all of the details

I explained just now it's fine to write up a formal contract with them. In that case we'll create three contract documents, one for myself, one for you all, and one to leave with the government office for in the worst case. If I end up not abiding by the conditions I just stated then it's possible for you to make a claim of that with the government office at any time. Please think that things like that are the reason why I'm demanding one persons worth of compensation as well."

Everyone was amazed at this. Rather~ I can't imagine there's anyone who wouldn't feel these details are appealing.

"If you're able to accept these conditions then we'll accept you as members of the {Slaughterers}. If there's anything you don't understand then I answer your questions. Depending on the case it's possible to change the conditions as well. Also, this will be the last but if no matter who looks it can be decided that you have an adequate level of skill, if I recognize that, and further the person them self wishes then it's also possible for them to move to the current {Slaughterers} team as well so things in that are depend on everyone's effort. It's fine even if you don't reply

right now.

However, since it's necessary to think about things from here on out after this, please give me a reply within this month. Of course, it's fine for you all to discuss things between yourselves. But, it's a bit selfish of me to say but if at least a total of five people don't decide to pick this option then there's not really any merit for our side so in the case that the number of those interested is too few we might turn it down as well."

When I said that far I looked around at everyone's faces. Surprised faces, happy faces, various faces.

"Well then, I'm sure it's difficult to discuss things with me around, I'm returning to my inn. I'm hoping for a good reply."

I said that, turned around, and started walking off.

Obviously the place I'm aiming is the favorite inn of the

{Slaughterers}, Boil Manor. I need to talk to everyone.

After that I need to scold Toris and Bel and for the time being,

tell them I'm going to push command over {Sun.Ray} that I intend to absorb as well. Right now there's 15 members of {Sun.Ray}. Even if we send one person in each team that's parties of 8 people and 9 people. Sending one more person than that to each to act as an advisor might also be a good idea. Ah, even then the members of the {Slaughterers} that we dispatch still receive the same compensation as now. I intend to give them 2% of the amount the main group of the {Slaughterers} earns. The portion they earn from {Sun.Ray} is travel compensation.

The only one we absolutely can't exclude from the {Slaughterers} is

Gwine. Also Giberuti I guess. It's no good if the team that goes to the front line can't eat good food.

.....

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 28

Since yesterday one after another members of {Sun.Ray} have been coming to the inn I'm staying at "Kairugu's Inn". There's even those bringing along two or three people. However, just Faruergaz and the others haven't come yet. Since it seems that since yesterday morning they've been outspokenly discussing it, I guess they just haven't resolved themselves yet. Even if they take into consideration the details I told them when we met at the end of last year I think it's a reasonable good proposal.

Putting that aside, since there was something that was bothering me, before we forget about it I had the members of {Sun.Ray} who intend to move parties start running around to gather evidence on the Rindobel couple. Though, I say that there's not much to do at all. Just confirming with Santos, who was born in the capital, his family to see if the money was returned. Then after they've confirmed it tell the knight group the location of his family and have them confirm it as well. Then go out to the poor people area of the capital and if possible find multiple people who were hired to purchase the charms and get a proper hold on their locations.

Ah, I've already properly made contracts with them. It's contract version 3. Since some of them couldn't read letters either, it cost a bit of extra expenses having a scribe write it right in front of us but well~ that much should be fine.

.....

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 29

After breakfast Faruergaz and the others came. Faruergaz, Kumiru, Samyueruga, the three of them were making slightly exhausted expressions.

"Greed-san. There's something I want to ask first. In reality there's several things I want to ask and confirm as well but this time the most important is just one thing. I would like you to please reply honestly."

I don't know if it's because he's lacking in sleep but his facial color is bad and his eyes are glaring as he lowered his head and asked me. Really, what is it already, so trouble~some~

"I don't think I've done even a single thing to be liked by you, I think. I've complained, said sarcasm, I think at every little thing I've said things that you would find unpleasant. Just, there are somethings which I thought I had screwed up after I already said them as well. There were times when I didn't realize it until after I was told my Rodrick and Ruttsu as well..I think I was an unpleasant person. Why would you include such as person as me when inviting us into your group..It's something I've found strange in regards to the matter this time. It should have been fine even if you absorbed {Sun.Ray} excluding just me. I still think eve now that it wouldn't have been even the slightest bit strange if that was the case."

His way of speaking has gotten strange again.

"I tried thinking about how you might be thinking about it in my own way and guessing it. I was able to narrow it down to the three

answers. The first one is about Rodrick. He and I have been together for a reasonably long time and are on good terms. He was born in the Faruergaz family. Is it because you don't want to hurt his feelings? One more is..That is, because you and I have some things in common maybe? The last one is both of those. By all means, I would like an answer."

Hirosukol's face was completely serious. The three holding their breath as they watch over had considerably serious expressions as well.

"At the end of last year, do you remember the time when we first met?"

"Yeah, that time I said quite a few unavoidable things.."

"Faruergaz-san do you remember as well?"

"Yeah, I remember. We were greatly rude at that time.."

I let out a short sigh and put the answer into words.

"It seems that both of you have forgotten..That time I had intended to consider the two of you as friends but..Is that a reply to your question Hirosukol-san?"

""Ah..""

The two of them made slightly spaced out expressions and soon after their faces went red from feeling ashamed.

I won't forget. At any rate, no matter what the reason or with what expectations they had, since the first time I reincarnated over here it was the first time I said something like, "I want to become friends." That time~ after that I felt a cold sweat inside wondering if anyone would make fun of me. Of course there was no one disagreeable enough to do something like that.

"Ah..I..I'm very sorry! I'll go and cool my head down a bit.

Everyone don't mind it and continue with the conversation...I'm very sorry, Greed-san. After I calm my feelings down a bit I'll come back again!"

Hriosukol said that at a rapid pace and without waiting for a response ran out of the room...How young~ it seems like youth~

"Greed-san, Fio...I'm very sorry that he left at his own convenience in the middle of the conversation."

Faruergaz lowered his head apologetically to me. Sanno and Ruttsu were dumbfounded.

"Probably around tomorrow, I think he'll come again alone. I'm really sorry but for right now would you please just leave him be? I think it would be best to just let him have some time alone for a short while. No, even I couldn't imagine he would suddenly run out of the room.."

Faruergaz said with a faint smile on his face. Even he's probably thinking that was quite young~ of Hirosukol, or something like that. Also, if it's just something at this level, it's not even worth bothering over at this point.

"No, please don't humble yourself that much, Faruergaz-san. And, what should we do? Should we continue?"

"Yeah, of course. We're looking forward to working with you."

Just like this I was able to safely get remaining members of {Sun.Ray} in my hands. Happily ever after.

.....

Year 7445, Month 7, Day 30

It wasn't happily after all. It wasn't happily at all.

Hirosukol disappeared. I don't know if it was yesterday, last

night, or this morning but before anyone noticed he moved out of

his inn and disappeared!

Rather~ when I heard the fully story in detail it seems it was yesterday evening. He cleared out of the inn and supposedly even left behind a farewell letter as he departed. They only noticed just past noon today, since the deadline for their reply to me is reaching it's limits Faruergaz went in intending to invite him for a walk and was going to pull him out at that time and his room was completely empty. In a panic he came to me and obviously I wouldn't know. I gave him the advice that an employee of the inn should know and I joined Faruergaz as we went to the inn, they said it was yesterday evening, most likely while we were eating dinner when he left. And then, two farewell letters, he left in the care of the person at the inn.

One of them was to Faruergaz. The other one was to me. The content wasn't all that different.

It was words of apology to Faruergaz and I, he particularly included quite a bit of details on how he was too embarrassed to show his face. The letter to Faruergaz said that most of the members of the {Slaughterers} are Japanese people so things shouldn't end u[badly for him, since I won't do anything like that either he should just relax and earn some money, is what he wrote. And then, as a conclusion on whether the two of us could become appropriate friends, or until he thinks we can he wanted to put some distance between us, is what it said.

After I was handed this by Farerugaz and read it, the thing I thought was that I was glad it wasn't the opposite, that sort of unpleasant thought. If Faruergaz and Hirosukol were to run away in

the opposite then even if I had to split up into a grassroots, I would have had to hunt him down and make absolutely sure to kill him, otherwise several years later or several decades later, it would have been to the point where I wouldn't be able to feel safe sleeping at night.

Since from the very start I haven't thought of some illusion like every reincarnated person we encounter would become my ally, so I won't feel a sense of loss on the level of Faruergaz but even then a shock is a shock. It's the same as losing a reincarnated person from right under my eyes that could have become a powerful piece on the level of high end replacement for Zulu in the future.

Furthermore, it seems like Faruergaz was beaten down by the sense of loss but it seems he wasn't all that depressed over it.

"In a long life, these sorts of things happen as well..I guess.

I've already purchased two combat slaves, Denda and Karimu. I need to take responsibility for them until the end...I don't really want to sell them. Also, I feel like abandoning Sanno and Ruttsu to go and search for him is different as well. I'm sure Fio doesn't wish for something like that either. Looking after them is the responsibility I was entrusted by Fio."

And then, for some reason he looked up at the sky with his back to me while whispering, "Che...So you intend to just go around looking at places on your own just as planned..This debt is expensive...Nomu-san.."

If you were to ask what I was doing, I was looking at that

Faruergaz's back while, "Ah..Even if I try to go after him now..I don't know which direction he went and if he conceals himself in

the capital for several there's a lot of people so there's no way I could find him..I'm lost...The other day, even though I said it to everyone in the {Slaughterers} so arrogantly, this happens..This is quite uncool~ I wish you would pardon me from these things..." just worrying about myself.

Chapter 203 (Reverse)

One day near the end of the April, Sajesu.Basutorial returned alone to Boil Manor while holding a cheap lunch under his arm. He practiced using magic a number of times this afternoon and after that thought of killing some time practicing with the spear. Recently his life has been fulfilling and everyday is so enjoyable he can't help it. He's been secretly calculating it but his debt should be paid off after they enter the dungeon next time. All of his income after belongs to him. If it continues at his current pace then he should be able to save up a considerable amount in two months. He'll be able to buy his beloved Cathy, Catherine.Enforu he left behind in his home town of Rockfall Village and then release her from slavery. I've already eaten after all, let's get a wood practice spear and head to the vacant lot at the edge of town. Later his spear teacher Gwine should show her face as well. In her past life, she was a high school girl 10 years younger than Saji but in their current lives she's the same age and his senior as an adventurer. She's also his teacher that teaches him the spear. Though that can be said, in terms of skill with the spear his employer Al, the noble Toris, and his combat slave the former soldier Zulu are a bit above her in skill with the sword as well. Recently, it's something the noble who's employing me, Al often

said, "Remain conscious over the increases to body level" but I've somehow come to understand it. At first it was my limit just being able to nervously follow after everyone but recently I've become able to progressively take part in combat so you could say it's proof of that.

Thinking that Saji (in any case, let's put some guts into the afternoon training right now and give it our best) returned to the inn but Saji noticed the foreign noble Bernadette beckoning him against the railing leading to the rooms upstairs.

The place he was called out to was the room of the front line pillar of the {Slaughterers} Zenom and Ralpha's room. If their leader Al is ever absent they always seem to gather in this room. Since it's a family room and slightly larger with a bit more room is probably one of the reasons for that as well.

Other than Zenom, Toris was in the room. Including Bel and Saji that's four people. The other occupant of the room that is Zenom's adopted daughter Ral and Gwine, and of course the leader Al nor his girlfriend Miduchi are nowhere to be found. They're probably still eating.

"What's going on?"

When Saji asked that an unexpected answer came back.

"Faruergaz and Hirosukol's party, they ended up being absorbed by {Sun.Ray}."

(Ah, so they ended up being able to enter a first-rate party as well, that's great.)

From Saji's point of view they're his benefactors. It was somewhat close to forcibly but it was thanks to them that he was released from the serf ranking. I guess because the circumstances of their

meeting wasn't very good, Hirosukol seems to have some kind of feelings towards Al, their relations don't seem to be very good though.

"It hurts that {Sun.Ray} managed to take the reincarnated people.."

"Yeah, it seems that Al-san left too much room between them as well. They ended up being taken first.."

"Even if you say something like that...I can't bring myself to like those two. They said that Ralpha and Gwine were being cheated? Not to mention right in front of me. You all heard it too right."

(Ah, that's right. They said they were just being deceived and used, was it...Even if they didn't know the details that was considerably harsh. Well, even if I was being deceived I'm completely satisfied being allowed in the {Slaughterers}. If it wasn't here then there's no way to make this much money..)

Just like that the remaining four reincarnated people joined us. It seems that Ral and Gwine pulled Al and Miduchi out while they were still in the middle of eating.

After that it came down to a discussion over how to pull out those those two but a visitor came. When Saji went out to deal with them it was a messenger from {Verdure.Brotherhood}.

There Miduchi and the leader Al left.

On that occasion he left things regarding this matter to Toris,

Zenom, and the others and said for everyone to try thinking about what to do. First off what we talked about was how far to go with our objective.

"At the very least I want to make those two into allies."

Toris who naturally fell into the position of speaker said. His

hair is neatly trimmed up and dyed a deep green color.

"That's right. Also, it would be unpleasant if they said something about it all the time so a situation where they're the ones who ask would be good."

Ral's long beautifully dyed blonde hair sways as she adds.

"In that case we need to sell them a favor through some form."

Bel who's deep blue hair has grown to about halfway down her back added something just a bit constructive.

"Even if you say sell them a favor.."

Zenom with his pink hair and abundant beard said.

"Since they're adventurers I guess it would come to saving their lives or something like that. Even I feel indebted towards

Toris-san after all."

Gwine said with her shoulder length dyed yellow-green hair and her beard still black. Bel looked at Gwine with a difficult face but no one seems to have noticed. Or rather, since Gwine switches preferences all the time it's already publicly known she's always attracted to someone so no one would pay much attention to it every time.

Just the other day Saji had the barber of the {Slaughterers} Bel cut his hair and dye it deep blue as she touched his sideburns(?).

Somehow or other, he got the feeling that he was doing something to hurt his benefactors. Of course, it's not as if he's against it. He thought that if they could group up that would be nice. Also, he's already used to the fact that there's no ears in the place they should be but this is the first time in this lifetime that his hair was so carefully cut so the good touching sensation of his

sideburns has become a habit for these past few months. After that they spent a few hours discussing it but couldn't seem to come to a conclusion. Along the way Miduchi returned but the leader Al just showed his face for a bit and then went out again.

During dinner Toris explained things to Al. Saji listened to that as if it was something from a far off world.

"First, in regards to the objective but our objective is to take in those two. And then, as a side matter, we think it would be ideal to have them lower their heads and request to join us."

Toris skillfully started his explanation after taking a sip of beer.

"The rough plan for that sake is for Bel or I to sneak into {Sun.Ray}."

Hearing that Al stopped his hands that were eating and urged him to continue.

"Through the information we heard the other day we've found out that {Sun.Ray} is doing fraud or an act close to that. We'll expose that and have them become indebted to us. We heard from Miduchi-san but it seems that Al-san predicted their trick right. According to that it should be impossible for them to put it into practice with a small number of people. Also, it's natural to think that there's an accomplice in {Sun.Ray}. Wouldn't it be Zemyunel or Fumizu or somewhere around there? If we don't have a member or two join them then I think it will take a tremendous amount of time to gather anymore information than this."

Al was listening with a difficult face.

"Obviously, they'll need to skillfully leave the {Slaughterers}.

Also, if it isn't just once person that leaves then they might be cautious of and see through them. The best candidate would be Saji but as expected if it's Saji there's anxiety remaining in the worst case. Also, the only ones we need to absolutely avoid are the leader Al-san and Gwine. I think the reason why is easy to understand without explanation.

Also, Zenom-san is unnatural as well. Consequently Ral isn't a suitable choice either. And if it were Gwine or Zenom-san then rather than {Sun.Ray}, I can't imagine {Gehenna.Flare} would just ignore them. Maruso and Zulu wouldn't work unless Al-san sells them first and there's no guarantee that {Sun.Ray} would be the ones to buy them. Most likely all of the top teams would be scrambling for them and it would already be no good. Prior to that I can't imagine they would agree to it either."

Before long all of the other members had stopped eating and were listening in. Obviously they already knew about the details that were being reported but it's because Al's facial color wasn't very good.

"That leaves three people remaining. Bel, Miduchi-san, and myself. If we think about combat in the worst case then Miduchi-san is suitable but since Bel and I were the ones who brought it up we should volunteer for it. Thanks to you both Bel and I have gotten quite skilled at using magic and can brag about having a considerably level of combat ability so I think we can pull through most situations. If it takes the shape of us fighting and breaking up then we should be able to naturally leave without being

suspected is also one of the reasons."

A bit of admiration appeared in Al's eyes but he quickly changed back to being expressionless.

"The summer of last year, just before Miduchi-san joined us, {Sun.Ray} lost two members of their forces. Even though Faruergaz and the others, those six joined them but I'm sure they won't be capable of much on the 5th or 6th floors. That's why, we think that they'll end up splitting into two parties and entering the dungeon again. Well, a first party that is active centering around the 6th floor and a second party that at best makes it to the 4th floor. And also, it seems that {Sun.Ray} has had quite a bit of attachment to the 6th floor when they enter the dungeon recently. Although, I'm sure they just want to go to the 7th floor beyond that. That's why even though they have 20 people right now but if someone who has experience on the 7th floor like Bel or I were to leave we think it's very possible they would call out to us right away."

"What if they don't call out to you?"

"If it comes to that then there's no helping it, we'll just have to lower our heads and return. It's necessary to go over the plan once more but most likely I don't think that will end up the case."

"It seems you have confidence."

"Of course. In regards to just this portion, I think that there's no doubt they'll call out to us. Also, other than the newcomer Saji, if any of us were to join {Sun.Ray} it's only obvious but we'd be put in the first part I'm sure. I think there would be a

lot of chances to be near the side of the leaders, the

Rindobels."

"And, you're going to sneak in, gather evidence, and then expose that right in front of them?"

"Yes. That time I think will be the best timing in a room on the 4th or 5th floor when it's difficult for anyone to intrude."

"Got it. That goes smoothly. After that Faruergaz and the others find out about it as well. But, I wonder if they would really come to us with just that? Wouldn't things just end up several members including the leaders of {Sun.Ray} being driven out? During that time, you or Bel a reliable member in the dungeon is still a part of {Sun.Ray}?"

Al said that rejected the idea everyone came up with.

"I understand. Well then, we'll add one more plan that we thought of previously together with Bel and Zenom-san. After infiltrating them, it will be only obvious to go to the 6th floor right. That time, we'll bring them to the 7th floor. Obviously, we'll support them there with all our power. Since they're a top team as well if I accompany them and we take our time recovering mana and moving forward a bit at a time then it shouldn't be all that difficult to go to the 7th floor."

"And?"

"We'll lure them into an ogre mage room on the 7th floor. If we use paralyss poison on the ogres along the way then this shouldn't be all that difficult. During that occasion if we have them misrecognize the true strength of the ogres then I think that would be even better. Then, since there's always around 10 ogres in the

ogre mage room they should easily fall into a crisis. There Al-san and the others who were on standby nearby would gallantly appear and save them. It would be fine as long as we show off the appeal of our combat strength in full.

If we do that then I'm sure Faruergaz and the others will be shocked they can't enter the first party of {Sun.Ray}. If they find out the value of the ogres magic stones at that time it's only obvious they would be envious of us. Even if those two don't think that way Kumiru and Samyueruga would definitely think so. If we invite them there then I think it would only take one try. And then, the person who was infiltrating can just take the shape of turning their back on them after the combat on the 7th floor and return then I don't think it would be unnatural."

"I see now..Are Zenom and Bel of the same opinion?"

"Yeah."

Being asked by Al, Zenom replied right away.

"I think we should go over it a bit more into order to make sure things go exactly as expected."

Bel still had some plans. Incidentally, that plan was even more brutal, and everyone who heard it including Al were backing away from her over the details.

"No, you..that far..Rather~ if it's just a matter of making those two into allies we could spend a bit more time getting familiar with them and wait until they open their hearts to us. It's not like we need them right away.."

Al gets blocked on his words he's saying to Bel.

"But it's a valid method. If it's this then depending on the case we could crush {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} using a

similar technique as well. Aren't they ideal as practice for it?

Also, you said you would the matter this time to us right? Since it's best to make effective use of chances I though we should make the most effective use of it but..It's hard for me to imagine but Al-san do you have some kind of camaraderie going towards the other adventurers?"

"As expected I've never thought of them as comrades even once. Even at best competitors, in essence they're potential enemies right?"

"That's great..I'm relieved to hear you say that. As expected of Al-san..No, that was rude of me. It's only obvious. Well then, I would like to proceed with my idea."

"Nn..Since I already said I'd leave it to you all, I don't have any intention of commenting on the rough outline you've decided on. However, I have a condition. First off, including Zulu and them, make everyone agree with it. After that, since I'm leaving the matter this time to you all, it's no good for you to be the ones infiltrating. In the first place if you're using that plan as the base then there's too much danger to it. I'll take on the role of infiltrating. Think up a method. There's no need to worry about my external reputation. Ah, no, I'd like for you to worry about it a bit. If possible I'd prefer it not exceed the level of everyone looking down on or abandoning me because I'm lacking in ability. If it's just that then I have plenty of chances to recover it later on. Also, since I'm leaving the outline to you, you don't need to explain things to me other than the rough idea. Think of me as a

pawn and show me you can make good use of me."
Al insistently used the words "since I've left it to you".
"Thank you very much. Even if it's these sorts of small places

Toris and I wanted to gain experience in commanding."
"Yeah, got it. That's certainly something important after
all.."

"Well then, I would like to go over the fine details. Excluding Bel
no one else other than Zenom-san and I would know the discussion
from just now so we'll explain it once more but that's after we
return to the inn."

"Got it. Then, I'll leave this matter to Toris. But, it's not like
we need to hurry with it, don't overdo it by doing anything too
cruel."

"Of course."

With Toris's reply the discussion ended.

"Bel, you, are really intense unsuitable for your face.."

Ral was dumbfounded as she whispered to Bel sitting next to
her.

"Is that so? There are times I'd like for everyone to think about
it more seriously though..Of course even I don't think that this
method is very good. But I think it's effective. Since you're not
always going to be a child either I think you should rethink that
boring pride and disposition. Right now, where is Ral living? This
is a warning from my true feelings. I won't say it twice. It's fine
if you take some time so think carefully about it."

Bel replied in a whisper.

After dinner, when we returned to the inn, excluding Al the details
were explained to everyone and putting it simply, it was making use
of the ogres on the 7th floor and wiping out all of {Sun.Ray}'s

first party leaving just a few members (leaving just one person is ideal) alive. The outline of exposing the crimes of the leader couple of {Sun.Ray}, in this case gathering evidence wasn't seen as that important. It's a secondary objective. After they were wiped out it's fine as long as the witness gives testimony about the {Slaughterers} combat power and how it couldn't be helped they were wiped out.

After {Sun.Ray} loses over half of their upper party members since Faruergaz and the others aren't that skilled they'll end up in the position of a second-rate party. If things come to think then it's normal to think that the remaining few skilled members would move over to a half first-rate party and the half first-rate parties should invite them as well. It was believed to be very probable that if just one of them leaves the rest would follow after. If, there's not many movements then one or two people, if they seem useful it's fine if the {Slaughterers} calls out to them, if according to the secondary objective they had already exposed the evidence of the dead leaders crimes then we could just expose it to them without forbidding them from speaking. One way or another the {Slaughterers} is a super first-rate party that has gathered quite a bit of attention in Baldukk. It's easy to predict that if the {Slaughterers} were to call out to them the number of people trying to recruit them would intensify quickly.

If things come to that then even if we just leave things be, we could call out to Faruergaz and the others as a side. It's expected that they would feel considerably helpless at that point as well.

After all just when they thought they entered one of the top teams before much time had passed most of the upper party members die in the dungeon.

The ones who saved them for a crisis of really being completely wiped out was the {Slaughterers} with an overwhelming combat force. Even if Hirosukol has some feelings on it if he's not an idiot he should jump at the chance. Rather, it's believed there's not even any need for us to go to the trouble of calling out to them. And then when Saji joined us, we put that much emphasis on the contract. Obviously they'll enter into a formal contract and then it's fine if we just make it so they can't leave of their own free will. During that time if they know the compensation of the {Slaughterers} there's no way they wouldn't be swayed.

"But you know, they might not be swayed by money. Look, don't they say there's things in the world you can't buy with money?"

Ral brought up that doubt but everyone got a chuckle over it.

"But, as a reason for why they wouldn't be swayed, isn't

Faruergaz-san the eldest son of that Count Faruergeaz? He should have a lot of money right? I wonder if the compensation of the {Slaughterers} will be enough?"

Gwine is saying something that sounds reasonable for someone from the capital. However, there was some chuckles over that as well.

"Ral-san, Gwine-san. It's certainly true that Rodrick had a lot of money. But they should have spent quite a bit of it. They bought those two amazing looking combat slaves along with the equipment for them, I don't know if their financial sense has gotten too

light but they got too heated over pointless gambling in the capital as well. And also, I can declare it but there's no one in the world who won't fall for money. As long as Al-san isn't the revenge for the parents of those two at least. If it was just a half-assed amount then that might be the case but the compensation of the {Slaughterers} is quite literally a different set of digits."

Saji fumbled with his words as he started to talk as well.

"Since I've only spent a few months or so in Baldukk I can't say anything too big but putting aside myself, I think that everyone else income is comparable to the leaders of the other top teams. Since those two were able to receive investiture as true knights at a young age their abilities are reasonably high. But, for that sake at least..if I remember correctly it was two or three years..I forgot but they had spend a number of years living in the knight group as squires. Prior to that they were children under the care of their parents you know? Not to mention one of those was a high ranking noble with no troubles at all and the other was a commoner family that had leeway in it's lifestyle.

I'm sure, right about now they're seeing and finding out various things in the world for this first time. It's not a dormitory system like the knight group where as long as you seriously study and train you automatically receive food and money. I'm sure they're understanding that about now. At the same time the appreciation of money as well."

Saji is probably halfway saying it to himself. Everyone thought that but they just nodded in agreement.

"Well, since there's also things like {Magic.Items} as expected I doubt it reaches the leaders of other top teams but even then it should be much higher than the normal members."

Zenom said with his arms crossed.

"Wai..Is there no one here that seeks after romance? Like bonds and stuff.."

Ralpa said as if she was shocked but her face was laughing. It seems that her remarks just a moment ago were just raising a problem and not her own assertion. Hearing that, Saji was a bit embarrassed for replying seriously himself.

"Probably..the fact that they're former "Japanese people" I'm sure, is the only thing that can't be bought with money. Though even that can't be said for everyone unconditionally. If you were to say something extreme then how much could you sell the relationships between Japanese people for? that sort of thing works as well. I don't think it would be strange for there to be people that sell others for 1 gold coin."

When Gwine said that, Saji remembered himself about one year ago.

During that time he felt like he was at the peak of his life in his hometown of Rockfall village. He had to dig through his faded and forgotten memories, trying to wring them out as he failed a number of times and was finally able to make the thresher, which he was considerably praised over by his owner and the lord. He was in ecstasy over just 1 gold Shu and a pair of chickens. If it was me at that time then rather than something like Japanese who I had no familiarity with I'd have put priority on 1 gold coin I'm sure.

Thinking that I smiled. Also, the one who abandoned the two people

who released me from the slave ranking blinded by money was myself. In some meanings was it trying to defend myself? But, I can hold my chest out and say that my choice wasn't a mistake. Saji was happy enough that he could get defiant and think that.

.....

The next morning, we went running as usual but soon after Saji was ordered to sing a song by Al. {British}. Since Saji idolized rock he didn't know any songs to sing at a time like this but since a song that you sing during field trips in elementary school was specified he was somehow able to sing it. All over the place there were parts of the lyrics he was worried about but everyone else followed with him. Since singing while running also works as training to increase lung capacity he wasn't against it. In the first place, in this town of Baldukk even if they act a bit audacious, Saji as a member of the {Slaughterers} no one would complain about it. Without even paying any mind to the trouble it causes in the early morning singing loudly was fun and even refreshing.

That night, Al gathered his three slaves and explained the outline of yesterday night. All three of them showed disapproval to changing owners even temporarily but in the end since Al ordered them they reluctantly obeyed.

For the time being as a first hand to play, Zuru and Maruso need to start going to places they don't normally go and complain about things. They'll make small complains about their jobs as slaves having increased recently.

However, there wasn't a feel that they were able to act very well.

Since they weren't able to say even a single complaint towards their master. They're treated the same as normal combat slaves and when it comes to meals while it's just breakfast and dinner, they're allowed to eat however much of whatever they please so that is happiness. Even though that's the case they're still paid somewhat high wages as well. It's something they seized from another party but Zulu was provided with high class metal armor banded-mail and Maruso has an extremely high quality sword merchant Fuggusu produced broad sword. Both of those aren't the type of equipment just a mere combat slave would be allowed to use. However, since it's an important job they were ordered by their master they couldn't slack off, the two of them could only say things they didn't actually think. A reasonable number of eyes caught sight of those two.

.....

There was a chance in the dungeon to lower Al's reputation.

Conveniently it was in this teleport room on the 5th floor.

Furthermore, the other group was {Sun.Ray}. After Zenom exchanged looks with Ralpha she desperately twisted her head and so everyone other than Al would notice just as decided before-hand she put her left hand on her land knee and started talking about meaningless things. She started making fun of {Sun.Ray} over the low nutritional value of their cucumbers at a volume they couldn't hear. Bel and Miduchi noticed right away and reacted. Maruso put in a loyal retort. Just as expected, Al ended up snapping.

.....

After returning from the dungeon, we went to sell the magic stones

and Al declared that all of Saji's debt had been repaid. A smile appeared on Saji's face. In an unbelievably short period of time he was able to pay off a huge amount as 5,000,000 Z. Furthermore, since he was also properly handed his wages and the leftovers so in these four months the amount Saji obtained was over 6,000,000 Z. Since there was the charge for staying at a high class inn and the necessary things he had to buy there wasn't much remaining on hand but to Saji he was able to repay it in a shot period that exceeded his expectations.

While Saji was floating in good spirits, Ral found another good chance to pick a fight with some adventurers who came to sell magic stones. Ral said something to make fun of the amount the adventurers earned, hearing that Saji looked at the magic stone on top of the scale and it certainly was a cute magic stone. It was about the same size as the magic stones of the ogres we're always obtaining but the color was a lot darker.

(Ehe..Starting next month I'll be earning way more than something like that. Don't be arrogantly picking a fight with our Ral-san over something at that level. Ah!)

When he looked at Ral again she had her left hand on her left hip.

It's the sign when she's standing up. Noticing that Saji tried to say something in a panic but they were thrown out of the story by the old man who runs it.

.....

During dinner that night Saji made a huge mistake. It wasn't the same as usual, they were in the middle of a party celebrating the repayment of Saji's debt, Al left his seat for a short while. Saji

was completely engrossed in eating a delicious fish off the bone.

He was scraping off the meat around the eyes with the slightly rough tongue of a Cat-people.

(De..Delicious! How delicious is this! For fish to be this good! I

don't even know how many times I've been moved by this same thing since I came to Baldukk. Until I came here since I was further inland I hadn't eaten fish. I wonder if after all fish are best for Cat-people?)

It was then that an angry voice echoed through the store.

Miduchi stood up with her left hand at her hip and was yelling as

she looked down at Ral. This time for sure, I need to say something that is helpful.

"U..Umm..Th..The two of you, sto..stop it! Pleeease~ stop it~!"

(Fumu, I think it was very good acting that approached the real

thing. The feeling of panic should have come out as well. Even I can be useful at times. I've even become able to stab ogres with the spear on the 7th floor without flinching!)

Saji triumphantly returned to the inn and everyone rejected him.

Additionally they also came to the conclusion that the leader Al is useless so they had to take into consideration that there might be obstacles in their plan from here on out and even reported that they were excluded from the plan.

There's nothing to do other than feel down.

I wonder if there's anything I can do to be useful?

I need to think of something. Saji twists his head just like the

time with the thresher. However, he quickly remember. At the end of last year, shortly before they released him from being a

slave the time when they went to the brothel and used condoms, what he thought of! Fortunately the {Slaughterers} have a holiday during Golden Week.

(It's just a bit but I have some money, as expected it won't be enough to buy Cathy until I enter the dungeon a number of times more. It should be fine if I use this money.)

Thinking that Saji started to twist his head over what he can do to what extend with his limited budget.

.....

Starting the next day it was just the contents but Saji immediately started making a prototype. However, it was extremely difficult to skillfully make minced meat, quite literally it takes backbreaking amounts of work. Things weren't going very well. While he was making it he felt like the color of the pork he bought ended up changing colors as well. And then, he remembered. There's no preservatives. Things like O-157 are dangerous.

When he tried asking the butcher he purchased the pork from and they said they didn't know of anything that sounds almost like magic like that. It depends on the season but raw meat only lasts at best~ one day. If two days pass then people with weak stomachs will get diarrhea. It seems that if you put it in a refrigerator and properly replace the ice then it'll last another few days.

Taking into consideration the time it takes to purchase the meat and process it then if he can't do the work with a refrigerator then he'd like a bit more time. If this business doesn't go well then won't he'll just be of completely no use to everyone, additionally he remembered back to how his hobbies ended with how

to make instruments as well.

While thinking that as Saji was dabbling and causing trouble for

the butcher Miduchi passed by and asked him what he was doing. Such and such as he discussed the details, Miduchi put her hand to her jaw and thought about it.

"I don't know if it will be of reference for you Saji-san, but it's

not as if I don't have something in mind on that. There's a variety of different mushrooms cultivated in my country. A lot of them are the same as ones from "Earth" but I think a lot of them also didn't exist as well. Among those there's a mushroom called Soruhoggu. It's a mushroom that is the source for a poison called Sorira but during the process of making that poison a white power comes out. It seems that corpses of mice lasted for a considerably long time without rotting after touching that powder. It could be possible that it's a preservative."

Hearing that Saji was so overjoyed he felt like he could jump up

but there's no guarantee it's really a preservative so it's too soon to relax. However, it might be good to think of it as one step forward. While Saji was pleased he discussed various things with Miduchi. She might have pitied Saji from being excluded from the plan. She might have been moved by Saji's feelings of wanting to be useful to everyone. However, to Saji it didn't matter whichever it was.

Furthermore, since Saji was excluded from the plan for the time

being he had to have meals alone or together with Al's slaves.

.....

That night, while Al was gone to the capital, this time Gwine

picked a fight with Zulu.

"Zulu, stop using your hands and use the {chopsticks} or fork! I

feel disgusted just watching. You already know how to use them

right."

She pulled back her chair and if you look closely she has her left

hand on her left knee. Hearing that Zenom and Maruso suddenly

grabbed their knife and chopsticks.

"I was told to eat however I please by master. Gwine has no right

to order m."

Zulu said as if he didn't care at all as he started grabbing the

meat and vegetable stir fry with his left hand and carried it to

his mouth, then he wiped his dirty fingers on the tablecloth. It

seems it was unexpected for Zulu to be told off on that matter and

he made a slightly annoyed expression.

"It's unrelated to Al-san. I'm saying that I feel disgusted from

it!"

(Zulu, sorry)

"I only obey master and nobles. There's no reason for me to listen

to what Gwine says."

(I wonder what she'll say next? Huh? Somehow it's gotten a bit

fun)

"Wha! When Al-san comes back I'll tell on you!"

(We've already gathered attention, I guess this is fine

already)

"Do as you please, I'll eat however I like."

(Is she a child! I heard that Gwine was older than me but..)

"Is that so, then feel free to do as you please. Though Al-san

likes things that are refined. I wonder if he can endure the fact

that his own slaves are eating in a vulgar way and causing the surrounding people to feel disgusted?"

(Since it's this occasion, it might be good to have Zulu start properly eating with tableware)

"Gu!! Didn't Gwine not use tableware at first as well!"

(She says painful things)

"But I sympathized with Al-san's way of thinking and now I'm properly able to eat elegantly."

"Just stop already, why don't we properly eat in a refined way with the tableware. Zulu aren't you fine with that as well?"

If Zenom hadn't smoothed things over the dispute might have continued a while longer.

The next morning, Bel and Gwine started fighting in the miscellaneous goods store and then that evening Ral and Miduchi started fighting over something stupid again in the middle of the main street.

Even further during lunch the next day, Zenom, Toris, Ral, and Zulu teamed up and started fighting with team Miduchi, Gwine, Maruso, and Larry over something in a restaurant.

That night Ral and Miduchi started picking faults over each others hairstyles again.

It was already completely known between adventurers that there was discord between Ral and Miduchi.

They themselves thought they were picking fights under various cases but whenever it didn't involve other party members Ral was always picking fights with just Miduchi. Since that was the case, the number of arguments between Ral and Miduchi naturally increased.

And then after several days passed, Al returned from the capital,

Saji tried inquiring with him about the production of {Sausages} while feeling timid inside but he was relieved that there wasn't any particular problem with it.

That night when they were having dinner at "Pegizu" a bar Saji brought his best prototype. It seems the seasonings were just a bit too strong but even then Saji was happy that it was popular with everyone. Since he was told that he can freely use the porter and cook of the {Slaughterers} Larry, so he decided to put in some more fighting spirit and make more {Sausages}.

After that several weeks passed. Since the discord between Ral and Miduchi had spread around that had become the focus. They would make it seem like the leader Al was lacking in management ability and chase him out of the party then he would enter {Sun.Ray} like that. Hearing that Al made a slightly amazed expression but in the since he already said he would leave things to them~ he just obediently lowered his head and accepted everyone's plan.

Of course, when it's time for him to return everyone will lower their heads and say, "After all we're not good without you. Please come back to us." By doing that we can put emphasis on the fact that he was somehow able to manage the wild horses that are Ral and Miduchi. Obviously, Ral and Miduchi will have to keep fighting after Al leaves and increase the scale to make it seem like even Toris can't handle it. If they find a good chance then somewhere around the 1st floor against monsters that aren't very dangerous, they could have someone witness their fight as the cause for someone skillfully getting injured.

Around the time they just entered the middle of May, the magic tool

that the {Slaughterers} had put up for sale since last year seems to have sold for a considerably high price. Excluding Saji and the slaves, everyone got a bonus that reached 2.5 or so gold coins. Since the sale of magic tools wasn't included as a bonus on Saji's contract all he could do is look while biting his fingers but in the first place when they obtained that magic tool he was still doing jobs in the fields. Also, he had gotten plenty of compensation up until now.

Even looking at things in a favorable light Saji is still at the level of a beginner and he still hasn't found anything out about the level ups or whatever that he's half in doubt about. If he gets greedy he'll be punished.

He decided to think like that.

.....

On a day off around the end of May, the {Slaughterers} decided to leave Al behind and go to the capital to have fun.

It seems that Miduchi will accompany Saji to some place. The destination was a healing clinic which is managed by a dark elf healer named Tukerin. It seems that Tukerin is famous even in the capital and when they asked the location from a member of the knight group on patrol through Rombertia they immediately replied with the precise location.

According to what Miduchi said it seems that healing clinic acts as an embassy for the country she was born. However, she herself didn't know the specific location of it so she had to ask a member of the knight group. After entering the waiting room filled with patients and one of the gnome employees went into the back. After a

short while of waiting like that the employee and a dark elf came out to confirm Miduchi's status before they started whispering some kind of old-fashioned words. I wonder if she's Tokerin? Soon after just Miduchi was allowed into the back room. Miduchi waited for a short while in the room and a dark elf in their 50s entered.

"Are you Tokerin-san?"

"Yeah, I'm Tokerin."

They said that and stretched out their right hand. She grabbed Tokerin's right hand while they confirmed each others status. So their full name is Baidu~nsu.Tokerin. Just as rumored it seems they're a retired member of the rank 1 warrior class and they have all of the elemental magic skills.

"I'm rank 1 warrior class Chizumagurol. I came today with several requests. Before I start talking, please confirm this."

After saying that Miduchi took out the scimitar on her waist and put it on the table in front of her. Seeing such a splendid sword Tokerin must have had some thoughts on it, Tokerin timidly stretched out their hand and confirmed the status.

"O..Oh..This is..What a wonderful sword..However, is there something about this?"

"I think you can already understand it's not a sword that just a single warrior should be walking around with. The one granted me that sword was her majesty Lilus."

Hearing the line Miduchi carelessly stated, Tokerin's eyes went wide with amazement and they froze up.

"What!..How overwhelming..However, I can accept what you say that it was something her majesty was in possession of..Rather, I

certainly can't think of anything other than that..Ha!!? Has Chizumagurol-dono had audience with her majesty!?"

Tukerin's voice was trembling when they finally reactivated.

"Yeah, last summer, I had an audience with her majesty, and was directly granted this sword. It seems that in the past it was her majesty's favored sword."

"Oh, Oh! So this sword was a favored item of her majesty!"

Tukerin caressed the blade of the sword once more with a trembling hand.

"On that occasion, I was ordered to a special mission by her majesty. Right now I'm acting as an adventurer in Baldukk in relation to that."

"Is it fine to talk to me about that?"

"Yeah, if it's just this much then there's no problem. However, anything more than this is no good. Today I'm here to request the assistance of Tukerin-dono in relation to that."

"Please say anything at all. I'll do whatever I can."

"Thank you very much. Is there any soruhoggu here? And then do you the method to purify sorira from that?"

"So you're in need of sorira is it. Of course we have some.

Periodically the acquisition members come to replenish our stick. We don't have a very large amount at all but it's fine if we hand over all we have on hand."

Tukerin leaned forward with a happy face on the verge of tears at the honor of being able to cooperate on a mission directly ordered by her majesty the Queen. Since she already imagined things would become like this Miduchi apologized in her heart and politely lowered head thanking Tukerin. But, she also said that what she

needed was the disposable waste white powder that was produced during the purification of sorira from soruhoggu.

"Pl..Please wait just a moment. I'll confirm it now."

After saying that Tukerin left Miduchi and left the room in a

hurry. And then, soon after Tukerin came back in with a woman of the same age. It's the employee who just confirmed Miduchi's status.

"This is my wife Rodu~gu. She also received the training for the rank 1 warrior class but on the final ascertainment test she ended up falling through. She ended up as a rank 2 warrior class but when we got married she retired from being a warrior and entered the family as a part of the service ranking. After we had two children, with the younger child became an adult I decided to retire as well. It was just as the former official was feeling nostalgic and wished to return back to Erurehei so thanks to that we've been acting as a couple and healers here for over 10 years."

Rodu~gu made a gentle smile as she greeted and shook Miduchi's hand. They simply explained the circumstances and after calming down Rodu~gu from trembling in surprise and being moved the same as her husband, they explained what she wanted and she was able to understand right away. However, they only had a small amount of soruhoggu right now. It seems that the next supplement from the acquisition ranking will be in the fall. Since it couldn't be helped she said that was fine so she asked them to purify sorira and asked to receive the white power produced through that. Of course Rodu~gu accepted it immediately.

When they left the healing clinic, she said that depending on the

case they might need a large amount of it in from here on so on that occasion they might come to request for more, and didn't forget to mention that she might come to request other cooperation as well.

During that time Saji was quietly waiting in the waiting room.

"It's just a bit but it seems we'll be able to receive a little bit. They said they would deliver it in two weeks."

Saji smiled hearing Miduchi's words.

.....

And then just a bit after the middle of June, around the time the temperature started to increase quite a bit.

"Basutorial, are you properly saving your money up? You haven't been wasting it right?"

After returning from the dungeon, Al asked Saji. With a considerably serious expression.

"Yeah, of course. Right now about the only money I've used is on the prototypes of {Sausages} I guess."

"I see. About how much do you have saved up right now?"

"Around 1,500,000 I guess. If I receive around 500,000 this time as well then it will reach 2,000,000. Umm..And then, I have a request to make as well but.."

It seems that Al is worried about Saji's wallet. He hadn't forgotten about it. Saji was a bit relieved.

"It's a holiday right? I already know. After the next time we get back from the dungeon it's fine for you to rest."

However, the words that came back were ruthless. If it's that then

I can only rest for a total of two weeks(the usual 3 days off + 1 week from not having to enter the dungeon, and the following 3 days

off for a total of 12 days, 2 weeks) right! It takes two weeks at a slow pace on a horse to get to Rockfall village. If you pay an additional amount to a passenger carriage and give it your best then you might get there a bit faster but even then it wouldn't make it in time.

Al laughed seeing Saji turn pale white. I wonder if he's enjoying himself? A dark something spread out in Saji's heart.

"Don't make a face like that. Two weeks is plenty. Ah, after we finish selling the magic stones everyone accompany me. Ah, this is an order."

While feeling dull and depressed he went to the magic tool shop to sell the magic stones and after receiving his bonus of 510,000 Z, 2 gold Shu and 1 silver coin, just as he was told Saji followed at the rear of everyone as they were guided by Al.

After walking for about 20 minutes, the place they arrived was a house he didn't know. No, it's probably not a house. There's a small signboard above the door but Saji didn't have the composure remaining to read it. Al told everyone to wait outside for a bit and entered the store alone. I wonder if it's something like a hidden restaurant or something. All of the meals they've eaten together were like a dream to Saji but this day he just felt depressed.

After a short while Al showed his face and ordered everyone to enter the store when Saji was welcomed with a nostalgic voice.

"Saji!!"

Is it a dream or illusion? The moment she recognized Saji after he

entered the store Cathy jumped into his chest.

"Cathy!!"

He properly embraced her as she jumped over and raised her face.

Show me your face even closer.

Embrace me even tighter! Even more!

"I was always watching! I was always listening! But, that one week when I couldn't see you I was worried. If I couldn't see you anymore, or hear your voice, what would I do.."

Cathy started sobbing while being embraced by Saji.

"The congratulatory holiday is two weeks. It's plenty right?"

Al said while making a vulgar smile as he grinned looking at Saji

embrace Cathy. It seems that the members of the {Slaughterers} who were watching from a bit of distance away couldn't hide their surprise but no one was making this sort of vulgar smile. Gwine was completely crying at the situation and the women Miduchi, Bel, Ral, and Maruso had some light tears in their eyes for some reason after being moved. After looking at Al again Saji got a bad feeling from the vulgar smile on his employers face but he was so happy right now that even that sort of face felt loving.

Ah, Al hadn't forgotten about it. He had properly seen through everything and made preparations!

I'm grateful!

While he was thinking that a female elf with a kiseru,

"That'll be 1,782,000 Z."

said that. In a fluster he came to his senses but the only money on him is the 510,000 Z he just received.

"Hurry and go get it. Run!"

Hearing Al's order while still making a vulgar smile, Saji ran out

as if he was being pulled and ran through the town of Baldukk in

the twilight evening.

He rushed into his room in Boil Manor and after putting the 510,000 Z he just received into his container for money he started running back again. His grinning and smiling won't stop. He couldn't hold back that it wouldn't stop. It would be good if it's not a vulgar feeling smile like Al though...

When he returned to the house from just now and looked up. "Slave Store, Ronslail" was written. When he put his hand on the door about to open it, from inside he heard the voice of "That's horrible!" from inside. It seems it's Miduchi's voice. I wonder what in the world happened in the short period of time? Thinking that Saji started to open the door.

"Che...Listen carefully. She arrived here around the end of April.

Certainly I didn't tell anyone about that. Of course I won't deny the small feeling of wanting to surprise him as well."

What was that? Cathy has been here since April!?

Shit!! That bastard!

The face that Saji thought was loving just now started to seem like a devil.

"But you know, think carefully about it. What do you think would have happened if I had told that to Basutorial at that time? He might have died in a hurry to earn money even just a bit faster you know?"

"U...I guess..That's.. true..as well?"

He could hear Miduchi's voice rapidly fade from the other side of the door.

He couldn't turn the handle the of the door.

Certainly..Certainly it's just as he said.

If he had seen Cathy's face at that point in April he would have

gotten quite a bit impatient.
If you even just make a single mistake the ogres on the 7th floor
will get you with a fatal blow.
Though Saji has grown quite a bit compared to the start, it's still
no different from comparing the moon to a snapping turtle between
him and the other members.
Or rather, his abilities back then were even less than they still
are even now.
"It's just as Al said. There's no meaning if Saji were to have
died."
This deep voice is Zenom I guess?
..If I were to die then all of the money that Al spent on Cathy
would have turned into a complete loss.
Saji's head didn't reach the point of thinking that Al hadn't paid
any money and put it on a tab.
Even if he hadn't paid yet Al would have bought Cathy though.
He took on that much risk and even paid close attention to my own
feelings and safety.
"There's no guarantee that telling him everything would end up with
good results after all."
The calm voice sounds like Toris.
Even Cathy should have been able to live safely during her time at
the slave traders.
Judging from her words just now he was able to understand that she
should have already seen Saji.
She even heard his voice..The song! During the days they're on the
surface he was made to sing a song every morning while running and
she heard that!
Come to think of it we always passed in front of here along this

road while running.

Around the time in winter when he joined the {Slaughterers} putting
aside the route on top of the outer crater outside of the town, he
said he gets bored of the road so he didn't have a fixed route. But
before any noticed it had become a fixed route.

That was to show my appearance voice to Cathy...

I'm an idiot.

It's only obvious that Al wanted to quickly tell me ever since

Cathy arrived.

Even though I have no abilities at all he didn't show even a single

displeased face and let me gain some valuable experience.

He taught me to write and even taught me magic.

He also let me train with the spear as well.

Additionally he even paid me money that doesn't match up to my true
abilities.

Everything in front of me becomes cloudy from tears.

However, if here, I cry over this reason then Al's feelings would
have been meaningless.

If I'm going to cry then I should just make them tears over
reuniting with Cathy.

Saji twisted the door knob.

Chapter 204 (Reverse)

That morning Saji woke up with a good feeling. There was a bit of numbness remaining in his left arm that Cathy was using as a pillow but that let Saji feel a definite weight. Last night they drank a lot and after returning to Boil Manor unable to do anything the two of them fell asleep just like that.

Today they'll slowly have breakfast together then after that the two of them will go to the temple to release Cathy and then have the wedding ceremony, after that is shopping. As a wedding gift Saji received 200,000 Z from his employer Al, other than that he also received 100,000 Z each from Miduchi, Zenom, Toris, Bel, Ral, and Gwine, the three slaves Zulu, Maruso, and Giberuti gave him things like a knife, accessory, or tableware. Adding it together with his bonus remaining from the dungeon yesterday and Saji's current money is just over 1,000,000 Z, after releasing and marrying Cathy, since he also gets paid on the 1st day of next month, there's still 500,000 Z in leeway after the necessary expenses like inn and food until the end of the month. Saji kissed Cathy who had already opened here eyes in his arms before getting up from the bed.

"Now, let's go out. First off is food! Today is going to be busy!"

It was when he was putting on the clothes he just purchased last

month and put on his rubber sandals, he suddenly noticed that Cathy doesn't have any shoes. (Ah, I need to buy some sandals as well. It's not a honeymoon but it might be good to go to the capital for a few days to do some shopping) Without even trying to hide the smile that naturally appeared on his face he started on the way to the restaurant with Cathy who was still wearing worn-out clothes.

"Eh? I'm fine with just porridge."

While Cathy was showing reservations with just a single bowl of oatmeal porridge, Ah, come to think of it I did too..and he remembered how it overlapped with himself previously, Saji said, "There's no need to hold back. I'm earning enough for you to eat however much of whatever you like. One day I'm sure you'll start to work as well though..Just this year your husband has earned a myriad of Z." while holding his chest high and ordered some more bacon, eggs, some smoked oyster, and white bread.

"Saji is amazing!! But, about how much is a myriad? Around 10 silver coins?"

Saji remembered that she can't do calculations. Prior to that she knows the denominations up to 10,000 but she doesn't know the digits higher than that. That's why probably, the only thing she can imagine without thinking anything is up to 99,999. If you were to continue life as a serf of Rockfall village then shopping that exceeds several tens of thousands of Z is pretty much unthinkable(even that if you think about the income or position of a slave that's something that only happens once every few years) so you could say that's plenty but from here on out things won't go

that way.

While feeding her some thickly cut bacon cooked over a high flame with the oil come down, along with some eggs lightly covered in pepper, and white bread with the smoked oyster on it and Cathy started silently crying from being deeply moved just like Saji once upon a time.

Saji thought Cathy was so cute he couldn't help it how she would say "This is delicious!" and get engrossed with it every time she tried eating something. After listening to her story it seems that during the time she was at the slave traders place she always ate vegetable soup and wheat porridge and occasionally there was seconds of the wheat porridge and black bread. Since it seems that there was properly large vegetable pieces in the vegetable soup even then you could say it was considerably better than her eating habits in Rockfall village.

After they finished eating the two of them next started towards the main event of today, the temple. There were parents holding healthy children around 1 years old who seem like they can expect growth from here on out waiting in line to get the naming ceremony done. He lined up at the back together with Cathy. Of course, on the way to coming to the temple he properly stopped by "Slave Store, Ronslail" and picked up the proof of sale.

While they were lined up a middle aged woman dressed in robes who seemed to be an employee of the temple came walking around asking everyone what ceremony they wanted. Saji's reply was simple. "I want to release her, Cathy, from being a slave and after that marry her." Hearing that the employee and surrounding people all offered

words of blessing.

(Ah, this feels so good!)

He scratched his head while embarrassed and said, "No~ don't they say if you get married in June the bride will become happy. I want to make her happy." and said a famous marketing slogan for a wedding chapel before, "Huh?" twisting his head. Was that from roman mythology...Everyone around him was making faces like, "That's my first time hearing that." Somehow he started to feel a cold sweat coming on as Saji tried to laugh, "A ha ha.." to cover it up.

After waiting for about an hour, they were safely able to finish the two ceremonies, and after making an offering of a total of 350,000 Z Saji checked Cathy's status a number of times.

【Catherine.Basutorial/17/6/7445 Catherine.Enforu/18/4/7445】

【Female/21/9/7428】

【Cat-People.Rombert Kingdom Duke Rombert Territory Registered Free Person】

【Special Skill: Night Vision】

【Special Skill: Small Magic】

(Catherine.Basutorial huh..No matter how many times I look at it, it's good..)

While Saji was thinking that and grinning and Cathy was looking at her own status as well as Saji's while(Ah, I was really able to marry Saji! I'm happy!) grinning.

Now then, the next place the two started towards while grinning was the clothing store. Since Cathy only has the worn-out clothes that she's been wearing since the past and it's getting a little bit too small, so first they need to buy some clothes. Since he still had a

lot of money remaining they can just buy an appropriate outfit and then after lunch they'll leave a message before heading off to the capital and slowly take their time for a week or so.

The two of them purchased a neat shirt, pants, and several pairs of underwear at the clothing store. After buying those and returning to Boil Manor what waited for Saji was a surprising contract. He would graduate from being an apprentice and after his holiday was over his compensation would double, he signed and received his portion of that contract and then after telling Al he would be going to the capital for a week to purchase some sandals as well as playing around, went out in high spirits.

While riding the passenger carriage shaking on the way to the capital Saji starting thinking about where to go first.

(In order to buy sandals we definitely need to go to Greed Company but before even that there's a place I want to go right..Though I don't really know about it for sure so I guess this is fine to put off..)

First off Saji went to Greed Company to purchase sandals and introduce Cathy, but the head clerk Rozural.Rogu wouldn't take the money.

"Think of it as a wedding fit from us. Even though we didn't know, since we couldn't do anything for the wedding of a friend of Al-sama. Please don't mind it."

(Somehow, it feels like I've come to sponge off them? I didn't have that intention though..)

Also, the employee Reira.Yotlen tried asking in a whisper.

"Do you have any Saya?"

"Yeah, I received some from Al-san as a wedding gift. I'm fine on

that end."

Saji replied in a low voice as well. Cathy was playing with Hanna and Kamunal. Since they're also the same Cat-people they got along together quickly.

Saji confirmed the location of a precious metal store with Reira and left Greed Company. They wandered around their first large city sightseeing while heading towards the precious metal store he was told about and in a short while they arrived at the store. Among nobles there's also the custom of giving {Marriage Rings} but other than nobles that considerably prosperous the custom hasn't sunk in almost at all.

However, Saji by all means wanted to give Cathy a ring. Of course something that's too expensive is impossible but he wanted to send her something that would be in commemoration. As expected a platinum or gold ring is impossible but if it's silver then it should be alright. If allergies become a problem then we'll deal with it when we get there. It's fine if I just buy her another one. Thinking that Saji confidently walked into the precious metals store while Cathy hesitantly followed after.

While Cathy was feeling troubled seeing all of the blinding accessories in the precious metal store, Saji gave her a silver ring that cost 60,000 Z. It's just a cheap article but for Saji right now this was his limit.

(Come to think of it I remember hearing it's supposed to be three months of your wages. In my case it's 600,000 Z huh..Huh? Was that the engagement ring? Well whatever. However, 600,000 huh..What the, if it's just that much then I can earn it after entering the

dungeon just once. It might be good to come again.)
He safely gave Cathy a marriage ring and after they wandered around the capital looking at famous places for a few days but after a single store entered Saji's sight he was drawn to and entered it. It was an instrument store. While Saji was evaluating the stringed instruments his expression was a harsh one that wouldn't let anyone near. After asking the clerk he tried sounding them out a bit and would click with his tongue or tilt his head as time passed. Without eating for half a day just spending it in the store together with Saji without saying a single complaint, Cathy could be said to be the model wife.
In the end, Saji threw down the large sum of 230,000 Z to buy a single lute(an instrument that resembles a guitar).

.....

One week later, when Saji returned from the capital, he enjoyed the time he slowly spent together with Cathy since they were in the capital. He would wake up in the morning and go for a light run, after that he would shower to wash away the sweat and have breakfast together with his new wife, then they would go out to the cool side of the lake as he teaches her to write simple words. Cathy was considerably fast at learning letters. Saji was(Sh..She's faster than..even me?) even shocked.
With lunch at noon in between during the afternoon he taught her some fundamental arithmetic while enjoying some tea quietly. Though different from letters which are just a matter of remembering them she was a bit bad at arithmetic. After that he did just a bit of spear training at the edge of town before the two of them went to

eat some delicious fish and wine. Of course, he played the lute he purchased when they were in the capital as well. After that, when they returned the inn they used up the rubber hygiene products he received as a wedding gift.

When it came to using the rubber hygiene product Saji felt an indescribable feeling. He's never even used the pig's bowels in this lifetime so he doesn't have anything to compare them with. The last time he used them was in the super high class brothel of the capital and since the atmosphere wasn't ordinary he couldn't remember the feeling of using it. When it actually comes to using them he felt the quality wasn't as good as the ones he remembered from his past life. Additionally it was a bit painful that the size was just a bit small. However, since he already understand that there was the difference between heaven and earth of having them or not so he didn't make any complaints at all.

Incidentally, the preservatives had long since arrived but as expected he didn't want the first thing he did as part of his newlywed life to be cutting up meat on a cutting board to make minced meat so he decided to forget about {Sausage} making for a short while.

After spending a few days like that it became the day for everyone to return from the dungeon. After counting the days the two of them spent the day wandering around the area of the entrance plaza waiting for everyone to return. Close to the evening when the members of the {Slaughterers} appeared from the entrance Saji and Cathy immediately ran up.

"Welcome back, Al-san."

Saji greeted him with his hand around Cathy's waist.

Cathy is bashful while showing her new ring.

Seeing that all the members tease them.

"Oh~ we had a big catch this time as well. Everyone, shall we go?"

They all went to the usual magic tool shop in succession and sold the magic stones. This time as well they were able to make in the latter half of 50,000,000, so Saji thought that was excellent.

Simultaneously he thought (So the earnings don't change whether I'm there or not..huh. I need put some effort into it!) that.

Of course, since Saji didn't participate in entering the dungeon this time he wasn't given a bonus. The congratulatory holiday might be paid but since he's properly paid wages at the 1st of every month so that's only obvious. During dinner of that night Saji and Cathy talked about the various things they saw in the capital and time passed as Saji played the lute he purchased in the capital.

.....

The first day of July, including the slaves everyone of the {Slaughterers} gathered without running to do a final confirmation of Bel's plan. Today after this they'll go to the temple and Al will sell Zulu, Maruso, and Larry to Toris. And then Al will vacate the Boil Manor and move to a different inn.

They confirmed the days for when Al should get into contact after leaving the {Slaughterers} based on {Sun.Ray}'s schedule and when he might join them and in the end they were all handed this month's salary. Just as planned they all went to the temple when it was just about 9 in the morning.

Since it was something they already spread as rumors since yesterday around noon there was already a dozen or so onlookers in front of the temple. The ones who are the talk of the street {Slaughterers} have their leader breaking away. If that's really true then they would definitely like him to join their party. Around half of the people who gathered were different adventurer party members thinking that and the remaining half were just there to confirm the rumors and simply onlookers.

During the time Al isn't around, obviously his room will be open but it came to Miduchi continuing to pay for and secure it. However, in order to keep it a secret publicly, Miduchi would use Al's room, and during that period Cathy would use Miduchi's room.

When the {Slaughterers} quickly returned to their inn they all gathered in Zenom's room and immediately started a conference. Though that's the case it was just a final confirmation that nothing was missing and didn't take much time at all.

For the time being the situation is one that they can only pray that Al is able to skillfully join {Sun.Ray}.

The next day was normally a day for them to enter the dungeon but the {Slaughterers} decided not to enter the dungeon until the first information comes from Al. This is because they also felt there was a need to check their formations and cooperation during combat since the leader Al left and since others might predict that it was believed to not be very unnatural. In the morning they went to the edge of town and broke a sweat while training, after the afternoon, while they were in town though they were in a lull state Miduchi

and Ralpa still continued pretending with their boring disputes the same as usual.

Since Saji was excluded from those things it couldn't be helped so he would wander around town with Cathy or go out to the lake, and killed time teaching Cathy arithmetic. It was then that Saji suddenly realized.

(Come to think of it, she was considerably fast to learn letters but slow to understand arithmetic..There might be a problem with the way I'm teaching but..However, since she was able to learn letters that easily she should have some talent right..)

It was when he thought that far, there was something that dawned on him.

(The information on the Status appears to me as Japanese. However, I wonder how it looks to Cathy? In the first place, when we got married she looked at my and her own status a number of times..Even though she shouldn't have been able to read or write at all..)

"Hey~ Cathy. When we got married you were looking at the status but you shouldn't have been able to read letters right?"

"Yeah, is something strange about that?"

"If you can't read letters then there's no meaning in looking at status right? Rather, are letters even properly appearing on it?"

"Eh? Of course? That's the case. But, things like my own name I can tell from the shape and things like numbers my parents already knew after all. I understood the general meaning. Though I say that just my own. No one would teach me after all."

"I see..So that's why you were able to learn them pretty

easily.."

Saji was able to understand it but if it's like that then in just the case of the large majority of slaves and Free People it might quite easy to teach them letters, is what he thought. Also, he was able to guess that the reason why the commoners and nobles which make up the lesser percentage of the population don't easily teach letters to those of the lower social standings was because they would be troubled if they got more intelligent. Things like that, I wonder what kind of objective Al has for the country he declared he was going to make, and started thinking that, if I have the chance next time I'll try asking, and also thought that.

Putting that aside, yesterday, there's already started a fierce invitation battle over Al.

It was already predicted that it would be somewhat fierce but for this many parties to call out to him, including Al himself no one in the {Slaughterers} was able to predict it. Putting aside the parties from the top teams down to second-rate, even the adventurers below that you could call riffraff were wandering around looking for chances to call out to him.

Thanks to that you can't observe who is approaching him until they get considerably close.

.....

Several days later, the {Slaughterers} received contact from Al.

Just as planned he was invited and able to join {Sun.Ray}. Also, it seems that {Sun.Ray} will be entering the dungeon this month from the 6th for eight days and then from the 21st for eight days, maybe up to nine days, as well as information on the members, the ones

who can use magic, what elements they have, and detailed records of their rough abilities based on the short period he trained with them. Although, since it's also possible they were hiding their true abilities in combat during training so he also wrote it's best to estimate them as being a bit higher.

Also, it was important but the 18th of this month is a full moon for the secondary moon Neitari but it was also written that they take that day off. It's implied but basically means investigate it. After reading this report Miduchi said she had connections in regards to investigating so there's no problem with that. Hearing that Saji thought (I guess she's going to ask that dark elf in the healing clinic).

In any case, for the next eight days starting tomorrow all of {Sun.Ray} will be in the dungeon. We need to do what we can right now. Think that the temporary leader of the {Slaughterers} decided not to enter the dungeon but gave out jobs to each of the members. Saji was allocated the job of developing {Sausages}.

Ever since he showed the prototype before Saji has made prototypes of {Sausages} contents several times on days off but he's already raised the level of completion a few degrees. Since the pork that's sold on the market is salted before being sold if you don't immerse it in water first it's too salty that it can't be eaten.

Also, since it was the same for the ones who preserved with spices at the same time as salting, he's already given up on making use of pork preserved in salt. After all the biggest problem here is the method of mincing the meat. Cutting it into small pieces and then hitting with the knife takes a considerable amount of work. By all

means the meat grinder is necessary. However, he didn't know the structure of the meat grinder from his past life.

I wonder if it's just a matter of passing meat through some gears?

Otherwise just passing through a bunch of small blades? Regardless of which it is there's no helping it right away. For the time being I can only start challenging from places I can. The best thing is after all to make the contents with raw pork that's minced up and just a bit of salt and spices mixed inside. I heard from Al that it's good to add water at that time.

The method is to mix in shaved ice.

(Shaved ice! Shaved ice huh..If it's a fixed blade like on a shaver

then if you freeze it maybe it would work for mincing pork..But,

I've never heard of or seen anything like shaved ice. After all I

guess there's no way other than to make it myself..)

Saji felt like he had entered a dead end. He had a big of

confidence in his dexterity with his hands but he remembered that

he already had quite a bit of trouble at the point he made the

thresher. Saws are expensive but not a price that he can't afford

right now. If he enters the dungeon again then he should be able to

buy one without problem. In that case, Saji thought it would be

best to start putting work into the casing for now.

Without delay, he decided to go and buy some pig's bowels.

After asking at the butcher and it seems that changing pig's bowels

into condoms is something like a secondary job for the butchers.

The rubber condoms that Al sells are one-time use while the pig's

bowels are made to be used a number of times. The sale price itself

wasn't all that different from rubber saya so since the pig's

bowels can be used a number of times, you could say they have the advantage. However, it's certainly they aren't something that feel very good and since most people originally threw them away after using them, the only ones who used them a number of times were poor people.

The bowels membrane can be obtained if you put the bowels into slightly hot water of about 60 degrees C and then carefully peel them apart before they cool down. Of course, the large portion other than the bowels membrane is possible to eat. There's almost no part of a pig's body that can't be eaten.

Saji bought about 4 meters of the bowel's membrane before it was processed into a condom and brought it back right away to try and put the contents inside. What was made..was quite good. However, after all the method of mincing the meat still wasn't good enough to satisfy Saji at all. After letting Cathy try it and it got a good reputation but other than porridge no matter what Cathy eats she thinks it's good so her statements in regards to food aren't all that useful, in the end he repeated making prototypes and eating them himself and letting Larry try them as he made adjustments for many days.

During that time, the members of the {Slaughterers} went to the capital and investigated the location and scale of the temples, on that occasion he checked multiple butchers in the capital but compared to Baldukk the price of pig's bowels had dropped in price quite a bit. Obviously they pulled Saji out of making prototypes of {Sausage} and did formation training without Al outside of the

outer crater during that time as well.

Also, in order to aim for {Scavenger Crawlers} they wandered around the 1st floor for three days and were able to bring back a total of five {Scavenger Crawler}'s worth of feelers and sell them to a shop that deals in medicine. Of course, for the sake of camouflage, including some considerably expensive items they also bought paralysis poison to use against ogres. Close to half of it they put into the bottom of a bag of Al's understand and handed it over to the owner of the inn while saying it was something Al forgot and pushed it on him.

There was the idea of splitting up the sale price of the magic stones gained on the 1st floor equally but since Zenom firmly declared "It's only obvious for Toris who's acting as the leader to get more than half of it" they ended up splitting it up just like that. Though since it only ended up totaling around 1,000,000 Z everyone's true feeling was that it didn't matter.

Just, after that when he returned to the inn just Toris was(It's fine since I'm paying for the food and entry tax from the start but doing the calculations for splitting it up evenly would be troublesome..) a bit relieved. In regards to leading the party in combat for close to the past year they have experience splitting the party up to the 5th floor so there was no problem but he somehow remembered the tension from the first time he was given command.

And then,(This is the tax calculated every month depending on social standing and then that amount is collected, make record of this, then at the end of the year he would go to the government

office and pay the calculated taxes for each person right..Even though there's no calculation software, all of it done by hand..It makes sense why there's always a lot of paper in Al-san's room.) he showed a bit of admiration towards Al. And then, with the paper that's definitely not cheap he remembered he never touched on the price to buy it even for things like contracts.

(Adding to that he also looks after everyone's training..He went into the dungeon on days off with Miduchi-san and Zulu for his own spell training..and then should have been thinking his company as well. If he didn't have a grasp on the accounting situation over there then there's no way he could do something like management. It's a bit rude but I can't imagine that Ryogu-san or his family could do it..)

Toris was able to understand that he's still far from Al. If you were to ask if Toris could do it or not then it's possible.

However, the difference in ability in whether he has the ability to make it possible to put into practice and actually putting it into practice are absurd to even compare in the first place. He was able to think of the difficulty of continuing that for several years without taking a rest.

On his days off, there's running in the morning and then after that it's just a matter of using a random magic every couple hours and after that it was just a matter of doing training when it decided, Toris was a bit embarrassed of himself for being satisfied with that. At the same time, he showed admiration for the mentality that could continue with putting in effort in order to fulfill his

dreams. And then, he also felt vexing feelings towards Faruergaz and Hirosukol for making fun of Al's dream without knowing anything.

(Of course~ reincarnated people are excellent. We want them as allies and if we have them it's reassuring. However, their remarks were irritating. And, I can't say anything about other people huh..Just because I have days off I've spent too much time just wandering around killing time. But, I already understand. At the very least the current Al-san, no, if I can easily exceed the current Al-san's level, then something like a Count is just another dream. I need to reach the point where Al-san can relax and confer peerage to me..After the matter this time calms down I should discuss things from here on out with Bel as well. We don't have anymore time to be playing around.)

After thinking that far Toris continued thinking beyond that.

(This time, I thought it was only obvious that command was left to me. I just made a bit of a plan like a leader and I wanted to try putting that into practice, with such simple feelings I said something like it would be a good experience for myself. Just like I know Al-san he should also know about me. It should have been a decision that required quite a bit of courage...I'm sure he had various things he wanted to say as well, he left everything along the base line to us. Even going to the point of taking on the most danger himself..In the first place, even if the matter this time goes well, I wonder how merit there actually even is for Al-san..)

Toris started greatly worrying about it.

(Taking in those two as members is a big merit. That's for certain.

Their Unique Abilities we heard from Saji are quite something.

Particularly just as Bel said the day something like

【Resistance(Virus Infection)】 turns into an enemy would be close to a nightmare. If they were to take the clothes or corpse of a patient with an infectious disease and throw it into the source of the river then it would already be out. If you think of it in reverse then that sort of trump card is something you would absolutely want to have in your own hands. Since they kind wander around here and there in territories without being suspected or getting sick..)

Toris's thoughts continue forward.

(Including that Faruergaz as an ally is a large merit. However, his

fallen reputation is a demerit for Al-san. Of course, just as

Al-san it's still at the level he can restore but..if we really go

to the point of wiping out {Sun.Ray} then it's strange for people

to imagine that leaving the {Slaughterers} itself was just an act.

On the contrary it might even be possible it raises his

reputation.

This is also a test case for those two as well. How they assess

Al-san and us who went to the point of putting ourselves in danger

to wipe out {Sun.Ray} and get our hands on them. If they get angry

over the fact that we deceived and wiped them out then I'm sure

those sort of softhearted people wouldn't be useful from here on

out. There's no way they could do something like war. It's only

obvious they would weigh us down somewhere. However, if just as Bel

said, if they know everything and recognize it, then we'll be able to accept them as splendid allies.)

At the same time, he thought this as well.

(Bel thought things through considerably seriously...Che...I guess that means I'm still falling behind Bel...If I don't quickly reach a level where I won't embarrass her I might end up being rejected. I need to give my best and..Ah, I guess it's that sort of thing..)

It seems Toris noticed something and after making an expression like he understood something, he closed his mouth and started thinking even more in a daze. He only had time until Bel took a shower and returned but after Bel saw him thinking with a serious face and his arms crossed she quietly closed the door and left him alone.

.....

When {Sun.Ray} returned from exploring the dungeon another report from Al arrived. According to that {Sun.Ray}'s activities in the dungeon are almost the same as on the surface excluding the 1st and 2nd floors, they depart in the morning and go to a fixed camp in the evening, then return. Also, it seems their abilities are a bit behind {Black.Topaz} which we saw in combat against the {Frost Lizard} once in the past.

"Just that much huh..Then the fact that those two can't make it into their first party must mean they aren't anything special I guess?"

Hearing that Ral evaluated them like but Saji didn't think that was the case.

On the way from Rockfall village to the capital the way they wiped

out close to 10 goblins from on top of a horse with Saji on the back still remained clearly in his impression.

"I wonder about unconditionally assuming their abilities based on just that reason. After all they did receive investiture as true knight. In the first place, it's only been three months since they joined {Sun.Ray} which has a lot of members right? If you think about the fact that they can't properly drill over the formations then it's only obvious the first party of {Sun.Ray} has always been doing drills on formation and cooperation."

Zenom said that rebuking his daughter.

"But, it's difficult to decide that it's completely fraud right.."

"I wonder about that? For example if on the 18th of this month no one moves to obtain them then I think you could call it fraud.

Well, we still can't tell things like but in any case we'll know soon. We should receive the next report the next day as well."

Gwine and Miduchi have no interest in the abilities of {Sun.Ray}'s first party so they talked about the matter in regards to the charms instead.

"..In the first place it's plenty just being able to guess their abilities. If it's just this much then it would be easy to wipe them out with multiple ogres on the 7th floor."

Bel made a slight smile while evaluating them and after that we continued with our meeting. The details were about luring them into the ogre mage room and waiting until they were on the verge of being wiped out for the {Slaughterers} to come running and have

just the one witness survive. In Bel's opinion it would be best if they could do the same thing for the second party as well and use the rescue a condition for them switching to our party but since that's impossible as expected we abandoned it.

At the end of discussing the situations we could predict quite a

bit to Al we said,

"Lure {Sun.Ray} to the 7th floor and lure them into an ogre mage room there. Show off Al's abilities to them on the way to the room, if possible use a bit of paralysis poison on a small number of ogres and let {Sun.Ray} fight against them in order to mistake the abilities of the ogres. After arriving at the room, if possible try to get at least a few minutes to meet up with us while acting independently (this raises the chances of proposing a pincer attack from behind). Since Al doesn't have a map of the 7th floor we'll made preparations and signs to lead Al."

Just like that we sent a list of instructions and then entered the dungeon to start making preparations.

In regards to investigating things on the night of the 18th,

Miduchi already said with plenty of confidence that things were perfect so we decided not to worry about it. We prepared an excessive amount of food and after calculating the amount of time we'd need for making preparations, we decided to enter the dungeon the day after tomorrow.

.....

The {Slaughterers} arrived at the teleport room of the 6th floor on July 19th and quickly got to making the preparations. Since the teleport room on the 7th floor leads to the ogre mage room in the

South, we put signs at the teleport destinations we had already identified, then put those along the split paths leading to the room so Al wouldn't get lost. The reason why chose the South room was because there were a lot of large rocks rolling around the entrance to the room from the side leading to the teleport room, so it's easy to hide ourselves.

Furthermore, while we were in the middle of making those preparations a single incident occurred. It was when the combat members had split up into groups three to investigate the teleport destinations. Using magic from a distance is effective against ogres but since the paralysis poison is the most effective, Toris took command of Gwine and Saji who were using the spear to maintain distance, Bel who can use the bow took control of Zenom and Zulu, and the other one who can use the bow Miduchi was managing Ral and Maruso. Additionally, since Zenom and Ral use axes as their weapons even if they smear paralysis poison on them only the first attack has much effect so they were split up.

Since Toris had no bow he prepared himself to be the group that was in the most danger but the largest number of ogres they've met in the halls at once until now is 5 so they read it that if they just use paralysis poison there shouldn't be any problem and they weren't worried about it at all.

Since Miduchi is quite skilled in close combat as well, Zenom and the slave who's skill was quite good Zulu were put under the command of Bel, and she ended up taking command of Ral and Maruso herself.

The place where that Miduchi's group teleported unfortunately was

right next to a group of five ogres. It was just as those ogres took the shape of surrounding the teleport destination as well. Miduchi quickly shot one of those that was right in front with an arrow dipped in paralysis poison but the paralysis poison isn't something that takes effect immediately. Following that while she was shooting the next ogre by it with an arrow Ral and Maruso each took on one ogre. However, here Miduchi dropped her bow on the ground and used magic while pulling out her scimitar. Almost simultaneously Maruso noticed and warned Ral, "Watch out!!"

Ral had completely forgotten. Other than the teleport crystal rod in the center of the dungeon they can only be seen or touched by the ones who teleported using them. While the pedestal which has a height of about 70 - 80 cm and stretches out another 1 meter for the thin crystal rod, putting aside the crystal rod, the pyramid shaped pedestal looks like a splendid obstacle.

She unintentionally predicted that the attack that comes from that direction would have a later timing.

Immediately Miduchi created a large amount of air behind her and sent Ral flying.

However, either she had good luck or Miduchi calculated it, since she just flew into a group of bushes a few meters away she didn't suffer any major injuries. The ogres who were hit with the same wind were blown away as well though it was just a distance of about 1 meter they still ended up having their stances collapsed. Without missing that opening, she immediately sent a {Stone Arbalest} flying and finished off the one that was near Ral. However, there Miduchi couldn't completely avoid the attack from a different ogre

in another direction.

Different from Al, Miduchi is the same as most normal people and has to remain concentrating quite focused in order to activate spells, during that time she can't take almost any actions. Of course, extremely slow speed like a turtle is possible but something like that doesn't have much meaning at all. Even then while it was incomplete that she was able to avoid a direct hit immediately after activating a spell was worth admiration. Although, that attack itself was from an ogre that took the paralysis poison, so it was just a bit but it's actions were getting dull.

Even the ogre's club which just grazed Miduchi's left shoulder was enough to leave her with a large injury. However, it's not as if Miduchi passed out. She quickly switched to using the scimitar with her remaining right arm and instead cut off that ogre's arm while also cutting the arm of another ogre nearby it off at the same time.

"Sorry, I can't use the bow anymore!"

After hearing those words from Miduchi, Maruso started using her broad sword with the paralysis poison smeared on it to apply small wounds to the ogre in front of her.

When Ral finally jumped out of the bushes she chanted

"beku.nosu.nimuru.fon.saizu.ka.doren!" to send a {Flame Arrow} at the ogre that was coming up from behind Miduchi.

.....

After they finished off all of the ogres and while Ral was using {Cure Light} on Miduchi twice Maruso was confirming the teleport destination number. It seems it was a miss.

"..Thank you for saving me.."

While Ral said that apologetically, Miduchi replied "You're welcome" while smiling.

"You know I, don't really like, Miduchi very much.."

Without meeting eyes, while Ral was just looking at the condition of her wounds she whispered. She used a healing spell but the flesh that was torn off her shoulder hasn't sealed.

"Oh, that's a coincidence. It's the same for me."

Miduchi endured the pain while lifting the edges of her lips and replying.

"Nn, I know.."

Ral said while carefully cutting the leather around in the area of the wound with a knife.

"I see."

"What are you saying? Let's quickly go back."

Maruso interrupted the talk between the two.

When they returned to the teleport room on the 6th floor they soon ended up being in the care of Toris and Bel's healing spells. After having Bel use {Cure Serious} 7 times including another 5 uses of {Cure Light} from Toris, Miduchi finally felt her ability to concentrate and use spells return. After that just one use of {Cure All} was plenty.

After that they took a break to recover mana and they all decided to do the investigation of teleport destinations.

That night, after they finished their meals in the teleport room on the 6th floor, Ral started talking to Miduchi.

"Miduchi..I still don't think I can come to like you. But, I think I could become your friend. Would you try using {Party-ization} on me once more?"

Ral stretched her hand out to Miduchi while speaking in a loud voice all the other members of the {Slaughterers} could hear. Miduchi quietly grasped Ral's hand she stretched out. Furthermore, in order to carry out this plan Miduchi's Unique Ability {Party-ization} is absolutely required. They've already explained to the slaves it's a special type of magic. Also, since Miduchi's proficiency level is still low there's a limit to the number of people, so two of the slaves still can't be included.

"..Ah..I see..it's this sort of feeling..Ah, Al, he's already entered the dungeon I see..Though I don't know what floor it is..He~ Hmph, so this is how it feels."

Everyone who was watching over with their hearts beating had their expressions loosen up. Everyone felt that Ral was added to {Party-ization}.

"Hm..Hmph..It's not like I feel like I could like you either..You charge at me for no meaning after all...Well, but, if..if you say you want to become my friend and lower your head, then it's fine if I let"Ha!? If I just come out a bit easy what is it? That attitude!? This opportunist!"Yo..You called me an opportunist again! This bitch brat! Stop trying to show some sex appeal!"You're a brat as well right! Don't get so full of yourself, this rotting corpse!"I'm not a brat! I'm already over 40!"Then you're long since an old bag! Hmph, you're jealous of my youth right!?"Ha..wait until you at least have breasts as big as mine before you try to compete. This flat chest!"Fl..Fl...They aren't flat!"Oh my, but he said that if it's just that much you don't know which side is her back!

"Mukyi~!! Don't lie! Al wouldn't say something like that! In the first place I already know! That hair color, it seems it's unsightly if it's black? Don't be making it white, this make-up old bag~!"

Before it turned into a fight that turns into a grapple Zenom forcefully entered between them and separated them before slapping them. If the both of them weren't women Zenom might have had to stand on the tips of his toes.

"Stop that already! The two of you! This isn't the time to be doing that right now!"

Saji shrugged his shoulders like "This is no good~"

.....

In the end investigating the teleport destinations took a full two days. Starting the next day they teleported into a location which leads to the teleport room and then moved to the Southern ogre mage room from there. It's to place the landmarks on the split paths along the way. They got close to the ogre mage room and then returned, this time they included another teleport destination, they placed them at every split pathway they could think of. The {Slaughterers} took almost a full two days for the work.

And then, they circled around the wall of the ogre mage room while going to the teleport room on the 7th floor and after making that their camp sight, they started sweeping up the ogres along the way to the entrance of the ogre mage room. They did a number of round trips around the outside of it and carefully make sure there was nothing they were overlooking.

They had heard from Al that monsters revive in the dungeon after

time passes and from their experience up until now they understood that they definitely revive but not a single one of them could have predicted that the fact that they didn't have a grasp for that duration would end up leading to the failure of the plan in the end. Rather, they even felt satisfied that they were able to finish up their expected preparations in four days instead of the five originally expected.

While taking walks they went in directions other than the South and defeat ogres while continue to standby as the {Slaughterers} waited for Al to appear on the 7th floor, in the early morning of July 25th, the sensation they had been waiting for appeared. The leader Toris stood up.

"Al-san has arrived on the 7th floor. Let's start making preparations. Once Al-san started moving we will as well. Larry, start making preparations for lunch."

All of the combat members started silently confirming their equipment. Soon after Larry handed out bentos with sandwiches he made to each person and then they started waiting for movements from their real leader.

They had already finished sweeping up the path to the ogre mage room in the South yesterday evening. They should be able to arrive at the entrance of the room in less than an hour. Since they departed with a considerable amount of leeway, they arrived at the waiting place around 10 am.

They carefully checked the surroundings to make sure there were no goblins or ogres and Miduchi scouted out the ogre mage room. She made casual use of the spell {Detect.Life} while also hiding her

presence as she confirmed the appearance and number of the ogres. Miduchi returned and "There's 11 ogres. As expected I can't tell if there's ogre mages mixed in or not but with that many of them I'm sure several are mixed in." reported that.

After hearing Miduchi's report, Bel, "Yeah, it's no different from the last time we passed through. All we need now is for Al-san to skillfully lead {Sun.Ray} and then it would be good if he can come over here alone." said while smiling and looking at the tune of her bow strings.

Just like that we continued to wait and even after it got close to noon, {Sun.Ray} was still a considerably distance from the room. Toris decided to finish up eating now so everyone ate lunch. Since he received everyone's words that today is the critical moment Larry prepared sandwiches using luxurious beef. Everyone recognized that he had started to prepare roast beef since they arrived at the 6th floor but they were looking forward to when it came out. The white bread had completely swollen up from absorbing the meat juices but it was sandwich good enough to not mind something like that.

Finally Al arrived on almost the opposite side, around the Southern entrance of the room. After arriving he quickly stopped moving so it was believed he was taking a break.

"Now everyone, we can't let our guard down for even a moment already. Everyone properly hide yourselves behind the rocks. There's no guarantee Al-san will be able to come alone after all. It's fine right now but once Al-san starts moving we need to completely hide in the shadow of the rocks."

After a short while Al started moving and aimed straight for the center of the room. Feeling that everyone gasped thinking, did {Sun.Ray} charge into the room? but while Toris was keeping his cool he said, "It's probably scouting. But, this means that after a short while there's a higher chance he should start taking action. Everyone, don't let your guards down." and everyone agreed. Saji couldn't tell if it was as Toris said and Al is alone or not but after all it seems it was reconnaissance, after a short while they felt him return to his original position.

And then after another short while, they finally started to feel Al walking along the wall as Saji licked his lips from the tension.

All of the {Slaughterers} moved into the shadows of the rocks and crouched down.

Al was moving considerably slow.

"This is irritating."

It's only obvious for Ral to talk to herself so no one replied.

They just kept crouching down and waiting. In order to feel Al's movements Saji had his eyes closed as he concentrated. There were a considerable number of members who had their eyes closed while following his movements.

Another 300 meters..280 meters..260 meters...

"They've gotten quite a bit closer."

Bel said something they already knew. Everyone was concentrating their consciousness on Al. The {Slaughterers} were lined up in roughly three rows as they waited. In the front line from the left was Angela, Saji, and Bel. In the middle line from the left was Ralpa, Gwine, and Toris. And in the back line from the last was

Zulu, Zenom, and Miduchi. Since their position was setup so in front of them was rocks and on their right was the wall of the passage, normally the left side would be the front.

240 meters..220 meters...

They might be able to see him pretty soon. Saji moved a bit to try and look out from the gaps of the rock in the direction of the room.

"Sh...Don't move yet!"

Zenom and Toris warned in a whisper. Momentarily Saji froze up his body trying not to move.

It was just then!

"Giooo~tsu!"

Just as they heard the roar of an ogre they were completely not expecting from right behind them, Zenom raised his voice with a "Gu!!" as he took a hit from an ogre's club to the back and was sent flying into the wall. He's not moving at all. He's either lost consciousness or seriously injured.

"Father!!"

Ralpa who reacted immediately tried to stand and move into a position to guard Zenom and was hindered by Gwine who tried to pick up her spear from the ground as she tripped forward. But, thanks to that she was able to evade the attack from a different ogre.

However, soon after Zulu and Toris ended up taking attacks from ogres and were mowed down as if mowing the grass. It seems those two were still conscious and struggling.

Even after being ambushed by ogres the {Slaughterers} didn't prepare to flee. It was a shock that three people were defeated suddenly but if it's just a crisis of this level they've

experienced it a number of times. However, this time everyone's posture was too bad.

"Miduchi-san!"

Bel turns around with her face stiff as she pulls her bow and calls out to Miduchi.

Miduchi immediately understood the meaning of that as she jumped over the fallen Toris and jumped towards the ogres that suddenly attacked while sending out the orders with her Unique Ability. At the same time she cut off the arm of an ogre that was about to swing it's club down on the fallen Zenom again as she ran by it.

But there were too many ogres. There were 5 of them. Even after passing by it's side there was another ogre waiting beyond that.

She ended up jumping into that of her own will.

Saji and Gwine weren't able to go on guard with their spears right away either and thanks to Ral who tripped over that they weren't even able to aim it towards an ogre right away. The only one who was somehow able to stand at the front while her fallen allies made the footing worse was Maruso and if she doesn't put in some desperate efforts to hold out even more serious injuries will probably appear.

Gwine and Saji quickly fixed their stances with the spear and while each one of them took on an ogre, it's severe that Ral isn't standing at the front line while she's trying to use healing magic on Zenom.

"Ral! Stand up!"

Bel sends an arrow flying towards an ogres eye while reprimanding her. After that entered her ears she stood up as if she remembered

and Miduchi was struggling several meters away surrounded by 4 ogres. One of those seems to have already been defeated as it was laying on the ground not moving much at all and the first one she cut of the arm of has some serious wounds as well. But, she's outnumbered and overwhelmed, while being surrounded Miduchi took a direct swing from an ogre to her side and bounded off of the fallen Zenom before flying all the way into the rocks they were hiding behind.

"Miduchi!!"

Ral shouted. However, while she needs to use healing magic when she tried to approach a different ogre from the one that defeated Miduchi threw it's club. She ended up catching her feet on that. She reflexively stuck her hand out trying to stop from falling over but what she grabbed was the leather armor band of the fallen Zenom. Since that band tore Zenom's appearance became as if half of his leather armor was removed.

Simultaneously Bel felt the sensation that {Party-ization} was cut off but also felt hope in the fact that Al was running nearby as well. She noticed that the trembling in her hands had disappeared as she pulled back the bowstrings and was aware of the smile on her face.

Saji and Gwine had already gotten into their stances. After Gwine jumped over Zulu she was maintaining her distance from one ogre and on her side Saji was lined up as they had a two spear line up formed to keep the ogres in check. An arrow stabbed into the eye of the ogre that Miduchi cut off it's arm and the ogre let out a dull scream as it fell over. Three more.

It was then. A number of stone spears came flying and flew over everyone's head keeping the ogres in check.

Since Saji was too engrossed in the combat in front of him he had no leeway to notice Al's approach through {Party-ization} and was surprised by the speedy rescue that came running.

Side Story 27 - In the Case of Mitsuse Ryouichi (Age 34 at time of accident)

One day, during an employee meeting before classes start at the Private High School Ryoichi works, he received contact that one of his student's parents passed away. The Principal said "I have an important meeting with the Education Committee so I'll appear at the wake tonight and you their homeroom teacher should go to the funeral tomorrow." Furthermore, this school was also Ryoichi's alumni.

(Mu..I had heard that their parent was sick but...So they passed away huh..How unfortunate. If I remember correctly their house was in Kanagawa..It can't be helped, I guess tomorrow I'll have to head out after about one hour of class.)

There's a considerable amount of distance between the school which is in the Arakawa district and the student's house. Since he had already received an explanation that the funeral starts from noon so just in case he should probably leave the school just before 10 am. If he returns right away he might make it in time for the last class. Of course, he should make it in time for the club activities of the Kendo club he's the advisor for as well.

"Ah, Mihoko. One of the parents for a student I'm in charge of suddenly passed away...No, it wasn't an accident or anything. They were originally ill. And, I'm attending the funeral tomorrow. Sorry

but could you prepare my mourning dress, necktie, and a string of beads. Ah, the cuffs as well. Once it's over I intend to return to the school just like that..Father's one is fine. Also, please leave out one more normal necktie as well."

He heads towards the classroom while getting into contact with his wife over the cellphone. He needs to explain the circumstances to the other students as well, putting aside the funeral tomorrow, he needs to properly warn the students who go about their behavior at the wake so they don't act in a way embarrassing to our school.

.....

The next day, the funeral ended without any problems, right now he's on the train on the way back. He coincidentally ran into his five year younger brother Kenji at the place of the funeral. They ended up running into each other at a far too unexpected place but it's not like they could just start intimately talking there either. Kenji ended up attending with a senior at the company he works as well. After the funeral ended, the three of them had lunch, then got on the express train to Shinjuku.

It seems that Kenji's senior has a reserved personality, also, he may have been showing restraint for us siblings but he didn't participate in the conversation almost at all and soon after sitting down on his seat in the train fell asleep. Seeing this as a good chance, Ryoichi had Kenji show him a video taken of his niece Yuma.

Ryoichi has one other younger brother than Kenji but he doesn't have any women in his family than his mother and wife. Because of

that, he found the younger girl in his family so cute it couldn't be helped. He can't deny how unusual it is but the school he works at is also a boy's convex school as well. Ever since his son entered elementary school he's gotten even more cheeky and it's true he's still cute but girls have a different type of cuteness to them is something he understood after seeing his niece Yuma. Right now, what they're talking about while watching the video is the layout for the new house that his little brother is planning to build. Kenji is working for a decent company as well but as expected he still isn't making enough in his 20s to build a single house. He heard that their parents are going to take on the burden of half of the amount so they can use that for the down payment.

On Ryoichi's end, he is the home room teacher that teaches physical education in an integrated convex boy's school, and one that's super first-rate for preparing to enter college so his income is considerably high, and while he was still in his 20s he started a 30-year loan on a family house where his parents live with him. He often hears his parents that are living with him grumble about wanting to see Kenji and their grandchild Yuma.

"..Give my regards to sister-in-law-san as well."

"Oh~..owa~!!!"

"Whaguhoe!!!"

.....

After he opened his eyes once more, he spent several days just dazing out.

(For me to have been saved..It's strange?)

(It's difficult to move and my eyes can't see very well, my ears

can hear but I can't tell what they're saying at all..)
(Ah, I'm hungry again!! I'm hungry! I can't hold back!)
"U,ua! Uaaaaa~!!!"
(This is bad..Am I to the point where I can only drink something
like this..)

.....
(..Was Mitsuse Ryoichi all just, my dream? Even for that to be the
case it was an unusually long and real dream.)
(Otherwise was I reborn...Fu...There's no way.)
(In other words that time, after all I died...)
(Died..After all did I die? I already can't remember it very
well..Is this the dream?)

"A,aa,Agyaaa~!!"
(How stupid..However..)

.....
(A foreign country huh..I wonder where this is?)
(It seems like English is mixed in but I can't really tell.)
(It's just somehow, but I can tell they're saying something like
someone is coming.)
(It doesn't matter. I just finished eating so I'm tired. I can't
hold back!)

"A, ua, u~aaa~n!"
(What the, it seems it's already evening. I'm hungry!)

.....
It's not like Ryoichi was obligated to do anything so he just lived
randomly and idly. It's not like he had any objective in particular
or even anything he wanted to do either. He wasn't troubled with
eating, he learned the language, and learned the writing as well.
It's just somewhat, but he felt like he learned the common sense of
the place he was born as well. It's unfortunate that he spent his

time spaced out too much that he didn't notice the important point of this world for several years.

Mitsuse Ryoichi, now known as Arnic.Strife, was born as the youngest third son of Strife sub-Baron family the lord of a village called Ridasu. He had two older brothers and two older sisters but since even the youngest older sister was 8 years older than Arc, rather than older brothers and sisters he couldn't think of it as more than just the number of nagging parents had increased. In Arc's common sense he was an embarrassing end child. After all, Arc's oldest brother was already an adult when he was born and while he didn't have any children, he was even married. Though even he, before Arc turned two years old both him and his wife went to war and both of them passed away though.

This place could be said to be a remote region surrounded by a deep forest. Other than the residents of the village the only chances to get into contact with people from the outside is the caravan and their escort that comes along once a month. Though that's the case, if you just walk along the narrow road that curves around about 10 Km you can reach the neighboring Rozasu village and if you go about the same distance in a different direction there's also Merudasu village, so it was just a matter of Arc not really have any interest in it. He would go fishing in the river and catch bugs with the neighborhood children (the squires children), in his own opinion he was quite busy with the duties of a child.

In his past life, it's a question whether Arc himself realized it might have been the recoil from his complex of being a child that

didn't play outside much. Seeing Arc energetically play, the way his parents, brothers, and sisters would smile and show affection for that Arc might have been a cause as well. In any case Arc was enjoying his new life.

.....

Incidentally, the first time Arc found out about {Status Open} was when he was four years old. One day it was when a caravan that came to the village had hunted a strange bird along the way.

One of the escorting adventurers happened to see it flying by

by chance and fired an arrow but either their skill was good or it was a coincidence, the arrow hit and the bird fell to the ground.

The large bird with beautiful blue wings seems to have been a Bundo bird according to its status. Though no one of that caravan or its escorts knew about it but its unusual and beautiful so they carried it along thinking the lord of the village they were on their way to, his father, would buy it.

That time since everyone was touching the bird while saying {Status Open}, it caught his interest so Arc tried copying them and learned something new. Seeing the blue window float up between himself and the corpse of the bird after using Status Open and Arc was so surprised he almost fell over. It's not incorrect to say this was the first time he recognized this wasn't Earth but a different world.

Seeing non-humans all he thought of it was it being a difference in customs or culture for this place and close to cosplay. It's not like things like clock magic tools or others would be in a place an infant can reach them and the lighting magic tool was never used in

front of Arc either so he didn't know about them. And then, he also considerably displeased that no one taught him about it. Though that's the case, normally if you see it once then there's no need to look at it again a number of times so if they've seen something similar then there's no need to look at it in the first place. Also, it seems it's impolite to look at the status of every little thing. In the off chance they were to suddenly use it on someone it's an extremely rude behavior. Arc thought (Certainly, it's not something that would be good to teach to a small child) and accepted it.

As proof of that he got bored of it after one day. Even if he uses it on things it only shows the name and even when it comes to using it on living creatures after using it once you pretty much can imagine the details for the rest. Since you can learn their birth date and special skills it's convenient if you want to put it that way but he was quickly able to comprehend that it's something you can't use on someone you're meeting for the first time and either trust them greatly or not at all. Normally it seems around 10 years old, they teach it along with {Cantrips}.

However, Arc hadn't forgotten his own status.

【Arnic.Strife/15/5/7429】

【Male/14/2/7428】

【Human.Sub-Baron Strife Family Third Son】

【Unique Ability: Polymorph.Self】

He doesn't really get what this unique ability is about and even when he hid and tried saying "Transform!" nothing happened as well. In his past life, while remembering television shows from when he was kid he shouted it while taking a pose but when after all

nothing happened he thought (am I an idiot?) and fell to the ground feeling depressed.

However, there's several non-humans in Ridasu village as well.

Non-humans all have some sort of special skill so if he tries using it in the same way then he thought he might be able to use it, he tried asking one of the gnome squires right away.

"Arc-sama, if you just think about using {Inclination.Sensing}, and you end up using it...Just now I actually tried using it." and he was told that, next he tried asking a dwarf squire and "Arc-sama, {Infrared Vision} can be used at any time. However, if you use it in the daytime it's too bright and your eyes hurt so I wouldn't use it right now." is what he was told.

After that he tried asking several non-humans the same but they were all "if you just think about using it you can use it at anytime" so he was quickly able to understand that {Polymorph.Self} was different from special skills and probably something special. Also, even when he tried asking his parents and older siblings it seems they didn't know what a Unique Ability was. Judging from the name it's probably some kind of special ability that only he can use. He wanted to try using it but in the without being able to use it, it didn't take much time at all for it to be buried in dust in a corner of his memory.

.....

After that time passed, on New Year's Eve before he was about to reach the year he turns 7 years old. Starting from the beginning of the year Arc was told to participate in training with the sword. In Arc's opinion things like swords, spears, wars, and conflicts he

didn't want any part in them but since it's an obligation as a noble, there was no way for him to deny it. It's only obvious for even women to hold a sword or spear and participate in war and when it comes to commoners and Free People there's even conscription. The only ones who have died in battle that Arc knows is his older brother and his wife but it seems that about one in every 20 years there's a casualty from Ridasu village.

By this point the realistic future plans that Arc had some recognition of among the highest possibility was, taking a wife from a nearby village (it's not as if there aren't any daughters of the squires his age but they weren't really to Arc's liking. In the worst case he thinks that can't be helped as well), starting up a new squire family that serves his household the Strife family. As a runner-up marrying into a different squire family. Next after that is marrying into the squire family of a different lord somewhere, though in the worst case without being put in the knight group he might end up being conscripted and die in action though as expected he thinks that possibility is low.

Also, after he started training with the sword, if it seems he has some kind of talent with martial arts he thought trying to enter the knight group might not be bad as well. Just, it seems that the knight group for Duke Stahlz Territory where Ridasu village resides is quite something so he can guess that it would be considerably difficult to pass. In his own sensitivity, he thought it was like the third son of a farmer in Hokkaido or Tohoku during the Meiji or Taisho era trying to enter a college somewhere and the level of

ability needed for that. However, as an assessment factor it seems the pursuit of knowledge is considerably low. Therefore he gave up on that route without any regrets.

Arc was just thinking (Well, I intend to put some effort into it but things that you aren't suited for just aren't for you and you can't do things you can't do. Though in the off chance I have some kind of talent on that end I'll put in effort as if I'm going to die) something on that level.

(Most likely, saving up money after enlisting to the knight group and then using that as capital to start up some kind of business is the best. If I can make some huge profits then it's fine just like that and if I can't earn anything at all then if I just return to Ridasu village if I hand a bit of money to one of my older siblings who has taken over the family from the old man then I'm sure they would employ me as a squire.)

It doesn't seem to be very steep so it can't be called a mountain, but Ridasu village is surrounded by terrain that could be called hills, and the fact that there's no confirmed cases of dangerous monsters in the nearby areas was one of the factors that diluted his interest in the sword, spear, or martial arts.

"A monster dragon will come and eat bad children."

And even though he was disciplined like that, he only found out that monsters really exist after he was five years old. That time it was just a single goblin's corpse and it seems the brawn y slaves that work at the mine(or mining hill might be a better term) all surrounded and kill it so it was pretty worn-out. Seeing that Arc just thought (Even if they're monsters are they just relatives

of the ape?) and that was his recognition. In other words, he didn't take them seriously. Also, he didn't have the original knowledge that monsters are normally things that appear in groups.

Incidentally, the primary industries of Ridasu village are forestry and mining. The head squire works almost as if overseeing things on the spot so for Arc who only knows that world it seemed that aiming for the head squire was the easiest. Cutting down trees, knocking the branches off, then sending them down the river to another village to obtain lumber. The mining was digging up hills and finding iron, copper, and very rarely precious metals. In both cases they were things that he had no useful knowledge from his past life about at all.

Also, there wasn't even a single person in his village that could use magic as well(most likely, the fact that there was no one who could teach it in the village created a vicious cycle and everyone stopped being able to use it) so he only had the recognition of it as being on the level of a slightly of hand.

Regardless of what he does, Arc just felt it was the first turning point like turning point in his life after being reborn. He thought it was about time to stop spending all of his time playing around, just those sorts of feelings.

(I might end up being conscripted after leaving Ridasu village and since caravans have escorts it seems like there might be robbers as well. It seems it would be best to do things a bit seriously here.)

In his dream world he was in the Kendo club during middle and high

school. Just like that he ended up entering the university in the city that the largest number of students at his high school enter, then after graduating from college he ended up getting his teaching certificate and settling down at the high school that was his Alma mater. The class he was in charge of was physical education. The club activities he acted as advisor for was the Kendo club.

Personally he didn't feel like he was strong so it's not like he had confidence in his Kendo. Just in case he was a rank holder but his abilities were at the level where if he was careless he might even lose to his high school students.

Everyday, he saw his family and the squires stabbing and beating the targets with wooden spears and swords that are far heavier than those used in Kendo. Since he was raised watching that, honestly speaking he was even a bit nervous.

(I can't imagine that I have that much physical strength..)

The system of swordsmanship was fundamentally different from that which makes use of bamboo fencing sticks or Japanese katana. You could call it Western swordsmanship, learning to use the one-handed sword, cutting is just a subsidiary attack method and in the end the main is to aim for vitals with thrusts and stabs. Cutting down, cutting up, cutting horizontally, everyone was freely using a double-edged blade with one hand.

(Even if I look at the real thing they're low quality cast iron

huh..Even if you cut with this it wouldn't be able to do much.

Beating down with it still seems to fit better. The sword won't cut much at all, this really seems like Kendo is useless. Even when it comes to the foot work since it's one-handed..If I had used two

swords it might have still come in handy though..)

Arc's training is still focused around swinging the wooden sword

and learning the stance with the heavy wooden spear but he was told

he has talent for it.

(Well, for the time being, the basics are..I guess Kendo isn't all

that useless either, is what it means)

Just like that, he somehow or other continued training with the

sword and spear for about a year and a half. One hot summer day

about six months after he turned eight years old, Arc was thrusting

the wooden spear towards the target as usual. It's not just a

matter of thrusting but one of the squires stands near the target

and tries to parry Arc's spear with their sword to interfere with

his attacks.

It's said that the ideal attack with a spear is one that can

penetrate the target without any influence from that interference.

It's only obvious when it comes to thrusting the spear but it also

needs a strong grip strength to maintain proper hold on it.

"E~i!!"

While putting fighting spirit into it as he thrusts with the spear

it's easily parried.

While do that countless times the accident occurred. Maybe some

dust or something got in his eyes, one time the squire moved to

parry Arc's spear and ended up tripping over his own feet.

Ah!! just as he thought that it was already too late. Though the

end was blunted and there's no tip to the spear so it won't kill,

unfortunately the wooden spear made from durable oak went straight

through the eye of the squire who fell over and destroyed his

brain. Of course the squire died instantly.

While Arc was unable to move and in a daze, everyone else gathered nearby. He heard voices saying to check the status but just as the strange resistance he felt gave Arc a bad premonition, the squire had unfortunately passed away.

Arc unsteadily approached the squire while calling out his name but there obviously wasn't any response.

"Su..Status Open"

【Rakorugu.Faiato's Corpse 12/8/7436 Rakorugu.Faiato/1/5/7420】

【Male/24/4/7418】

【Dawrf.Faiato Family Eldest Son】

【Special Skill: Infrared Vision】

That night, just as Arc was feeling like he couldn't get to sleep he realized he was in a strange space.

Through his meeting with God Arc was able to learn a bit of the truth and was considerably surprised. It was so shocking that even though this morning, while it was an accident, he felt like he would completely forget the fact that he just killed a person. He himself being reborn after an accidental death, that there were a lot of other victims than himself, and accompanied by that the possibility that what he thought was a dream could be reality surfaced. Suddenly his past family became more vivid. His son, wife, parents, and little brother and his family, their faces.

After confirming the truth a number of times, he started asking about doubts he's had since a while back. The way to use his own Unique Ability.

Of all things, in order to use {Polymorph.Self} the conditions for it are to be touching the body tissue of someone who is the same

race, gender, and has a similar build to himself. He couldn't get God to tell him anymore than that but it seems that even a strand of hair is plenty for body tissue.

However, just when he was going to try changing the questions he was asking the time he was given ran out.

The next morning after opening eyes Arc thought of trying it out right away. There's several human boys with a similar build as himself in the village. Now then, how should he go about testing it, and after thinking that far Arc suddenly realized.

(I wonder if the transformation for {Polymorph.Self} will happen in an instant? If that's the case then it's bad..)

"Arc, I understand your feelings but don't make such a strange face from the morning."

His second oldest brother Arvin who's quite a bit older cautioned him.

"Come now Arv. That sort of thing only just happened to Arc yesterday, that's not something you should be saying. Rakorugu's funeral is today starting noon, Arc you should go to the river or something until then. If you don't want to eat then you don't have to force yourself and it's fine if you take a rest from training for today as well. However, you absolutely have to appeared at Rakorugu's funeral."

His mother smoothed things over. Honestly speaking something like yesterday's accident had already flown off somewhere for Arc but it's just as he wanted to be gain some time alone.

(I should depend on those words here. I just wanted some time to think about various things)

In a hurry he tried to make his expression seem like he was

disheartened and "Then, I'm sorry. I want to be alone for a bit."
said that before leaving the house. He felt a bit apologetic
towards Arv who was making an awkward expression but he still just
looked down while staggering out of the house and running off
towards the riverside.

(Wait! Don't hurry. Wasn't that itself nothing more than a dream?

It wouldn't be strange even if it was a dream that my imagination
created either...But, I can certainly see the red characters of the
Unique Ability and it remains in my memory awfully vivid. Probably
my thought processes as well..they're especially abnormal.)

The fast running had at some point changed to a fast walk.

(Thinking about it like that and it's still too soon to decide it
was just a simple dream. However, if I calmly think about it
something like transforming isn't something I can test out so
easily..Or rather, becoming Kamen Rider or something, so it wasn't
a transformation like that! If you say transformation normally it's
that right!)

He's already at the point of simply walking.

(..Well that's fine. However..and, in other words I guess it's the
ability to become other people? And if it's not a person that I
know then..No, even if it's someone I don't know if I can just get
some hair or a cut nail as long as they're of the same race,
gender, and a close build then I guess I can take their
appearance..It seems it can be used for various things..)

After Arc arrived at the riverside he picked up a rock and threw it
into the river.

(I can think of several uses to it...However, all of them can only

be done after perfectly understanding the characteristics of {Polymorph.Self}, otherwise the danger is even greater. Not to mention, the probability of fundamentally exposing myself to danger is high..I guess first off is getting a grasp for the characteristics.)

Next he sat down on a rock and picked up another rock and threw it subconsciously.

(This isn't the only information I got from the dream. There were a lot more even more important things as well. Though it's not too late to start thinking about that stuff after testing out {Polymorph.Self} to prove it wasn't a dream.)

Arc spent his time until noon like that. Even after the funeral until evening he became a dweller of the riverside but when everyone from the village saw Arc like that they took detours around and tried not to approach him.

.....

The next day, Arc said he wanted to be alone again and after eating breakfast left the house right away. In order to avoid being seen he spent a good bit of time picking a location no one would approach.

(..I..I'm going to do it..Eh~ transform!!)

He pulled out the hair from one of the slave children that he secretly obtained during the funeral yesterday and while looking at it he strongly concentrated on using his Unique Ability.

"!Gu,gugugugu!!Go!!Gugaa~!!"

His eyes are flickering. A pain runs through his entire body as it creaks. The pain continued for a considerably long period and when the pain reached a point where he was on the verge of losing

consciousness, it finally started to recede.

"Haa..Haa..Haa..."

He held his own body with both arms and was even drooling as he writhed around but now it's not painful at all. I wonder if the transformation has already completed? He nervously looks into the river surface.

"Fu..Eh, heehe..eeehe."

He can't tell the features of his face but the color of his hair he can see in the water's surface which should have been black until just now looks to be lime green. It might just be his imagination but it seems like his physique has changed as well. His height has increased a bit and he feels even thinner. These are characteristics of the hair's owner as well. When he looked at his hand the color of skin seems to have gotten slightly whiter as well.

"This is, amaz~ing!"

Arc spontaneously raised his voice in excitement. And then, how about it, he felt like something was very off with the sound of his voice. It's not his own voice that he was used to hearing until now but at the same time it differed a bit from the voice of the owner of the hair as well.

(Ah, the way you hear your own voice and other people hear it is different after all. I guess it sounds like this to him?)

Since he was so excited over his body transforming he completely forgot about it. All things are eventually visited by the concept of time.

"Ofu~!!Ge!!Ga!!Gugigigi!!"

(Ouchh!! Owowowowowowowowowowow!)

Suddenly that pain attacked him again. After suffering for what felt like an eternity, he looked into the water's surface and he had returned to black hair. The amount of time he was transformed was a mere 10 minutes or so. Also, if he thinks about it now his body seemed to have hurt for about the same amount of time. (What should I do? I still have the hair, should I try it once

more? But, experiencing that pain again is..)
Arc flinched remembering the pain from just now. It's not unreasonable.

(No, I need to check if even if my status had changed..At the very least that much..)

Gasparu.Mamosu/15/5/7429

Male/21/7/7427

Human.Ranpato Family Owned Slave

While enduring the sudden fatigue he felt shortly after the blinding pain receded, Arc fell asleep as if he fell unconscious after confirming that far. After that, he was forcefully made to open his eyes while writhing around from the pain that hit him but once the pain receded he ended up falling asleep just like that. When he opened his eyes the sun was almost mid-way through the sky. He carelessly slept for five hours or so.

In a hurry he returned to his house and the lunch he ate while gauging his families facial expressions was tasteless like chewing sand.

Seeing Arc like that his family thought he was even more depressed than yesterday.

"Arc, if you're feeling bad then it's fine for you to rest today as well."

His father called out to Arc as he was slowly eating with his head faced down. An eight year old child, while it was an accident, killed a person. Exactly how much of a shock that would be, they were quite worried about it. Since they were doting on their youngest child, taking him into consideration they intended to exempt him from training for a short while. Since he's reasonably skilled as well, if it's just resting from training for one week or so then this child should be aware to make up for it right away, he might have been thinking that.

After going out to the riverside alone again, Arc picked up a rock and threw it while thinking.

.....

A year or so has passed. Whenever he transforms he makes sure it's always after 9 pm when his family is asleep and he goes to some vacant land a bit away from his house to do it. Of course, he doesn't do it on days the weather is bad either. Also, recently he's started to take a rest from doing it. It hurts after all. In the first place, since he's spent this much time it's only obvious but Arc has already gotten a decent grasp on the details of the Unique Ability {Polymorph.Self}.

1. The amount of time it takes from start to finish for the transformation is 10 minutes each. However, as the level of the Unique Ability increased the time required has slowly gotten shorter. Right now at the highest level it's most likely around 1 minute each.
2. While he's transformed it's possible for him to release the transformation at any time he wills it. However it's only obvious,

but that is accompanied by the pain of the structure of his body being changed.

3. While he's transformed (the time until the duration of the effect expires) if he touches the catalyst once again while trying to use the ability, using that point in time as the starting point he can increase the duration of the transformation without undergoing the pain. If he's prepared to undergo the pain it's also possible for him to transform into someone else (obviously he needs a hair from the target) as well.
4. While he's transformed he can display (it seems) the status of the target just like that. Obviously, he has no way of seeing his own status while transformed.
5. As the level of his Unique Ability went up the amount of time he can remain transformed increased. It's not as if he precisely measured it (or it would be more accurate to say he couldn't) but at it's current maximum level of 9, he believes the time he can remain transformed is considerably long. Until it reached level 5 he was somewhat able to measure the increases in time but by that point he already had more than 5 hours. If it goes according to his expectation then it should be 2560 minutes now or he should be able to remain transformed for close to two days.
6. Currently it's possible for him to transform over 100 times consecutively. It seems that during the time he was resting, it might be from getting used to the ability from the number of times used, but the number of times he could use it slowly increased. Somehow though, he felt like every 2 ~ 10 times he would reach his limit, he felt it increased about 1 more time. However, as expected

it should already be plenty. Since he underwent that pain at least twice every day he's gotten quite a bit used to it and while the amount of time it takes for each transformation has gotten considerably shorter, things that hurt still hurt.

Up until now what has been established is just that much but as a matter of fact there's one more important thing he hadn't forgotten about. Leveling up. In his past life Arc never even once played a video game. However, he knew what kind of thing they were. After all he was born in the year 1980. The {invader game} already existed when he was born and before he reached elementary school a famous computer role playing game was up for sale. There were kids among his classmates that enjoyed computer games quite a bit but he had no interest in those at all.

However, ever since he was appointed as a teacher at the high school of his Alma mater he saw some of his students playing with those sorts of things. Obviously, while interacting with those students he ended up learning some knowledge on things like that. However, even if he knows about it as knowledge, it's not like he was familiar with the details either so even after seeing the status window he couldn't relate it to games right away. Or rather, it might be abnormal to relate it to games from just that much. However, the various information he learned from the meeting the existence calling itself a God. The keyword level up included in that. Status window. Monster. Magic. Non-human. Special and Unique skills. All of those things accumulated and were connected within him and he felt like he finally got a grasp on it.

(What the, so this was the dream? No, I really can't think that

it's a dream. No matter what it's too long and for a dream it's unnatural that I wouldn't open my eyes from the pain I feel when I transform as well. Does that mean I was really reborn?) He wasn't able to gain any confidence in it but the final conclusion he arrived at was there's a high possibility he ended up in a vegetative state during the train accident and he's watching a long dream. Nevertheless, if he's seeing a dream then that means he has brain waves. He thought the possibility was highest that through some kind of shock his consciousness just wasn't returning.

Even as Arc he tried to think if there was some way he could return his consciousness but he gave up right away. After all even that pain he feels from using {Polymorph.Self} won't open his eyes. He probably wouldn't open his eyes unless he did something on the level of suicide. In that case, he just thought he might as well enjoy this dream as much he pleases. Obviously, he thought about committing suicide as well but in the worst case he definitely couldn't wipe the possibility that it wasn't a dream from the corner of his head so he couldn't bring himself to test that far.

Currently, Arc has been making a certain hypothesis. The hypothesis of leveling up himself through the acquisition of experience points. If this world is the result of his imagination and a dream then it makes plenty of sense. He might have been subconsciously interested in the games his students talked about. During his time in college, he at least went to game centers together with his

friends before but the ones he saw there were just fighting games or ones where you control a fighter plane to shoot down enemies that were the fad at the time.

While Arc had knowledge about the so-called role playing games, he had no interest in them at all so before he realized they were building up dust in a corner of his memory.

However, maybe he had interest in them somewhere?

(After all, just like this I'm even seeing them in a dream~)

He felt a bit surprised that he noticed some feelings of excitement budding inside but without thinking too much about it he dedicated his thoughts to a different matter.

(I'm sure it's important to build my own body as well. If this

Hyumu race or whatever is the same as the humans I know then it should be plenty to start running from around 12 years old. I've already long since started flexibility exercises after all..I guess I'll take on the sword and spear a bit more seriously..I'm still 9 years old but knowing the forms and stances shouldn't end up useless.)

Arc was a man who can put as much effort needed into it as long as he has an objective. He graduated from one of the prominent schools focused on higher education in the city and then completed a degree in physical education science at a school that's called the highest academic center in Japan. He can brag about the fact that he has far more knowledge about the most efficient ways to train the body than the average muscle-brained teacher who graduated with a degree in physical education from any random university.

Arc properly put all of his effort into the places he could, and in

places it was still too soon, he remained aware of his surroundings while slacking off while his consciousness leaned towards the most efficient ways to train his body. If he has the same body structure as a human then it should be possible to continue training until around 30 years old. Of course, it's not like he's aiming for the Olympics or wants to become the ultimate soldier so he wasn't going to the point of recklessness. He turned several training menus into habits and focused his objective around deepening his understanding of the movements needed for swordsmanship and spearmanship on Orth.

(No matter how I look at it not a single person is exercising with the objective of training their bodies. They must not think that things like stamina or endurance are necessary beyond just what is needed for getting into formation during wars or moving from place to place. If it's just that much, then you could say the stamina built up naturally from training regularly is plenty after all...Hmph, as expected of the culture level being at just the 15th century or so. The specialized training for increasing physical abilities being included as a part of military training was only taken up at around the end of the 18th century for some faster countries. The ninja groups of Japan are like the exclusion of exclusions after all. Even that only got methodological around the end of the 16th century.)

Something like clever sword techniques don't have much meaning in front of a suitable amount of stamina. Of course, Arc has no intention of objecting to polishing skill with the sword or spear

at all. He understands it's something important as well. But, just as expected of someone who has been in contact with Kendo for a reasonable duration, it's possible to reach a certain level depending on the amount of training you put into it, but when it comes to reaching a high level it's something you can only reach at the end of effort that would make you feel insane, and any levels beyond that require just the small handful of people who have talent who also end up arriving in that realm after put in enough work that blood starts to run.

After being reborn, or otherwise since it's a dream world, you could say he just didn't see the meaning in putting in the effort to reach that level. In other words that's the reason and it's just a matter of him not feeling like seriously devoting himself to using the sword or spear. However, it's not like he could completely not train either so while slacking off a bit he considered the training a reasonable amount and behind that he was still somewhere thinking in the case that it was a dream.

(The sword and spear are plenty at the average level. Rather than that increasing my stamina is more effective. In the first place rather than something like, it should be far more important to learn the cultures of other regions in this world or about leveling up.)

He spent his time thinking that. He's already got a rough mark on the method to acquire experience points. It's fine if you just kill living people. Of course, it's probably not limited to just people. He thought it might be fine for horses or cows as well. However,

all of those sorts of large domestic animals are expensive so he couldn't afford to kill them. Pigs are valuable as well, in the first place only a single family is raising them in the village. There's chickens as well but they're important poultry for obtaining eggs.

Then what should he do? While getting tired of thinking Arc thought about becoming the apprentice of one of the hunters in the village but if it comes to that he might end up having to spend the rest of his life as a hunter. It's putting the cart before the horse. He even thought of transforming into someone else and going on a murder spree but for the time being he can only transform into children. Whether his physical strength after transforming is still the same or changes to the target he transforms into was something he couldn't really confirm yet. In either case it seems there's not much difference so for the time being it can't be helped but eventually it should become an important question. Eventually he'll need to verify that as well but at the current point there's no helping worrying about it.

(It can't be helped worrying that far right now. Even if I were to become someone else if that person was always together with someone else on the day of the crime then it might develop into a problem as well.)

He's already come to terms with the concept of pushing his own crimes on to someone else. Arc only thought it as(it's just a dream I'm sure so something like placing the blame on someone else is nothing at all. In the first place even if I were to kill someone

it's all in a dream. It doesn't matter at all) nothing more than that. However, because the feelings of (it's not a dream) are still remaining somewhere, he couldn't reach the level of abandon where he would boldly commit murder in the middle of the day.

Just like that one and two years passed. He was taught simple {Cantrips} from his parents. Around almost the same time, there was one extremely important thing that was identified. At the time Arc was testing out the problem of exactly how far the difference in build could be from the transformation target. He secretly gathered the hair of the human men in the village and while looking at those in his hand he would try using {Polymorph.Self}. Even if he doesn't know who's hair it is he just transforms and checks the status he can figure out who it belonged to right away so there's no need to try and collect them from specific individuals.

If he just goes to a random human household and says "give me some water" then when he goes inside and sits down he can get as many hairs as needed.

From the hairs he gathered just like that he was able to establish the general viable range of the transformation. Most likely it's around +/- 20% in terms of height. In terms of body weight it seems the limit is around +/- 50%. There's probably no limits on the age of the target. There was no change in the number of times he could use {Cantrips}. However, he was able to confirm that even if the target didn't have the special skill {Cantrip} he could still use it. During the time when he still didn't have the {Cantrip} special skill even if the target he transformed into had it he couldn't use

it as well.

However, he thought that still wasn't enough to determine whether or not he could use the targets skills as if they are his own.

Since it's hard to say he truly understood how to use {Cantrips} at the time, so he doesn't know whether or not he can use their skills, would be the more correct way of putting it.

Since it seems magic is a special skill as well, if he transforms into a magician whether or not he would be able to use magic is difficult to say. It's regrettable that there's no magicians in the village but just according to what he's heard even magic can't do anything too amazing so he didn't have much regrets in regards to that. It's unfortunate that he can't transform in non-humans of different races. He thought that but at one point he randomly felt like trying it and he was able to transform without problem.

(Either I heard it incorrectly or God lied to me huh?)

He thought that but soon after realized it doesn't matter at all,

he decided to try out using the special skills of non-humans. The one Arc transformed into was a dwarf that's over 10 years older than him.

(Oh! So this is infrared vision huh? So it's like seeing

temperatures like a thermography..But, you can only see right in front of you it seems...It seems like it wouldn't have much use other than the middle of the night like right now.)

He could see only about 3 meters and since no matter how hard he tried to look beyond that point it was just his normal vision of darkness Arc was a bit disappointed.

.....

One day when another couple of years passed.

Some travelers different from a caravan appeared in the village.

The travelers seem to be calling themselves adventurers. Since Ridasu village has no inn, it's customary for caravans who stop in the village to split up between the lord and squires houses to stay the night.

Around the time his afternoon training ended Arc learned that some travelers had come and (If there's someone with a build close to mine then this time I might be able to use them as a target for transformation) smiled to himself. Around the time they've left and things have cooled down, he even thought of transforming into one of the target that is one of the travelers and murdering a random slave family in the middle of the night to test out leveling up.

That's what Arc was thinking but after his training finished, when he returned to his house and saw the face of the traveler he froze up. There was a total of four people who seemed like allies in the yard of his house, the face of the boy standing in the center of them talking was without a doubt that of his little brother Kenji!

Of course, it wasn't the exact same face of Kenji he was used to seeing from the time he was in middle school. It was a strange face where if you were to take Kenji's features from that time and mixed in Western features just like that. However, he hadn't lost his features to the point where he couldn't recognize it was Kenji's face.

He almost spontaneously yelled out "Kenji!" but somehow was able to hold himself back. Fortunately the boy who looked exactly like

Kenji still hadn't noticed Arc.
(I want to talk with him without creating a racket. Or rather, I want to surprise him.)

Arc quietly entered the house from the back entrance and started observing them without being noticed. After a short while each of the travelers split up to different squire's houses they were going to stay the night at.

After the last one parted ways, while watching that for a few seconds just as the man who seems to be Kenji turned around he tried calling out "Kenji" in a low voice. Just as he thought, there was started reaction as he started restlessly looking around his surroundings and when Arc came out of the window that he was observing from when Kenji was about to yell "Big bro!?" in a loud voice he grabbed his hand and pulled him away from the house.

"Be quiet. Are you, Kenji!?"

"Big bro! I've been searching for you all this time! After all you were here!"

"Your voice is loud. We'll probably end up having dinner in another 30 minutes."

"Ha? Dinner? That doesn't matter at all! I finally was able to meet you. I've been searching for one year already!"

"Hn..I see. Even though it's a dream, thanks for your trouble."

"Huh? Dream?"

"That's fine for now. Rather than that why were you searching for me? Why are you here in this dream? Is Mihoko and Yuma not around?"

"I don't get what you mean. What are you saying?"

The two of them continued their conversation for a short while in

the bushes a bit of distance from Arc's house but 30 minutes passed by in no time at all. He somehow managed to calm down Kenji and after hearing the objective of his visit he was surprised by one thing after another.

First off, it's only obvious but Kenji doesn't have the recognition

that this Orth is Ryoichi, in other words Arc's world of dreams.

Kenji on Orth goes by the name Hekusa Barnes and he started saying unscientific things like they were reborn.

"You've already met God right? Didn't you hear about it at that time. Ah? Could it be you still haven't met it?"

Seeing Kenji say that seriously without thinking of that as a dream

he found it so amusing he almost laughed out loud. However, Arc's body went stiff hearing the things he was told next.

"If you're acting too carefree then it's dangerous. If we're careless we Japanese people might eventually end up being hunted you know."

"Hunted? By What? A dragon?"

However, Arc soon replied as if making fun of it.

"It might not be unreasonable that you can't believe it. But,

listen carefully. Right now I've become something like a house guest for the Duke Belgridd family and Prince Alexander."

"Ha~? That's quite amazing of you. A lifestyle of ease and comfort, I'm envious."

"What are you saying? It's not something that big of a deal. It might be more correct to say I'm acting as a private mercenary or army. In any case the prince is a reincarnated Japanese person that died in that accident just like us. There's also a number of other Japanese people together with him."

"Eh? That was serious?"

"Why would I lie about something like that...In any case, it's still just my intuition but that guy is dangerous~ He might seriously be planning to take over this world after he becomes the King of this country."

"World conquest, that's good. If you're a man then you need to have big dreams."

"Idiot, what are you saying. It's seriously dangerous~ That's why even though I thought there was a low possibility to it I was frantically searching for big bro. I heard from a merchant in Hesshu that there was a boy with black hair and eyes in this Ridasu village so I came hoping for it."

"Oh~ I see, thanks for your work."

"..Big bro, you've changed.."

"I haven't changed."

"Or else, are you acting so lightly because you seriously think this is just a dream?"

"Eh..."

"Well, right now is fine. However, I'll just say this. This isn't a dream. It's reality. Everything doesn't go as you please just like a dream after all.."

Arc couldn't believe what Hekusa was saying at all. However, it's not like he didn't have some thoughts on that portion either.

"..Well, something like that is fine. I want to slowly talk over things tonight."

"I don't particularly mind but.."

"Do you have a father, mother, and siblings?"

"Of course I do. It's only obvious right?"

"Got it. In any case I'll greet them when we have dinner but it's

my lifetime request so big bro just remain quiet. I won't let things end up badly. In any case if you come with me to Randogurizu then we can talk in more detail along the way...Or else does big bro not want to leave his family in this world?"

"Hn~ It doesn't particularly matter but as expected killing them is a bit"

"Why does it turn into talk of killing them!? I'm just asking if you want to leave the house and serve the prince with me! Or did you already decide to enter the knight group?"

"Ah, if it's that sort of things then that might be good..Something like the knight group is impossible right?"

"Nn, then the talk should end quickly. In any case, just think you're been deceived by me and don't talk to me for a bit. We'll talk plenty tonight."

After the two of them returned to the house they didn't even exchange glances. Hekusa explained that he directly serves Prince Alexander of Devas Kingdom and that he came to draft members for the prince's imperial guard. At the same time he let Arc's parents confirm both the officially issued plate of Duke Stahlz family used for passing through their territory and the plate issued by Duke Beruguriddo that's only given to considerably high up retainers. On the back of the issued plates the name Hekusa.Barnes certainly carved into it.

"Since that's the case it comes to serving the royal family so putting aside the future right now we're focusing on calling out to the younger children of various nobles. I can't reveal it but there's a special condition to it as well. I can use the special

spell that can identify those people so I'm the one directly traveling around to various places."

While Arc was watching his parents listen to Hekusa's remarks he was thinking (he's saying quite good things but what's a special spell. Magic at this point?) but he didn't notice that inside of his head a different awareness had started to sprout.

Several days have passed since Hekusa his little brother from his past life appeared.

Arc was exchanging information with Hekusa on an almost daily basis. And then, he succeeded in obtaining quite a bit of information. Among that was the fact that he was able to confirm Hekusa adored and wanted to rely on him just the same as Kenji in his previous life. Also, while they're still low level it's big that he had already acquired the magic special skills. He might be able to learn magic. Also, he owns a house in Radogurizu and even supposedly has a slave that serves him.

Furthermore, it was big that he was able to test and confirm details about his Unique Ability that he had no means of confirming all on his own at the riverside on the edge of the village in the middle of the night.

"However, as expected of big bro. That {Polymorph.Self} really amazing!"

As the details of the ability were gradually identified, Arc noticed that Hekusa gradually got even more excited.

"What are you saying? Even your {Skill Invalidation} is quite something as well right?"

Arc put his hand on his while replying a bit fed up with it.

"Nn~ But you know, even then when compared to big bro's {Polymorph Self} I just can't help but feel. Mine is completely useless when it comes to just living normally. In comparison, no matter what the situation, I can only think of ways that big bro's could be useful at any time."

That's certainly true and Arc thought once again but didn't put into words.

"If there was a problem to it then it would be getting used to it I'm sure. It requires a considerable amount of practice. AS expected it won't work through ordinary methods."

"Hn..I see. But I feel like big bro could somehow manage that as well."

"Don't say it so easily. Even your {Skill Invalidation} I can feel it when you intend to use magic, so if I practice with it I feel like I could use it but it doesn't go very well. Well, putting that aside, I'm really glad you came here."

"What are you saying? Did you forget the imagine that God showed us? Even if I wanted to I, couldn't forget it...Right below my name was big bros so I had faith you were living somewhere.."

Come to think of it Arc thought it was a dream when he met with God so he remembered just casually shrugging it off. He wasn't seriously trying to gather information from the start. Of course, since he has memories that were forcefully poured into his head he hasn't forgotten the conversation or occurrences themselves but he couldn't properly remember the image. Even then he thought it was a well-made dream and honestly speaking, even now he thinks the possibility is considerably high that he's watching the

continuation of the dream. However, after all somewhere in his heart the feelings (it might be reality) are remaining. While listening to Hekusa talk about how he searched for him for a year and his upbringing and troubles and it was just a bit but Arc's awareness started to change. I guess his younger brother was coached by the rough seas of the harsh world of Orth, he felt he had grown mentally a bit. Of course, there's a portion he feels has become more of an idiot than before as well but when thought about it more carefully it wasn't that he had become an idiot but his sensitivity just returned to what it was in the past felt like a better fit.

(Could it be..I'm pretty sure it's unlikely but is it really not a dream? No, there's no way that could be the case...There's no way this is reality. In the first place, something like being reborn with memories and thought processes still intact, how could you believe in that...But you know..God huh..If you were to say that God could do something like that then there's no way to object to it...Furthermore, in that case it would mean something like Gods actually exist in reality. Magic as well and my {Polymorph.Self} would be reality even..)

Arc shook his head to shake off the thoughts he was having and started talking to Hekusa.

"I've confirmed the general outline. By the way your allies..What sort of relationship do you have with them? How much of the circumstances do they know?"

"Yeah, it's just as I talked about before, in addition to searching for big bro I've been drawing a map of the country but I've hired

them as escorts along the way. Well, they're something like guardsmen or SP. There's no way they'd know about something like the circumstances of being reborn. I was forbidden to speak about it from the Prince as well. Our relationship is..we've been together through various things for one year. Everyone, is fellows with a pretty good feel to them."

"Do they have any kind of background relationships to them?"

"Background relationships..They were all originally just simple adventurers. There's no way that's the case right? Of course I'm sure they have families but it's like they all live on their own."

"Then it should be fine to get rid of them huh.."

Hearing Arc whisper that with his arms cross Hekusa was shocked.

"Get rid of!? What are you saying?"

"Think carefully, Kenji. I can transform. If it's now then as long as they're a man, excluding really small children..babies and infants..then I can transform into anyone. In other words, I can become them including their status and everything. Certainly, it's just as you said it's something that can be useful in any situation."

Seeing Arc make a smile while saying that Hekusa made a suspicious expression for a short while but soon thought of something.

"That sort of thing huh.."

"It's that sort of thing. But, going to the capital needs some preparations."

Arc said that while thinking (After all is it a dream? His ability to grasp things is strangely high for Kenji).

"Yeah, certainly. We need to crush a number of possibilities things might seem suspicious. Yeah, got it. Since big bro says..It's unfortunate but certainly it seems that there's no choice but for them to die...Killing them itself shouldn't be all that difficult as long as it's not from the front, and.."

"Hn? And?"

Arc was interested in the words Hekusa stopped saying partway through. Normally it was a voice soft enough to miss it but since they're discussing something like this he was interested in it.

"Nn, I don't know if you know about or not and it's suspicious if you'll believe me but promise that you won't laugh."

"Yeah, of course. I won't laugh, I promise."

And then, Arc heard something surprising. Of course, it was something he lightly imagined. That time, God said "if something doesn't level up you can't meet it". However, with this his resolve was decided.

(Leveling up from experience levels..It's decided. After all it's a dream, this world. If that's been determined then I feel like I can do anything!)

"..In other words, it's believed that if you kill some kind of living creatures then you level up and slowly get even stronger. Honestly speaking, I'm not saying it in confidence either but there's several pieces of circumstantial evidence so I can't help but think that it's not completely mistaken. Also, Alex, Sel, and Myulu all completely believe in it...It seems it's to the point that on the Judgement days they've negotiated to rotate taking

turns executing criminals who are given the death penalty. Recently it seems like Ren thinks so as well...On the way here I had them let me finish off monsters and stuff that appeared as well."

(Gyahhahaha, this fellow is a child. With just that..Huh? If it's a dream then I guess that's fine huh? If that's the case then I can't afford to be doing nothing anymore either.)

"I see. Since it's before adulthood I thought it was a bit early but I guess it's time for me to leave the house as well."

"Big bro, is that alright? It's fine if you don't overdo things in a hurry. If I continue to say I haven't found you yet I can still pull out more money."

Hekusa thought if they were going to finish off his adventurer allies then they should at least do everything they can to prevent Arc's existence from being exposed.

"Yeah, that's certainly true. But, the sooner the better. It should be best to start make preparations early. It's necessary to gain as much information as we can while we're still young."

"Nn, if big bro says so then.."

Hekusa felt a strange sense of relief with how confidently and boldly Arc said it.

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"Since that's the case we've already confirmed the intent of sub-Noble Arnic.Strife as well. We'll make him into a direct imperial guard of the prince and he'll end up spending several years training. He won't be able to get into contact for several years and depending on the case this might be your last time meeting in this lifetime. Please finish saying your farewells."

Hekusa politely lowered his head to Arc's parents and decisively stated. From Hekusa's opinion he thought the decision was already decided. There's no reason they would refuse it.

"Oh! Envoy-dono, our Arc has, no, Arnic is going to be an imperial guard of prince Alexander!"

"What a great honor! Arc, make sure you do your duties properly!"

"Father, Mother, of course I will. Arc will definitely show you that he can be useful to his highness the prince!"

"Arc. For you to..I'm envious..Make you're remain steady."

"Arc, take good care of yourself.."

"Arc, give it your best. And then, if there's a good man then introduce them to me!"

"Brother Arv, sister-in-law Misu..I'll take care of my duties so as to not dirty the Strife name. Also, sister Evessa, as expected that is..I can't promise you but I'll try."

Arc's upper older sister is married into one of the squire households. His younger older sister is still in the house but she's 22 years old and since a suitable age for marriage.

Two days after that, Arc gathered together his belongings, and left Ridasu village while clinging to the back of one of Hekusa's adventurer allies riding a horse.

They continued traveling for about a week and it was a short while after they entered the Royal Family's Direct Territory. After they had breakfast in a certain village and departed, around the time it was almost noon.

(Now then, I guess around here should be fine..)

"Today, shall we find an adequate camping place after getting past the next village?"

"Even though you say that Hekusa...Since sub-Noble Strife is together with us as well, it's our first candidate for imperial guard right? Even if we don't go out of our way to do something like camping.."

The leader of the veteran adventurers said that but the one who responded was Arc.

"Well~ if it's just one or two nights of camping there's nothing to it. I'm alright. Also, you camp out while training as well right? If I just think of it as advance training there's no problem at all. Rather I'm the one who wants to request it."

"Nn..Thanks for saying that, Arc. In the first place, camping here is something that's necessary. We'll leave look out to Arc tonight. The training of an imperial guard isn't something like this but we need to look at your aptitude after all. Everyone else be careful not to lend him a hand as well."

"..Well there's not many monsters around this area so I think there should be any problem though.."

Even then the adventurers were a bit worried but since Hekusa argued them down saying it was a condition for becoming an imperial guard and said it would be fine to drink a bit of alcohol as well they honestly obeyed. If it's Hekusa who've they shared meals with for around a year that says it like an examiner while looking at Arc then it can't be helped and there's almost no monsters in this region. It was big that they assumed it shouldn't develop into any large problems.

They were easily able to finish off the three adventurers by mixing some paralysis poison into the low-quality cheap alcohol. There

once again, a characteristic of {Polymorph.Self} that he couldn't test until now was identified. Even after the target has died as long as he's touching a portion of their body it's possible for him to transform.

"Fu...Just as I thought. Since I was able to transform using hairs that fell out from quite a while but I thought there wouldn't be a problem but.."

"Yeah, I guess so. If it's this then just as big bro said.."

After taking all of the threes belongings they buried them in a hole in the bushes on the side of the road, then after taking turns sleeping until morning and the siblings walked on leading the four horses. Since Arc didn't have the skill of horsemanship. It took several days but after the two were able to sell two of the horses in a reasonably large town, they took their time arriving at the capital Randogurizu while teaching the older brother to ride a horse.

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After they arrived at Hekusa's house in the capital they immediately ordered his slave to dig a deep hole in the yard and after the two of them cooperated to kill Hekusa's slave, Arc transformed into that slave. The corpse was buried inside of the deep hole he dug himself.

"We'll go to Ren's place tomorrow. Big bro should accompany me while still acting as him. Listen to the conversation carefully and make sure you properly get a grasp on Ren's personality and my way of speaking."

"Yeah, of course. Even when it comes to becoming someone else if I don't know about their surroundings then.."

"That's right. Well I'm sure it'll take at least a year for them to get out of the knight group. We need to properly figure things out about the capital until then...Make sure you practice even more with the horse as well. I'm sure they aren't doing it seriously either way but even then they're being trained by the White Phoenix Knight Group so if your skills are too bad they might become suspicious of it."

"Oh~ leave it to me. You know about me right? I can do anything."

"That's right..Since the past big bro has always been able to do anything. If it's big bro then I'm sure it's fine. I'm sure things will go well."

"That's only obvious. Fufu, I'm looking forward to it."

Arc and Hekusa exchanged glances while laughing happily.

Chapter 205: Rebirth

7445, Month 7, Day 30

I let my thoughts run over how pathetic I was, letting the fish that should have swallowed the hook get away while I was leisurely putting on airs. I wonder why Hirosukol disappeared? I can think of several reasons but no matter which it is they already don't matter anymore. At the very least he chose of his own free will to disappear from in front of everyone. If you were to ask if I find it regrettable about Hirosukol disappearing then it is but it can't be helped thinking and complaining about things that have already taken place.

There's already six reincarnated people affiliated with me. If Kuro and Mary join in as well then that will be eight people. If Faruergaz is added to here then that's nine people. If we include the disappeared Hirosukol then that's ten people. When it comes to reincarnated people then it wouldn't be strange for there to be one or two people who don't get along with me. There's no other choice than to make the matter this time into provisions for the future.

Including me 39 Japanese people reincarnated on Orth. Among those eight people passed away while they were still babies so that leaves 31 people remaining. And then, Dereonola was already executed and disappeared so that leaves 30 people. The fact that I was able to get a grasp on the location of and somewhat gain familiarity with $\frac{1}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of them by the time I'm 17 years old is big.

Of the remaining 20 people I wonder around how many are still alive? Even if I think about it there's no clues at all so I guess it's just a waste of time spent thinking huh? I'm interested in the reincarnated people that are supposedly in Devas but for the time being there's nothing I can do and I don't have that much room to spare either.

In the first place there's no way they would know about me, no, us either way. If Miki, no, Lilus didn't tell me then I still wouldn't know myself. The difference between predicting it and being convinced of it is like that of heaven and earth. Even with just that you could say I have good luck.

While Faruergaz is still staring up at the sky as if he was looking at some sort of illusion of Hirosukol floating in the air, I called out to him saying, “Please excuse me” and then started on my way to the gathering place of the {Slaughterers} Murowa. Ah, I guess I should at least show my face before that..No, I guess it’s fine later.

.....

“Al-san, we’re very sorry.”

“We let our guards down at the very end. I’m sorry.”

I entered Murowa and the moment Toris and Bel noticed me they ran over and apologized. It’s fine I’ve already heard that a number of times. We already had a reflection meeting as well. While the two of them were lined up with their heads down I just raised my hand without saying anything.

“But, everyone ended up getting hurt, and if things went one step in the wrong direction it was considerably dangerous..We’ll take responsibility. Please say anything at all.”

“No matter how dangerous of a role it is.”

Toris and Bel said that laudably lowering their heads. It pissed me off a bit.

“Hey, you two. Listen carefully. Don’t say something like taking responsibility so easily! In the first place, exactly what and how would mean you’ve taken responsibility? Responsibility isn’t something you take after something has happened! It’s something you’re carrying from the start!..you might not understand still but think carefully.”

After saying it firmly I said, “Next time think of something that will be useful. You all gained experience that will help from here on out.” and had them sit down.

These shitty brats..learn from Zenom. I’m sure even Zenom had regrets and reflected on it. He should feel some responsibility as well. It’s the same for me too. But, Zenom and I already had the resolve to bear the responsibility for our decisions. I have no intention of saying it’s fine as long as you have the resolve though. Since things like responsibility weren’t mentioned during the reflection meeting, I could have sworn they knew that but for them to say it here. Don’t be acting like spoiled brats.

With everyone gathered together I faced them. At the edge Basutorial was lined up sitting next to Catherine. It doesn't particularly matter though. There's no need to think about her until they say something from their end. I ordered some appropriate beer and pork skewers. This is a good lunch for today.

Now then, shall I started a shitty uninteresting discussion...

"It's been decided that {Sun.Ray} would all be absorbed by the {Slaughterers}, but Hirosukol is different. We found out that he disappeared of his own will. He so politely even left behind a farewell letter. It seems he wants to keep some distance for a while."

Everyone starts noisily trying to ask things so I stop them and continue speaking.

"It's something person him self decided. It can't be helped. However, at the very least the other 14 people excluding him have decided to become affiliated with us. I mentioned it a bit a couple days ago but we'll be switching to three parties. It's only obvious but we won't be splitting the combat forces up evenly between each party. Everyone will fundamentally continue like this. Though one or two from the {Slaughterers} will enter the second and third parties as commanders."

When I clearly declared that everyone went quiet.

"I intend for everyone other than, Gwine and Basutorial, and also Giberuti to take turns as the commanders of the second and third parties. Including myself we'll take turns in order but it's no guaranteed that it'll always be just one person. Ralpha, Zulu, Angela. For the time being I have no intention of sending any of you over alone. It'll be in a pair with Zenom, Toris, Bel, Miduchi, and I one of us. That's why at a minimum two people and a maximum of four people, will be leaving the current {Slaughterers}. Prepare yourselves for it."

I tilt my beer mug that finally came out and continue talking.

"However, from here on out there will come a time when we need the second and third parties to switch to support for the first party to aim towards the lower floors. Putting aside the 8th or 9th floors, if you intend to aim for the 10th floor or beyond I'm sure a support party is definitely needed. When that time

comes I'm sure it'll be difficult to advance without a full party so we'll have the people who were dispatched to the second and third parties group back up with us along the way."

And then, finally I add on.

"The people who are dispatched to the second and third parties will get 2% of the magic stone sales of the first party just the same as usual as well as getting an equal share from what the party they're in earns as compensation. Well, think of it as something like travel compensation. However, don't think you'll be able to enjoyable earn it. Since it's necessary to raise the second and third parties until they can at least act as support parties. It will be considerably difficult and the responsibility is heavy. In any case, the members who go to the second and third parties prepare yourselves. It's necessary for you to hold full responsibility after all."

I looked at Toris and Bel again while saying it. I couldn't tell if they got it or not but even then their expressions seemed to tense up like had reached a conclusion on it. Alright.

"I plan to enter the dungeon the next day the day after tomorrow. In regards to the first leaders, but I'll have Toris and Bel go. Toris will have Ralpa and Bel will have Zenom go with them. Kamu and I will discuss how to split up their parties this evening. I think I'll be able to talk about what kind of shape it will take tomorrow morning."

After I said that much I ate a couple of the pork skewers that came out and then got up from my seat. I left some money on the table while saying, "Then I'm returning to my inn. I only paid for it up until today." and left the store.

I cleared out of "Kairugu's Inn" and returned to Boil Manor then just like that went towards one more place. I showed my face for a bit in "Slave Store, Ronslail". I went to confirm if there's any news on the combat slaves entering soon and I got the information that they'll be sold in the slave market of the capital at the end of next month. While putting emphasis on stocking up to the Madam, I was able to guess, "Then I guess that means the conflict this time is already over".

I wonder if older brother and the others are arriving in Bakuddo village

around now? Or else maybe they've already long since started on their way here? It would be good if no one died but..No, older brother and sister were both on the battlefield, there's no any casualties would have appeared from the village. In the first place older sister who should have been on the campaign hasn't returned yet..She hasn't yet right? If she's already returned and just ignored me then I'll seriously cry.

.....

In regards to the second and third parties that I discussed with Kamu but Faruergaz and his allies five, including Nyuman and Harurein, those seven will be the third party, and then the remaining members will be the second party is how we shaped it. Though it ended up that only Faruergaz can use magic in the third party but we decided to pass it as the dispatch members making up for that. Regardless I have no intention of letting them overdo things until their abilities match up and depending on the case it's very possible I could have them earning experience points against orks and hobgoblins on the 1st and 2nd floors. I guess you could call it the first party, if we dispatch one or two members from the {Slaughterers}, furthermore if they can use magic then things should be fine.

After finishing my discussion with Kamu I returned to Boil Manor. And then, Miduchi was sitting in my bed making a huge face. So you were still here.

"Hey, that is.."

Miduchi is showing a new rubber bag while licking her lips with her forked tongue to try and tempt me. I understand the feeling. I want to do it as well. But, there's something I need to calmly think about for a bit.

"What is it, it's already late so return to your own room. It seems Cathy didn't use your room almost at all. There's no problem right?"

"Bu~"

This fellow, you're not a brat so stop trying to come on to it so heavy. Can't you be a bit more patient?

"What are you bu~ing about. Tomorrow you have to look over formation training as well so go to sleep early."

“Bu~bu~”

“Are you a pig! You’re loud~ so put your clothes on and leave. I still have things I have to do. I’ll be your partner slowly tomorrow, so just let me be alone for today.”

“Che.”

I push Miduchi out of the room while she’s clicking her tongue and after I was left alone I slowly started gathering my thoughts. After that, I checked my room to see if anything had changed. It seems nothing in particular had changed and it was properly kept clean. With Miduchi’s personality I thought she wouldn’t make a mess but I was relieved it was just as I imagined. Ah, I guess the brat would do the cleaning huh?

Suddenly I remember and checked the wooden box at the side of my bed and a number of rubber bags had decreased. Not to mention four bags of the new model have disappeared! Those two, in just a single month, and they should have been entering the dungeon as well..Not to mention they shouldn’t have had that much leeway these past few days. After all Bel is a frightening woman.

The normal type has decreased as well but it seems Basutorial and Angela are within the range of common sense. I switch the payment left in the wood box to my wallet while thinking how it’s a bit unpleasant that I can tell everyone’s circumstances like this.

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Year 7445, Month 8, Day 1

One day later, today, I told all of the members of the reborn {Slaughterers} ahead of time to meet at 8 am in front of Boil Manor. Everyone has already finished breakfast. In front of everyone I announce the members of each group I discussed with Kamu last night and we moved to the vacant lot that {Sun.Ray} used. This one is more spacious after all.

“Out of Zenom, Miduchi, Toris, Bel, and myself, one of these five will be the leader of you all. The only one of us who can’t use magic is just Zenom but when Zenom is the leader I’ll have someone who can use magic go with him so there’s no need to worry.”

All of the members of the former {Sun.Ray} nodded. Everyone was able to calm down because the details of the teams were easy to predict, since it was something I discussed with Kamu and decided I was saved no one brought up any complaints. Since the quality of the magic stones you earn from in the dungeon are completely different I was worried about complaints but it seems it was needless worries.

In regards to training, Zenom and I were the ones who focused on beating the methods of the {Slaughterers} into them. In regards to magic, we're having them periodically use attack spells and get them used to using a single attack spell. It's only obvious but since the use of spells require mana and concentration, so the people who meet a certain level fundamentally only practice using healing spells. When it comes to adventurers they'll also add one type of attack spell to that, which they only practice it if they feel like it.

Normally even if it's training you don't do things like practicing attack spells. Since it'll expose your skills and above all else it's mentally exhausting. That's why, when you practice it's only obvious to do it in the dungeon when no one else is looking. However, to me their skills with magic don't matter at all so I chose to have them periodically use up half of their MP in order to increase the proficiency level with their spells instead.

Obviously there were some complaints about that but when I said, "The member of the original {Slaughterers} who's got the lowest skill with magic excluding Basutorial who just learned it is Gwine. If you can use it to attack faster and in more varied ways than her then I'll recognize your argument about exposing your skills. Hey, Gwine. Use a moderate level attack spell towards that rock and tree." and ordered her, then she immediately used, {Flame Bolt}, {Air Cutter}, and then finally one shot of {Flame Javelin}, after everyone saw her use all o three of those in at longest 5 seconds of concentration the complaints stopped. Gwine still has 18 MP remaining.

"Hey..She's 17 years old right?"

"Yeah, that's right. Three types at that speed even.."

"I'm, 25 years old but..if it's just {Stone Bolt} then I can use it even faster though. Three types is impossible. It's been quite a while since I stopped practicing arrows and since Javelin uses a lot of mana I haven't practiced it very

much..It takes 10 seconds.”

“I’m 25 years old as well. If it’s just {Stone Arrow} then I can use it even faster but..”

“That’s the member with the lowest skill?”

“It’s certainly true that Greed-kun was amazing as well, but it can’t be..”

“No, I was healed by them on the 7th floor but that time as well..”

“That’s astonishing.”

“Then, that Dark Elf, is even above that..”

“This level is the bare minimum line. Also, just as you know the {Slaughterers} don’t run away from monsters in the dungeon. If there’s something unexpected then it’s different but fundamentally we take on every monster we encounter. Including the room bosses all of them. That’s why attack spells are important. Healing spells are important as well but we consider them just as important as those. Those who can use magic should keep that in mind.”

While looking at surprised faces of the nearby members, I faced the members of the former {Sun.Ray} and continued my words.

“We even use magic sometimes when doing formation training. Of course those times we do it in the forest on the other side of the outer crater or depending on the case in the dungeon. However, since everyone hasn’t reached that level yet there’s no need to take into consideration cooperation training that uses magic yet. I guess so..when the entire party is able to clear through the 1st floor in 4–5 hours and only need to use healing spells 5–6 times or so, and roughly the same on the 2nd floor as well. Once you’re capable of doing this then you can aim for the 3rd floor I guess.”

“{Slaughterers}..”

“It all makes sense..”

“Just as Kamu said, I’m sure things were quite irritating for him in {Sun.Ray}.”

“After all they can do it..”

“There might already be people who have hard but the {Slaughterers} enter the dungeon in the morning and by the evening of that day we arrive in the teleport room on the 3rd floor. As expected the 4th and 5th floors take a bit more time but we use about half a day for each of those floors. Also, we

fundamentally always get some proper rest every night. From the morning we entered the dungeon until the evening of the next day if we can reach the teleport room of the 5th floor, it's fine for you to think that's the minimum line for entering the team at the front line. Of course, we're defeating all of the monsters and room bosses we encounter along the way and gathering the magic stones."

Well, if they can seriously do this without freezing things in ice then I'll think about it. If I were to use the current {Slaughterers} members as the standard then Zenom is on the level of 7–8 people and at Toris's is on the level of 2 people or so level of spell users on the roles of attacking and healing, since Gwine's map is considerably useful they can probably manage it. Putting aside Zenom class, I can't imagine there's magicians on the same class as Toris rolling around here and there though so it's unlikely. As far as I know even among the top teams there aren't any.

Ah, I'm talking about mana amount. Putting it in terms of the level of magic special skills, then putting aside level 5, there's level 4 inside of all of the top teams. In terms of just level they're above Toris. Incidentally the most powerful magician in Baldukk among the adventurers other than the {Slaughterers} is old man Rozuwela who has his entire party made of combat slaves. He can use all elemental magics at level 5 and his void magic is even close to level 6, in terms of just level his abilities exceeded Miduchi the first time I met her. He's already over 40 and still active after all. In terms of MP his aggregate amount is 54. If it's him then he should have been able to sue {Cure All} since quite a while back.

In any case, just like this we spent the morning confirming our formations and had all of the members of {Slaughterers} learn the abilities of the former {Sun.Ray}.

Before anyone noticed the original {Slaughterers} kept the same name, the second party was named {Butchers}, and the third part was called {Sooner}. {Butchers} is also an unpleasant name but it's not as if I can't understand it but what in the world is {Sooner}. In that case wouldn't it be fine as {Slayers}?

.....

Afternoon, when everyone was eating lunch Zulu, Angela, and Giberuti all

lowered their heads to me saying “Please buy us back”. Toris said, “They’re too excellent of slaves for me. I’m leaving them to you.” as well as they requested of me with plenty of acting power that’s not even worth comparing to Basutorial’s ham acting, so after we finished eating, we went to the temple and I bought back the three.

On our way back from that, I asked what happened with their wages for last month and it seems they already received it from Toris yesterday. The amount was the same as what I paid them. Well, I guess so. Since there was a bit of time until the afternoon training, I thought of going to drink some tea with Miduchi and the slaves when I ran into a fellow I didn’t want to meet.

“Yo~ if it isn’t sub-Noble Greed that appears before my eyes? I’m glad to see you’re as shitty cheeky as usual. Show me your face for a bit.”

Viruhaima of {Verdure.Brotherhood} and Anderson of {Black.Topaz} were drinking tea at an open terrace cafe. How troublesome~

I told Miduchi, “order some appropriate tea and drink it. I’ll come after.” and sat down on an open chair at their table.

“Hey, you really managed to pull that off well, this bastard.”

“Really, I couldn’t even imagine that things would become like this..”

“Ah, one bean tea.”

I figured it was something like this. I order some bean tea from the waiter.

“I’ve heard the rumors. It’s already over for Rindobel and the others.”

“It seems Haruku and Bin were accomplices as well.”

It seems they want to hear the details from me. But, I just remained quiet without talking about anything.

“Well, my expectations completely missed their mark but..it’s quite troubling.”

“I think it’s somewhat fine since they took revenge for Geru. But, I’m amazed you did something so roundabout as handing them over to the knight group. Even though if you just kill them inside of the dungeon there would be no future trouble.”

Geru is the member of {Black.Topaz} that was lured out using the charms as bait. Even though it's someone who betrayed(?) them and entered another party she still mentions revenge..She's as soft as usual.

"That's the unpleasant thing about this guy. He doesn't overlook a thing or~ rather~, he's completely uncute~rather, he doesn't show any weaknesses. Really, he's a bastard you can't let your guard down with."

"In the end, {Sun.Ray} was absorbed by the {Slaughterers} huh..I'm sure you intend to make them into support for you all but..I can't believe you were aiming to absorb them."

My bean tea arrived.

"Ah, give me some roasted beans."

Since I only had a light meal eating some beans should be fine. Bean tea and roasted beans go together well after all.

"Listen!"

"Listen to us!"

I stare at their two faces.

"Wha..What is it..staring at me that much."

"What the, Anderson, are you getting embarrassed? Think about your age."

"Ha!? There's no way that's the case right!"

I laughed a bit and said "You promised not to say any complaints no matter what things up like right?" and took a sip of bean tea.

"This bastard, after all you were aiming to absorb them! I could have sworn, you planned to split them up from inside and after collapsing them, you would wipe them out..Shit."

"I won't complain over every little thing at this point. If I knew from the start then I would have tried to get a piece of it and pull out Haruku, Bin, Kamu, or Misu but since I promised after all, since I'm indebted to you as well I won't say anything at this point. Just.."

"Just?"

"I thought we'd say something just in case. We've decided to cooperate

together. From here on out we're aiming for the 7th floor."

Ho~ Though after all that's what I thought. I guess this is a declaration of war then.

"Fu..I see now. I thought that might be the case. Since it seems like the two of you had been acquaintances long before the matter this time..Well, I'm sure it's something you can tell so I'll say it but starting tomorrow including my porter we'll be heading to the 7th floor of the dungeon with seven people. Since we're already used to it just the 7th floor is quite light for us there's no problem though."

I munch on my roasted beans after they came out while saying.

"Hmn, so you're trying to say it would be hard for us? Don't come crying later."

"So you have confidence. But it would be best if you don't underestimate us. Since we're going to find the treasure on the 7th floor before you."

There's no altars on the 7th floor~ Ah, there might be something like gems or ores but I don't feel like searching. I see, putting aside the ogres, the other top teams also try digging up ores in the dungeon. {Sun.Ray} was often digging up gold and silver ores as well. Feel free to take all the detours you want around ogres and kill time.

After that we just went over some random stuff and confirmed just the important points. I think it's probably not the case but whether they would cooperate with {Gehenna.Flare} as well. Just as I predicted they didn't have a relationship with them so I was a bit relieved. Well it's pretty much impossible for them to cooperate or get absorbed by another place. Just in case, I was curious about it.

Tomorrow we're aiming for the 7th floor without Toris, Bel, Zenom, or Ralpa, those four people.

Well, I'm sure we'll somehow manage.

Chapter 206: Sister-In-Law

Year 7445, Month 8, Day 4

After the seven of us arrived at the teleport room on the 6th floor around noon we just took a light shower before taking a reasonable break and then stepped foot on the 7th floor. Since it's necessary to properly make the teleport room on the 7th floor into a front line base, while the second and third parties, no, the {Butchers} and {Sooners} are starting over from the foundations on the upper floors I intend to do a number of round trips carrying in the various materials and luggage we need.

Zulu and Angela stand at the front and Gwine and Basutoral support them with spears. Miduchi accumulates damage with magic and bow and gives out instructions to everyone from behind. Giberuti and I carry the luggage while watching that from a bit of distance away. If it's up to three ogres then I can almost afford to watch safely. These guys have already been fighting ogres for close to a year. They're already considerably used to them. Giberuti has already passed through the 7th floor before as well so he doesn't seem to be showing any sort of fear towards the vicious looking ogres holding clubs.

Even Basutoral who was always nervous and afraid when he entered the {Slaughterers} can calmly deal with the movements of the ogres without overdoing things, Gwine is doing a good job of keeping track of Zulu and Angela's movements at the front as she keeps the

ogres in check, and Miduchi is luring them into easy to attack positions.

If they can properly deal with three ogres with these numbers then there shouldn't be anymore problems with the 7th floor. After all, I guess the cause of last time was confusion after they were suddenly ambushed and lost all of the front line except for Angela huh...

Come to think of it on the occasion of taking short breaks this time they were always trying to setup two people as sentries. There's far too many unknown factors as to when, where, and how monsters will revive in the dungeon. Even if they have the main group sit with their backs together if they suddenly revive in the middle of the sentries then there's not much meaning to it, since it could result in a crisis from splitting up the forces I had them stop it. It's something that can be resolved if everyone just sits in a circle and keeps an eye out behind the backs of those across from them after all.

The cause of the last time was they were too focused on a single direction and let their guards down from behind. If they even had just one person watching behind they wouldn't have been ambushed. Since I was going to arrive in another dozen seconds and it was unknown if I was alone or not so Miduchi said they intended to confirm the moment I entered the range of the spell {Detect.Life}.

Since I'm making use of spells as well I can't say it loudly but I feel like they're relying too much on spells. Putting it frankly whether I was alone or not it wasn't a very big problem. If I was

alone they could have just called out to me when I approached and if I wasn't they would have been able to tell after I got close.

In the first place the reason why everyone was hiding behind the rocks was because we had assumed that would be the case.

Close to evening, we arrived at the teleport room on the 7th floor.

We dig a hole in the ground and bury a bucket, make a foot bath, spread out a rubber cloth and spread it out on the raised ground to create the base for the shower. Then after cutting down some adequately thin trees near the entrance of the room and using those to make the frame of the shower we returned to the surface. We properly rested in our inns and the next day we carried even more materials.

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Year 7445, Month 8, Day 5

We're carrying luggage again. This time we need to carry the rubber cloth that will act as the walls for the shower room and various types of tableware. We've already finished carrying in the stove so there's no need to worry about the kitchen. When we arrived in the teleport room on the 3rd floor that evening and the third party {Sooner} had setup camp. It's a total of 9 people including Ginger, Hisu, and the Faruergaz party, lead by Toris and Ralpha. Since the spot next to them was conveniently opened we decided to setup camp for tonight there as well.

"What is it? Since when have you been here?"

Why are you on the 3rd floor? Bel and the others were properly in the inn.

"Ah, Al-san. We've been camping here since the evening of the day

before yesterday."

Toris replied to my question.

So when we arrived at the 5th floor {Sooner} was in the 3rd floor

huh...Though I say that, it's an unthinkable speed for the previous

{Sun.Ray}.

"What about injuries?"

"One person got a bone fracture in their leg, after that it was

three people with stabs and cuts to the arms and legs or so."

Ralpa replied.

If it's a bone fracture then as long as they have Toris who can use

{Cure Serious} then they can recover to being able to move right

away and since Ralpa and Faruergaz can use healing spells as well

it didn't end in anything serious it seems.

"I see, how was the state of combat?"

"Ah, there's not much to worry about on that end. As expected of

the former {Sun.Ray}. They're properly remaining cautious towards

monsters and no one was afraid of them either."

"But it was after all just as we heard. It seems that they've even

spent an entire day in the dungeon before without entering combat

even once."

Since that reply was something I imagined I wasn't surprised.

"Also, on the map we confiscated the locations you can dig up ores

were listed. What should we do? Should we aim for it?"

"It should be fine to just ignore the level of ores that can be

found on the 3rd or 4th floors. Rather than that let them

accumulate as much experience in combat as possible. There's only

pitfall traps on the 1st floor so return to the 1st floor starting

tomorrow. There's no need to push yourselves continuing to camp

inside of the dungeon either. It's fine if you just fortify your

formation and use {Audible Clamor} to lure monsters. If it's the entry tax then a couple of gnolls is plenty to earn it back right."

"I understand."

"It's fine if you just test out reorganizing the formations as you think is necessary against goblins and gnolls. It's fine to enter the rooms as well but make sure you're confident that it's definitely an easy win before you enter. Anything after that I won't say anymore."

"If it's the 1st and 2nd floors then if Toris and I are here then the room bosses are fun.."

When I glared at her she shut up. So she still didn't get it...

"Listen carefully Ralpa. Alright, I won't say it twice. The fact that you all can fight decently is something I've long since known, that doesn't matter at all. Think carefully about for what reason I've left these guys in your care. Also, why I still can't let you alone look after them as well."

I pulled Ralpa's ear and whispered to her. Ralpa made a frown from the pain but nodded unexpectedly honestly.

After confirming that I returned to the {Slaughterers} camp. It's right next to them though.

"Did Ral say something again?"

Gwine was combing her beard after washing her face with some water Miduchi made.

"Nn..Well yeah. It's nothing important. Rather than that let's eat."

I look at Giberuti who's stirring the soup while replying.

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Year 7445, Month 8, Day 7

While we were making progress with turning the teleport room on the 7th floor into a base by the time things started to get dark we returned to the surface. We went to the magic stone dealer right away to sell our magic stones and then I paid each member their bonuses. I told the three slaves that we'd be having dinner at the usual Murowa before sending them ahead to Shuni their inn. By the time we returned to Boil Manor the sky was considerably dark and the lights started to appear in the restaurants of Baldukk.

We returned to the inn, took a shower, and I was thinking of going to eat dinner but I still don't see Toris, Bel, Zenom, and Ralpa anywhere. Either they're still in the dungeon or since we got back late they've already gone ahead to eat.

Since it couldn't be helped I decided to go to Murowa together with Miduchi, Gwine, Basutorial, and Cathy but in Pegizu which is along the way we found Toris and the members of {Sooner}.

I stopped Gwine who was about to call out to them and after slowly shaking my head we went towards Murowa. It seems they've started to get it a bit. If it's like this then around now Zenom, Bel, and the {Butchers} should be eating somewhere as well.

I guess I must have been smiling since I was in a bit of a good mood. When Gwine was looking at me with a strange face I said, "It's fine so don't worry about it. Let's go." and started walking towards Murowa.

After finishing up our meals we returned to Boil Manor and I heard simple reports from the four who were being transferred. Miduchi was laying in my bed with some thinly sliced cucumbers stuck to her

face. Since it's creepy when I told her to stop she said, "If I don't do proper maintenance when I'm still young in my teens then I'll be troubled 10 or 20 years later!" so I decided to ignore her.

The {Butchers} did nothing but continue combat and hunt monsters on the 1st floor these past six days it seems. While there were a considerable number of members with light injuries there doesn't seem to have been even a single serious injury. If you think about the combat potential then it's only obvious but I wonder if it was also largely Zenom's ability after being placed at the front line by Bel?

In terms of results they earned over 3,000,000 Z (3 gold coins) in magic stones these six days. That's about 500,000 Z (50 silver coins) per day in earnings. In terms of each individual persons cut, Bel, Zenom, and I each get about 300,000 Z. However, as expenses there's 540,000 Z for the entry taxes and 60,000 Z or so for food expenses, so I'm about 300,000 Z in the red. It seems they were gathering all of the magic stones from goblins as well, but well I'm sure that sounds about right. Bel was making a mortified face as she looked down and whispered "I'm sorry." before going silent.

I guess because he's the elder, Zenom paid in advance on the expenses but after looking at Bel like that with a kind expression he apologetically lowered his head and said to me, "Sorry that we ended up causing you some losses Al." However, he also whispered in a voice just I could hear, "Even then for that port, Bel earned

some valuable experience. I'm sure she'll make good use of it."

Furthermore, while the members of {Butchers} earned more than they did during their time in {Sun.Ray} it seems they were making very satisfied faces. Most likely, they still remember the sensation of splitting up the profits from the 26 ogre magic stones we split up between the remaining seven of us in the first party when we went to the 7th floor. It exceeded just over 3,000,000 Z per person after all so it can't be helped.

In comparison {Sooner} not only experienced some heavy injured like bone fractures but they made an amount that barely didn't reach 2,000,000 Z. That's a share of 200,000 Z per person but since they only re-entered the dungeon three times the entry tax was half that at 270,000 Z as well as food expenses of 60,000 Z for a total of 330,000 Z. Even on this side I was about 130,000 Z in the red.

Well, I'm sure their abilities are lower than the {Butchers} after all and in essence the number of times they entered combat was probably low as well so that sounds about right.

Ralpa said, "Since I thought this would be the case from the first day I told Toris we should aim for ores on the 3rd and 4th floors.."

I gave the brat saying cheeky things a flick to the forehead while saying "It's fine if you don't worry about something like that. I already included this happening in my calculations from the start. It's fine if you just be aware of the fact that you're eating that much money." and laughed while Ralpa was holding her forehead.

Seeing that Bel and Toris both were making similar regrettable

faces as they apologized. It's fine as long you understand.

Something on this level, it doesn't even add up to 1 magic stone from an ogre.

On the {Slaughterers} end we just passed through the 7th floor

twice but since we passed through the ogre mage room both times we ended up with 39 magic stones from ogres and other mixed magic stones worth about 2,500,000 Z for total earnings of around 35,200,000 Z. It's a bonus of about 700,000 Z per person. I guess it's because I flicked her head, the four of them properly accepted it.

"I'll decide the next leaders when we're training the day after

tomorrow. Thanks for your work."

And said that before ending the meeting.

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Year 7445, Month 8, Day 8

After I finished my running, I ate breakfast together with the

three slaves and Miduchi and then returned to my inn. And then

Rozural had come to the inn. It seems that he left the capital on a carriage early this morning.

Dangerous~ If it was a bit earlier then I wouldn't have been at

Boil Manor but Kairugu's Inn.

"Ah, Al-sama! Mill-sama has returned! She arrived at the capital

yesterday night and on her way back stopped by the store."

Oh~ so sister came back!

"And? The others, everyone from the village!? Are they

safe!?"

"Yeah, according to what Mill-sama said everyone was safely able to

return to Bakuddo."

I see, I'm relieved.

"The battle itself seems to have quieted down around the end of May and then it seems around the end of June the troops that joined the campaign gradually started to depart leaving just the defense troops. Since Mill-sama and the first knight group seem to have departed ahead of the master and former master so she said they probably still haven't arrived back in the village yet."

Mu, I guess that means father is the former master and brother is the master? Since he was always called Farne-sama it feels off but..because he lead everyone into the battle, I guess that means he was recognized as a full-fledged lord by everyone? Otherwise is it just my imagination? It doesn't matter either way.

"Can I meet with sister?"

"What are you saying. It's for that sake that I came here.

According to Mill-sana she has today and tomorrow off."

Rozural smiled and pointed to the back of the carriage. I guess he's saying to hop on. Then without restraint..Ah, that's right.

"Wait just a moment. I'll go though. I'm sorry for your trouble but since there's also the return I'll go on my own horse. But there might also be others who want to come to the capital as well. I don't think it will take very much time so wait just a moment."

I said that before entering the inn and calling out to everyone.

The ones going to the capital other than Miduchi and I are Zenom, Basutorial, and Cathy.

After we split ways with Zenom and the others at Greed Company we

went to the headquarters of the first knight group just like that

for the meeting. Sister came out right away.

"Al, have you been well? It seems you've grown a bit taller again.

Did Rozural go out of his way to call for you? Thanks...Are you

Chizumagurol-san?"

Sister came out wearing just her under armor while talking in rapid

succession and then looked at Miduchi who was holding the reins of

our two horses next to me.

"Wa, Yes. It's nice to meet you, my name is

Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol. Please call me Miduchi."

Miduchi's stiffened up. Are you an idiot? There's not a single good

thing about being liked by sister.

"Hm~~n, it seems you're an adventurer together with Al right? Come

with me to the back for a bit."

"Hey, sister! What do you intend to do!?"

Calling her to the back, is she a decades old delinquent? I can't

relax thinking about it.

"Nothing in particular, I just thought I'd test her out a

bit."

Don't screw around this shitty woman!

"Rather than something like that tell me about what happened in the

battle. I've heard that no one died in action though."

"Really~ I'm not talking to you right now...Hey~ Midu-cchi, show me

your skills."

Who's this Midu-cchi! Don't be giving her nicknames all on your

own! Even Miduchi, look, she's withering back right.

Rozural is surprised as well.

"..Do you not have any confidence? If you want to get along well

with me then come to the back. We have as many wooden swords as we

need. If you don't like it then it's fine if you turn it down as well."

Mill raised her chin up a bit while glaring over Miduchi as she said it.

"..I'm in your care**, "sister-in-law-san""

Miduchi pushed the reins of the horses into my hand and said while standing firmly by my side. You need to stop saying things that will go to the trouble of encouraging her as well.

"It's not like her chest is big enough to borrow**~ thoughhya"

When I put in a retort a fist immediately came flying from sister.

I managed to avoid it at hair's breadth.

"Rozural! Hold down Al! Make sure he doesn't move a single step from there!"

After Mill ordered that of Rozural she yelled towards the headquarters of the first knight group, "Gahashu! Tove! Make preparations for a practice match! Open up the second training grounds!" Since Mill is ordering them that Gahashu and Tove are probably squires.

"Hey, don't joke around! Miduchi there's no need for you to accompany her doing stupid things either!"

I said that but the two of them were already not listening to what I say. Rozural grabbed my arm and said "It's an order from Mill-sama. Al-sama, please don't move from here." Of course it's not like I can't shake him off but as Miduchi calmly said "It's alright, it's not like I'll let myself get killed right" and walked off I just quietly watched that and let myself remain caught. ..Well, certainly she won't get killed. Since Miduchi's skill with

the sword is pretty good as well even if it's sister who's always training with the first knight group everyday, it wouldn't be strange for her to win.

"Al-sama, it should be fine to leave them alone here. Mill-sama is just jealous because she feels like her toy has been taken from her."

While he remained holding on to my arm Rozural said that. I already know, something like that. That's precisely why I don't want to just quietly watch the shitty woman pick a fight with my woman over that stupid reason.

"Shit. Miduchi, if you're going to do it either way then beat her into the dirt! Also, sister can't use wind magic!"

.....

As a result Miduchi couldn't win against sister. They fought three times and she lost once and somehow managed to bring things to a draw twice. I don't really know why but it seems that both sides didn't use any magic other than healing spells during the intervals between matches. Shit, if she wasn't using a wooden one but that sword then she might have won. In that case, sister probably would have been seriously injured though. If it's me I can fix it even if an arm or leg gets off, and I guess that's not the problem huh?

When Miduchi came back with her head down a bit she said,

"Ha..She's strong. All of my throwing knives and shuriken were avoided or hit down and when I tried to exchange blows with the sword she smoothly evaded and I ended being countered." Even though Miduchi's level has gone up quite a bit recently, that shitty woman

though, I guess she's not just dazing out on the battlefield either. Come to think of it, before I noticed her level had gone up to 12. If I remember correctly before she dispatched at the end of last year it should have been 9. Even though she's not an adventurer she gained experience points at a frightening speed.

I wonder if she polished her skills in training and gained experience in live combat? Otherwise, the training of the first knight group provides a considerable amount of experience? Or maybe both? Well whatever.

"Are you satisfied now?"

When Mill returned with her under armor still dirty from exchanging blows with Miduchi I glared hatefully at her and she grinned and smiled as she started talking to Miduchi and not me.

"You're pretty good. But you still have a ways to go. If you can't win against me then "Hey! Miduchi is just an adventurer! There's no way she'd win so easily against a true knight of the first knight group!"

"..You be quiet. Lord Greed, I wasn't able to win today but next time definitely.."

"It's fine if you call me Mill. But you know Midu-cchi, it's no good for you to call me "sister-in-law-san" yet."

..Are these two idiots?

What did I come here to do again? Ah, that's right, I wanted to ask about everyone from the village as well as Kuro and Mary who should have been participating as members of the Webdos Knight Group.

Chapter 207: Anticipation

Year 7445, Month 8, Day 8

After hearing a conversation like they'd been doing some sports and thinking about some stupid things the details I heard from sister weren't all that far off from what I expected. The stage for the battle this time was a village called Myuze on the Eastern part of the Dirt Plains and it seems it was originally a village that was pioneered by Rombert Kingdom around 50 years ago or so. After that, the lord of the village changed around three times and up until a short while ago Devas Kingdom was in control of it. The dispatch this time was an invasion of that Myuze village.

The one in charge of the overall command was Viscount Kenudus the third company commander of the first knight group and the core forces this time were the second knight group and Webdos knight group. Other than that there was a number of smaller territories knight groups besides Webdos who's members didn't even add up to 300 people and the total forces added up to around 2,300 people or so.

The composition of the 2,300 people was around 200 people including retired knights who were permitted to be on horseback(More than half of those are former knights and lords of villages like brother, or even if they're not knights the relatives of lords and nobles like father), around 1,200 people including archers and infantry, then the remaining number was largely made up combat

engineers, supplies, and those sorts of support units needed for setting up a military encampment from the second and fourth knight groups. These supply units as well as escorts and command of the combat engineers also end up needing infantry and commanders to oversee things as well.

From the first knight group including Viscount Kendusu who was acting as the commander and sister there was another 20 people dispatched. Half were knights and squires and then the other half were an exclusive supply unit with high mobility. Sister participated as an advisor for someone named Radoru who was a fourth or fifth company commander of the second knight group as they split the entire army into three groups and he was leading the right-wing. The dispatch unit that included Bakuddo village and the Webdos knight group was the core of the left-wing and the leader Sendhel. Webdos was the commander of the left-wing.

The various random additions like the knight groups of small territories which are difficult to take command of and the remaining units of the second knight group were all gathered and positioned in the center where Viscount Kendusu, two other true knights of the first knight group, and three squires took command over everything.

Around midway through February they arrived in the King's Direct Territory roughly 90 Km to the north of their objective location of Myuze village in Zango the capital of the Zangotto region which Count Jobu acts as governor of, there most of the army of Rombert Kingdom excluding a portion of units gathered and started training

for about a month on the deployment. No matter how late they are by this point the Devas side would have detected the organization of an invasion army from Rombert Kingdom. About one month later the highest levels of Devas should have been conveyed the information.

After that, following a week long march, they arrived at the point roughly 10 Km north of Myuze village and setup an encampment in Bekkosu village which was the front line at the time. The army of Rombert Kingdom swallowed up the roughly 200 members of the second knight group that were stationed in Bekkosu village for defense and then finished up the organization of the invasion army.

Just before April, after Rombert Kingdom's army finished organizing itself they spent a week setting up a simple field encampment around 8 Km South-west of Bekkosu in a plains area that could act as bridgehead. By this point Devas should have already grasped the fact that Rombert's objective was Myuze village but since Karuhe village which was about 10 Km to the West of that was important as well they couldn't leave it alone. In the first days of April the Kingdom's army started moving 10 Km to the west from their objective of Myuze village then in order to deal a blow to Karuhe village they started marching to the South-west. Of course this was a diversion, their objective was limited to Myuze village.

Since Viscount Kendusu created a situation where he had to split up their important defense members he sent the combat engineer unit ahead to Karuhe village and for the time being showed an army on the scale of close to 1,000 people in the distance. The combat

engineers waited for the time they were notified of before hand and then started withdrawing to the bridgehead at their fastest speed.

With a fixed difference in time, the combat members who were late to leave the bridgehead they had fortified started moving roughly 6

Km towards Myuze village in the South-East.

Obviously the defense forces of Myuze village on the Devas side

intensely resisted this. Since the march was slow just like in the

middle ages, it's only obvious the Devas side had long since been

aware of it. The defense force was selected from the surrounding

villages in Devas and they were sent to Myuze and Karuhe villages.

Since the Rombert side also read this, they had no choice other

than to just split their defense forces as well.

On the Devas side the defense could be considered a success if the

main army of the defense on an equal scale as the invading army

gathers from somewhere and moves to Myuze village during the time

they're somehow resisting the invasion and securing both villages.

On the other hand it's Rombert's victory if they're somehow able to

force the defense forces into surrender and make the village into

an occupied territory before Devas's defenses arrive.

In order to capture a base defended by an army in the 1,000s they

need an army with equal mobility that's about three times the

number. Rombert Kingdom's this army this time has over 1,200 people

in just combat members. In order to force them into submission an

army with equal mobility over just over 4,000 would be needed. Even

if they temporarily divert some of the infantry into combat

engineers, including the supply units they would need an army of

close to 6,000 people. Just, Devas's army has a large number of conscripted soldiers so their mobility falls quite a bit behind Rombert Kingdom's army. Sister said that they would need even more than that.

There's records that the Emperor Otto the Second of the Holy Roman Empire commanded an army of 2,000 cavalry and 4,000 infantry with shields in the year 981 AD but Orth is just a bit above that, though since it falls behind the level of Japan during the warring states era, in order for them to take back Myuze village with power after it's fallen once there's no method other than moving the permanent army to exceed them in number by a certain amount.

I don't know whether or not they would come from something or other Gurizu the capital of Devas Kingdom which is several hundred Km in the south but I'm sure they would have to do the bare minimum organizing of it as well, even if they skip over the training they won't make it here in just a month or so. The Rombert side fully understood that and put it into their calculations. The average number of combat members in each of the villages that exist along Devas side of the front lines of the Dirt Plains is estimated to be around 200 from information gathered using spies and scouts up until now. Even if they were to get reinforcements from neighboring villages there's a large enough number to capture it all at once gathered.

They performed two attacks on Myuze village and during that time took a certain number of prisoners from the reinforcements trying to move from Karuhe village. A short while after the third attack

the defense unit of Myuze village suggesting surrender.

It was in the middle of April.

The family of the lord of Myuze village even down to the women and children were killed in front of the villagers(Since they're the lord, if they reside there then their assets are confiscated, and unless they're from a considerably influential family a ransom is meaningless. And then, it was just a matter of them not being from an influential family), the remaining living members of the defense unit are employed as workers for the combat engineers and a register is made of them all as war prisoners.

When I tried retorting to sister how Rozural said something like, "The battle itself was suppressed around the end of May" this morning she said "It's just talk while stopping in restaurants on the way back. Since you never know who might be listening, we cover up the things we talk about outside." And then also said, "Make sure you cover it up when you talk about it outside for another six months or so as well. Rozural as well." I wonder if the schedule for a battle that's already ended is really that important of a point? No, I guess it's proof of the training given to the true knights of the first knight group huh?

After that a governor was dispatched and until they finish organizing the troops to occupy the village again they kept Devas in check while keeping an eye on things. The defense army that was believed to be sent by Devas Kingdom to both Myuze and Karuhe villages entered Karuhe village and after that didn't show any sort of movements towards recapturing it, then one month after that while leaving a slightly large defense unit it was confirmed they

had started withdrawing. Around almost the same time negotiations for ransom started up.

Those whose ransom was successfully paid were released and then around the end of June the first knight group that sister belongs to started returning in order. The war prisoners whose ransom wasn't paid are pulled along when the second knight group returns to it seems they're still on hold for a short while longer.

Supposedly it seems there was a few of the knight ranking who were permitted to be mounted included so I can hold my hopes high. I don't intend to leave the position of head slave to Zulu so easily but there's no guarantee I would be able to confirm an even greater level of loyalty on top of being superior.

It seems that sister who was in the unit on the right-wing only knows the general movements of the Webdos Knight Group that was in the left-wing unit but it seems she wasn't interested in anything other than whether or not there was any damage to the Bakuddo village dispatch unit.

Obviously, she didn't even know about the existence of Kuro and Mary. She sure is a useless sister although it's not like I had told her about them before hand(It might have been fine to mention it before she departed last year but I didn't want to bother sister who's a true knight anymore than needed), so this is nothing more than me making complaints. From the start older brother is familiar with Kuro and Mary and they were in the same left-wing unit so sooner or later I should get information on their end as well.

In any case it's good that sister and the people from Bakuddo

village were all safe. I'm a bit worried about Kuro and Mary but since it was an invasion strategy that ended in success against a village the chances of them being taken prison are close to zero. In the first place since Kuro and Mary are both Free People they should still be in their third year as squires. If I were to state my own wishful observations then they'd probably have been deployed in one of the supply units as guards for Webdos knight group and been on the battle field with the feeling of a field trip. No, it's not like I know though.

The casualties for Robert's side this time was about 40 people and about 50 seriously injured. Though I say that there were only about 10 people who suffered injuries serious enough to urgently put their lives in danger and within a few days after the enemy surrendered sister fully healed them it seems. It seems that the largest number of casualties were infantry members of the second knight group that was in the central unit.

In comparison the casualties on Devas side supposedly exceeded 100.

The number they captured as prisoners was around 400. Among those over 200 were seriously injured to the point of not being able to move so it's a great victory. It seems they managed to capture around 200 prisoners from their supply units. Since horses and cattle can't easily be used on Orth the number of people in the supply units is considerably high. Of course, it's not as if there are no horses or cattle used for the supply units but obviously they're confiscated.

Since I was able to hear the general summary, I congratulated her

on her return once again and excused myself from the first knight group's headquarters.

I returned to my company and while I was killing time playing with Anna and Hanna, Zenom returned carrying various smoked meats. He shared a bit of them with me and I found something unusual.

Analogue cheese made from soy. It seems to have the name {Kazotto}.

Since bread exists, yeast is known but the yeast for even something like this had been discovered? When I tried eating it, just as expected from something smoked, it had a {smokey} fragrance and was quite literally cheese.

While Miduchi and I were showing admiration for the smoked analogue cheese and it was just as Basutorial and the others returned, after letting him have a bit he started persistently questioning Zenom on where he bought it. It seems he thought of mixing it into the sausages. It seems Basutorial went to buy the pig's bowels to use as sausage casings and a saw. Since the structure of a meat mincer is simple I taught him as far as I could remember but it seems he intends to make one. If you were to draw a design of knives like cross shaped shuriken that revolve around or a plate with lots of holes in it then make a request from a blacksmith they might be able to make it.

The problem is the roll part but I told him if no matter what he can't make it to let me know. It might become practice for the spell {Transmute.Rock.To.Mud} but doing that is really exhausting. I can put in the effort to make the parts for a gun but I'd like to be pardoned from concentrating several hours just for the sake of

making the roll for a meat mincer, if you intend to make it into a business then it would be more convenient to have someone else other than me manufacture it as well. But in the end, I feel like I'll have to make the first one.

Around evening we returned to Boil Manor with the three who had reserved seats on the public carriage to Baldukk.

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Year 7445, Month 8, Day 10

"Then, we'll finish today's training here. Starting tomorrow we're entering the dungeon again but this time the leader we send from the {Slaughterers} to the {Butchers} is Toris. Miduchi will act as assistant. Bel will lead {Sooner} and Zulu will be the assistant."

After seeing everyone nod I declared the end and ordered the slaves to gather the wooden swords and spears for training use.

When I returned to my inn there was contact from "Slave Store, Ronslail". It seems the slave market will be opened in the capital around the 25th of this month. So if I go around the 27th then they should have the combat slaves somewhat prepared. Yeah, the next after that next time we enter the dungeon ends on the 25th so it's convenient for us as well.

Zenom, Ralpha, Gwine, Basutorial, Cathy, Angela, Giberuti we eat dinner together with those eight while Basutorial and Giberuti are having a lively conversation over the sausage making they're challenging. Basutorial and Giberuti went out to the capital again yesterday and investigated the producers of analogue cheese while buying a considerable amount of it. After saying that minced meat

and cheese have a good affinity he said he'd prove it and made some prototypes to feed to everyone while asking opinions.

Unexpectedly Angela who is usually reserved showed interest in the deliciousness of cheese and was eating more than Ralpa. Of course, Ralpa refused to lose as she showed off her gluttony as well but since Basutoral's already realized there's no meaning in feeding Ralpa, he was busy trying to protect the failed hamburger mixed with cheese and bacon with cheese on top of it.

Furthermore, as far as they've investigated only a few small companies make analogue cheese and the amount produced isn't very high either.

"If business gets on track would you buy out one of the companies?"

Basutoral's face was serious as he asked that and I almost nodded to it. It's fine if it's cheap but it's not like there's only one of them so it's not something that can be monopolized either. It's plenty if you can just stock up on the product. Since there's several producers he can purchase from there's not much meaning in buying the company itself I'm sure.

Rather than that(It would be better to educate Catherine into the head of the sausage factory or in charge of the sales store, since I'm sure slaves will be necessary as well, you need someone to use them right?) and I had trouble holding myself back from commenting on their household affairs.

Well, it's also possible to leave a factory or store in the hands of a slave as well but it seems that slaves that can do calculations for several 100,000 or 1,000,000 Z on the level of a

company are even more expensive than combat slaves. If possible if Catherine can do something like that it would be a big help though.

While I'm at it, maybe we should just buy a number of normal slaves when I buy combat slaves at the end of the month. Ah, No, I guess it's not too late after the circumstances are in place for the factory and the store huh...

"It seems like {pizza} can already be made right? Even {cheese dog} or {cheese burger} might work.."

While I was thinking like that Ralpa was drawing up her own rose-colored dreams on her own but that sort of small business doesn't matter at all. It would be far more profitable to mass produce sausages and wholesale them and incomparable to that. Also, putting aside {pizza}, wouldn't the names be {kazotto dog} and {kazotto burger}?

"That's enough of that discussion already. Since we're leaving matters regarding the {sausages} to Basutorial, if you have something to discuss over it then do it with him. Rather than that, in regards to tomorrow but"

After gaining everyone's attention I continued my words.

"If we carry in luggage once more then we should be finished making the base on the 7th floor. I'm thinking of having everyone fight against ogres for a bit and if we're in good condition we'll take a look at the 8th floor."

Everyone's faces tensed up and they were also grinning.

These greedy fellows.

I'm sure they're thinking that if the magic stones of ogres on the 7th floor is that value then the 8th floor is even higher

right?

Something like that is already obvious.

Of course, it's not like we're going to explore the 8th floor.

We're just going to take a look at it.

If possible then I want to see what kind of monsters are in the passages, just that.

No, just confirming what's going on with the passages.

I guess it's fine if it's just Gwine and I huh?

Chapter 208: Into The 8th Floor

Year 7445, Month 8, Day 13

We arrived at the teleport room on the 7th floor(I had been calling it the "teleport crystal rod" but while late I noticed other adventurers were calling it the teleport crystal) around evening.

We lowered our luggage we had been carrying and were finally able to take a breath.

This time we passed through the desert room of the 7th floor but a group of large brown colored lizard monsters called {Kuraguzado} came out. Of course, the instant I thought it was our first time seeing them I froze and killed them without waiting to see what happens. The magic stones were about 30,000 each and while they fall quite a bit behind ogres there were 14 of them so they should be around 3,000,000 Z. They were some good earnings. When I Identified the corpses just as expected they had almost no MP and didn't have any magic special skills so it seems the ice was the right answer.

Starting with the small tableware shelves and placing various miscellaneous goods, spare blankets, soap types, buckets for laundry in their fixed locations, while watching Giberuti start making preparations for dinner I had Angela massage my feet while soaking them in the foot bath. Furthermore, in regards to soap there's proper soap produced through the oils of plants and animals as well but it's not of a very good quality. Recently we've putting

several of these berries from something called the Soap-tree into a net and using that. I feel a bit like it's returning to the ancient times but since this still seems to be of a better quality as soap recently we've completely moved over to this. Whether we're washing our hair, faces, bodies, tableware or laundry we're making use of these for all of it.

It seems Zenom's finished his shower. I thank Angela and after adding more hot water to the shower bucket took one myself. It's fine to directly use magic from my hand to take a shower as well but it's unpleasant having to concentrate mentally while taking a shower so if we have the facilities then this is better.

Following me was Ralpha and then around the time Gwine was finished taking her shower dinner was ready. Everyone had a large serving of leafy vegetable salad along with the main dish of a pork fry and then after Basutorial the slaves started taking showers in order as well before we started discussing things for tomorrow. After confirming all of the usual attention points in the end, "Tomorrow morning, we'll enter the 8th floor once just to take a look. The main stream exploring is still a ways ahead. Don't hold your hopes too high."

I particularly said it towards Ralpha. After confirming she had obediently nodded we went to bed early.

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Year 7445, Month 8, Day 14

Just before 5:00 in the morning I awoke to Giberuti preparing breakfast. After leaving my blanket, Basutorial and Angela had already woken up and we're sitting on the bench..and I guess they

were the final lookouts huh? One of them must have woken up

Giberuti as well.

"Do you want to take a shower?"

"Ah, can I request one?"

Since they should have been keeping lookout since around 3:00 am,

they probably want to take a hot shower and properly wake up pretty soon. Soon after I climbed out of my blanket and went to the shower room while scratching my ass and resisting yawns, went up the stairs in the back of it and filled the bucket with slightly hot water. Basutoral entered the shower room right away and it seems he's taking off his clothes.

I put some cold water in the washing bucket and use that to wash my face. Zenom, Ralpa, and Gwine started to wake up hearing the sounds of washing and showering. Everyone's started to put their equipment on. After I put my combat boots on I put on the under armor of my rubber protectors which have recently started to get a bit small and fix them in place with bands. As expected it's started to reach it's limit~ I made them with quite a bit of room but it's already gotten pretty tight. It's about the time to re-make them.

Just going off of height it would be a perfect fit for Miduchi or

Angela but since they're women there's also the problem of figure.

Ah, you can't just not use the body parts of it. Since all of the

arm and leg parts are connected to the body parts in some way or

form. Toris isn't all that different from me in height but his legs

are longer and Basutoral's race is considerably slender so it

doesn't match up at all. Giberuti might be able to wear it..Though

I don't intend to let him join the combat so there's not much meaning huh? If he wants it it'd be fine to give it to him though.

After that we ate the breakfast prepared by Giberuti and after confirming our equipment, grabbed on to the teleport crystal.

"It's just limited to looking at the state of the 8th floor. In the case that there's monsters right nearby I'll earn time so everyone return. Don't try to fight. If you carelessly try to move you'll get in the way of my spells after all. Then, let's go..Mikofurie!"

.....

The room we teleported into was like a 20 meter in diameter hemisphere ellipsoid with no exit. A room like a short wine glass on it's side. Single grain walls and up until the roof the feel is almost like being inside of a cave similar to the 1st floor. While we were still in the middle of the room holding the crystal rod after teleporting in the six of us immediately scattered while going on guard with our weapons but let alone monsters there wasn't even a single bug crawling along the ground.

For the time being, it seems the worst case of teleporting into the middle of a group of monsters wasn't the case, so everyone is looking around restlessly at the first glance of the 8th floor. The air is stagnant and it's just a bit difficult to breathe. I thought about using wind magic to create some air but since it seemed like it would raise the atmospheric pressure I decided to stop.

"Somehow this is a bad omen.."

Zenom whispered. For sure.

"Shall we return huh.."

After looking around for a bit I whispered that and then confirmed the arrow on the pedestal before writing "O N E" on a rock that stands out beyond that with a brush, then we returned to the 7th floor.

The next place we teleported into was complete darkness.

Instantaneously I used my Unique Ability Identify and at the same time used the spell {Light} on a rock that appeared in the sight.

We're surrounded by walls again! or at least just as I was thinking that I noticed that we were just close to the dead end of a hallway. There's nothing that resembles a monster in the range the light reaches. I can't see any suspicious silhouettes in the direction the hall stretches out using Identify vision either. It seems the hall stretches out far enough that even Identify vision can't see all of it. It's completely beyond the effective range of the spell {Detect.Life}.

The walls have the same grain and just the same as the 1st floor it's like a cave up to the ceiling but the air is moderately dry and while there's no wind that can be felt it isn't unpleasant and difficult to breathe either. The width of the hall is around 20 meters and I guess the highest point of the ceiling is around that as well? Almost like a slice of high kamaboko I guess.

While we can't see any monsters, there's small millipedes, centipedes, and some kind of strange bugs crawling around here and there. If it's just this many bugs then they've been around up until now as well but it might just be my imagination but the number seems quite high? or at least that's what it feels like

maybe.

"It's dark."

"So we suddenly entered a darkness area huh..And, North is that way."

Ralpa points in the direction the hall stretches out.

On each of the floors from the 2nd floor up until the 6th floor

there was a very small portion of each floor made up of dark areas that has walls with the same grain and the walls don't give off any light. Though I say that the halls are usually only at most about 100 meters so they aren't anything special. Even if we carefully proceed down them it doesn't take more than using the spell {Light} a couple times to pass through. I wonder if this is similar to those areas. We call these sorts of areas "darkness areas".

Of course there's close to light at all but it seems that Basutoral and Zulu can see slightly with their special skill {Night Vision}.

After that it seems like the areas connected to the darkness area which give off light enters so it's hard to call a true darkness as well. Of course, if the distance increases quite a bit then even if it's with {Night Vision} you won't be able to see anything.

"What should we do? I've been using {Mapping} since the start so it's still effective but"

"Suddenly starting from a darkness area is just a bit. Shall we reenter one more?"

After checking the arrow on the pedestal of the crystal rod we wrote "Γ√4" in the direction it pointed.

We checked the surface of the teleport crystal and after confirming it's started flickering with the incantation again we all grabbed on to it. After confirming everyone was holding it I chanted the

incantation and we returned to the 7th floor again. Even though we returned after only a few minutes Giberuti didn't stop cleaning things up. It's not particularly an unusual occurrence after all.

For the third time and we teleported into the middle of a hall.

Walls with the same grain the ceiling is properly giving off light as well. It seems we've entered a normal area this time for sure and I was a bit relieved. Of course, we weren't surrounded by monsters either.

"Hmph, it's normal..Ah, North is that way."

After Gwine confirmed the direction Ralpa pointed she just focused on looking down the directions the hall stretches out. It seems she's memorizing the slight rocks protruding out. I confirm the pedestal again and then write the next "three" ahead of it before checking the ends of the hall.

Mu, it's only slight but it seems there's some air flow. Judging from this state the hall probably continues down for quite a distance. Since the darkness area from just now was a dead end we couldn't feel the flow of air but the hall this time has a capacity that feels like it might be connected to a monster room somewhere.

"It seems like there's a slight air flow as well. It's proof monsters are wandering around. Maruso, do you smell anything?"

Zenom asked Angela but Angela had her eyes closed and was trying to pick up scents before that.

"I can smell an unfamiliar scent from that direction. I think it's

probably monster shit or something though."

Angela pointed down one of the directions of the hall the air is

coming from while replying. Of course~ if she can tell some kind of odor then that direction is the only obvious one.

I guess because he's tense from entering a new floor Basutorall swallowing sounded awfully loud.

"Since it's the long-awaited chance let's at least see what kind of monsters there are. Then, shall we try going in that direction?

Carefully now. Since we don't know what kind of traps there might be proceed cautiously. We'll advance with the {Double Trail}, Angela and Ralpa will take the lead..ah, No, after all let's just confirm if there's any traps around here. After confirming there's no traps we'll lure monsters to us."

Since it can't be helped rushing I didn't use {Find.Trap},

{Detect.Snare}, or {Perceive.Pitfall}. Ralpa and Angela are hitting the floor with the pole we prepared before hand. Gwine and Basutoral are walking around poking places with their spears as well. If I don't have them do this occasionally their skills might dull after all.

"Try prodding the walls up to around our height as well. It would be unpleasant if there was another strange trap after all."

Before long we had completely investigated up until around 50

meters ahead from the teleport crystal and confirmed there were no traps.

"Alright, up until around 10 meters in front of us and around 40

meters behind past the teleport crystal is safe regardless of if we jump or roll. We'll take on the enemy with the {Reverse Triangle}

centering around Zenom with me at the summit. Let's go."

Ralphai s on the left side of the front row, Zenom is in the center, Angela on the right side, and everyone is lined up with around 5 meters between. The second row has a distance similar to the first made up of Gwine and Basutorial. Then the third row takes formation around me while I slowly use the spell {Audible.Clamor} about 50 meters ahead on a random rock I could see with Identify vision.

A loud noise almost like a tire rupturing echoes through the 8th floor.

When I was looking further down the hall with Identify vision and I could see several specks with wings coming approaching in the distance.

【

【Male/1/12/7444.Giant Cave Cricket】

【State: Good】

【Age: 0 Years Old】

【Level: 6】

【HP: 65 MP: 1(1)】

【Strength: 10】

【Speed: 35】

【Dexterity: 5】

【Endurance: 5】

There's several dozen of those and they're springing through the center of the hall heading over here.

It doesn't seem like they have any sort of special skill and while it says giant in the end they're just crickets. They aren't much of an opponent. If she does it calmly then even Gwien in the middle row can use magic so it should be possible for the five of them to

deal with it.

Well, if I just send one shot of {Fire Ball} in that will probably

wipe out a few of them assuming it doesn't take out half or so and

that should increase the light as well...

"Something is approaching.."

"Yeah, rabbits? It feels like they're leaping along the

ground."

"They seem like grasshoppers."

It seems Basutoral can see them.

When they approached to around 200 meters ahead I sent five shots

of {Fire Ball} with missile added flying towards them. It seems the

ones that took direct hits and were in the immediate vicinity of

that died instantly.

Remaining is..eight more huh?

"I'll provide backup as suitable. Kill them!"

.....

The giant crickets had a height of close to 80 cm. However, their

HP wasn't anything special so almost all of the individuals died

from just a single good hit from the tomahawk, broad sword, and

spear.

The magic stones had a value of around 10,000 each so they're

pretty good earnings, even the experience points was close to 400.

Since it was a waste of skipping over the magic stones of the ones

I finished with {Fire Ball} we waited for around 20 minutes to see

if anymore monsters would approach and then after confirming if

there were any traps along the way with spells we gathered them

all.

"Now then, Al. What are we going to do? Shall we try proceeding a

bit?"

Zenom asks me but I had no intention of proceeding from the start.

Today wasn't for exploring but just checking the state of things on the 8th floor. There's no guarantee that crickets are the only monsters either.

"No, we won't proceed today. It's plenty if we can confirm the state of the 8th floor after all."

I crack my neck to the sides while replying.

"Are we going to lure more monsters again?"

"We aren't doing that either. Even after waiting this long nothing came along. Either there's nothing near here or if there is it's insanely slow like slimes. We should return once and try going to a different area."

I said that urging everyone along and we returned to the 7th floor.

.....

We spent the entire morning teleporting into a total of seven locations and entered combat ten times. Among those five times was with the crickets, three times was with {Giant Mantis}, which were once again basically just huge praying mantis. Twice was against {Giant Millipedes} which were huge millipedes that reached a size of around 3 meters in all. It's all just bugs. The values of the magic stones were all pretty similar as well.

Honestly speaking, I thought Ralpa, Gwine, Angela or the women would at least raise a scream from all of the insects but there's no one with that sort of cute side among us. Only really Basutoral who made a pretty unpleasant face when disassembling them to gather the magic stones.

I only thought they were pretty disgusting when I saw the huge

crickets as well but I guess because they're too big they don't really seem disgusting as bugs. The scythes of the praying mantis and the poison from the millipedes require plenty of caution but since we were able to confirm they aren't very powerful enemies at all you could say we've achieved our objective for this time.

Starting from the afternoon we went back to fighting ogres on the 7th floor again.

After thinking about it once again taking on ogres is a lot more tense. They're a lot more dangerous as well, since trying to lure them over is as expected scary they have the flaw of having to explore the halls to search for them but the value of their magic stones is completely different and the amount of experience points for each individual ogre is higher as well.

After all I guess we should spend until the end of this year gaining experience on the 7th floor and leveling up?

If we do it until the end of this year then putting aside {Sooner}, if the {Butchers} buy some combat slaves and we have Ginger or Hisu switch parties then Kamu might be able to act as leader after all...No, that is...

It was when I was eating dinner together with everyone that night while thinking about those sorts of things.

"If it's like that then wouldn't the boss of the rooms on the 8th floor be easy? Since they say that the first King of Rombert founded the country on treasure from the 8th floor, tomorrow, how about we try going to a room?"

The thoughtless one dyed blonde suggested. I thought you would say that for sure.

"It might not be a bad idea to take a look at the state of things.

I want the mapping information for the 8th floor as well."

The woman with a small build who's recently gotten into the hobby of playing with her beard agrees. Certainly the mapping information we gained for the 8th floor today is close to nothing after all. I thought you would say that as well.

"Even if you say that but..as expected wouldn't the strength of the room boss be on a completely different level? Even today we fought against three types of bugs but there might still be even more. Wouldn't it be best to go to the rooms when we have even more people?"

As expected of Angela, she's a good slave who's properly undergone my training. Not to mention since it seems that starting from the 8th floor only the first King and his allies had stepped foot there. Since it seems that the first knight group's investigation party had made it to the 7th floor before. I doubt we can be too careful no matter how cautiously we proceed on the 8th floor.

"It's just as Angela said. In the first place, look at Zenom and Basutorial. They properly understand the objective this time. As proof of that they aren't saying to do unreasonable things like you all right? We're not doing it. This time it's just for investigating. Tomorrow we'll just spend the morning luring monsters over and fighting again."

In the first place, up until the 7th floor while it was fragmented we at least had the information on the primary monsters that appear on each floor. Think carefully about that.

Even though we've only seen a few different types of monsters I'm

amazed they could say we could manage the 8th floor. Even though we still don't know much at all but if at least it's not a time when Miduchi is around it's too frightening to go even further inside.

Also, the problems with the 8th floor isn't just monsters right?

Chapter 209: Expensive Shopping

Year 7445, Month 8, Day 15

Again, we teleported into the 8th floor from the morning.

The first monster we ended up luring on the 8th floor this morning

was a {Giant Mantis}. It died from one hit of Ralpa's {Flame Arbalest}. Bugs sure are weak to fire. Gwine ended up burning it to death with {Flame Thrower} as well. After their wings catch fire they go up in flames in an interesting way, stop moving right away and die. The smell of burning proteins spreads around the surroundings but I guess the reason it isn't even the slightest bit appetizing is because it's from bugs.

Since we've already found out that burning them to death makes it easier when we go to disassemble them and collect the magic stones, it might be good to center on using fire magic from here on out.

Thinking like that since Toris can't use fire magic he have bad affinity with the 8th floor.

And then once again today we repeated teleporting into the 8th floor countless times until close to noon, since there was no change in the types of monsters that come out it was just as we were getting sick of them already.

In terms of time it was probably just as were finishing our last monster calling before lunch, it was that sort of time when the fourth type of monster appeared.

When I saw it from the distance using Identify vision I doubted my eyes.

That is~ isn't it a {Scavenger Crawler}!?

Furthermore there's even 5 of them!

Even if I try identifying if it's the same thing I've seen

countless times in the boss room on the 1st floor. However, it seems these {Scavenger Crawlers} have lived quite a while, both their age and level were a bit high. On average they were level 15. The height is 3 meters and their girth has a diameter of around 80 cm, things like that are running over here at about the speed of an adult. Zurorororo!!! and you can hear the sound from them dragging their bodies along.

The passage this time turns to the right about 300 meters ahead but during the time I was looking at the identify window they've approached by about 50 meters.

"Somehow I hear an unpleasant sound.."

"This sound..{Scavenger Crawler}?"

"After all it seems they were in other places..This scent is that of {Scavenger Crawler}!"

"Shit..They're too far so I can't see them.."

"..Be quiet..It's not just one! There's a lot of them! Al, we're depending on you!"

I guess the electricity I used like in the past is good. Since it seems like there's multiple targets I used the spell {Chain Lightning}. Only the two in the rear were remaining. However, it seems they've weakened quite a bit from taking the electricity. Just like that when I tried using Identify on them their HP had cut 70 remaining.

"Hmn, it seems they've been weakened considerably. Basutoral, finish them off."

As they approached us Basutorial stabbed them with his spear just as I ordered and the two remaining died. They have high levels and there's their special skills as well so as usual the experience points they give is a lot but it feels like the value of the magic stones were higher than usual? or at least a little bit since they were 7,000 or so each. However, for 5 {Scavenger Crawlers} to appear at once..If it was a party with no flexibility in their mana they'd be on the route to getting wiped out. It was the same for the ogres on the 7th floor but it seems it would be best to think there's no room to relax on the 8th floor either.

Since the smell was terrible I left the dissection up to Angela but since she was wincing from the bad odor the {Scavenger Crawlers} give off as well there were tears welling in her eyes. When she handed the five magic stones over to me with a pale face I thanked her for her work and put them into my rubber pouch along with the feelers we collected from all of them.

We returned to the 7th floor and when I gave her the right to the first shower she seemed a bit happy.

.....

Year 7445, Month 8, Day 16

We returned to the surface in the evening. Starting this time we cleared out the ogre mage room on the 7th floor once a day so our earnings are huge. We had a total of 71 magic stones from ogres. Adding to that the magic stones from the 8th floor have a decent value as well so including it with the earnings up until the 6th floor and it largely exceeded 65,000,000 Z. Additionally we'll sell the feelers of the 5 {Scavenger Crawlers} to the drug shop as well.

That isn't even 100,000 Z in total.
However, everyone is quite pleased.
I pay out the bonuses to the members of the {Slaughterers} and take the reports from Toris and Bel about the {Butchers} and {Sooner}.

"I'm sorry..That is.."

"Umm..I'm very sorry.."

Of course it was that state of things last time. I'm sure the losses will continue for a while. Most likely, won't it start to show some profit around the time they get to the 4th and 5th floors? But you know, on {Sooner}'s end Rodrick and the combat slave he owns Karimu both leveled up this time and reached 9.

You all had that sort of period as well and if you were to ask me even right now is something like an extension of that...Though that's same for me as well.

"Don't worry about being in the red. What's important is gaining the experience and learning things from leading them after all. It's a weird way of putting it but you could say they're all teachers of you all I've sent in as leaders. It's only obvious that the fee for the course is somewhat expensive right?"

Right, they're teachers that it's possible they'll teach you through example. I'm sure you'll experience scary and painful things as well. You might even suffer serious injuries, depending on the case you might lose your lives. More or less everyone who enters the dungeon has that sort of resolve. If were to say some extreme logic then in the case a powerful opponent appears and even if they suffer damage then...

Since everyone can earn experience that connects to the future that

amount is chump change and not a waste at all.

Of course, I don't want anyone to die though. Whether it be the {Butchers} or {Sooner} they're all people that have relationship with me. I'm sure they want to take every chance they can get for promotion and I want more members who can get promoted to come out as well. Obviously, right now I want to put priority on the members of the {Slaughterers} gaining experience, but it's no big deal, I don't mind if they're overtaken.

"Now, everyone let's go and eat. But for tonight just avoid any heavy drinking. Tonight, when everyone returns I want to talk about things from here on out including the 8th floor."

After I said that the seven of us excluding those on leave went to eat.

After 8 pm all of the {Slaughterers} gathered in my room in Boil Manor and we reported things about the 8th floor. Since we don't have any proper information on the monsters, I declared that for the time being we'll take the safe route and focus on luring monsters into the halls of the 8th floor as we grasp their characteristics and types. We'll continue this until at least the {Butchers} can reach a level where they're fine without anyone being dispatched from the {Slaughterers}.

Also, around the end of this month I'll be able to buy a number of combat slaves so in that case I should be reduce the number of members dispatched to both the {Butchers} and {Sooner} by two. Nothing can be helped by hurrying, I told them that right now rather than hurrying ahead we'll properly gain some experience and strengthen our combat forces so we can take on any opponent that

appears. After all even Rombert the First gave up on this 8th floor of the dungeon. Though I say that, it's probably not because he was blocked by a powerful enemy he couldn't win against but because he got his hands on a large treasure I'm sure.

.....

Year 7445, Month 8, Day 17

Starting from this three day break I'm eating breakfast and dinner together with {Sooner} on the first day and then eating breakfast and dinner together with the {Butchers} on the second day. The third day is with the {Slaughterers}. Since I'll be dispatching to their parties as well. I need to properly maintain contact with them.

Since today is the first time I'm together with everyone in {Sooner}. This time Bel was the leader and Zulu was the assistant but I wonder how everyone in {Sooner} felt about her leadership. Since we ended up returning late I wasn't able to sell the feelers from the {Scavenger Crawlers} at the drug store so after doing my running I told Bel that I would stop by the drug store to sell the feelers on my way to the restaurant.

When I arrived at the restaurant Bel and Zulu were sitting next to each other while saying something to everyone around them. Since I arrived at the place a bit late, I quietly sat down at the end while thinking. It might be good to ask Zulu who was acting as assistant and it's something I obviously need to do. However, I wonder how everyone else thinks about it? I guess I'll try asking Rodrick who's sitting next to me huh? No, I should stop with that. I should only make decisions based on the results from the reports

of the person them self and the assistant. It's practice for myself as well.

"Ya~ good morning, it's my first time in this restaurant but what's good in the morning?"

I asked Rodrick who was sitting next to me in a quiet voice.

"Ah, Gree..Al-san! Good morning. Though it was on the 1st floor, we defeated 18 room bosses this time! I guess even we can manage things when we try them."

No, I already know the result. Rather than that what's delicious?

The bacon and eggs you're eating? It seems be half-done and that looks pretty good as well.

"That's right. And, is that goo"Ah, Al-san! Everyone, listen well?

The reason why we {Slaughterers} were able to earn so much every time we enter the dungeon, I'm sure you already know but there's a reason to it. Previously we all were trained by Al-san just like you are right now."

It seems Bel couldn't hear my talking from the edge of the table.

"Previously, I think Toris said it as well but the {Slaughterers} method of clearing the dungeon is fundamentally different form other parties. Just as the name of the {Slaughterers} represents we cut down everything that appears in front of us.

As a result we've gotten used to the combat and we can travel down the shortest route with no need to go to the trouble of taking detours. Please think that the first standard is clearing through the 3rd floor in half a day. For that sake the 1st floor is just a matter of around three hours. We defeat all of the opponents along the way, and no matter when and what appears, we can clear through

the 1st floor in three hours. Until we reach that stage we won't be going to the 2nd floor."

I'm sure everyone's already heard this discussion a number of times right..No, they're all listening pretty enthusiastically. Even Zulu is nodding. You sure are an actor~ I guess the same bacon and eggs as Rodrick is good. I called over the waiter and ordered bacon, eggs, bread, and some soup. There's not a large difference in the breakfast menu of any restaurant. It seems that this place doesn't have any white bread sitting around.

Bel is eating while explaining just how important not running from combat is to everyone. Since {Sooner} falls behind in abilities it's particularly important to strongly burn it into their consciousness so it can't be helped. Being urged on by Bel, Zulu occasionally adds in his own opinions. However, it's a bit unpleasant how at the edges of everything he says he adds "we need to be grateful to master" to try and dress it up as a favor. Well, you could say that's only obvious for a slave so I don't think anyone is probably paying any mind to it.

..However, she sure is stiff, Bel. She's giving off a different feel from how she normally acts. The things she's saying are easy to understand and it seems she's picking out simple words but the ambiance she's wearing is stiff. It's not like she won't forgive objections or that sort of thing but..I guess her tone of speech and expression are stiff.

She sure is young~ How nice~ I had a time like this as well..When I was a newly assigned platoon leader and had my own subordinates for the first time. Around half of my subordinates were younger

self-defense official who were working on a term basis but among them there were some older ones as well and among the sergeant majors there were even people on the same age as father or so. Probably, Bel is frantic right now. If you look at the scale it's on the level of a squad but even then almost all of them are older than her.

..There's no need for me to say anything. I've left everything in regards to {Sooner} to her until the day after tomorrow. It's fine if I can just get along with everyone in {Sooner}.

.....

Year 7445, Month 8, Day 27

After everyone in the {Slaughterers} finished their running, I had breakfast together with the {Butchers} where Zenom was acting as leader and Bel the assistant, then I started walking to "Slave Store, Ronslail" together with Miduchi, Ralpha, and Gwine. If things go as planned then they should have gotten stock of combat slaves from the war prisoners yesterday night or today. It might be a bit too impatient, or at least I felt that may be the case but I don't think it's a waste to properly show that I still intend to purchase and I'm looking for to them.

However, after all it was too soon. The madam still hasn't returned from the bidding and according to the statement of the head clerk who I talked with they should arrive this afternoon. Additionally, they said there's also confirming how well they've been disciplined and if the discipline is still lacking they need to do it even more thoroughly so it's not guaranteed they would be able to hand them over just today or tomorrow, and he put emphasis on that. Ah, I

guess that's true.

"No~ when I was thinking that it would be an expansion to our forces I couldn't restrain myself.."

I scratch my head while leaving.

"It's alright, Greed-sama is of the greatest priority after all. We won't show them to others so please take your time to inspect them in the afternoon."

The head clerk politely said that while lowering their head and saw us off to the doorway of the store.

We didn't return to Boil Manor but entered the dungeon with the four of us and started training with spells until the afternoon to kill time. In order to earn the entry tax we tried luring some monsters just once but it was 5 hobgoblins so we deliciously hunted them.

After we took a slightly slow lunch with the four of us, we started towards "Slave Store, Ronslail" one again. Along the way we caught sight of Basutorial talking about something at an ironware store that deals in pots and pans while accompanied by Cathy and Giberuti but since he seemed busy talking enthusiastically we didn't call out to him.

"Welcome, Greed-sama."

It was just as Madam.Ronslail was departing her carriage.

"Ronslail-san, how did things go? Were there any good ones?"

I wonder if there was any skilled knights?

"I was able to purchase 6 combat slaves and 3 normal slaves this time. However, I still haven't finished confirming the discipline of all of them so I'm very sorry but could you wait until the evening to come again?"

I was told that but for the time being I just had her show them to

me. Since it seems the load of the carriage had the normal slaves on it, I had her show me the combat slaves tied up behind the carriage. It seems the reason why there's not many is because she had to spend quite a bit of money to land the bids on the ones from knight families. Sorry about that. However, I'll let you profit for that portion. Probably.

It seems they've already finished the naming ceremony to the slave standing in the capital. During the stage of being war prisoners it's still possible they could have their ransom paid so they don't do the naming ceremony to change them to the slave standing. They supposedly don't do the naming ceremony until they've been dragged to the capital and are put up for bid by the largest slave dealer in the Kingdom Benisshu company. After the bidding they undergo the naming ceremony for the first time. The reason for that is because they might have a noble social standing or be knights so during the bidding process they show their status to the slave traders as proof.

I decided to look at the ones that the madam was suggesting. Of the five that were former knights who didn't have their ransoms paid and ended up being up for auction this time, it seems she managed to win the bid on two of them. Since I said that younger ones are better it seems she didn't even glance at the combat slaves beyond their late 20s. In most cases among the adventurers in Baldukk, the ideal age for combat slaves is said to be in the early 30s and that's preferred. In comparison it seems that the younger ones are preferred for the army.

Meisun.Garuhashu, Male, 22 years old, Laios, Level 9, Former Knight

(5 years experience), from a Viscount family, earth magic level 2, water magic level 2, void magic level 2.

Umu. He's appropriate for the number one candidate. It's plenty for her to boast about him being expensive.

Henry.Okonneru, Male, 24 years old, Hyumu, Level 8, Former Knight (5 years experience), from a commoner family.

This fellow is splendid as well. AS expected of Madam.Rosnlail.

There's no loss even if I guarantee that I'll buy these two. The rest weren't knights but seem to be soldiers huh?

Rubano.Firenoto, Male, 21 years old, Dwarf, Level 6, from a commoner family.

Emerentsia.Osubaruto, Female, 20 years old, Tiger-people, Level 5, Free Person.

Ottirie.Masorotarun, Female, 18 years old, Elf, Level 5, Free Person.

Jesutasu.Manzokki, Male, 16 years old, Wolf-Person, Level 5, from a commoner family.

Umu, I don't need the two women. I'll buy the four men.

Garuhashu was 30,000,000 Z. I had predicted it to some extent but he's expensive!

Okonneru was 20,000,000 Z. Just as expected from him being a knight as well but the price was high.

Firenoto was 7,500,000 Z. That's normal.

Manzokki was 7,200,000 Z. A bit cheaper than the average I guess.

~and that totaled up to 64,700,000 Z huh? Personally this sort of expensive shopping, even among my past life, I think it's since I bought my condo..Ah, that was on a loan, and I hadn't finished paying it off.

They'll confirm their discipline and depending on the state they could be handed over even tomorrow but if that isn't the case it could take up to a month. That can't be helped either. I said I would pay a deposit of 2,000,000 Z per person once I withdraw it from the temple. After that I need to properly check their abilities.

Right now they only just arrived after being dragged along from the capital so after saying I'd come by to check their abilities in the evening when I bring along the deposit, we left the store.

I went again that evening and confirmed their abilities. Yeah. If it's this then there's no problem. It seems the two former knights can skillfully use the shield and the two soldiers were able to use the bow a bit along with the shield.

Furthermore, it seems that the disciplining wasn't at a level that Madam.Ronslails was satisfied with so she said she couldn't hand them over right away. Oh my...

Chapter 210: Delicious Yellow Fat

Year 7445, Month 8, Day 28

After finishing some simple cooperative training incorporating all three teams and then eating lunch, Miduchi and I were enjoying some tea together slowly.

"Come to think of it, it's almost been exactly a year today since I joined the {Slaughterers}.."

Miduchi said after taking a sip of tea and returning the cup to the table. There's nothing tasteful like saucers or other tableware.

"Ah, so it's already been a year huh..Time passes by quickly."

"I still haven't really gathered much of the ingredients as well..Hey, does it seem like you still won't be able to use the spell {Cure Disease}?"

Miduchi looks at me with an expression like she's praying. It's a pathetic story but when it comes to the spell {Cure Disease} I haven't been able to acquire it so easily like all of the spells I have up until now. Since there's countless people with illnesses in this Baldukk if I were to become able to use it then I'm already in situation where I could practice it easily though.

All of the spells I wanted to learn up until now if I just recognized "they definitely exist" and know the name of them that seems to match up to my image then continue trial and error I've been able to master them in at longest a few months.

However, when it comes to the spell {Cure Disease} just as you would expect with the source of the information being the Demi-God Lilus, even when I recognize without a doubt "it definitely exists", I can't master it. I've been challenging it with the resolve that it involves quite a bit of difficulty in acquiring and not something that can be done right away but things that aren't working just won't work. I think there's almost no chance that Lilus lied to Miduchi and there's no meaning in that after all.

In the first place, regardless of the information about a spell that can cure diseases from Miduchi I've been trying to find a way to do it since long before that. When I had already halfway given up on it, I heard that information from Miduchi and it was around this time last year that I was burning with motivation over it...Even teacher Mila said she doesn't know about it so it's not like I could have her show it to me in front of my eyes but since I can't deny the existence of the spell at all we're in this predicament.

"Sorry...I've been trying to make time to work on it but..I can't get a grasp on it at all in the current situation."

"I'm sorry. It's not like I'm blaming you.."

I can tell that much just from looking at your expression. Miduchi has been overdoing things quite a bit in gaining experience with magic think that if I can't do it she herself would. It's the same for me but whenever we have days off she's often entering the dungeon together with Zulu or Angela. Thanks to that her elemental magics hit level 6 several months ago and her void magic has even

increased to level 7. It's the result of dealing damage to monsters with magic in the most efficient method for gaining experience points.

"No, it's fine. In any case I'll continue to try testing things out."

"Yeah..when it comes to the location of the ingredients we have some decent prospects, but several of them are difficult after all..right."

"Yeah..It's not like I have any proof of it but for the time being I don't intend on leaving the dungeon, so in that regards..there's also things like timing so I can't say anything.."

"Nn, after all the most severe is the {Wyvern} and {Vampire Lord}.."

"Also, the {Dragon}..huh.."

When it comes to the things like black newts they're wandering all around the place near wells. When it comes to the Shurika there were a few if you wander around a bit of distance away from Bakuddo as well. Rather~ Myun should know of their living environment. When it comes to the {Scavenger Crawler} if you just wander around on the 1st floor unless you have some seriously bad luck you can encounter one within two days. I've heard that the Kuntokigaeru aren't all that uncommon in the wetland areas in the South and it seems the {Rock Vipers} live in the mountain areas around Miduchi's home town. Things like hairs and nails we can get our hands on at any time and even when it comes to the raw liver if it's just a small piece then it's fine to take it from me.

The difficult ones are the three types listed above but since it

seems that {Wyverns} are known to live and occasionally~ seen in the mountain ranges to the Northeast, if we just spend some time searching our chances of finding one are high. I had never heard about {Wyverns} until Miduchi mentioned them but it seems they're something like inferior dragons. However, since their strength is no comparison for the real thing with how much it's dropped it's not as if I don't feel like we could win if we fight as well.

Though I can't be sure.

In regards to the {Vampire Lord} I told Miduchi how we previously killed a {Vampire} on the 4th floor but she said something like "If it's a dungeon where {Vampires} appear then it wouldn't be strange for a {Vampire Lord} to appear even further inside." It seems like it's something like the boss of {Vampires}. Both Miduchi and I can use {Anti-Magic Field} and if it's us who were able to finish off that {Rotten.Eye.Ball} from head on then I'm sure we'll be able to manage somehow.

However, the problem is the dragon. As far as I know there's no definite proof that they exist. I've heard legends that in the past there was one in the Dirt Plains but..regardless since it was something from over 100 years ago I don't know if it really existed. However, a result of discussing it with Miduchi and we came to the conclusion that it be unnatural for there not to be dragons in this sort of world.

For now our only clue is just that there was one in the Dirt Plains. According to Miduchi it seems they live for 100 or 1000 years so they're like a reptile that has a tremendous longevity. I

haven't said it to her but if that's true then I don't think it would be strange for a mate or child still to be remaining alive somewhere in the Dirt Plains.

Just, it seems that they're no joke in how strong they boast. Their bodies are huge, they spit out breathe of ice, acid, poison, electricity, or fire over wide areas, and can even flying through the sky. It seems it's not unusual for them to be highly intelligent and use magic as well. It's not even strange for them to have enough power to wipe out an entire country alone and for some reason she declared that proudly to me. What is that sort of perfect living creature.

In any case, in regards to the ingredients for the medicine we're in a stalemate for now. The highest possibility is that somewhere even further in the depths of the dungeon we might be able to encounter that {Vampire Lord} or whatever, is what it means. Of course, while they can supposedly fly through the air, since dragons are reptiles it seems there are also ones that would prefer being in a dungeon as well so we can't deny the possibility that we'll encounter one in the depths of Baldukk dungeon either. Though it might just be my own personal opinion I think we probably won't run into one. I mean, they're huge right? Even in the higher parts of the dungeon the ceiling is at most 100 meters, even if there's supposedly some individual types that prefer dungeons...They should at least do some exercise. Before they end up getting bed sores.

"Right now all we can do is aim even further into the

dungeon."

"Nn, that's right. Also, starting tomorrow the {Slaughterers} are on holiday for a week. In three days~ or so I'm going to teacher Mila's place again after all..I'll tell everyone this evening."

"I guess so."

Zenom, Bel, and Angela are looking after the {Butchers}, Toris, Ralpa, and Zulu in {Sooner}, Basutorial is getting help from Giberuti and Catherine to make sausages and it was a good chance so Gwine decided to join a barbecue party she was invited to being held by {Gehenna.Flare} on September 1st. So it should be okay if Miduchi and I show our faces at my company in the capital and then go to the Fairy Village.

It's possible we might run into the {Butchers} and {Sooner} on the 1st floor but if I let Miduchi who's skilled at hiding herself go ahead there's almost no worries on that end.

.....

Year 7445, Month 8, Day 29

"..And also, we've run out of the new model of Saya. We've had quite a few customers who liked the samples say they'll and to sell some to them but there's already none remaining."

I show my face in the company and confirm our stock of products that have gotten low, Rozural reported that to me while giving me details on the demand. When I tried asking for more details on it and it seems an envoy has come for the royal family a number of times. Up until now I've brought the stuff for deliveries whenever we delivered the armor but since there's been no armor deliveries recently I've just done deliveries to them whenever I see the

chance. However, I somehow feel like the behavior of the Queens was strange after seeing the normal model of Saya.

What the, did they like the new model that much? They sure are shy~

They didn't say anything to me when I made deliveries but it seems like the studded ones were popular. Well I still have a lot remaining in my inn so things should be fine for a short while.

Other than condoms there's still a couple pairs remaining of the high end boots but sandals, shoes, and rubber cloth are already sold out. It's only slightly but it seems the number of repair jobs on boots and armor has increased as well. That's only obvious because the number of users has slowly increased after all.

In any case if we can't replenish our stock then putting aside Ryogu and the others, there's no job for Yotlen.

If I calculate back to around the time sister returned and take into consideration that after withdrawing they would have returned to the village once then I probably can't hope for any replenishment on the stock for a short while longer. This time, since the war only just finished I doubt there will be anything like this again for a short while after but it might be a good idea to hurry up Basutoral on the sausages I've left to him as well.

After discussing things with Rozural, Miduchi and I had him start looking for a house that slaves can live in.

"Do you intend to have Bakuddo send over some slaves?"

Rozrural said a bit surprised.

"No, as expected there's no way I'd do that. I thought of buying some new slaves. Depending on the case I might buy a new place like

the rubber workshop as well. The {sausage} factory that I talked about just now. We'll need laborers to work there. Well, I'll bring some {Sausage} along next time so we can discuss it once more while eating that."

Slave brats in their early teens are pretty cheap. Furthermore the supply of them is high so I can buy as many as needed. If we properly drill the proper concepts of hygiene into their heads while they're still soft then I'm sure they'll become good workers. In the off chance that there's someone superior mixed in among them then it's even more profit. If it comes to that then it would be nice if I could bring the factory leader or other things to them as well~ Cathy is fine as well but as expected I'd feel a bit bad making her live separated from Basutorial. The people themselves haven't said anything about it either.

No, they're still newlyweds of only about two months. It would be stranger for them to say something during that sort of period. Also, it's not like Cathy is an adventurer, let alone one of my subordinates. I'm sure she'll be having kids as well. It wouldn't be strange for Basutorial to have his own family plan going.

.....

Year 7445, Month 9, Day 1

"What the~ after all you weren't rejected huh.."

Hey, winged insect. So you were saying that seriously...Rather~ even though you were proudly boasting your own lack of ability to remember things, why can you remember that. I don't get the meaning~ Dealing with him is mentally exhausting.

"And then, teacher Mila. There's a spell I'd like you to teach me

this time as well but.."

"It's fine~ But, before that.."

"The fish right. Of course we've brought along a lot of them again
this time as well...They're over here."

When we opened up our bags filled to the brim with dried fish the
fairies all let out a cheer and smiled. It feels good that they get
happy no matter what happens.

Miduchi and I exchanged glances and smiled before we grilled up
some fish on the stove and ate some sandwiches we had prepared for
ourselves.

"By the way teacher Mila, I've heard that the most effective ways
to invalidate attack spells fired from a distance are {Anti-Magic
Field} and {Dispel Magic} that's used instantaneously but are there
any other methods?"

Miduchi tried asking teacher Mila after taking the sandwich out of
her mouth. Umu, it leaves a good impression how she's properly
calling her teacher as she calls her.

"There's several. The representatives would be {Resist type spells}
and {Turn Magic} I guess."

Teacher replied while gulping as she watched the grilling dried
fish on the stove. Ho~ so there's something like that as
well?

"Resist..I can get the image but it's not like they're invalidating
it right?"

Miduchi asked a bit strangely. Why? If you say {resist} then isn't
it resistance? If you succeed at resisting then usually things have
no effect and if you fail you end up taking it, isn't that how it
works? Otherwise, maybe it's like the kind of resistance from

electrical circuits a {resistor} sort of feel? Though if it's like

that it's not as if I don't get it.

"Ho~ I'm surprised you know. It's just as you said the {Resist type spells} normally focus around softening the negative effects of the magic used rather than completely invalidating the effects."

I guess some of the fat that dripped off the fish evaporated in the fire from the stove but it gave off a bit of smoke and teacher Mila narrowed her eyes as she watched that. I see now~ After all it was the {resistor} type.

"There's quite a bit of depth to it. The sales point of the {Resist type spells} is that they can be used on other people I guess."

Karl said from the other side of the stove of teacher Mila while staring at it. In your case, rather than the details of your statements, why is it I can't help but remember the expression of Ralpa being a glutton?

"After that there's the meaning of classifying them as well...If you end up being attacked with ice and the spell {Resist Water} shows the maximum effectiveness it can then by the time it passed through it will have just become cold air. Though I say that in order for an {Ice Javelin} used by a normal magician to turn into just cold air it would require a tremendous amount of mana and when it comes to just dealing with the attack {Ice Javelin} itself using {Anti-Magic Field} like that uses far less mana."

Teacher Mila is moving her face following the movements of my hand as I flip over the fish. However, in that case I thought it should be plenty if there's just {Anti-Magic Field} right. That's why, I

tried pointed that out. Also, I intentionally didn't touch on it but I can certainly understand the valid uses of it. Since if you use it something like a {filter} then that's probably possible I'm sure.

"If you don't know it then it's not unreasonable to say something like that. The biggest difference between {Anti-Magic Field} and {Resist type spells} is the duration of their effects. If you use {Anti-Magic Field} while moving around you can't use other spells right?"

In my case I can move around and swing the sword but it's certainly true other spells at the same time is impossible. I see now, if you just use it once then like the spell {Light} even if you leave it alone you don't need to concentrate to maintain it. Also, I'm sure it's a big difference that you can sue it on other people as well.

"Teacher Mila, then in that case today please teach us those {Resist type spells}."

"Nn, that's fine."

It took until close to midnight again but I was able to learn the spells {Resist Fire} and {Resist Air} while Miduchi was able to learn {Resist Earth} and {Resist Water}. Once we return to the surface Miduchi and I will teach each other the spells we learned this time and then it's necessary to practice them.

Chapter 211: Business (Preparation)

Year 7445, Month 9, Day 2

Miduchi and I left the dungeon around the time the date changed and after returning to the inn we left our horses we fell asleep until morning just like that. The two of us are still young and have healthy bodies so staying up one night or so is no problem but obviously it's not as if we don't want to sleep. We're just simply tired and there's no reason we need to return to Boil Manor in a hurry so it was just troublesome and we fell asleep like that.

Just past dawn we woke up and after checking out of the inn we returned to Boil Manor. It was just four hours but we properly got some sleep so it's no obstacle in being active. When we returned to the inn it seems it was after everyone had gone out for running. Now then, shall we go and run as well? I urge along Miduchi as she makes a slightly bothersome expression and after we put our protectors on and fill our rucksacks with weights we started running. I don't know if it's because of the increase in ability values in proportion to my level or just simply because I've been running for several years and used to it so my fundamental stamina is different but if I don't carry along the added weight including Miduchi I quickly put distance between everyone else.

After we returned to the inn and the four who were dispatched to the {Butchers} and {Sooner}{Since Zulu and Angela are in a

different inn it's probably before they joined up) were already gathered in front of Boil Manor fully equipped. Gwine and Basutorial who weren't entering the dungeon didn't have their equipment on but were on the spot as well. In front of Toris, Bel, and Ralpa Zenom was saying something like, "Let's do a proper job again today without letting our guards down."

There the two of us returned from running and out of breath.

"Oh Al, Miduchi. Morning."

Zenom noticed and called out to us first. While breathing with a

Ze~Ze~ we replied and as we had our hands on our knees catching our breath everyone greeted us. After regaining my breath I went to call out to Basutorial but ended up going into a coughing fit.

During that time Miduchi finished up greetings and started talking to Gwine.

"How was yesterday?"

"No~ They brought out some pretty good alcohol and the meat was delicious as well. After all {Gehenna.Flare} is an interesting party right~"

Gwine replied with a smile. Of course I mean you're pampered like an idol after all.

There's no way they wouldn't make it fun for you.

"Also, Garun-san, he's kind and cool, I look up to him~"

Ah is that so, eventually I feel like I'll end up receiving a request for saya from you as well..

While looking at those two on the side I called out to

Basutorial.

"Basutorial, do you have any plans for today?"

"No, just the same as usual with not much difference. Together with Cathy and Larry on the meat mincer.."

"Ah, that, about the meat mincer. Sorry but you're out of time.

Sorry about that. As long as you have the materials I'll make the roll today. If it's necessary then additionally the knife and plate as well. Go and get some brass ore or copper-nickel ore before coming. I'm sure it's not all that expensive so at least pay for the cost of materials yourself."

Brass(Brass*), copper and nickel alloy, and additionally bronze all exist as ores. Furthermore, brass refers to brass* and when it comes to something familiar to Japanese people it's the material used in the 5 yen coin. It differs from what is commonly referred to as brass ore. It's also my number one candidate for cartridges in the future. Since the bracelet Myun had was made of brass as well I thought that alloys were being produced. When I went to Keel and tried asking in a blacksmith, I was a bit surprised to hear that it was normally being taken out of ores during the refining process.

When I found out about this I thought it made quite a bit of sense.

Eh? About how low the techniques are in regards to the production of alloys and metallurgy on Orth. I mean, if a large number of metals already exist in the form of ores then the only thing that will develop is metallurgy for the sake of mining. It was to the point where I thought if I search I might find ores for the special steel that makes up the materials of my sword as well. Well, it doesn't seem to be major so even if it does exist it's probably only just a bit though.

He must have been at his limit, when I smiled at Basutorial as he

was overjoyed, I took a breath and entered the inn while wiping my sweat.

Stop getting so happy..Feel a bit mortified over it. Ah, I guess if

I can make something with brass then he might be happy over the possibility I could make a wind instrument as well. That guy likes music after all~ AS expected I won't make any instruments though.

However, if he just makes use of a few tricks I think he could even make a roll though. Since screws themselves already exist. Since it's difficult to use a meat mincing roll if the pitch spaces are fixed so you would either need to have it order made or in worst case, carve out a sample with wood first. I think he had at least that much time though. I can't understand not doing it even though he had the need for it. Since he didn't do it did he not need it?

and I even start to wonder that.

It's fine even if you fail. Let's actually do things.

.....

Basutorial purchased some brass ores from a blacksmith during the morning and came along. He was even able to buy 20 kg of brass ores with 20 silver coins. If I take the brass out of here then it will probably end up with about half that weight. I place a large bucket on the floor of the room and after putting the brass ores inside of it I used the spell {Transmute.Rock.To.Mud} to change it into mud. Even though I've gotten quite used to it, it still takes about an hour and during that time I always need to maintain my concentration on it so it's exhausting. I ended up breaking a sweat again. Additionally I've gotten a bit of a nosebleed. When it comes to using spells that require concentrating for hours on end before

activating I often get them. Ah, it's not particularly anything unusual. It seems it's the same for most people as well. And then I immediately use water magic and mix void and water magic to sort out just the brass. During the sorting process I also perform molding and constructed a revolving knife, plate, and roll. Once it enters the void magic phase it only takes about 1 second of concentrating so it suddenly gets a lot easier. A bonus. Since I had the materials on hand already I made the body and handle as well. Also, in order for him to open up holes as he pleases in the plate with no holes, vise, and roll I made some screws and stuff with the remaining materials.

Basutorial made an apologetic face while watching me do that but when I handed him the parts he made a sparkling smile.

"The size of the parts should be a perfect fit..the vice for fixing it to a table I made as a bonus. If you pack in too much meat at once then it might end up blocking the gaps on the connection portion between the roll and the handle in the back of the main body so be careful. Well, if you're just using it normally then it should be pushed back out by the roll during that process so I don't think it will get blocked up through."

While Basutorial was happily putting it together and spinning the handle around I called out to him and started a serious discussion over making it into a somewhat large business.

"In that case, just this one probably wouldn't be enough right.."

"That's only obvious right. However, I'm sure you understand since you were watching but as expected I don't want to do that anymore.

Since you already have that do something about it yourself."

"Yes."

"Then I'm going to take a shower. Let me eat some proper sausages tonight."

"Please leave it to me!"

"Ah~"

After I got refreshed taking a shower and returned to my room I continued discussing things with Basutorial after relaxing for a bit in between. It seems he's already confirmed his routes for stocking up. He intends to turn it into a product and start test sales in Baldukk immediately. It seems he intends to leave the production and sales during the test sales up to Cathy.

It seems that Basutorial had been teaching Cathy arithmetic for this sake. Hmph. But, once it starts selling I'm sure it's not something that can be handled with just one person.

"If I were to try and get a company license I don't know how much time it would end up taking. Also, while the percentage of my bonus went up, I can't buy countless slaves and I would have to feed them as well. Not only is there the problem of the money required for stocking up on ingredients but above all else I don't have a base for the production or sales. Please let me use Greed Company."

"Yeah, I had that intention. Once it's started to make profits how about 60% for you and 40% for the company?"

"Eh? That much!?"

"Ah, No, to be more precise 60% would go to Cathy. It's fine to make that her wages."

Basutorial let out a large voice in surprise. Yeah. Well I guess

it's fine. From my standpoint it's like investing in you.
It's fine for the time being since I don't know if it will really
make any profit. If his portion is higher than I'm sure he'll put
that much more effort into it and with that if we can raise some
slaves then it's far bigger.
"It would probably be good to make it in your room at first and
then setup a stall in the plaza. After investigating the reputation
I guess around one week should be fine for deciding on an
appropriate price? If it seems like things will work out we could
buy or borrow a shop and we could make a store or factory in the
capital as well. Think about and investigate about how much capital
you need and give me a presentation on it. If it makes sense to me
then I'll pay the full amount."

"I understand!"

"Ah, after that if you have the spare time then go to the capital.

I'm having Rozural do investigations for the factory."

"I'll try going right away tomorrow."

Give it your best.

.....

"Oh! So this is.."

"Yeah, this is.."

"It's delicious!!"

We let Zenom, Zulu, and Angela eat the prototype sausage after they
returned from the dungeon.

Without smoking it (we couldn't since we didn't have the time),

it's just some minced meat with a bit of salt, spices, and

seasonings for flavor boiled and lightly grilled. I'm sure the

flavor still needs some adjustments so it can't be called a

completed product yet. However, the degree of completion has risen

considerably. The crunch in the consistency is good along with it not just being finely chopped but the feelings of chewing from the minced meat is properly there as well.

Of course all of the other members were pleased eating one each as well.

"Is there already no more?"

Ralpa came out demanding seconds but there's already no more.

Rather~ since I already thought you would say it I made sure we made just enough to match the number of people. If I didn't do that then we'd all end up eating sausages here and we wouldn't be able to go out to eat with the party that entered the dungeon today.

Rather sorry about that, everyone.

"I'm sorry, Ral-san. Since it's still a prototype that's all I made."

Basutorial and Cathy lowered their heads to Ralpa. As expected since Ralpa was apologized to she had no choice but to given up and made a disappointed expression. Look, you've already gotten to sample it so go take your shower already and go eat dinner with the members of {Sooner}.

"Then, I guess we'll head to Murowa huh?"

I call out to Miduchi, Gwine, and the Basutorial couple before quickly walking off.

It's only obvious but it's not like just the Basutorial made the prototype. Giberuti made it together with them as well. And, Giberuti isn't here. Around now he should be at Murowa smoking something. Also, since the afternoon Miduchi, Gwine, and I the three of us went to find the mustard plant. Mustard itself was technically already being sold but after all you know, if you're a

Japanese person then you need mustard that sharply passes through your nose.

Tonight we're going to eat our stomachs full of delicious sausages.

I'm looking forward to it~

Ah, tomorrow when everyone goes to the dungeon in the morning I intend to properly let them bring along enough hot dogs for the number of people as well.

Pardon me if they cool down. If you're discontent then have Ralph or Bel make some fire.

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Year 7445, Month 9, Day 6

Hmn, it can't be helped worrying about it so I guess it's fine to

just go with this and that fellow that seem obedient huh?

"Then in that case Ronlail-san, I've decided on this child and that child. How much are they?"

"Since we just gained quite a bit of profit from Greed-sama the other day. How about 1,000,000 each?"

Oh~ no matter what the case if it's that price then wouldn't there be almost no profit.

"That's quite cheap. Well I understand that they're a different set of digits from combat slaves though..I still might buy another couple of them but I'm relying on you at that time as well."

"Yeah, of course. That's fine. I'll offer a good price when it comes to general slaves."

And, the madam is quite shrewd as well. I guess that means when it comes to general slaves which were originally cheap and have a low profit margin {two* pay} is fine. I guess that means she intends to profit from the expensive combat slaves. Well it's fine. If the sausage business ends up getting on track then I'm sure I'll come

to buy a lot more after all. She's going to make those ones cheap as well right?

I purchased two scrawny 11 year old slave children for 1,000,000 Z each. It seems one was the child of a slave that belonged to a merchant that went out of business the capital and the other was similarly the child of a slave that belonged to a shop in the capital who's business had started to decline. Since both of them were born slaves it seems there's no need to re-educate them. I paid the money and after taking the proof of sale just like that we went to the temple and performed the naming ceremony.

John.Kurein, level 3, human, male.

Terry.Whites, level 3, human, male.

Girls would have been fine as well but there were only ones that were much older and had a higher price. It's not like I'm buying a housekeeper or maid after all and I'm sure they'll be carrying some reasonably heavy luggage when stocking up on meat as well. I just went with boys that seemed like they would be able to build up some strength in the future.

After the ceremony had ended and the two of them were the Greed Family's Owned Slaves I brought them into a restaurant that acts as a cafe. After ordering some random sandwiches and bean tea, I let them eat.

"Listen well, I'll say it from the start but my primary occupation is as an adventurer. I'm normally in the dungeon. Since I intend to have you help out with business that deals with food we probably won't meet very often. Normally a Free Person older sister named Catherine.Basutorial will be looking after you two. Alright?"

""I understand, master.""

That's a good reply.

"I think your job will get busy right away. That's why stamina is important. Make sure you properly eat without restraining yourselves. The cost of inn and food will all be covered by me so there's no need to worry about it. You two are still children and your bodies are small so I'll have you stay in one room together in the inn. I'll prepare two sets of bedding. Don't fight. Also, your starting wages will be 6,000 Z per month. It's fine for you to use or save them up as you please."

""! I understand, master.""

"You've finished eating right, then for the time being we're buying your daily necessities so come with me."

After paying for the meals we left the restaurant and started on the way to Boil Manor.

"Miduchi, prepare the daily necessities for these two. I'm going to Shuni to prepare the inn for them. Once you've bought it return here."

"Nn, got it."

After Miduchi said that she crouched down to meet eye level with them and smiled while saying, "The two of you, tell me your names. I'm Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol. Call me Miduchi or madam. I'm looking forward to working with you."...I don't even feel like retorting every time anymore. Do as you please.

After pushing the two slaves on Miduchi, I went to Shuni and started negotiations to prepare a room with two beds next to Giberuti's room and managed to get it for 3,000 Z per night for the two of them. After returning to Boil Manor and it was at almost the same time as Miduchi returned with the two of them. It seems she

properly prepared new and clean clothes as well. There's also underwear and towels as well. Yeah, since they're going to be dealing with food it's important to remain clean.

"Cathy, starting tomorrow teach these kids various things. I'm leaving it to you."

"Yes, Greed-sama, I mean Greed-san. Please leave it to me."

After Cathy said that just the same as Miduchi she crouched down to meet eye level with the two and greeted them.

That night when everyone was eating dinner Giberuti said, "You two, so you were born in Rombertia huh? That's nice~ If master's business goes well then I think the two of you will probably be able to work in Rombertia. Make sure you do a proper job."

something like that. Would you please stop with that~ The two of them were making sparkling eyes while saying something like,

""Then, we can see our mom and dad?"" Look, hearing that everyone started making questionable expressions while looking at me.

"I'm going to take a piss~"

I ran away to the toilet.

Chapter 212: Meat Stick 2

Year 7445, Month 9, Day 7

Morning, when I left Boil Manor in order to go running, not just

Zulu and Angela were waiting in front but Giberuti brought along

John and Terry as well. It seems everyone else is still getting

ready.

"Morning."

""Good morning, master!""

When I greeted them the five slaves all returned my greeting at the

same time.

"John, Terry. Do a proper job starting today. You might not be used

to things at first but listen closely to the things Catherine and

Giberuti say and it's fine if you take your time so carefully think

about things."

""Yes!""

They sure are obedient. I really like obedient fellows.

"Giberuti, I made some ice and left it in front of my room. In

order to make it easy to use I split it up into three different

sized buckets so use it as you please. Since the temperature has

decreased a bit I don't think it will melt for a short while. If

there's any left over then throw it away in the back."

I made a total of around 100 kg of ice. It's a considerable amount

but even if I leave that much around since right now is the start

of September it won't last until evening.

"I understand."

I finish up talking over some finer details with Giberuti and soon

after Basutorial came out accompanied by Catherine. I left Giberuti and the two slave boys in Catherine's care and ordered the two children to properly listen to things the adults say and do their jobs. In addition I handed Giberuti a bit of extra money for stocking up they should be doing today just in case. During that time everyone else was gathering outside.

"Alright. Then shall we go?"

While being seen off by Catherine, Giberuti, John, and Terrry the 9 of us excluding Zenom started our running.

.....

We returned from running and after having breakfast we joined up with the {Butchers} and {Sooner} as everyone from the {Slaughterers} did some training until lunch. After lunch when everyone returned to the inn the sausages Catherine and the others were making were of everyone's interest. In just half a day of work what amount were they able to produce and exactly what level of completion were they at?

Today, since morning they've been stocking up on the flavoring and meat other than the casings. Of course, soon after we went out for our running this morning they had breakfast and then went to the butcher I'm sure. In regards to the stocking and money I felt like Catherine was still a bit unreliable so I left it to Giberuti.

"I wonder how much they were able to make? Around 100 of them?"

"100..No matter how you think about it isn't that too few..."

"Hn, I see. Then around 1,000 of them?"

"..Ral sure is extreme. Since it's the first day, wouldn't 200-300

be plenty?"

Ralpa is completely out of the question but Gwine's estimates weren't half bad I guess? Since this time is the first day we had planned for them to be producing around 300 of them to sell. Even if they don't all sell today we'll be smoking them as well, since we're boiling them and then cooling them down right away, as long as they properly have ice on their side to leave them in then the quality should be no problem until tomorrow or the day after tomorrow.

The size of the sausages being produced are using the bowel's of a pig as casings so a thickness of about 3-4 cm, frankfurt size and the length should be around 15 cm so I guess they should be around 100 grams each? Since there's also other things mixed into them as well in order to make around 100 of them they should have stocked up on about 9 kg of pork. 27 kg for 300 of them. We were questioning putting in close to 10% in other mixed ingredients but while the flavor gets a bit lighter mixing in shaved ice gives it a smother taste and reduces the number of failures. It also reduces the number of rupturing accidents when boiling them. It's to the point where it would even be fine to add a bit more.

When we arrived at the Boil Manor the brat ran up and gave us some complaints.

"Basutorial-sama, please do things like smoking outside of your room...If you're going to do it then please use the roof."

Oh~ I guess that's only obvious. It's not like there's ventilation so if you were to do something like smoking inside of your room it would overflow with smoke. If it's just a bit then there's no major

problem with the window being open but when it comes to smoking sausages in the 100s the amount of smoke would be on a different level. It seems we've done something bad.

Everyone politely apologized to the brat and then proceeded towards Basutorial's room. I wonder if John and Terry are properly working below Giberuti and Catherine?

No one was in the room. There was just the meat grinder and the table it was fixed to and everything else was cleanly put into order. On the side of the table there's a bucket and what appears to be the leftover pig's bowels using for casings was inside of it.

It seems everyone is already on the rooftop. The rooftop is usually pretty empty with just the water tank for the shower and a pole for drying clothes. Certainly it might be just right for boiling, smoking, and airing out sausages.

Just as expected everyone was gathered on the rooftop in the middle of their work under Giberuti's lead. They washed the completed sausages to get rid of any scraps and then starting from the ones that were wiped dry of moisture they're smoking them. On the side of that they have a pot with boiling water and Catherine is maintaining the temperature of the fire so it doesn't boil over while they boil the sausages that have finished smoking.

The smoker that Giberuti and Basutorial made wasn't all that big at all. In terms of volume it's about 4, 1 To(18 liters) cans worth.

Even if you make good use of how you're hanging them I think around 100 at a time is the limit. The pot they're boiling the water in is the portable type size that adventurers use so it's at best useful for making enough soup for 10 people. Since it's around 3 liters it

can probably only boil around 10 of them at a time.
On the side of that is a large pail with the remaining half-melted ice I made this morning, it seems around 20 frankfurts are floating in it after being smoked and boiled.
Wumu, no matter how I look it's inefficient. Or, rather, putting aside the smoker, the stove and pot are small. With this it's vague whether they might even be able to make them all by the evening. There's no helping it if they spend this much time just making a mere 300 of them. After taking the change from Giberuti for stocking up, I added 1 gold Shu(250,000 Z) to the amount and handed it back while ordering "Go and buy a larger stove and pot".
The expenses for this time was around 8,000 Z for a total of roughly 27 kg of pork and various parts. In terms of casings Basutorial had already prepared around 15 of them at 4 meters or so each pickled in salt and those cost 1,000 Z each for a total of 15,000 Z. The spices and seasonings and such was at most around several hundred Z in total. If you include the wood chips for smoking and the magic stones for the stove then it probably won't even reach 24,000 Z.

The cost of ingredients for one of them is around 80 Z huh?

Expensive, that's expensive.

Particularly the casings are expensive. Since there's a demand for condoms in Baldukk, even if it's before they've been processed the fact that they have a high price is the largest problem. Since it seems that if we could stock up in Rombertia let alone half price it seems they're even 1/3rd the price so it might be best to think about stocking up in bulk there. With just that we should be able

to drop the cost of ingredients by around 30 Z. If we can make one of them 50 Z then..if we sell them for around 200 Z then that will be decent I guess. No, if I think about the preservatives that we weren't using this time then the cost of ingredients should go up even higher. It's like water on a hot stone but it might be best to think about increasing the amount of shaved ice and lowering the cost price.

Suddenly I realized. I picked up one that was completed and whispered {Status Open} in a small voice.

The blue window that I haven't seen very often recently opens up.

【Pork(Food Preparation Complete)】

Well I thought that would be the case. Next. This time the green window I'm used to seeing opened up. Shit, why didn't I realize this until now. Though it's been quite a while since I stopped myself from using 【Identify】 to check the status of food though...

【Frankfurt Sausage】

【Pork】

【State: Good】

【Manufacture Date: 7/9/7445】

【Value: 20】

"Fuhi"

I made a strange noise.

A short while after Giberuti returned with the stove and pot he bought and using that they were able to finish up the boiling of 30 at once. It's gotten a bit better but it seems it's going to require even more funds invested in the facilities and equipment.

That one large-scale stove magic tool we ended up selling once upon

a time, I wish we had kept it...If it was that then as long as we could prepare a large container-like pot then we could have boiled 300 all at once.

.....

Even though we're entering the dungeon tomorrow, Giberuti, Catherine, and Basutorial were all opening a stall in the entrance plaza. They paid 5,000 Z for the stall, which was around five times the normal (normally it's around 1,000 Z for a single stall of about 2 meters) to the knight group that manages the plaza to force their way in. It's a shady method we can do only because we're acquaintances with Church-san from the Baldukk knight group. A frying pan was placed on top of the stove that was used to boil the sausages and this time they're frying the frankfurts while stabbing them with skewers.

They've already prepared a bottle of mustard as well. And then, they're selling them for the atrocious price of 300 Z each. Isn't that the price of a night stall in a festival in Japan? If you don't go luxurious it's enough to buy a single meal. Moreover they aren't just mobilizing the {Slaughterers} but also the {Butchers} and {Sooner} to act as sakura*. Excluding Rodrick the others, John, and Terry almost all of them are well-known adventurers in Baldukk.

Those sorts of fellows are all surrounding the stall biting into frankfurts on skewers.

"Isn't 300 Z a bit expensive?"

Ralpha said a bit sharply while waiting in line. That opinion is only nature but...

"It's a test sale after all. It's difficult to raise the price later but it might be just right for the starting cost. If they sell at this price then there's no need to sell them for cheaper after all and if they aren't selling at all then can't they just keep an eye on the sales and slowly lower the price?"

Bel replied. That's right.

"Ma..Master, they smell good right. I want to quickly eat some."

Angela's nose is moving as she smells the scent. It seems her tail is shaking a bit as well. That's right isn't it, I want to eat some soon as well.

"Yeah, I'm hungry..this is quite difficult."

Zulu puts his hand to his stomach while looking at the mountain of frankfurts. It's almost dinner time after all~ That's not unreasonable. However~ that's quite the amazing sound coming from your stomach.

"I prefer the sausages when they've only just been boiled though..they seem delicious~"

"Yeah, that one time we ate them, the ones that were just boiled. Those were delicious as well but I liked the ones we ate the other day more."

"Akdam-sama, we were able to try out a bit of the ones today after we had just boiled them but they were extremely delicious!"

"I've never eaten something that delicious before!"

"Fufu..From here on out you'll be able to eat a lot. There's still lots of delicious things left in the world after all."

"Yeah, eat lots from here on out. It's a child's job to eat."

Gwine and Zenom were pleasantly talking to John and Terry. It seems the first few of them are almost done frying.

Miduchi took two of those and after putting plenty of mustard on one she handed it to me.

I took it and bit in.

Along with the snapping consistency of biting into it the sourness of the mustard on the surface and the fat from the pork mixes together in a nostalgic flavor.

The fragrance passes through my nose and stimulates my appetite even further.

After chewing even further the crunch in the consistency still feels good as the juices from the meat spread out in my mouth.

Yeah, it's good!

They're pretty big so 300 Z isn't half bad.

When I suddenly looked to the side Miduchi was using her forked tongue to lick the fat that was dripping down the surface of the frankfurt.

After she met eyes with me she made a teasing smile and started wrapping her long tongue around the frankfurt.

Stop playing with your food.

Please play with my frankfrut later.

"Oh, I was late. I went to buy these so the three of you should wear them. They match."

Toris bought three shirts that were dyed black. A uniform huh?

"Also, since Saji and Larry are in charge of the cooking. Make sure you properly put this around your head so no hairs fall out."

Additionally he handed a thin towel like white cloth to the two guys.

I guess he's saying to wrap it around their heads like

pirates.

The frankfurts gradually keep frying up.

"Wamu..N! This, it's even more delicious then that {obento} the other day!!"

Misu raises her voice in admiration. That's only obvious since the ones we gave to them the other day weren't even properly smoked after all. Of course these ones are more delicious.

"Oh! This flavor, I can't stand it! It goes well with mustard."

Binsu was biting into it like a delicacy as well. The mustard is good too right. If it comes to this then I want to do something about ketchup as well. Though there's nothing that can be done.

"They have a good consistency too right!"

Hisu has already eaten close to half of hers. It seems she intends to use mustard on the remaining part. It seems like Binsu can't wait for her to finish putting it on.

"Master! If you put mustard on them they're even more delicious right!"

One of Rodrick's slaves, Denda, called out to Rodrick in admiration.

"Right!? I like {sausage} as well.."

"You've eaten them before?"

"Yeah, in the past..However..this sure is good."

Rdorick replied while looking off a bit into the distance.

"Ah, I've already finished it..Give me one more!"

"You're the same as usual, Rokko. Exactly how much of a glutton are you?"

"Kevin you're already on your second one too right? I saw it."

"Hee~ I've started to feel like drinking some beer."

"Right..It has this fragrance after all so it seems like it would go well with beer. Hey~ how about trying to prepare some beer?"

"If they do that then the customers will settle down and won't pass through right?"

"I guess that's true..Give me one more!"

Everyone is already enjoying themselves as they please around this point.

"Delici~ous! Are they called Sausages~Hn? Baldoggie?"

"They cal these sausages but this is a food that was newly made in this town of Baldukk after all! That's why they're Baldoggie!"

Basutorial was giving a lecture while making a cut into the frankfurt as he moved it to pass over the flame well. Before I realized it there was a price tag on the table saying "1 Baldoggie 300 Z". The Baldoggie is fried with a sizzling sound on the frying pan with lard spread out in it.

On the side of that Giberuti was looking at the cooking while quietly putting skewers on them.

Now then...I guess I'll have one more huh?

【Wood Skewer】

That's only obvious. It's hot but it can't be helped.

【Baldoggie】

Hmn...

【Baldoggie】

【Pork】

【State: Good】

【Manufacture Date: 7/9/7445】

【Value: 30】

I see now. Though there's a lot more that I don't get but..really

thank you for your work, indeed.

"Oh~ that sister, give me one as well~"

Our first customer has come and called out to Catherine who was

acting as the salesperson. It's a drunk old man. Judging from the blisters on his rough hands he's probably an artisan who finished up work early to have a drink.

"Yes, here you go. That'll be 300 Z. Please use as much mustard on it as you please."

"Here you go, 1, 2, 3, and 300. Is it fine if I put it on with this spoon?"

"Yeah, but for the first bite you should try it just like that. If you want to change the flavor then please try putting some mustard on it."

Catherine courteously deals with the sweaty and drunk old man. Umu.

It seems she has talent for the night entertainment business. Ah,

No, she was still a slave until just the other day wasn't it. The

one who said that she should deal with any customer as if they were her master was me.

"He~ Now then~oo!! This is delicious!"

Catherine smiled seeing the old man eating the Baldoggie deliciously.

"Then next is the mustard oo...ofu!! This is good too!"

The old man who was saying it's good, it's good while biting into it, disappeared in the twilight of the town of Baldukk.

Everyone was watching over the reaction of the old man. Before we noticed everyone was moving their heads to see off the old man.

It seems that all of us standing around the stall biting into

Baldoggie acted as a good advertisement. Countless people were passing by before we noticed a number of customers came along.

"Ah, that, give me one."

"Welcome, that's 300 Z."

"300!? That's a bit expensive..Well I guess it's fine."

"Oh! Delicious!! Is this mustard huh? Oh! This is good too!!"

"Thank you very much~!"

"What's this? He~ Baldoggie? From Baldukk, a play on words. Give me one as well."

"Welcome~!..Yes, here."

"What's this? What's this!! It's delicious~!!"

"What the, what is it!? A new stall is it? Hmph, for all of the

{Slaughterers} to be gathered and eating. Oh~ sister, give me one as well!"

"Yes, that'll be 300 Z, here you go."

That is, if it isn't the Tiger-people woman that's like a gorilla

who's in one of the second-rate parties? It's a bit rude but jsut as she looks she's like a gorilla and it seems she can't even read characters after all.

"Oh! Here..And it's a shape I've seen somewhere before right~ sis!

Uhihi~"

The gorilla woman made a vulgar smile while paying the money and

taking the Baldoggie as she licked the end and bit into it.

"Right? But my husband has an even better one."

Catherine said that while turning around to Basutorial. Basutorial

courteously lowered his head. That guy, he's a member of the first part of the {Slaughterers} you know. It seems since Basutorial,

Catherine, and Giberuti were wearing matching black shirts and have

the white clothes tied around their heads the gorilla woman didn't notice they were the {Slaughterers}. Though it was Toris's idea..that's just like a noodle joint from some place.

"He..Is that so. Ngu. Delicious! This is!"

"Please make sure you eat all of it!"

"O..Oh! Like I would leave any remaining! Give me one more!"

"Thank you for your business."

It seems she can handle stupid customers as well. If it's this then she should be fine. Including myself the sakura* all split up into small groups as we went to get a proper meal.

.....

Around two hours after we were eating at Murowa and the three of them grouped up with us. It's still only around 8 pm.

"That was fast."

After I said that and the three of them were a bit excited as they happily reported things to me. It seems they managed to sell one every 20-30 seconds or so. However...even though we didn't even do any kind of advertisement momentum is quite amazing.

Including the sakura* there were sales of 90,000 Z huh? Fumu. If

it's this then it seems it will make it as a business. If we just keep it at selling around 300 of them from a stall and sell another 1,000 or so for a slightly cheaper price to a restaurant in wholesale then it could make it to around 150,000 Z a day. We'll need to make sure they don't setup stalls for them when we wholesale..I guess it doesn't particularly matter though.

There's no need to always continue to do the sales through a stall ourselves. Even at longest around six months to a year should be plenty. Ah, it might be good to do when mixing in beef, cheese, or

other parks of pork as well when announcing them as new products. No, maybe I should have them start making those sorts of new products right away? I guess it doesn't matter either way. In any case, even if I estimate it on the low end the overall profit should be around 100,000 a day. Assuming 20 days in a month that's 2,000,000. The labor costs including the fixed expenses are the wages for the two slave boys inn and food costs is around 200,000, the magic stones for the stove are..around 200,000 I guess? 1,000 for Catherine and 600,000 for me. Well, that should be plenty for the time being. After several months I'll check up on the state of things and consider increasing the number of people, the amount produced, and it's reputation in the town while deciding which direction to stretch out the business. After I had thought that far while poking at some Ibodi and Keiswago fried fish together with Toris, I pushed things about the sausages back to a corner of my mind.

Chapter 213: Newbie 1

Year 7445, Month 9, Day 11

We've been entering the dungeon again since three days ago. This time the members of the {Slaughterers} are starting with me, Zenom, Bel, Gwine, Basutorial, and Angela the six of us and we have Giberuti enshrined as the cook in the teleport room on the 7th floor. Toris and Ralpa went to the {Butchers} while Miduchi and Zulu departed to {Sooner}.

During the time everyone is in the dungeon, we put the sales of sausages on hold, and they just focus on making further adjustments to the mixing ratios of spices. It takes the shape of leaving it to Catherine, John, and Terry but it's probably better to leave things in regards to a flavor that matches the tastes of Orth people up to them, since the ones buying them are most likely to be largely from the slave standing and Free Peoples. Basutorial said they could do as they like with it but I agree completely.

Today were doing the opposite of what we did last time, we're killing ogre mages on the 7th floor in the morning for earning magic stones to sell and then in the afternoon were investigating the monsters on the 8th floor while also doing the operation of earning experience points.

That's right, operation.

When it comes to the crickets, mantis, millipedes, and basically just enlarged bug monsters we burn them, occasionally when {Scavenger Crawlers} appear we'll collect the feelers along with

the magic stones. We were able to confirm some new monsters but it was basically a sub-type of the cricket and while there were some vague differences in it's appearance, it's on the level of a difference in color and pattern. Generally there's nothing that's really changed. Even if I use identify it's just small differences in the details and ability values, also that they have a weak poison or so.

If we just make sure not to let our guards down and use attack spells focusing around fire magic then we can kill them without any major problems. The result of discussing it with everyone was that just in case we would spend the rest of this year confirming monsters like this. On the 8th floor in half a day we can lure monsters and engage in combat around 10 times using {Audible Clamor} is how it feels.

During one time of entering the dungeon for the latter three days, that's roughly 30 times. Since we should enter the dungeon around 23 times until the end of the year that adds up to gaining combat experience on the 8th floor around 400 times. The number of times we teleport should exceed 2,000. Since it's a floor we have almost no information on, I thought if we don't get at least this many samples then you can't say we understand the monsters that wander around the floor after all.

.....

Year 7445, Month 9, Day 23

After eating breakfast I walked to "Slave Store, Ronslail". It's

been about one month since then. Since we're entering the dungeon again starting the 26th so if possible I'd like to take over the

slaves today.

"Ya~ Ronslail-san. How is the disciplining going? If it's going well then I'd like to take over them pretty soon but.."

"Oh, Greed-sama..Nn? Well I guess it should be fine. They've become quite obedient after all and I'm sure as adventurers there's training you need to do as well. I'll make preparations for you to be able to do the naming ceremony around noon."

The madam replied cheerfully. I guess I was a bit early? though the difference is probably just a few days so it seems there's no problem.

"That's great. Well then, I'll come back around then. Ah, that's right, they haven't gotten out of shape right?"

"They are combat slaves after all. Of course we haven't. We have them swinging wooden swords and spears every day."

As expected I guess she wasn't letting them have practice matches.

If they end up getting injured it would be terrible after all.

"Well then, I'll come again after lunch."

I said that before leaving the store and going to Shuni where I

have the slaves lodging. I need to secure four rooms. Just in case by last month I had already said I intended to put another four slaves in so I think they'll take that into consideration but I guess it's still a bit too early to call it the end of the month.

Well, if they don't have any open rooms then just for the short period until we enter the dungeon the next time I'll have to find them a different adequate inn. In terms of the building Shuni is a two floor wooden building but there's 12 separate buildings and it's a stupidly huge inn so for the most part I doubt there will be

any problem when it comes to open rooms though.

The first building has 12 rooms facing each other on the first floor aimed towards a slightly large family and on the second floor there's another 22 rooms aimed towards individuals for a total of 34 rooms. Zenom and Ralpa temporarily lived in one of those. The second building is just individual use rooms and there's a total of 48 of them. Bel lived in one of those at first. Just as can be expected of some of the first built buildings they're considerably old and decrepit so the cost of lodging is considerably cheap. The width of each individual room is probably around 4 tatami mats and the family rooms are double that I guess? The area of the floors should be the same for the first and second floors.

The third building has rooms aimed at families and there's a total of 32 of them. The fourth building was just like the first building except a bit larger and there's a total of 16 family rooms and 26 individual rooms. Zulu and Angela live this building. The fifth, sixth, and eighth buildings have the same layout as the second building and the seventh and ninth buildings have the same as the third, while the tenth to the twelfth buildings have the same as the fourth. There's several shared toilets in the corners of each building. Also, there's eight wells dug up in the wide land they're on.

Incidentally Giberuti lives in the fifth building. Since John and Terry are next door they live in the same fifth building. There's one more, slightly smaller building as well but that's the inn and living space for the manager and employees.

It's the largest inn in Baldukk where the rooms cost 1,000-3,000 Z

a night (the price changes based on how old the building is and the area of the room) so there's everything from poor Free People to slightly wealthy slaves and up to mid class adventurers with low abilities living in them. Just like this, around 20% of the population of the town of Baldukk(around 7,000 people) live in collective living facility like inns like this. Though the only one with close to 500 rooms in one place is this Shuni. If you add them up probably over 1,000 people are living here though. Just this inn could fit two Bakuddo villages with easy.

It's just at the level of a cheap lodging house but there's no large shared rooms and one of the biggest selling points that's mentioned about it is that even all of the individual rooms has a lock on the outside and a latch on the inside with keys. The president of Shuni Company that runs the inn is a commoner but he's also an influential person in Baldukk.

It's only obvious but there was no problem with taking some rooms. They probably always have some openings in rooms. Since the adventurers that stay in this inn probably die at a rate of about one or two per month after all. If there's no sort of special message left before hand or advance payment then if they leave their rooms for over 2-3 days their belongings are disposed of and it's made into an open room. When it comes to the inn costs for my slaves I usually try to pay over a months worth at a time in advance so there's no need to worry about it.

After taking the rooms, I went to the temple to take out some money and returned to Boil Manor.

On my way returning to Boil Manor, I encountered Basutorial,

Catherine, and Giberuti returning from shopping. It seems they even bought chick meat and beef. They were talking about trying various ratios of mincing the meat for prototypes. Since there will be another four new combat slaves joining us in the afternoon, I said if they have leeway in the ingredients to feed them some as well before going to Zenom's room. Just as I expected Ralpa and Gwine were there. It seems they're doing spell training.

"The two of you, the new combat slaves will be joining this afternoon. Do you want to come to the naming ceremony?"

When we went to buy them they didn't seem all that interested in it.

"Wun, it's fine. After practicing some spells together with Gwine, today after this we're going to the capital to buy some new clothes. There's also the errand Saji asked us to do as well."

"Together with Zenom-san the three of us are going to the capital."

Ah, I guess they're going to buy casings (pig's bowels) huh?

"Oh, I see. Be careful. Are you returning in the evening?"

Ah, that's right.

"That's just right, while you're at it could you stop by the company as well. It's fine if it's Rozural or anyone else but could you tell them to secure enough rubber for four pairs of rubber sandals?"

"Yeah, got it. Also, we're returning by dinner. Putting aside Gwine, father and I have to join {Sooner} for dinner after all."

This time Zenom and Ralpa are with {Sooner} while Bel and Angela

are with the {Butchers}. Toris has been giving it his best swinging the sword on the 8th floor and concentrating on finishing them off.

"Ah, that's right. How have things been going with Ginger and Hisu?

Are you getting along?"

"Yeah, somewhat I guess. After trying to talk to Rodrick and he's a good guy as well."

"Hn, I see. Get along well."

"I intend to stay the night over there. I made a promise to buy some clothes for Anna-chan and Hanna-chan."

It seems Gwine is planning to stay the night in the capital since she doesn't have much relation with the former {Sun.Ray}.

"I see, I'm sure they'll be overjoyed. It's fine to take your time."

Anna and Hanna sure are loved. Just as would be expected from their deceased father who was running a business, their mother Leila can do some simple arithmetic as well. It seems they're being taught various things by Leila now. Eventually I'd like to take the time to properly educate them as well but when I look at the state of things with Catherine and I've been thinking it might be good to just throw all of the educating jobs on Basutoral.

Of course, it's very welcome for Gwine to teach them as well. When it comes to Anna and Hanna as well, if possible I'd like for them to become future managers of Greed Company but they're nothing more than employees and not slaves so I can't coerce them and I have no intention of doing it either. Even if they were to separate from Greed Company I think being able to do arithmetic would be a great weapon for them.

When I returned to my room Miduchi was folding the clean laundry

the inn had brought back and putting it on the shelves.

"This afternoon those four combat slaves I bought previously are

joining us. Today do you have any kind of plans?"

"Wun, since the last time you went to buy them you said the

discipline duration would take about a month so I didn't make any

plans in specific for this break. We need to go and buy equipment

and stuff right?"

"Yeah, sorry about that."

"Rather than that, is everyone from your family still not coming? I

still haven't greeted your parents after all.."

"Wun, since sister just returned last month I think it should be

pretty soon though..And, I think it will only be father or mother

just one of them that come this time. From here on out as expected

I doubt two of them would come at the same time?"

Assuming they are coming it would probably be father. I'm sure

mother is engrossed in teaching magic to Zetto and Becky after all.

And since brother became the official lord as expected I'm sure he

and sister-in-law don't feel like this could come.

"Regardless of the case I want them to come soon...Since we've run

out of things to sell, it's really troubling.."

When I sat down on a chair and Miduchi made some tea.

.....

"How about this?"

The old blacksmith said bluntly to my former knight slave while

handing him a long sword.

After taking the drawn long sword Garuhashu tried swinging it

around a bit before tilting his head, I guess it didn't fit very

well, he handed it to Okonneru. Okonneru started swinging the sword

around a bit and nodded satisfied before trying a different way of swinging it.

I was just having the slaves pick out their weapons to purchase from the stock of a blacksmith. Since Garuhashu and Konneru were both true knights they automatically end up in positions on the front line. Since Firenoto and Manzokki were both soldiers they should be better with spears and halberds. We need to go to a different blacksmith for those.

Since there was only a few swords in stock it's not like they have that many choices. The two of them spent around 20 minutes picking out their swords. The spears took a bit more time. Just as would be expected from soldiers Firenoto and Manzokki preferred weapons with a long reach. Or rather, it seems they didn't learn how to use the sword in the army. It seems they didn't learn how to use the sword from before they became soldiers like Zulu so I guess they were training with the spear from the time they were kids.

When I tried listening to their stories after all it seems there's some differences in the army of Devas Kingdom and Rombert. Things in that area don't matter at all for now. Well, I've heard the general outline from Bel and Zulu so I already knew most of it but it seems things are quite different depending on the region they're from as well so I was able to understand that there's a lot of differences. Something like the army, army system, and training details of another country, there's no need to know it for now.

Right now I'm an adventurer that fights monsters after all. We started towards the leather crafters shop and ordered leather armor for the four of them. I've spent quite a bit..2,000,000 Z on

the two long swords, 1,000,00 Z for two spears, and 2,400,000 Z for four suits of leather armor so that's a total that's largely exceeded 5,000,000 Z.

If you include the cost of purchasing the slaves themselves it's

over 70,000,000 Z. I won't let you die so easily~

I called out Giberuti and had him buy their daily necessities until

the evening. I handed 100,000 Z in money to Giberuti and said if

that wasn't enough to pay in advance before handing him the keys to the inn.

After splitting ways with the slaves, Miduchi and I returned to our

inn and did spell training with the two of us until dinner.

.....

"The four of you, introduce yourselves."

"I'm Meisun.Garuhashu. I'm looking forward to working with you all.

My weapon is the long sword and I use a kite shield as well. Also,

I'm good at using the spear to fight while mounted."

"I'm Henry.Okonneru. Everyone it's nice to meet you. I use the long

sword and kite shield as well. When it comes to combat on a horse I prefer the lance."

"Em Rubano.Firenoto. Nic'ta mecha~ Mastah bough mah a

halberd."

"I..I'm Jesutasu.Manzokki.. I'm in everyone's care. My weapon is

the spear. I'll give my best to be useful to everyone."

They each stood up one at a time from the table and introduced

themselves to everyone here.

"Alright. They're not here today but there's still a number of

other members as well. I'll let you meet the people not here now

eventually~ so it's fine if you can just remember the names of

everyone here today. Also, I intend to bring you all to the capital tomorrow. We need to make sandals for you after all."

After I said that the four of them were all surprised. It seems they think I'm going to order leather sandals rather than the pre-made straw sandals. Seeing that Giberuti took the belt off of the rubber sandals he was wearing and showed it off to them. Don't do that when we're eating. I made a bitter smile.

"This is a rubber sandal. It feels good to wear and lasts quite a while. Since you all different from me and combat slaves after all. Eventually you might even get rubber sole boots like Zulu-san. Make sure you do a proper job."

I guess he didn't mention Angela's name because she's not here?

"Then, since this is your first meal with everyone. Basutorial, how is it?"

"Yeah, we made various things today as well. I'll prepare them right away. Well please try out the flavors of them."

If they eat and drink some good things I'm sure we'll get to know their characters.

Chapter 214: Newbie 2

Year 7445, Month 9, Day 25

"We were told to run every morning. Excluding Zenom-san and Larry we run together with everyone."

Hn? It's Okonneru's voice. Since I purchased the four combat slaves the other day, today and tomorrow the {Slaughterers} including Giberuti are all performing formation training(Since I didn't know whether I could purchase the slaves until the other day up until yesterday there were quite a few members with plans. Since the last day of the three day break is originally a training day there's no one who would make plans for it). Not just on the days off, but we force one day in on what is normally the fixed date for entering the dungeon but we've been working around it by sliding the days over.

I thought someone would complain about it but it was a bit unexpected that no one said any complaints. I guess as members of the {Slaughterers} they're showing their obedience to me or because our forces have increased from the combat slaves, they might be trying to make into viable fighters even just a bit sooner to raise their own safety, it's unknown but if no one has any complaints then there's no problem.

Right now were on our noon break as Giberuti distributes frankfurts made into hot dogs to everyone resting in the shade. There was the advice of us reincarnated people so it's been placed between bread with pickles and sauerkraut.

"Hey is that really true? You've been ordered to do it by
AI?"

That voice like it's amazed is Rokko huh?

"Rokko, it seems that isn't the case. Even though they're like that
it seems not a single person was forced to do it in the
{Slaughterers}. I tried asking Zulu so there's no mistake."

And that's Kevin.

"Eh? Is that so? I~ could have sworn it was something necessary to
crawl up into the ranks of the {Slaughterers} though...So, on our
day off I tried going running with Kamu, Misu, Kimu, and the
others."

Eh? Is that so? Rokko, how unexpected..No, I guess that's
rude.

"He~ so even you use your head. And, how did it go? I'm sure you
just ended up getting exhausted right? I think it's just a waste of
effort, the so called profiting from wearing yourself out
though."

"This thing above my shoulders isn't just a beautiful ornament.

But, ah, that's the case. Even today we got exhausted just walking
past the outer crater right? I understood well that if you run you
get even more exhausted. By the time we all had reached the summit
of the outer crater we were exhausted so we ended up walking back.

And, that's when I thought of it."

"Of what?"

Kevin didn't retort on the beautiful part and just continued on.

It's the usual after all.

"The fact that this is a "test of guts". Certainly AI is amazing~

After training together with him I get that even more now. However,

don't you think that's not the case for the other members of the {Slaughterers}?"

"Nn..Well, Zenom-san, Miduchi, and maybe Ral around that area are pretty up there but other than that..Whether it be Toris or Zulu, honestly speaking I think they're not all that much different from us."

"Uho~ Up until just a short while ago you were always calling him Firefreed-san but now it's Zenom-sana huh?"

"Since we're already the same allies isn't it fine..Stop poking fun over every little thing...I~'ve always respected that person. If I can talk to him on friendly terms then I'd like to talk that way."

I guess it's because Kevin is the same Dwarf, I already knew he respected Zenom.

"I see. Well putting that aside, I've understood it well from having consecutive battles on the 1st floor. Probably even when it comes to Toris or Zulu unless we can push them back during the start we can't win. If they can endure it even just a bit I think we'd lose. They have some amazing guts. Even after defeating monsters and taking the magic stones they start moving right away with almost no rest. And then with composed faces they start fighting the next monster. They're persistent even when it comes to the training after all."

"Yeah, if you put it like that then..That might be the case. If we were to fight at full strength then they can probably keep moving for a longer period than us."

Hmn...

"..Really, you can actually feel the fact that the {Slaughterers}

were earning from magic stones."

"And then, returning to the running, but you know, that's probably in order to build up the guts. However, it's tiresome you know~ I think I'll be satisfied in the {Butchers} for the time being. Our earnings are pretty decent after all."

"Yeah, certainly I feel our earnings have increased. When we were in {Sun.Ray} we would enter the dungeon twice a month and the times when it was low there were months we earned 150,000 Z as well..Though if it was a lot then it would reach 1,000,000. Though when it comes to the {Slaughterers} right now we enter three times a month, not to mention it's six days of returning back the same day and we're making 200,000 - 300,000 every time. That's 700,000 - 800,000 a month. This is huge. Not to mention while we might suffer some injuries on the 1st floor as expected it's pretty unlikely we'll die. Since they're sending over healing magicians after all."

"We won't die but it's exhausting to here you feel like you're dying.

"No doubt about that~"

"Umm.."

Finally Okonneru called ou to them a bit timidly.

"Oh, we were just continuing on with things leaving you behind.

Sorry~ about that..Umm?"

"I'm Henry. Henry.Okonneru. You sure are bad at remembering things as usual, Rokko."

"Yeah, that's right. Henry. Sorry~sorry~"

Didn't you just say it wasn't just an ornament?

"No..That is, what you two were just talking about it, is it

true?"

"Ah? About what? Rather~ you don't need to be so careful about talking politely like that. We're not your master or the head slave. Let alone, we have no connection to something like noble-samas after all."

"That's right, when it comes to both Rokko and I you've seen us talking normally with the same combat slaves as you Zulu and Maruso right?"

"Ah, yes. But the two of you are both older than me and I've heard that you're first-rate adventurers so.."

"Nn, well, that's true, I guess."

"Come to think of it, you were made into a slave from that conflict the other day right."

"..That's right."

"You were a knight right? Was no one willing to pay the ransom?"

Kevin..are you really asking something like that...And I guess it can't be helped showing reservation towards a slave?

"I guess so. My family wasn't a very wealthy one after all. It can't be helped. I've decided to think I had good luck just that I was able to keep my life."

"That's true, let's live optimistically. I don't know how much you cost but if you're lucky we might find an amazing treasure and you could end up be rewarded after all."

"It's just as Kevin says. If he finds something with a price tag of several billion then Al is going to become a noble of some place right. And then wouldn't all of his slaves now become commoners? Not just you slaves but even the route to become proper squire

households could open up for us. I don't know how things are in Devas but I'm the third son of a commoner. Since I don't have any chance as the head of family if I were to normally marry like this then I'd end up as a Free Person. Even if I were to return to my household if I don't pay a decent amount of money to my father or sister and the lord then I can't make a new household after all, unless I remain single the entire time I'd eventually become a serf after all."

"Things like that are the same for Devas."

"I see. And, what was it again?"

"Th..That discussion about running being a test of guts."

"Yeah, about that..Nn? Come to think of it, Henry~ You said you were told to run every morning right. Who said it?"

Come to think of it that was the case. I don't remember saying something like that and up until now I haven't forced a single person along. I told Basutorial he should go running as well but didn't order him to do it. I just said since he's running if he should run together with us. Since he's a reincarnated person as well if he's noticed the effectiveness of it then he should run together with us. As proof of that Zenom still isn't running together with us.

"It was Zulu-sama. Since master goes running daily in order to act as escort for him I was told to run together as well. But, they were running too fast so along the way I wasn't able to keep up with them.."

"So they just left you behind Henry?"

"No, the four of us that were bought together quickly ended up being unable to keep up with them. Zulu-sama lowered his speed

matching up to run with us but even then it seems he didn't run half the usual amount."

"Fuee, though I thought a knight would have the guts for it.."

When it comes to simple running there's almost no relation to guts.

Even if you put more effort into it you can't put anymore speed out than you have the stamina for and what it takes to continue running for long distances without breaks is something beyond just guts.

The only reason you feel like you're putting guts into it is because you've been relaxed until then. If it's something you could do about with just guts then martial arts athletes would be able to run faster and longer than anyone else. Regardless of whether it's through rain or wind, or even if you're left behind continuing to run everyday without rest is guts.

People with no guts won't continue with the exercise and can't continue studying either. In order to reach the level considered first-rate you need guts as well as talent as well but even if it's someone without talent if they just have guts and put effort into continuing with that field then even if they don't eventually make it as first-rate they could make it as second-rate.

There's people that say being able to put in effort is a talent as well but I don't think so. When it comes to just continuing to put in effort as long as they have guts anyone can do it. It's an excuse of those who don't have enough guts and can't continue putting in any effort. I think it's nothing more than self-justification for trying to run away from things that are difficult or painful. Though if you say that this time they try to

say guts is a talent as well. I can't help but tilt my head over this way of thinking.

That person must just have some reason for not seeing the meaning in continuing to put in the effort or guts. Like they want to do something else or they have some other field of specialty they want to make use of their talent in, I think it's just something like that. I think it's only obvious that every person has things they're suited and unsuited towards. If they don't want to overdo things then it's fine if they just put the effort into things suited to them.

If they want to reach a certain level even if it means overworking themselves then regardless of whether or not they have talent I just think it would take guts. Guts isn't a talent, I think it's an eruption of emotion. If you aren't afraid of the potential misunderstandings then you could call it the same as desire. In other words it's an eruption of the desire for how much you want to gain some kind of technique, skill, or knowledge. They say that people who have a lot of desires find it difficult to understand those who have few but that might be the case.

But you know, whether it be few or many, everyone has desires.

After all they're feelings. If someone has an extremely low amount of that they don't call it not having talent(though it's a matter of if you're making desire = guts and guts = talent), but just that they're mentally ill. They're sick people that need treatment.

That's why, I have no intention of forcing anyone else to do the running. If you feel it's necessary then it's fine if you do it and

if you don't think it's necessary there's no need to do it. If they think it's necessary and ask me what to do to run more efficiently then I'll tell them but if they don't ask I'm just ignoring it.

Judging from his state it seems Henry is trying to understand the meaning in running. I'm sure he still has some restraints towards me so it's hard to ask directly, I guess. After he understands what he does, and what about the other people, it's a good place to keep an eye on things. Whether it's Rokko or Kevin they seem to have caught on to something.

It's easy to teach them. Normally you might think the activity of running is just a pointless waste of energy but by continuing it you can gradually train your stamina. Even the sword swinging and practice matches that first-rate adventurers love by continuing it they get faster at swinging or thrusting the sword, or to be more precise, their movements get sharper. The movements to make when facing off against an opponent, feints, the timing for switching between defense and offense, those things are polished and you can naturally do them without thinking. It would be good if it acts as a chance for them to notice it's the same as that. If they can't accept it and reach that point with their own power then after that, it won't lead to them putting in the guts of their own free will.

Increasing people who just do the things they're told and ordered will come much later, it's fine just when I make a country and gather soldiers. If it's everyone right now then I'd like for them

not to end as just simple soldiers.

.....

Year 7445, Month 9, Day 26

Everyone's accepted that Garuhashu and Okonneru have a sufficient level of ability to act as front line on the 1st floor. Firenoto and Manzokki are also using the pole-arm during combat and should be reasonably useful as well.

"Then, I guess so. For the time being the next time we enter the dungeon I'll have Zenom lead the {Slaughterers}. The members are Ralpa, Toris, Bel, Gwine, Basutorial, Zulu, Angela, and Giberuti. Miduchi will be the leader of the {Butchers}. I'll also send Okonneru and Firenoto there. I'll be the leader of {Sooner}. I'll also bring Garuhashu and Manzokki."

Things got a bit noisy. It's my first time separating from the {Slaughterers} since we absorbed {Sun.Ray} but since it's fine not to include the combat slaves I purchased this time in when splitting up their shares after all. Everyone's cut should increase a bit.

However, it's almost been two months since they joined us. Whether it's Kamu, Misu, or Binsu I don't care who but would someone just say they want to be the leader already. Well it's still fine but you know.

On our way back to the inn, when we passed by the government office there was a notice for the day of judgement. It's 10 days later on October 5th. When we return to the inn I wonder if a notice of acting as witness will be waiting for us?

Otherwise since the witness is just for the fraud portion it might be fine for just Binsu to do it.

Toris read it out for the members who can't read letters but you could particularly feel the mood changed for everyone in the former {Sun.Ray}. I guess that's only obvious.

"..And, in other words, since that's the case we'll stay in the dungeon a bit longer for 8 days next time."

After I declared that and everyone turned around to look at me before nodding. But, they quickly returned to grim expressions while whispering with the person next to them. That can't be helped. Then I guess we'll break things up here for today. Everyone eat dinner as you please.

Chapter 215: Grading.

Year 7445, Month 9, Day 27

Now then, shall we go...

After running together with Miduchi and the four new slaves and finishing breakfast we had plans to meet up with the former members of {Sun.Ray}, the {Butchers} and {Sooner} in the entrance plaza. Right now we were following behind Miduchi leading the {Butchers} into the dungeon and just paid the entry tax of 100,000 Z (10 silver coins) ourselves as we step foot on the stairs leading down.

The teleport crystal room into the 1st floor was open. Though it's only obvious since the time we enter the dungeon is a bit later than other adventurers due to time spent running and other circumstances. Even then there's a number of adventurer groups that are repeating teleporting into different teleport destinations. The {Butchers} were already lined up at the end of the waiting line to teleport and checking their own equipment.

"Garuhashu, Manzokki. There's no problem with your weapons right? Make sure you properly check them."

I call out to the new combat slaves as well and pulled out the long sword on my left hip to confirm it's condition. Following that is the knife I have in the band on my thigh, the throwing needles on both arms, and then we line up right behind the {Butchers}. Finally I confirmed the map of the 1st floor I had in a container at my right waist while waiting for our turn to teleport.

"The {Slaughterers} huh.."

"Just look, that's some amazing equipment."

"Yeah, the equipment of a first-rate adventurer is
extravagant."

"Idiot, that person is Kalstalan-san. It's only obvious he has some
banded-mail."

"Hn? There's some faces I don't know."

"Yeah, it seems they bought some new combat slaves. Supposedly from
Ronlail again."

"After all that store, are they good?"

"We can't buy something like metal armor but if it's a slave
then..Should we pool our money together to buy one?"

"Don't be stupid, who would though...If you'll let me have
ownership of it then I'll think about it."

"He..The idiot is you...If someone like you was their owner they'd
die right away and it'd be a heavy loss."

"Hey, we're next after the next, everyone confirm your
equipment."

"Got~it!"

Even if listen to rumors like that while doing nothing it's just a
waste of time so I decided to have a simple meeting over the
formations of using {Arrow Head} while moving and {Reverse
Triangle} while in combat. The {Reverse Triangle} formation has two
cases one where I'm participating in the combat and one where I'm
not. In the past, they should have done it when other members from
the {Slaughterers} acted as leaders so excluding my two new slaves
they should get a grasp on it quickly. On the 1st floor you could
say that just those formations are plenty.

I guess it's about our turn.

"Goreda!"

Miduchi and the {Butchers} teleported into the 1st floor in front of us.

We waited a bit over 10 seconds for the teleport incantation appear in the crystal again and everyone grabbed on to it.

"Garuhashu. Make sure you properly grab it. If it's half-assed just you could end up being left behind!"

After being warned by Ginger, Garuhashu fixed his grip on the teleport crystal with his expression tense as he licked his lips.

Alright, there's no one else holding on to it in a half-assed way.

"Then, let's go. Zettafu!"

.....

The moment we teleported in everyone let go of the teleport crystal and turned around. It seems there's no monsters around us.

The direction the arrow on the pedestal was pointing is the wall.

When I went to approach it to confirm the number and Sanno approached it as well. The wall has the number "121" written in the {Common.Language}. While I was spreading out my own map Rodrick opened his map after being told the number by Sanno as well. Ginger, Hisu, and Ruttsu were looking on to Rodrick's map as well.

Come to think of it Rodrick had bought Gwine's map.

..I've found it. Here huh? There's five rooms until we'll reach the teleport crystal room in the center of the 1st floor. Well, it should be fine. I quickly rolled up the map and after putting it back into the container I was going to call out to Rodrick and the others. It seems they still can't find it. I briskly walk next to

Rodrick and pointed to the rough area on the map while telling them.

"Right now we're here. We're going that direction. The formation we're going with until we encounter enemies is {Arrow Head One}."

After getting into formation with me at the lead of the arrow and we immediately started walking. Rodrick is in the rear and the edges of the arrow are his combat slaves Denda and Karimu. Of my combat slaves, the former knight Garuhashu is behind me on the right and on the opposite side is Sanno. Directly behind me is the former soldier and combat slave Manzokki and behind him is Ginger, and Ruttsu, continuing back to Rodrick in the very rear, Hisu is also between them with her bow.

..Umm, the first left, then the next right, then to the left on the third time..and, then about 100 meters ahead of that was a pitfall. In about 10 minutes we walked a distance of about 500 meters and then after the split path of this corner is a pitfall, or at least we've arrived where it is. We didn't encounter any monsters up until here.

I carefully look around the corner in the direction we're going.

Using {Detect.Life} is mentally exhausting so I don't feel like using it for something like the 1st floor.

There's something. Even if I don't use Identify I can tell

something is gathered around 40 meters ahead. That is..Goblins huh..It's a group of around 20. I guess they're taking a break or something? A considerable number seems to be sitting around. Just in case I tried looking beyond them with Identify vision but I

couldn't see anything else or other monsters to be cautious of.

"There's Goblins. Around 20 of them. Since they're just the right opponent show me how you deal with them without me. The distance is about 40 meters."

After I said that in a whisper and moved to the rear then Sanno, Garuhashu, and Rodrick who were holding shields then also Rodrick's slave who was holding the warhammer Denda, and Karimu who uses the battleaxe stood at the lead. Between them Ginger, Ruttsu, and Manzokki would attack with their spears, and Hisu backs everyone up with the bow, that sort of formation.

"I, it..it's my first time fighting monsters and.."

Manzokki seems to be considerably tense.

I patted him on the shoulder from behind and whispered in his ear

"Relax. They're weak opponents. It's fine if you just wait for the front line to break the opponents posture and stab them with the spear. It's simple." and I also said "In the worst case I'll back you up." to try and calm him down.

Seeing that Ginger said "It's just as your master says. In the past I've seen him fight against an opponent that was so strong there's no comparison with those goblins. Even in the worst case there's no chance of us being killed." and tried to encourage him. Hearing that Manzokki's expression got a bit softer and it seemed like he was able to relax a bit.

Ah, come to think of it, when we saved Ginger on the 6th floor

there was something like that.

However, it seems that Manzokki was only finally able to relax

hearing the words of the oldest veteran adventurer in this

{Sooner}. That's fine but I wonder if he wasn't able to relax just from hearing my words? It's fine since I'm still just a brat after all though. But, Manzokki is one year younger than me at 16 years old. I'm sure rather than someone like who isn't all that different age a veteran adventurer like Ginger would seem more reliable. An old man's wisdom rather than a turtle's experience I guess. Putting that aside, I wonder who I should have take command of the combat? According to the reports I've heard that Ginger seems to be the best choice and the runner-up would be Rodrick. Since it's the first time, I guess Ginger is the safe choice?

"We'll charge in at 3, 2, 1. Hisu back us up with the bow. Alright?

3..2..1..Now!"

Ginger took command and raised her voice as the signal. At the same time everyone raised war cries like "Uoo~!!" while charging into the group of goblins. Even when the goblins were caught off guard they still stood up and tried to fight back against {Sooner} with their clubs and wooden spears as they approached.

However, in the end they're just sad goblins. They managed to stand up in a hurry but there were even ones that dropped their weapons and ended up tripping and falling over.

I moved to the side of Hisu as she fired her bow and watched over the battle from the rear.

After all it seems like they can win against goblins with no problem. After a short but intense battle I confirmed the damage and just Rodrick's slaves Denda and Karimu suffered some light injuries but there was nothing severe. The injuries themselves weren't anything that would keep them from moving either and just

simple bruises. Even if you just ignore it without treating it they won't die from them. Of course, it's far from a heavy injury like a bone fracture.

Rodrick used {Cure} on Denda and Karimu and my combat slave

Garuhashu used the healing spell {Cure Light} on Sanno, additionally I used the spell {Cure Serious} on everyone who was hurt so not even the pain would be remaining. Since their HP wasn't completely recovered it was a bit troublesome but I used {Cure Light} as well.

After that we walked around the 1st floor and I had them enter

combat a number of times. They didn't need my assistance almost at all. Since just about every battle there was some light injuries I had basically turned into a first-aid box. This, if a healer had treated all of them wouldn't it exceed around 1,000,000 Z per person? No matter how much money they have it probably wouldn't be enough~ Thinking like that and I feel like I profited a bit.

In today you could say I was almost perfectly able to get a grasp on the abilities of {Sooner}.

The number one in abilities was after all Virginia.Nyuman(Ginger).

It's also big that just her level is far above the rest at 15. She precisely stabs monsters with her spear through the gaps of the front line. She's also considerably skilled at keeping monsters in check. Honestly speaking as a fighter her technique with the spear is high enough to the level where it's even rude to compare Gwine and Basutorial with her.

In terms of her ability to lead you could say there's no problem

there either. I guess because she's experienced a number of perils

she's able to remain composed and calmly deal with the situation.

If she can remain like this even on the 6th and 7th floors then she would be reliable but..in that regard I'm sure Gwine and Basutorial are veterans so when it comes to their overall abilities I can't say anything. Though it might not be something to make comparisons over.

It's certain that {Sun.Ray} was a first-rate party after all and even among the initial reconnaissance members for the 6th floor she wasn't one of the suckers. I guess I'll use her as the standard for 100 points huh?

Following her is the number two Hsiurura.Harurein(Hisu) and Rodrick.Faruergaz(Rodrick). Once again Hisu has experienced combat a completely different number of times so she's always able to remain calm and pick out her targets.

Rodrick was trained by a knight group and has experience in war so if it's this level of front line then it's fine to see him as quite reliable. Those sword techniques he learned in the knight group seem to exceed the average adventurer around there as well. It's also big that he can use magic. But, I'd like for him to train a bit more with magic. Also, every time his allies get injured he seems to panic a bit. 75 points and 70 points.

He falls behind these two a bit but my combat slave

Meisun.Garuhashu(Mekku) isn't losing. Including the fact that he can use the spell {Cure Light}, I thought it's only as expected from him costing 30,000,000 Z. The only experience he has in war is the one from last time but even then that's plenty. I wonder if it's because he's properly got the basics covered with the sword

skills he trained as a knight, they're properly working against monsters as well.

The reason he seems to be making expressions that look a bit stiff, I wonder if it's because he's confused over the distance between his opponent and there being some forms he can't use? Otherwise, after all because it's his first time in the dungeon? Since he can use water magic his efficiency with using healing spells is good as well, though I might be looking at things a bit optimistically he's still plenty passable with the two above. 70 points.

Next up is Sannose.Kumiru(Sanno) and Rutsogu.Samyueruga(Ruttsu) these two. It seems they were average adventurers up until they started teaming up with Rodrick and the others. There's quite a few times when they show off exceptionally good team work. Sanno seems to have times when he charges in a bit too far but I guess you could say Ruttsu keeps a good eye on that? Both of them get 65 points.

Dendoru.Sumaisu(Denda) is one of Rodrick's combat slaves and he's a huge man who swings around a warhammer. He's a combat slave that was part of something or other second-rate party that collapsed near the end of last year. The owner of him who died also owned Karieru.Makusu(Karimu) and the two of them ended up going to the family of the bereaved as assets where they were sold to Ronslail's store.

Both of them have quite a bit of strength and they're Laios, which is a race blessed with superior physical abilities, so you could say they're considerably skilled fighters. Just, whether it be the time they were in the second-rate party, before they entered

{Sun.Ray}, or even after they entered {Sun.Ray} since it seems in the end they never received any proper training, there's a lot of excess in their movements, and you can strongly feel that they're leaving everything to their strength. Both of them get 50 points.

And then, finally is my combat slave Jesutasu.Manzokki(Jesu). It seems he was from the commoner ranking and received a bit training but at best it's that much. If he continues like this things could get harsh. He's using the spear but if I were to even try comparing them Basutorial and Gwine would probably get angry.

In terms of technique Manzokki seems to have a wider variety of forms but since recently both Gwine and Basutorial have accumulated quite a bit of severe live combat experience against ogres, when it comes to just the "sweeping thrust" form the sharpness would probably even exceed Ginger. If it's up to the 2nd or 3rd floors then the other members can probably cover it up by supporting him but on the 4th floor suddenly the doors open as the undead ambush your party from right in the middle. In that case..he might die...40 points.

I guess around there? Now then, it's almost evening. I guess we'll stop things around here for today and return to the surface. It might be good to have Rodrick take command of the combat tomorrow.

.....

Year 7445, Month 10, Day 4

Today is the eighth day since I've started entering the dungeon with {Sooner}. Entering the dungeon with them ends with this time

today. The amount of money we made from sales of magic stones earned this time was? 4,480,000 Z, around 560,000 Z a day. Since I get my share plus one, excluding my two combat slaves splitting that up into 9 that's roughly 498,000 Z. If you think about it in terms of earnings for a single day then it's a new high record for {Sooner}. However, when it comes to just the entry tax it cost a total of around 800,000 Z and then there's the food expenses as well. After all it ended up as a big loss for me.

In regards to the {Butchers} which Miduchi was leading the income and expenses was pretty similar. Even though we can cover it up plenty with the amount being earned from the {Slaughterers}, it's still pretty harsh, this. It's certainly true that it costs that much because we're leaving the dungeon everyday but if we weren't doing that then we'd have to spend the night in the dungeon and then it would be difficult to get plenty of rest and while it's just the 1st floor someone might end up suffering serious injuries from exhaustion of the consecutive battles.

Well, just this there's no helping it.

In regards to the {Slaughterers} since Miduchi and I weren't around as expected they just circled around the wall of the ogre mage rooms so their earnings shouldn't be lower than usual. I thought that would be the case but of all things they found a stupidly huge {Opal} in one of the altar rooms on the 6th floor. According to Identify the value is 8,600,000. That's a market price of 86,000,000 Z. Since it's a gem I'm sure the price will be about half of that but it's still a huge profit. It's almost to the point

where I felt a bit apologetic taking over 80% of the earnings even though I wasn't participating. Sorry about that~

By the way, according to the details I heard from Miduchi about the {Butchers} every night and what I knew from acting together with {Sun.Ray} in the past I can more or else assess them as well.

However, I want to properly accompany the {Butchers} once as well and see through things. There's also the slaves after all.

In any case, ever since the other day when the notice of the day of judgement came out, the topic has come up frequently in {Sooner} as well. I wonder if Ginger doesn't have any lingering attachment towards Haruku? I wonder how everyone feels about Zemyunel who often took command of them? In regards to the Rindobel couple that was the leaders? I feel like I want to frankly ask their feelings as well but I don't think it's a topic I should ask about from my side. No, right now I'm the leader so I guess it wouldn't be bad to ask either.

But, I guess it's fine. Later~three days from now is the day of judgement. If I just watch Binsu's testimony(after all he was summoned as a witness. I was as well though), at that time and the state of everyone else I should be able to tell.

Chapter 216: Imitation Shop

Year 7445, Month 10, Day 7

It's finally become the day of judgement.

Basutorial and the others anticipated this and started negotiating to stock up on the necessary ingredients for sausages before we entered the dungeon last time. Thanks to that we were all busy yesterday. Basutorial left in the morning alone in order to stock up on the pig's bowels so he wasn't around but we ended up with an amount of meat that we couldn't cover with just one meat mincer. It was close to being convinced with tears but I was essentially threatened by everyone's begging so I ended up having to make another meat mincer while my nose bleeds out again.

When I finally finished making the second meat mincer and went to wipe my bleeding nose while basking in the feelings of satisfaction, I could hear the noises of everyone enjoying themselves from upstairs. Everyone else was having fun making use of the first meat mincer to make minced pork and it seems they're in the process of sausage making. Under Catherine's leading they're trying to fill the casings with minced meat but there's a bit of a trick to it so it seems they weren't able to do it well.

"I'll do it next."

"Let me do it after that."

"Koloil-sama, you put your left hand like this."

"Ah, it tore.."

"It's fine if it's just a bit."

"Isn't it simple!"

"Zenom-san sure is skillful!"

And just like that, I can everyone's voices like they're really

having a great time.

Even though were right nearby, there should only be one floor

difference, but during that I've been alone staring at a wall with my hands over some ores while clenching my teeth and bleeding from my nose while concentrating so I feel a bit lonely but I guess this much can't be helped. While covered in sweat I brought it up to them and they raised cheers over the meat mincer I just made and as Ralph plundered it from me, everyone else said I was too dirty from the sweat to be around the food products, so I was chased out.

This is hard to accept.

Even then just filling the casings ended up taking them into the

night and after that they had to work through the night smoking and boiling them. Catherine, Terry, and John were used to the operation but because of the problem of stamina they ended up going to sleep early in the night and after that everyone ended up working the night with almost no sleep under the instruction of Giberuti.

That labor ended up bearing fruit and in just a single night they

made close to 2,000 sausages.

If we end up not being able to sell them tomorrow like this it

would be hard to make eye contact. The money doesn't matter at all but all of that trouble being for nothing is mentally painful.

Zenom, Giberuti, Zulu, and Angela the pure Orth people said, "It'll absolutely sell. If it doesn't then it's fine if we buy it all with the money we've saved." so since they were willing to say it that far we ended up making them.

We put an application for a stall in the plaza in front of the

government office immediately after the notice was placed up and we even purchased a proper table, extra stove, frying pans, and such.

"I remember back to the school festival."

"Ah, that, I was thinking the same thing. It was fun right.."

Toris and Bel were whispering to each other while setting up but it seems they're having fun.

"Are the school festivals for college fun?"

"Since we only know the culture festival of our school after all.."

Ralpha and Gwine were asking Miduchi.

"The scale of them is different after all. They're fun!"

Hearing that Ralpha and Gwine laughed while going to the inn to get the sausages for selling. I stand next to Miduchi and call out to her as well.

"Come to think of it~ self-defense university had a festival in commemoration for the opening of the school, that was pretty fun. Since there were exchange students from the armies of foreign countries as well, everyone would setup imitation shops with the cooking of their home town. I went around eating with my friends until we were about to collapse."

"..If you have friends right..Wouldn't it be fun.."

"Eh?"

"I, only went to the school festival of my university during the first year..Since I didn't have any friends to go around with it was boring..After that every year during the period of the school festival I would play net games and go around killing monsters.."

"I..I see..But, you have them now right? Friends."

"..Yeah. Today, I'm in charge at lunch after all! We're going to sell a lot!"

Isn't good if they can make up for their past?

As long as they make sure to properly not forget about the fact that it's business it's fine for it to be fun. There's nothing bad about that at all.

.....

I sit down next to Binnodo.Gekudo(Binsu) on one of the seats for witnesses while wearing my high class formal clothes that have no use other these sorts of occasions. I guess Binsu is considerably tense, he's been fidgeting over and over next to me as if he can't calm down.

"Gr..Gr..Greed-kun I'm amazed you can remain that calm.."

Binsu gulped and started talking to me in a small voice.

"..I'm used to it after all.."

Attending a day of judgement like this..how many times has it been again? I appear in it pretty often right. Of course I still think I've properly watched the lashings and hangings from the audience with everyone else while drinking alcohol and eating something more often than like this though.

Since we the {Slaughterers} center around reincarnated people, excluding Zenom and my slaves, the majority of us are still brats and don't really have much interest in the enforcement of punishments so we often come with the feel of viewing sakura trees bloom while drinking and eating. Though things will be busy this time.

"I see..It's my first time and hi..his majesty the King will directly talk to us right? I..I really doubt I can calm

down.."

Binsu's knees are still trembling the same as usual.

"Whether or not you'll end up directly having to talk to his majesty, depends on Koritto and the others response..If they deny the charges then you'll be called as witness but if it's a judgement they accept then you won't end up being called. Well I think you'll probably end up being called though. In the first place we've gathered quite a bit of evidence up until yesterday so it's not like there's any problem right?"

Ever since the incident roughly two months ago, the members of the former {Sun.Ray} went around gathering evidence and submitted several pieces of it to the knight group. I had also gained information through Miduchi's connections that the Rindobel couple hadn't done any activity towards collecting the charms in the capital since the start of the year.

Today I heard they've even called the one who commanded and summarized that investigation, Tukerin, a famous healer in the capital. The crimes of the Rindobel couple are of great interest to the town of Baldukk so they're scheduled to take place just before lunch when the most attention is gathered so Tukerin still hasn't arrived here yet.

Just like that, the judgements steadily continue and along with that time continues to pass. The judgements which started at 8 in the morning exceeded tens of cases already and it's reached close to lunch in no time at all. Tukerin had already arrived and was sitting next to me with an uninterested face. After all the dark elf I caught sight of in the capital previously was this old man.

Judging from his well ordered features he was probably quite the good looking guy when he was younger.

Finally the Rindobel couple, Harukein.Fumizu(Haruku), and

Binsukol.Zemyunel(Bin) were brought out to the court stand like place. The King glanced at the documents for a bit and then flatly declared the charges while asking if they accept their crimes or not. His expression was considerably harsh right from the start.

Judging from it, he probably already heard the general outline the other day or this morning.

"..Such charges as these of the crime of fraud, furthermore the same crime of fraud towards a noble, the appropriate punishment for the suspects KroittoRindobel and Meiria.Rindobel who are recognized as the principal offenders, is 26 lashings with a whip, a fine of 125,000,000 Z (125 gold coins), and decapitation along with their heads displayed on the prison gates for one week.

Also, suspects Harukein.Fumizu and Binsukol.Zemyunel are recognized as serious offenders for the same crimes and each should receive punishments of 21 lashings with a whip, a fine of 100,000,000 Z, and death by hanging. Suspects, do you accept the charges and submit to your punishment?"

The Rindobel couple denied their crimes. Haruku silently shook his head up and down to accept it and Bin denied the crimes the same as the couple. Well it's just as expected. The duration of my {Suggestion} spell has long since ended but since he was under the influence of it once, it won't overturn the fact that for the period of time he was under the influence from it he deeply thought about the things he did to himself.

Around now he should be thinking something like, "I want to get revenge on the couple that I dedicated myself to that extent who abandoned me. For that sake it's necessary to reveal all of our crimes. Obviously I won't be able to escape punishment in the process of that either."

Since Haruku obediently accepted his crimes his assets had long since been confiscated and all of it was submitted to the knight group but in the first place it wasn't enough to reach the amount of the fine. Also, since he obediently accepted his crimes he'll most likely just get executed by hanging and most likely go without being lashed with a whip.

In any case, putting aside Haruku since there's still those who haven't accepted their crimes we'll end up being called as witnesses along with the evidence. In terms of order first off the evidence is stated. The knight group of Baldukk reads out the evidence submitted by the members of the former {Sun.Ray}.

Among those was the crimes they committed in the past confessed to by Haruku and the matter of the magician Santosu(the fact that the money he paid wasn't returned) who died in the dungeon in the spring of this year was included as well. Also, the fact that nobles were included(referring to Binsu) as the victims was reported without missing a thing.

The King silently listened to those. And then, it reached the stage of questioning the witnesses. Binsu, me, and Tokerin moved over to the witness seats near where the King was standing on the platform. We all took the same retainer's greeting but since it's a trial we were made to stand up right away.

"Witnesses pledge to the God of Law and Truth that you everything you speak is without falsehood."

The three of us make the pledge one after the other.

"You..Tukerin huh..It's been a while...For you to act as the witness for a fraud like this. Fuffu. Nn...Mu."

The knight commander of Baldukk and what seems to be the knight who's in charge of protecting him whispered something into the King's ear. If I'm certain that person was..Ah, that's right. He's the King's eldest son. Prince Richard.Rombert the Fourth. He's a member of the first knight group but he should still be just a platoon commander.

I've heard before that the leader of the guards of the King has to at least be at the class of company commander or greater to be given the duty but I guess a prince that might become the future King is an exception. Although, it seems the possibility of this persons child, in other words the King's grandchild being the next King is higher. Though it seems they're still two or years and just an infant. The former King was supposedly the grandfather of the current King after all.

"..I see. Yeah, that's right..Got it."

The King makes suggestive responses while looking at me. It was an unpleasant look as if he was evaluating me once again. I just remained quiet with my gaze lowered.

"We've interrupted things..Witness Binnodo.Gekudo sub-Noble. Pledge before the God of Law and the Truth that you speak no falsehoods and give your testimony."

The King first ordered Binsu to give his testimony.

"..And that's the reason why putting aside my little sister who

passed away, while I got back the amount of money I paid, during that time, since that money ended up being dead capital I ended up missing business chances and it was impossible to invest it in other ways."

Yeah, he's talking just as we practiced a number of times since last night. He's sweating an amazing amount from the tension but that can't be helped. These sorts of people aren't unusual. Now then, I guess next up is me?

"Well then, foreign merchant leader Baidu~nsu.Tukerin, pledge to the God of Law and Truth that you speak no falsehoods and give your testimony."

Though his status is the same as Miduchi and says Lail Kingdom Commoner {Lilac} though. Well, the only ones who actually have the words commoner in their status are dark elves. Normally it's something or other Family or Squire something's Second Child after all..It must be special. However, foreign merchant leader is it. I wonder how it's different from the president of a company? I guess I'll try asking Miduchi later.

"I, Baidu~nsu.Tukerin, speak only the truth in the name of the God of Law and Truth, and then I pledge to the almighty your majesty
*****."

I heard your majesty Lilus whispered in a small voice from next to me but..I guess it doesn't matter huh?

Tukerin stated that he received the request to investigate from a certain connection so he went asking around centering around the temples in the poor areas. At the same he recorded that on some paper(!) and submitted it all at once. A member of the knight group

received that and acknowledged that it matched up with Tokerin's testimony.

Also, in a corner of the audience there was a group of the witnesses Tokerin found during his investigation from the poor areas as well as around 20(!) low ranking nobles mixed in and they were willing to give testimony to the fact that it was properly investigated and organized, so that added to the reliability in Tokerin's investigation materials.

Obviously the details of that was proof of the fact that since the start of the year there was no activity in the capital relating to the buying of God Notes.

"..I've made my judgement. I give Koritto.Rindobel the punishment of 36 lashes, a fine of 150,000,000 Z, and decapitation with his head displayed above the prison gates for 10 days. The punishment for Meiria.Rindobel is 36 lashes, a fine of 150,000,000 Z, and decapitation with her head displayed above the prison gates for 10 days. The punishment for Harukein.Fumizu is execution by hanging. The punishment for Binsukol.Zemyunel is 31 lashes, a fine of 120,000,000 Z, and decapitation with his head displayed for 3 days."

It seems he doesn't need my testimony.

The punishments were carried out and it reached the lunch break.

I was going to call out to Tokerin to thank him and invite him to lunch but Prince Richard.Rombert the Fourth ran up to us and told us both to come to the government office. Come to think of it it seemed like Tokerin and the King were acquaintances. In the past, I

wonder if he made some sort of request from him?

The King was standing in the shadow of the gate for the government office a bit further in behind some plants.

Tuker and I took the retainer's greeting and knelt down.

"Tukerin. Honestly answer my question. What is your relationship with that Greed over there?"

He~ so that was what it was?

"There's no direct relation. I just received a request to investigate by chance."

I wonder if it would be best not to touch on the topic of Miduchi?

"Chi...You're as shrewd as always. Like you would move over something like an investigation request. Not to mention that level of fraud...Well, that's fine. Was it that Greed who directly made the request for you to investigate?"

"No, your majesty. It's because the request came from one of our countrymen who's a subordinate of his. If that wasn't the case then.."

Oh, so it's fine to mention it?

"Ah, it seems there was one dark elf under him. I see, if that was the case then, Well..Hey. Greed"

"Ha"

"There's nothing more I need from you. Calling you out..Hmn, come to think of it, I heard. You supposedly reached the 8th floor right."

"Ha"

He sure is quick to hear things.

"...It's fine, you can take your leave. Tukerin, it's been a while.

Let's eat lunch. Come along"

"Ha...If you'll excuse me"

"I humbly refuse."

Eh!!?

"Why? I made preparations for catering at the best restaurant in Baldukk because I heard you were coming. It's stewed tongue and steaks from a young cow."

Oo!! That sounds good! And expensive! If Tukerin-san isn't going to eat it then let me!

"You're the same as usual~ your majesty. The reason I refused was because there's something even better to eat."

"What?"

What?

"Since it's been a while since we last met. It's fine for me to treat your majesty."

It can't be..No..there's no way right?

"Ho? If you're going to say that far then it's delicious right?"

"That's only obvious. Supposedly it's a food that was newly created this Baldukk. I ate it myself this morning as well but..that was..the best."

No, stop it! Something like that isn't what you feed to a King right! We only have one type of flavor today as well. There's not even any beef mixed into it.

"I'll prepare some right away. Greed-san. Can I rely on you for it?"

"Huh..That is..Prepare what?"

Ah, after all..This old man, just when I thought he came late so he was eating sausages huh? Come to think of it they did mention we were in his case for the preservatives or something like that...Though we're still experimenting in various ways with the

preservatives so we haven't used them in the product yet.

"That great product you all have created. "Baldoggie" was it? With plenty of mustard and..Ah, I'll stop there. Your majesty, that's the most delicious when it's freshly made. Shall we go? It's right over there."

"Hmph. I see, it bothers me a bit that Greed is related to it but well I guess it's fine. Lead the way."

"Ha, Wa ha!!"

His majesty the King ignored all the customers lined up as he skipped to the front and while everyone in the surroundings was kneeling he ate five of them.

It seems it was good publicity and the 2,000 Baldoggie's were sold out by the evening.

That evening, we were saved that we still had some remaining when an order for 10 Baldoggie arrived from Dorureon. The King even tried to order some to take back with him but since our experiments with the preservatives still haven't finished, as expected we turned that down.

Chapter 217: The Minimum Stamina

Year 7445, Month 10, Day 7

"Gree..Al-san. Umm, the one who came to the Baldoggie stall at lunch was, hi..his majesty right?"

It was when I had sat down to start eating dinner together with the members of {Sooner}, Rodrick who was sitting diagonally across from me tried asking me that timidly.

"Hn? Yeah, that's right."

I ended up replying a bit harshly. Ah~ even though it's not related

to Rodrick I wonder if it ended up sounding disagreeable...

Really, that old man, he even made me deliver sausages to

Dorureon..Why should I have to run to Dorureon while carrying sausages...

"Everyone was watching! That his majesty would eat the Baldoggie, isn't that amazing!"

Rodrick said it a bit excited in a loud voice. Why at this point?

"Look, it was true right?"

"Tha..That was serious..I had gone to take a shit at that time so.."

Hearing that Sanno and Ruttsu were whispering to each other in the corner.

"Fufu..The leader of the party master is a member of is connected to royalty, no, his majesty the King. Isn't that amazing!?"

"Oh~ as expected of master right. He is the eldest son of Count Faruergaz after all!"

Rodrick's combat slaves Denda and Karimu were both proud. However,

aren't the things you two are saying strange? Isn't that unrelated to Rodrick...

"So that person was his majesty Thomas.Rombert the Third huh.."

"Ha~ I don't know what's going on anymore.."

My combat slaves Garuhashu and Manzokki seemed dumbfounded. Something like that doesn't matter at all.

The problem is Ginger. She's been pouring vodka down her throat like it's water since a while ago. Hisu is on her side saying something while trying to hold her back but Ginger just keeps pouring one glass after another as if she's possessed by something.

The judgements ended before lunch today but the enforcement of the punishments happened after lunch in a different plaza while other judgements were still going on. Our Baldoggie stall was in an area right near the judgement plaza so they sold lazy crazy but we ended up leaving Cathy, John, and Terry to look after things while my four new combat slaves help them out and the {Slaughterers} including myself, and a total of 15 of us went to watch the enforcement of the punishments.

The Rindobel couple and Zemyunel were made to bite on to a gag as some brawny members of the knight group whipped them over 20 times then decapitated them. The only one who's head flew in a single hit was Meiria and both Koritto and Zemyunel took two swings of an axe. Their heads are still on display in the plaza in front of the government office.

When Haruku was given the punishment of hanging he looked at Ginger but Ginger turned eyes away. Haruku made a sad expression for just

a bit moment but it remained in my impression how he laughed when he looked at the heads of the Rindobel couple right nearby. That time I was standing close by Ginger just in case she might do something. After she turned her eyes and looked at the ground to the side it ended with her whispering, "Idiot Gesshu".

Most likely, Ginger still had some feelings for Haruku. Whether she's regretting the fact that she couldn't properly look at his face to the very end, otherwise, the fact that she was dating someone who was betraying everyone and as a result was hanged to death because of that. I can't tell that far. However, I'm pretty sure that some sentiment of regret was largely shadowing over her.

I have no intention of trying to do anything for her. I'm sure she herself doesn't need something like that either, sorting out her feelings is something she should do herself. I think it's best to leave her to herself for now. In the first place, starting with Haruku the one who dragged all of the former {Sun.Ray} members into a trap on the lower floors was me after all. If you just look at it from the surface it seems like Haruku snapped and dragged the three of them in with him as he blew himself up but you could say the direct cause was me using {Suggestion} at that time.

Though I say that, it's not like the four of them were executed from having false charges made against them, if you take into consideration all the things they've said and done until now and the fact that a noble like Binnodo.Gekudo(Binsu) was included in that, it was just a matter of their judgement being made official. It should be something that Ginger already understands but it's

also something she can't accept so easily emotionally.
If you were to ask me, I'm fine as long as it doesn't have any
influence on the group training we have tomorrow. Though if she's
just got a hangover I'll at least use {Neutralize.Poison} on
her.

"Master, would it be alright to ask? With his majesty the King what
sort of..."

Garuhashu tried asking with a nervous feel. I swallowed what I was
chewing and when I went to open my mouth to reply someone
interjected from the side.

"Hey, Mekku. Even though you're just a slave you shouldn't be
asking about things like that. Though I say that, this is something
I was interested in as well. Why don't I ask that question. And,
Al-san, in reality what about it? Were you royalty?"

Ruttsu said that. It's only obvious, I'm sure everyone is
interested. It's long since been known that I sell armor to the
first knight group but getting the King to eat sausages over just
that is unbelievable after all. Ruttsu is a kind fellow who pays
good attention. I guess it's because the amount of time I've lived
my life in my past life was longer but unless I'm asked a
considerably impolite question whether its from a combat slave or
anyone else I'll reply to it without paying too much mind to
it.

However, commonly it's not seen as a good thing for a slave to pry
into their masters affairs. After all slaves are slaves.

Fundamentally they don't have any human rights nor do they pay
taxes. Down to every hair and the last drop of blood, they're

entirely the owner's "belonging". Ruttsu was trying to cover for the new combat slave Garuhashu while acting like it was to resolve his own doubts.

"No, there's no way I'd be royalty. I have no blood relation, we're complete strangers. It's just, in connection to the business I do I also do direct deliveries to the royal family. During the process of that I've encountered him a number of times, I'm sure that's why his majesty remembers me."

Rodrick has been buying condoms from me and since his older sister is her highness Queen Marinen so I thought he might know everything about my relation on that end but I guess even if he knows that sort of thing isn't something you talk to everyone about. Everyone other than Rodrick was nodding to themselves. Just like that we continued with our meals and time passed.

"Hisu. Sorry but look after Ginger-san for tonight. It's fine if you just pull her to the training tomorrow without being late."

I said that while putting two silver coins in Hisu's hand. A short while later including myself everyone finished their meals and left in small groups. Every since we entered the place in the evening Ginger has been expressionless as she gulps down vodka and slamming her cup on the table requesting more. She's probably not eaten much of anything.

The next morning Hisu dragged Ginger who had become like a zombie out where I used {Neutralize.Poison} on her, then after letting her drink some water, I throw another bucket or so over her head and she finally seemed refreshed.

"I'm alright. I'm already alright.."

I made a bitter smile while seeing the depressed Ginger say that then after using wind magic to dry her off we all started the training.

.....

Year 7445, Month 10, Day 8

Starting today when we enter the dungeon I decided to look over the {Butchers}. After all as a party their overall combat abilities aren't worth of a comparison to {Sooner}. There's no problem with moving just Ginger over to here(Rather switching her out with Kimu or Jeru who's positions overlap would probably large raise the combat abilities of the {Butchers}), but if I were to do that then I'd have {Sooner} to worry about so I can't just go with the momentum on that one.

However, as expected everyone(excluding my combat slaves Henry.Okonneru(Henry) and Rubano.Firenoto(Rubi)) were part of one of the top teams and they can safely overcome combat on the 1st floor. Though I don't know what would happen if they concentration reaches its limit. Maybe I'll bully them to that point for today?

I was thinking these sorts of things while watching the first battle. We continued for a short while and around the point we passed through two rooms and were deciding which direction to go at a cross road I smiled at all of the members who were looking at me and said.

"Then, it's about time you show me how you get serious. I'll start things off."

While I was in front of everyone as they looked at me with puzzled

expressions I used the spell {Audible Clamor} to make the loudest noise I could in the other three directions than one we just came down. They all were surprised for a moment and their expressions changed to those filled with fear and caution but I grinned and said, "It's alright, as long you don't die instantly I'll fix you up. The other day all of my elemental magic levels went up after all. I can even use {Cure All} now."

And then, I declared "Everyone fall back around 30 meters behind me. I'll show you an example." while pulling out my beloved long sword and going on guard. I picked up a random rock from the ground used the spell {Light} on it to make it easier to see.

Kamain.Mishausu(Kamu) and Binoodo.Gekudo(Binsu) hold back Rokasuto.Keinesutan(Rokko), Kevin.Firestarter(Kevin), Jerutodo.Ramiresu(Jeru) who were about to say something and left just me in the center of the crossroad as they withdrew backwards.

Ah, I already know that watching me won't be a good example.

Recently I've been busy with things so I just haven't been able to enter the dungeon on my days off and rampage to my heart's content. Putting aside my skill my intuition will get dull. There's no big reason other than that.

"Ah, Misu. If the light disappears use {Light} on an arrow and shoot it into an appropriate corpse. Also, since we just came from that direction I'm pretty sure it's fine but just in case make sure you properly remain cautious of our backs."

After ordering that of Mifesu.Ransun and I started jumping, stretching, and swinging the sword in my right hand around warming

up. I also confirmed to make sure there was properly 10 throwing needles in each of my gauntlets and that they were working properly as a simple shield.

In a few minutes around 5 hobgoblins came from the front, a bit over 10 gnolls from the left, and a bit after that around 20 goblins came charging at us from the right.

Now then~ I've already prepared myself to suffer a few injuries. If I'm up against this number then even I'll be in danger if I don't get serious. Ahead of this crossroad an area of about 10 meters in every direction is the battlefield.

Starting off I used just shot one of {Flame Arrow Missile} towards the hobgoblins that appeared in the front and after that I don't intend to use any spells. If I do that then the hobgoblins will get cautious and not approach so easily.

After that if I just make use of the difference in time to quickly finish up most of the gnoll group then it'll probably fine.

And, I guess that's the largest problem though. It's a battle with time.

The gnolls charge at me from the cave on the left with their spears at the ready.

I run off in a large arc and while evading the spears thrust out I put some fighting spirit into it as I cut through three of the spears all at once.

Soon after the spear of another gnoll was thrust towards me.

I evade that as well and after grabbing it with my left hand at the same time I cut through it with the sword in my right hand.

Immediately I crouched down and rolled to a different gnoll that was confused and used my sword to stab it in the throat killing it

before kicking it away to pull my sword out.
I turn while cutting the throat of another one and steal the spear
it held with my left hand.
It's not like the tips are made of metal either way so it's just a
wooden stick with a sharpened end.
There's no much difference regardless of which end you use to
thrust and in the first place the attack power of it is
limited.
I swing it around while holding another gnoll in check and start
running, then turn another three consecutive gnolls into a
bloodbath.
With this that's half of the gnolls.
An arrow giving off light stabbed into one of the gnolls that was
on the ground.
I guess I'll finish things up while this arrow is still
shining.
There the group of goblins charged at me while screaming
gabugyabugya.
But, the goblins are attacking both the gnolls and I.
As expected of goblins.
They'll attack anything that moves.
No, I had already anticipated it though.
If the goblins had arrived first I'm sure the gnolls would have
attacked the goblins as well.
With the gnoll's spear still in my left hand I stab a goblin nearby
with my sword and pull it right away.
It's already a free for all.
With this even if the hobgoblins come they can't take any actions
to take control.
While I was spinning around here and there stabbing with my sword

like a dance and look.

Before I realized it the hobgoblins had come and started fighting

and including them there's already less than 10 remaining.

During that time I haven't taken a single clean hit.

Though I was smacked with the handles of spears being waved

around.

Probably around the outer parts of my left thigh, my back, and my

right upper arm have some bruising but it's no big deal.

Hey, that hobgob over there, don't run away showing me your

back.

I take a throwing needle out of my left gauntlet and throw

it.

I was even praised by Miduchi for my skill with the throwing

needles that Myun taught me.

It beautifully pierced it's head and the hobgoblin fell over

forward without making a sound.

Almost as if that was the signal, the gnolls and goblins that had

still been standing let out dull screams before starting to

retreat. I killed one of them from behind with a throwing needle

but the rest was too troublesome so I let them go.

Suddenly the {Light} on the arrow disappeared. It seems I properly

was able to fight for over 5 minutes. As expected even my breathing

is a bit heavy. Though I still feel like I could fight for several

times longer than this as well.

I make some water to wash my sword and after wiping it with my hand

towel put the blade back into it's scabbard.

I use {Cure All} twice each on my thigh and back where I can feel a

bit of pain and after a total of six times along with my HP fully

recovering the pain had completely disappeared. When using healing

spells on yourself it's fine regardless of whether you touch the spot or not and the light won't show from below my armor, it's convenient being able to treat the bruises from being hit without anyone noticing.

I turned around and called everyone over.

"Okonneru, Firenoto, gather the magic stones."

I ordered the two combat slaves who were making surprised expressions seeing my fighting strength to gather the magic stones and I gather my throwing needles while continuing.

"Mishausu-san, I leave the remaining combat to you. Feel free to use my slaves without restraint."

After placing the throwing needles in my right gauntlet, I opened up the map again. There should be another crossroad ahead of the left direction..Yeah, there is one. Let's start here next. No, or maybe this side is better? But, it's a bit far after all...

In the end everyone except me split up to gather the magic stones.

As expected with just two people it would take too much time but I guess since there were no combat slaves in {Sun.Ray} who would gather the magic stones without saying anything, so they just didn't seem to pay any mind to it. If they split up with the 9 of them it shouldn't even take 20 minutes. Me? There's no way I'd do it. There's a lot of people after all.

Looking at the map while occasionally checking our surroundings and being alert is my job. I decided to think that while making excuses to myself for not working as I observed the corpses of the gnolls, hobgoblins, and goblins...It seems around half of them were female but after all it doesn't seem like any of them are pregnant. I've

seen enough corpses of monsters to be tired of it in this Baldukk dungeon but I'm already used to how much the monsters I've defeated are lacking in livelihood. Confirming if any of them were pregnant has almost just become a habit.

About the only living creature in the dungeon of Baldukk that gives of feelings of any sort of lifestyle are the fairies and it seems even they only have babies born once every several years to several decades. Since it seems they live a stupidly long period of time so it can't be helped that there's that much of an interval between but even they said they ate things like fruits from trees or grass and captured fish from the pond with magic. I don't really get it right.

I can hear the whispering voices of everyone while they're gathering the magic stones but I'm sure it's just about me, but since they've already become my subordinates it's kind of late for that. It doesn't really matter.

After we moved ahead a bit more just like with {Sooner} I watched their fighting from the rear.

Fumu, even after everything's been said and done as expected Haruku was first-rate. Things would probably be difficult for anyone other than Kamu of these members to act as leader. I think it's also big that Kamu's main arm is the bow so she can calmly look over the entirety of the battlefield but the timing she gives out orders is good as well. She gives each of the members their own role and keeps in mind positioning them so they can follow each other up.

I guess also because it's the 1st floor, other than Kamu and Misu

who use the bow, everyone else is fighting at the front and they're using the bow to support when necessary. Since even Binsu who can use the spear and magic is standing at the front with a long sword in hand, the front line is built firmly. I guess you could say they're using their high abilities to live up to the face value of the {Butchers}.

There's no problem with my combat slave the former knight Okonneru either and since Firenoto is fortified with Rokko and Kevin on both sides, he's able to fight safely as well. The monsters on the 1st floor aren't very strong so rather than trying to come up with some complex formation, just like this having everyone line up at the front in a semi circle and supporting them from the back with the bow makes a better use of their attack power. When the number of opponents has decreased they can have both flanks move forward and at the same time have the center pull back to easily switch to surrounding them from all directions as well.

When I was showing a bit admiration, it seems that Toris and Bel, the members of the {Slaughterers} who were dispatched as leaders were taking command like this so she was just mimicking them. However, I somehow felt a bit happy that it was proof they were properly trying to learn even from the command of some younger brats. This method only works until the 2nd floor or so. Not to mention only when they have a member of the {Slaughterers} who can use healing spells at a decent level. Starting from the 3rd floor the monsters start to get a bit stronger, so as expected it's difficult to use, and they properly understand that.

I worked them to the bone until evening. Everyone was completely

exhausted from the tension and consecutive battles. While Firenoto never suffered any actual injuries, he ended up throwing up from fatigue. Obviously after we returned to the surface I forced him to eat dinner. He's still only 21 years old. Since he's young I'm sure he'll be alright.

"Tomorrow I want to see how much time it takes for you to reach the teleport crystal on the 1st floor. I'll follow from the very rear.

Leave being cautious of things from the back to me."

When I smiled and said that to Kamu and she said, "..I thought it would be about time..Well there's no choice than to give it our best." while looking at me. And then asked, "Hey, do you intend to make me the leader?"

"Hn..I guess so, since you were also recommended by Haruku-san, you're one of the candidates. But, just as I said previously I don't want to decide. I have no intention of pushing something someone doesn't want to do on them either. Also, in regards to switching members between the teams I also intend to take my time and see through things. Excluding a few exceptions I fundamentally intend to split the teams up based on abilities after all. I intend to do some member changes this month so it's fine not to think too deeply about it for now."

After I said that Kamu made a surprised face and happily said to everyone.

"Jusst a moment, listen to this. It seems this month he's going to split up the teams in a new way!"

Hearing that everyone got excited.

"Oho! Are you serious! I want to join the {Slaughterers} as

well!"

"Idiot, that's impossible for you~ Even the other day you were done in by Maruso right."

"I'm, not good with the bow or spells like Bel..I guess it's no good.."

"I think I could probably win against Saji!"

Hey now, is it fine not to ask how I intend to make the selection?

Well I guess it's not something that needs to be said now.

"Everyone! Be quiet. We still haven't heard the method for selecting members."

"That's right. How do you intend the members up?"

It can't be helped~

"Yeah, anyone who wants to enter the {Slaughterers} will first have to show that they have the bare minimum stamina. Or to put it more frankly it will be how quickly you can run a fixed distance. I intend to put some observers along the running route so you can't cheat. If you can run it within the time I've decided then you'll gain the right to challenge. After that while there's "some exceptions" it's fine for you to challenge anyone. However, the opponent you challenge must use the same type of weapon. On top of that, since I also want to see your cooperation I'll have you do a three on three practice match rather than one on one.

Of course it's fine for you to use magic as well. If out of three matches you win the most then it's fine to switch you out."

If it's this then can I at least drag it out six months to a year?

Tomorrow I'll have Miduchi who's leading {Sooner} run at her maximum speed..No, on the next break I'll have Basutorial run at his

maximum speed and measure the time. Wouldn't it be fine if I make the time about one minute faster than that?

Chapter 218: Older Sister

Year 7445, Month 10, Day 9

It was just past noon when the {Butchers} arrived at the teleport crystal room on the 1st floor. Since we entered the dungeon at 8 am that comes out to clearing through the 1st floor in about 4 hours. Being able to do it at this speed without freezing monsters is pretty good. But you know, I can't approve of them that easily. They suffered a lot of injuries after all. Also it was a big that this time we were lucky to teleport into a location which was close to the shortest route as well. I'd say the rough distance from the location we teleported was around 5 km.

"How about it? What time is it now? Misu"

"Wait just a moment. It's 12..16."

Rokko questioned Misu who has a clock magic tool. Everyone was listening with great interest.

"Hmm..Since we entered at 8 am then, 3 hours and 26 minutes huh?"

What do you mean "Hmm", how in the world did you even calculate that...It doesn't make any sense. Even if he has enough skill I don't want to let a person like this in the {Slaughterers}. I should have said there was a paper math test as well.

"It's 4 hours and 16 minutes...It's far from 3 hours right."

Kamu said while slumping over a bit.

Maybe I'll give them a bit of a hint.

"That, it's a copy of the map Rodrick bought right? It's fine for you to trust in it more."

I said with my arms crossed while leaning against the wall.

They spent too much time being careful of traps. Also, they're still too careful of monsters. Even though we've made them fight that much~ are they still afraid of them? Or else is it the traits of an adventurers that's been ingrained in them?

"Certainly, it still can't be called perfect. But of the ones that are on the market that's the closest one to perfect. The {Sun.Ray}'s map of the 2nd floor and beyond was quite some but how was it comparing the {Sun.Ray}'s map of the 1st floor to that one? Think carefully about that."

After I said that everyone gathered their heads together and started stating their opinions.

"Hey, what did that mean?"

"Don't ask me. There's no way I would know right?"

"Certainly..there's far more trap locations drawn on this map and you can see that almost every passage has been drawn."

"..So it's even more accurate than the map that Rindobel-san and the others were making?"

"The shape of the outer circumference is close to an O. All of the maps from when we were in {Sun.Ray} were oval."

"An O..They call them circles."

"It's fine either way. If Al is saying it then it's probably true that this map is several levels higher."

Worry and be troubled, young'ns. Putting that aside, it's lunch,

I'm hungry. Though we were only walking slowly~

"Okonneru, Firenoto. Start preparing the food. I'm hungry."

After ordering the two slaves to make meal preparations I sat down on some dirt that someone made along the wall. And then I put one leg on the knee of my other and started scratching the dirt in the nicks on the sole of my boots off with a throwing needle.

As expected since I've been wearing them for over three years and pretty soon..I replaced the soles once but the rubber that was covered the leather surface has started to peel off all over and while there's no cracks in the surface of the hardened ebonite at the tips of the toes there's some parts scraped down. Above all, it's a problem that it's started to become a tight fit. The worn-out cloth I had been packing into the ends of it, I had completely stopped with at around this time last year but it seems my body still wants to get even bigger. Though if you were to ask the bigger problem is the width of my feet increasing.

"I..If you'll please, master."

10 Baldoggie were put into a pot that was held in front of me. It's Firenoto. After I put some hot water that was almost boiling into the pot he lowered his head to me and put the lid on it. Since we aren't carrying a stove if we just leave them to boil in water that hot for around 4-5 minutes they're just right. After that if we just put them into some bread with a slice in it along with some leaf vegetables and mustard or mayonnaise then the hotdog is completed.

If while you're eating the first batch you boil one more then it's more than enough to satisfy the high calorie consumption of adventurers. Even more so, the former {Sun.Ray} members often endured a poor diet while in the dungeon. There's no way they'd complain about it.

When I was still entering the dungeon carrying several hundred cucumbers I remember thinking, "If these weren't cucumbers but sausages then". No, I like cucumber as well. If you dip them in

mayonnaise and eat them they're good but after all I really want to eat some umekyu or morokyu~

While waiting like that the hotdogs were finished so I bit into one. Delicious.

Everyone is deliciously eating them after all, this, wouldn't it sell well to the people carrying cucumbers into the dungeon? Well, it can't be helped trying to sell to something like adventurers though.

"By the way, why do you call them {hotdogs}? They're unrelated to {dog}s right?"

Okonneru asked me while sitting in front of me and eating a hotdog as well.

"..No clue...The one who named it was Basutorial, so ask him."

Sorry. I didn't expect that sort of tsukkomi all of a sudden.

.....

Year 7445, Month 10, Day 13

After we left the dungeon and it seems {Sooner} still hadn't come back out. Thinking we should gather in the entrance plaza when I was killing time discussing the reflection points from today with the {Butchers} before long {Sooner} returned to the surface so I broke up the group.

Walking besides Miduchi who was commanding {Sooner}, the two of us returned to Boil Manor.

And then, there was three carriages stopped in front of Boil Manor.

Two of those were ones I had seen before. So they've finally come huh? We're saved...We were supposed to be entering the dungeon until tomorrow but it seems I'll be taking the day off tomorrow. If I don't replenish the stock already, I'm starting to feel sorry for

the Ryogu's and Yotlen who have to lower their heads all the time.

"Ah!!"

It seems Miduchi's realized as well and a bit of blood is rushing to her head. I wonder if she's tense? It's alright, you won't get eaten alive.

The caravan from Bakuddo has increased by one carriage this time and each of the carts has a pile of luggage in them. I can see several nostalgic faces surrounding them as well. Oh? That is..Kerry huh? Though he wasn't supposed to be a squire but...I don't know the Wolf-people woman standing next to him..Was there a person like that?

"Ya~ it's been a while."

I called out to the leader of the squires who were gathered around the carriages. It was Beckwith. Aizen said the former head squire. I don't see the current head squire Sean so he must have come along as the leader of the squires. Since he's already at a good age overdoing..I wonder if he was acting as the coachman? Or else, since he's passed the difficult age of 50, maybe he's come to see the royal castle in commemoration?

"Oh! Al-sama. It's been quite a while! I'm Bekkusu."

Yeah, I know. There's no way I could forget. Along with father, brother, and sister-in-law, I was also under the care of Bekkusu quite a bit. Up until my sword training centered around practice matches I was trained pretty hard by Bekkusu...His white hair has increased quite a bit and his height as well..I guess that's just because I've taller huh?

"Al-sama! It's been a while. Umm, this person is.."

Kerry ran over to me. Next to him he brought along that woman.

"It's nice to meet you, Alan-sama. My name is Mial.Dokush, I'm Kerry's wife. We got married in the spring of this year. I'm from Badetto village."

"He~! Congratulations! I'm Alan.Greed. In the past I've been in the care of Kerry quite a bit. I said some selfish things and forced them to bring me along hunting causing quite a bit of trouble. Look after Kerry from here on out."

Mial is four years younger than Kerry at 19 years old. It seems she's the daughter of a commoner from Badetto village. Since they had some connections she married in to Kerry's family in the spring of this year. This time the number of carriages increased by one so they needed to increase the escort members as well but since it was soon after the war and the squires needed some rest father came up with the idea of employing them in a hurry. That explains why there's a number of old men that normally don't come. It must have centered around people who didn't join the war this time. Although, it might have been just right for honeymoon trip since Kerry and the others don't usually leave the village other than hunting for a number of days. Though only nobles have that sort of custom. ..Come to think of it Mial has rubber protectors on as well. Just the same as Kerry she doesn't have the shield attachment on her left hand but it's a custom version where the heavy armor and defensive power is focused on the limbs rather than the body. It's not for use in war versus people. It seems to be a new model for versus beasts. She must work as a hunter as well. This one might

actually be better for adventurers..No, there are also of monsters that use weapons as well so the defensive power of the body is important too. The helmet is the same type as everyone(you could the same as me as well) it seems. There's been almost no improvements made on that end.

Ah, that's right. I wonder who came along this time?

"Is it brother this time? Or else.."

I asked towards Bekkusu.

"It's the former master. We only just arrived here and were about to take an inn.."

While Bekkusu was in the middle of replying to me, we heard father's voice.

"Ah, it seems they don't have enough rooms. It seems around half of us will have to stay at a different inn..Al. So you returned? It's good to see you're healthy..Are you Chizumagurol-san?"

"Ah, father. I'll introduce you. This is Miduchi,

Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol."

"A, it..it's nice to meet you. My name is

Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol."

Miduchi lowered her head. Looking from the side she seems a bit tense.

"Yeah. I've heard from Shani. I'm Heguyiyal.Greed. It's fine to call me Hegald. It seems Al is always in your care. Thanks."

"I..I as well..a..am always in his, careth!"

What is careth...There's limits to how tense you can get. It seems even Miduchi realized that she bit her tongue and hit herself in the forehead.

"In any case, everyone is tired from the long trip right? You should enter the inn and take a rest. Also, I'll prepare another

inn as well. How many people is it?"

"Nn..Take one for six people. Also, what are your plans for tomorrow?"

"Yeah, I intend to make it a day off. But, I want introduce everyone as well so I kind of want you to stop by Baldukk again on your way back?"

"Hn? I see. But, it's not like we're in any particular hurry. We can stay here for 2-3 days and.."

Uwa, don't say it so leisurely.

"No~no~no. We're the ones who are in a hurry."

I shook my hand in front of my chest a number of times while continuing.

"The store in the capital has long since been completely out of stock and about the only stuff remaining is a small amount for the royal family. There's a never ending number of claims from our frequent customers. Also, there's a huge line waiting from the knight group as well..I want to go and deliver the stock tomorrow."

"..I see. Then we'll go and make deliveries in the capital tomorrow and stay one night there. Then the day after tomorrow is it fine if we return back here again?"

"Yeah. It would be a big help if we do that. Also, I've bought six more slaves. I'll introduce you tonight."

After saying that I had John run to take rooms for six people in an inn and had Terry run to the {Butchers} and {Sooner} to convey that we would be taking the day off from entering the dungeon tomorrow and I wouldn't be able to join for dinner tonight. Additionally I told him to bring all of my combat slaves back as well.

During dinner when I was introducing the slaves, Manzokki said something like, "I'm give it my best in {Sooner}." I guess father didn't care for the name {Sooner}, though it was also because he was drunk but he decided on his own to rename it the {Exterminators}. Since it sounded good I thought the {Slayers} I came up with before was good though. Well it doesn't really matter though.

Also, after dinner, we talked a bit in my room before going to sleep but I was told, "If you already properly understand what it means for your races to be different then I won't say anything. I have faith in you and if you say that's good then I think it's fine if you marry a dark elf as well. But, the nobility has the nobility's, a lord has a lord's, and royalty has the royalty's responsibility, No, duty that comes with being one. It's fine as long as you don't forget that." After all it seems they were a bit worried about having children.

The next day we went to the capital and first off went to make deliveries of armor and take sizes from the knight group.

Incidentally, the number of suits being delivered this time was 22.

At the end of last year, when we were taking orders we accepted double the normal number. However, when I counted the number of boxes of armor in the carriage there was 23 of them. There's one suit too many. This is...

Everyone, sorry about that. So you prepared a new one for me since my body has grown bigger huh?

I'm grateful.

Thinking that I watched as measurements were taken for the next

orders and crossed my arms while nodding to myself. And then, father approached me and said, "Take off your clothes." Behind him was Jim, one of the veteran squires of Bakuddo, with a measuring tape in his hand.

Huh?

"Since your height has grown, even though you made it a bit large, from what I could see yesterday your current armor is as expected small right? Also, you're already 17, it's unlikely you'll grow all that much more right. We'll make it just a bit larger so we're taking your sizes as well. Ah, don't worry about it, it's my treat."

Eh?

No, I mean, isn't one there.

That, wasn't for me? It can't be, just a box?

"That one is for her, Midu~ritto."

Father said that before calling over Miduchi and talking to her. It

seems Miduchi was surprised over how sudden it was as well.

"At the end of last year Shani she would make some clothes and took her sizes. Supposedly they made it only just a bit larger. It seems they took in a variety of opinions over it so it ended up a slightly different shape. Teacher her how to put on later."

Ha~?

When did that happen?

I never heard about this...

Something like that, at least tell me about it.

I'll be troubled, it's not like were brats after all.

Eh? You were forbidden from speaking?

You heard it was taking your measurements for clothes?

I mean, he said it even took your opinion in to mind and isn't the normal shape...

They told you it was a market investigation over what shape of armor is the easiest to use?

..Is that so.

"Al-sama, do you have requests? We were able to slightly increase the hardness of the ebonite on the surface so we were able to increase the defensive power of it while the weight still remains the same, if you're fine with the defense remaining the same we can make it a bit light as well?"

Jim said that while quickly measuring my body with the measuring tape.

"Yeah..the weight is fine at the same as it is now. It would be better if the defensive power goes up.."

"Is that so. We'll make it using the armor from three years ago as reference."

"Yeah. Also, just the gauntlets of my armor are specially made. I'll give you the details later."

While we were doing that things got noisy. Sister huh?

"Oh, Mill! Over here!"

Father called out to sister. After noticing that sister ran over with a happy face. If she had a tail like Angela it probably would have been swinging. Weren't you by his side everyday 3 or 4 months ago? Right now he's my dad! Kerry approached her right away to report his wedding and introduce his bride. Stay away just like that.

Miduchi you go and slow her down as well!

Thinking that I pointed towards sister with my chin while looking at Miduchi.

I guess she understood my intentions, Miduchi went over to sisters side where I had been pointing. Umu, that's how it needs to

be.

"Really. Wasn't sister just by father's side a short while ago? She came running over like a dog, how embarrassing~"

When I said that to father with a bitter smile and father said,

"Don't say that. Even like that she gave it her best. Since I couldn't really praise her too much on the battlefield. At least for tonight...Hn? Al, you..Well it's fine. Certainly I haven't met with you very often and weren't together for very long." while laughing happily.

"U..Umm, Mill-san.."

Alright, keep her stalled.

"Oh~ if it isn't Midu-cchi? Hmhmph. Do you want to have a go at it?"

Oh, as expected of my older sister who has a low brain capacity.

Just like that go off somewhere. Miduchi it's fine for you not to follow after her as well.

"Eh? I'd love to but..umm, today is"

"Ah, it arrived right."

She noticed that Miduchi was looking towards the box of armor in the back of the carriage.

"Yeah, and then, since it's already alright to talk about it

so...umm, I'd heard that it was clothes from Bakuddo and..I was surprised. Thank you very much! I'm happy!"

"It's fine, don't worry about it. It's something sister-in-law

Shani and I both paid for after all. It's not like I use my money for much of anything either way."

Miduchi's armor, so it was sister-in-law Shani and sister that paid

for it huh..Miduchi, she should have a considerable amount of money saved up now though...She said that she only just had her new

leather armor made last year and she properly maintained it so it was still plenty within it's lifespan. Clothes are reasonably expensive but as expected no comparison to armor. Miduchi must not have been very concerned about it hearing that it was clothes.

Sister has a high salary being in the first knight group and sister-in-law Shani is the first wife of the lord of Bakuddo which is profiting from rubber.

In the first place, what are Bakuddo clothes? Something like that doesn't exist. Cotton is grown in Bakuddo but we didn't do any spinning so we never produced any cloth. Either the town of Doritto or at best Keel is where they're made. In the first place about the only designs they make over there are unfashionable and completely give off the feel of living in a remote area so it's far better to get clothes made in the capital.

"Got it? Al"

"Yeah.."

Sorry, sister.

I'll give the right to staying in the same room as father tonight

to you so you can have plenty of time to talk to him.

Also, I'll let you eat some Baldoggie as well.

Chapter 219: Qualifications*

Year 7445, Month 10, Day 15

After introducing father and the other squires from Bakuddo to everyone, in the afternoon father and the others started on their trip back to Bakuddo. All of the members of the {Slaughterers} are employees of Greed Company so putting aside the parents of the founder, it's necessary for them to get familiar with important business clients. In the worst case if something were to happen to me right now brother would end up inheriting Greed Company after all.

After that, when the members of the {Butchers}, {Exterminators}, and {Slaughterers} all moved together, I discussed the fact that I had established several gateway tests.

"..In regards to the threshold for the marathon, but I think rather than making it one of us it should be an average time."

Bel offered her opinion right away. I see now.

"What's average mean?"

"Like I would know."

"It has the meaning of in the middle."

"Is that so?"

"..The speed that Rokko-san and Kevin-san can run at is different right. The speed which is just in the middle of between Rokko-san and Kevin-san is average, and that's how it's used. If we increase the numbers then we add the speeds of everyone together then divide it by the number of people and we'll understand the middle speed for everyone."

Rodrick was explaining to the members of {Butchers} and

{Exterminators}. Sorry for troubling you.

"Yeah, and, I intend to do the screening on our next break so with that intention. Just remember the standard is the current members. It's a test for only those who want to take it. There's three subjects. A stamina test, a skill test, and a cooperation test. After that, there's a couple members that absolutely can't be removed from the {Slaughterers} as well."

After I said that far I looked around at everyone. No one is saying anything while waiting for me to speak.

"First off, me. And then there's Gwine who helps out with producing the map. I won't let these two be moved. Although, I might end up going to both the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} from here on out. The only two who I have absolutely no intention of moving around is just these two. It doesn't matter who you challenge of the remaining members. However.."

I thought I could hear the sound of everyone gulping.

"The only ones who can designate a person as a challenger are just those who have passed the stamina test first. The time that will act as a standard we'll measure today after this right now so the members of the {Slaughterers} should remain here. Ah, it's fine for Zenom and Gwine to skip out. Anyone who passes the stamina test gains the right to designate someone to challenge. The person who's been challenged can't run from it. And, then. What I'll have you do there isn't a practice match."

Everyone made slightly confused expressions. Just a moment ago I said practice "battle" after all. But, a practice match is no good. In the end you can't get serious against another person and can't

use magic at full power.

"I'm going to have you fight against ogres on the 7th floor. The next time we enter the dungeon we'll take the challengers along to the 7th floor. Listen well, it's still a part of the test on our way there. I'll be watching your cooperation and such. And then I'll have the challenger and the challenged fight three one on one matches against ogres on the 7th floor. Fundamentally the one who takes less total time wins. I think it'll take a reasonable amount of time to find just the right one to fight, but well, if we have two days that should be plenty."

Several people were already making expressions as if they had given up. No wait, isn't that only obvious? We're aiming for the 8th floor and beyond. How are you going to manage if you can't even deal with an ogre?

"If you can use magic then obviously it's fine if you use it and it's fine for you to use any weapons as well. However, poison is not allowed. If you need help I'll intervene right away so you can relax. Though you'll fail at that point. Well~ as long as you don't die instantly I'll save you."

There was just a bit of laughing.

"Also, one more thing. If you have a partner then it's fine for you to team up with them as well. For example if other than yourself, there's one more person you by all means want to join together with, if that person agrees as well then it's fine to challenge as a two person or three person group as well. In that case, the ones being challenged will be a two person group as well though. If you want to think it would be best to form a group of front line

attacker and rear support, then feel free to do that.
Ah, and after that, for the time being I don't think there's much meaning to it, but {Sooner}, rather, if there's someone who wants to go from the {Exterminators} to the {Butchers} then that's fine as well. I'll change the assessment method a bit so if there's anyone who wants to do that just let me know."

After saying that I told everyone they could break up. However, no one was leaving and they were just talking with other members in the area.

If they have time then maybe I should get them to help out with observing the measurements?

It would help to prove that there was no unfairness as well.

"Zulu, Angela. Before you go to Boil Manor return to your inn and get some towels and a change of clothes."

.....

It was the right answer to remove Zenom and Gwine from the marathon.

In the first place dwarves are slow at running.

Even then I think Gwine who's continued with the running is considerably better but she's still no comparison to the Elf Toris and Rabbit-person Bel. Recently even Basutorial has been faster than her.

Also, I decided to avoid running as well.

I mean if I were to seriously run it would have quite a bit of influence on the average time after all.

Obviously there's no culturally convenient tool like a stopwatch that exists so it's just measuring the rough time with a clock magic tool.

The course is our usual running course.

We'll depart from Boil Manor, run up to the summit of the outer crater from the West, then descend from the Eastern road down the outer crater and return to the Boil Manor again like that.

The overall distance should be around 20 km I guess?

There's no way to accurately measure the distance.

I think it's roughly around a half-marathon?

On the days I can I'm always running this course.

Recently I think I can cover it in about 2 hours or so?

According to Miduchi, there's a steep incline ascending up the hills of about 12% or so along the way and the condition of the roads are bad as well.

Even our shoes are badly made rubber sandals.

I think it's plenty to think that far.

"It's fine to collapse when you return. Run as fast as you can to at least that extent. Since this time will end up being the barrier after all. Make sure you raise the hurdle higher."

We return to Boil Manor and in front of the members of the {Slaughterers} who are wearing sandals and light clothing when I arrogantly gave that lecture Rokko said, "Is Al not intending to run?" I have him and Kamu, the two of them checking the times. Though I say that it's a simple job of just patting Kamu on the shoulder whenever someone reaches the goal point to check the clock magic tool.

Everyone else has long since split up to various locations along the ascent, the summit, and in the middle of the town on the way back.

We should be able to start in another 10 minutes or so.

"..That's right. Al you should run as well."

Ralpa said with her arms crossed while stretching herself. She's

grinning.

"No way! Ah, but it might be good to do that."

While stretching Bel said that with a smile of deeper meaning on her face...Mu, they aren't jiggling much. Come to think of it didn't Miduchi say they found a store that sells something like a sports bra.

"..It can't be helped~ But it's fine not to include my time in the calculation. It's a record just for reference."

Ralpa and Bel made slightly disappointed faces. I've already seen through you.

If you want to prevent being forced to switch parties then run like your lives depend on it.

Well, it might be interesting for me to try running at my full speed with none of my usual weights on in a light condition as well.

.....

My time was 55 minutes and 30 seconds. It was quite a bit faster than I thought. I made full use(intended to) of my unbelievably high status that would normally require being over level 80(since there's times when Speed and Endurance have increased by 2). Furthermore there's mountains and valleys, rocks laying all over the path of the road and it's uneven, very rarely there's even some mud so it's close to the worst state possible. If it was on a neatly paved level surface on Earth it would probably be an absurd record breaking that's less than 2 decimals places.

Uppu..I feel like I'm going to throw up.

Even trying to do the mental concentration required to control my mana and create mana feels extremely exhausting.

If I push myself it's not like I can't do it though..Ah~ it's been quite a while, this irritating sensation of not being able to use magic.

..I'd like to just be left alone for a short while.

.....Fu.

.....Uffuffu.

..Zulu, that day three years ago, I couldn't overtake you.

Though I already knew that I had passed you quite a while back...

Since I started carrying weights as well right away and gradually increased the amount it didn't seem all that different from usual. I felt like I would have gotten depressed if I took off the weights and there wasn't much of a difference at all so I hadn't tested it out. But...

Fu~ I've finally..relaxed a bit.

"I'm going to take a shower.."

I said in a mutter to Kamu and Rokko before dragging myself into Boil Manor, rolling into the shower room, taking off my clothes drenched in sweat, and then sitting down on the floor of the shower room under the water.

After bathing in water from the top of my head, I was finally able to catch my breath.

I quickly washed away the sweat and for the time being returned to my room with just a towel around my waist to change into some new clothes.

I wonder if it's still just Rokko and Kamu waiting in front of Boil Manor?

Or else, I wonder if it's about time for someone else to have arrived?

I stop by Miduchi's room and after filling a bag with a towel and some random clothes returned to the front.

Miduchi had already arrived.

Her light purple skin was bright red from the blood rushing to her head and she was drenched in sweat as her hands were on her knees.

I poured a bit of lukewarm water over Miduchi and then put a large towel over her head.

"Good work. I brought a change of clothes for you. Go and take a shower."

Miduchi was still breathing heavily while leaning against me.

"Can..Cant move..B"

"B?"

"..Carr..Carry..on..back..holding.."

"Go on your own.."

She was faking as if she was about to throw up...

After giving her the bag with her change of clothes I lent her a shoulder to the shower room and threw her inside.

When I asked Kamu what her time was and it was 1 hour 10 minutes and 40 seconds.

After waiting a short while and Ralpa, Bel, and just a short while later Toris came running lined up like dango.

After they arrived at the goal the three of them fell over just like I was a short while ago.

It would be pleasant to be thrown up on by Ralpa so I decided to ignore her.

Don't look over here.

I just changed a moment ago.

Their time was 1 hour, 21 minutes, and 20 seconds. Toris was 10 seconds later.

A bit behind them was Zulu.

A bit behind that was Angela.

Finally Basutorial came along considerably late and completely

exhausted at exactly 1 hour and 40 minutes.

Even like this it was a pace about 10 minutes faster than the

usual.

He did a good job.

But there's nothing moving about it.

After all this guy, he came up saying something like "oe~" like he

was throwing up in front of Cathy and is kindly being nursed by her

now.

I guess that means the average time is around 1 hour and 25 minutes

huh?

I guess Angela and Basutorial are below the average? Zulu was at a

vague time.

Somehow I feel like Miduchi, Ralpha, Bel, Toris, Zulu, and Angela

should all have an increase in Speed or Endurance pretty soon.

Basutorial will probably take a bit more time..I guess?

Whatever the case it everyone ran at amazing speeds. If it was on

level ground while wearing sports shoes then these fellows as

well...

Everyone took a shower and changed clothes then while catching

their breath the observation members all started to return.

"The average time was 1 hour, 23 minutes, and 40 seconds. Of course

it's without including me in the calculation. In order to gain the

right to challenge a member of the {Slaughterers} running in under

this time is the qualification. I'll have anyone who wishes to try

changing parties run on the next break. Up until then decide

whether you intend to do it or not. I'll accept applications until

the day before. On the day we do it there's also the problem of helpers for observing things so pardon me on that."

It seems everyone understood.

Let's break things up.

"I saw everyone run from close by but you know, other than Al they weren't all that fast at all right."

"If it's just running then I think I'm even faster than Al."

"Maybe I'll try challenging it as well.."

"Oh? Kimu, since you use the spear how about teaming up with me?

And, if we challenge Maruso and Saji then.."

"..Nn, that might be good."

"Mi, Misu, umm, together with me..Please!"

"Hey, Ginger, how about we try it together."

"That's fine, but Misu. Jeru is sticking his hand out~"

He~ say all you like. I think it's pretty much impossible though.

.....

Year 7445, Month 10, Day 23

Today is the test day for earning the right to challenge.

Everyone from the {Butchers}. And from the {Exterminators} there's

Ginger, Sanno, and Ruttsu who decided to try challenging it.

"Is it fine for you not to try the challenge?"

I tried asking Rodrick.

"Eh? If you think about the course and the times it's impossible

right...Even if I'm like this I still received investiture as a

true knight after all. I do feel like trying to challenge it even

then but most likely I'll end up leaving a pathetic result that

dirtyes the name of the Faruergaz Knight Group."

Rodrick replied with a bitter smile on his face.

"But you know, giving up before you've even tried, I wonder about that?"

Ralpa who was listening to the conversation butt in.

"Yeah. I already know it's uncool. But, right now it's impossible.

At least half a year..No, if I don't at least run for a year then

I'm sure I wouldn't be able to beat that time. Starting tomorrow I

intend to start running with Denda and Karimu. Al-san, is it fine

for us to run together as well?"

"Yeah, of co" That's fine but you know. If you get behind we'll

leave you in the dust so with that intention."

This girl really...The lines she says while winking is that.

"Ha ha..That can't be helped at the start. But, I'll definitely

catch up to you..Then I'll go to my post."

Give it your best. Rodrick waved with a cheerful face while

trotting off to his post.

"..I'm going as well. I won't overlook any cheating."

No ones going to try something like that...Ralpa ran off as

well.

"Al, isn't it about a good time? Ralpa and Rodrick are close to

the end of the course right?"

Zenom called out to me.

Zenom has the role of watching over the goal together with me

here.

Certainly it should be fine. I checked the time on the clock magic

tool and it was 9:45:20 in the morning.

I guess we'll start at 9:50:00?

In front of Boil Manor excluding my slaves was the seven people

from the {Butchers} as well as Ginger, Sanno, Ruttsu, also since

she didn't run last time Gwine was going to run just for time

reference, were all gathered and getting ready to run. In total

there's 11 people.

..It's about time. Well, I guess it's fine even if I start a bit soon. I let them start at around 9:49:30.

.....

I'm bored.

Since Zenom brought some vodka from his room, I brought out some smoked octopus legs from mine as well.

The two of us were leaning against the fence next to the front gate of Boil Manor while chewing some octopus legs and drinking vodka. Delicious, this vodka. According to Zenom it's a premium item he bought in the capital.

"In around how much time do you think they'll return?"

"Hmn, even the faster ones will take around 1 hour and 30 minutes

I'm sure...Everyone hasn't been continuing to run for several years just for show after all.."

"{Running}, was it? Is it really something that has that much of an effect?"

"It's not something which is effective right away. But, if you continue it for a month even an idiot will start to feel the difference in their stamina."

Either way there's nothing to do so I decided to explain the simple theory and meanings behind training your body. Zenom listened seriously but just said, "I don't really get it." while shaking his head and said something like, "I still think it would be better to rest and gather your strength for the time when you really need it." I wonder if my explanation was bad. I abridged it quite a bit after all.

"It should be about time..and. Sorry but let's put the alcohol on break for a bit."

"Yeah, it's fine. I haven't even finished drinking one cup."

..I, finished two cups. The next time I'm in the capital let's search for some vodka.

After waiting a short while and the first one to return was

unexpectedly Gwine. This time she ran as well to give a reference

time. Her time was almost the same as Basutorial at 1 hour and 38

minutes. For the time being it seems she showed her dignity as a

senior. Around 1 minute after that Ginger and Kimu returned.

After that they came back one after another. Everyone was making

faces like they were about to die. In dead last was the dwarf Kevin

who took 2 hours and 30 minutes.

"Everyone, it seems you ran as best you could but that's quite

unfortunate. Honestly speaking if you're like this then I really

don't think you're ready to enter the {Slaughterers} right now. The

next one we'll do around six months later so up until then think

about trying to build up some stamina."

There were those who had already gotten refreshed taking a shower

and getting changed, and those who had only just reached the goal

while breathing heavily. Everyone was making mortified faces. Yeah,

all of the upper ranking members of the {Slaughterers} including

myself are brats on top of girls being mixed into them so I

understand those feelings. Even when it came to the slowest

Basutorial only two of them were able to beat him. Not to mention

their times were almost exactly the same with just about 1 minute

difference.

But you know, if it's just at the level of the current Basutorial,

if you properly run for six months you'll quickly catch up and

overtake him.

Though it would be harsh for Kevin if he doesn't run properly for at least two years or so.

"I think there's people who know already but. I'll say it just in case. The members of the {Slaughterers} always run the course from just now every day they have time to do it. If they don't have the time to run together then they even run it alone. Through the accumulation of doing that the body gets used to it. Think about what that means. If you don't get it then try asking someone who seems like they would know...When Kevin finishes catching his breath let's all go and eat some lunch.

Ah, even if you don't have an appetite it's no good if you don't eat. Even that is related to building up your body after all."

Things should be peaceful for another six months. After we check things out on the 8th floor a bit more I'll try saying it's a test and have Kamu and Ginger act as the leaders and then during that time I guess we'll try challenging the 8th floor...

If they give up on joining the {Slaughterers} after things this time and say they want to be the leader then it's a bonus right.

As expected there's no one like that huh...

No, if the number of members being dispatched from the {Slaughterers} is reduced then the number of people who get a cut is reduced as well. It's possible for the leader to take that portion as their own after all. But if they can't at least reach the stage where they can make it to the 3rd floor while staying the

night then my losses will still continue, so that's difficult to mention right~

In the first place I had intended to train them until around the end of the year, so I guess it's still fine.

If the {Slaughterers} has both Miduchi and I then even if we lose one person each to the {Exterminators} and {Butchers}, if the monsters of the 8th floor are just at that level I guess there's no problem...

Let's think about it again at the end of the year.

Status~ (TL: Whoops almost forgot to fix Miduchi's Blunt Trauma again, the damage from that trap lasted quite a while~)

【Alan.Greed/5/3/7429】

【Male/14/2/7428 · Human · Viscount Greed Family Second Son】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 17 Years Old】

【Level: 27】

【HP: 219(219) MP: 7449(7449)】

【Strength: 35】

【Speed: 51】

【Dexterity: 31】

【Endurance: 37】

【Unique Ability: Identify (MAX)】

【Unique Ability: Gift of Natural Talent (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Water Magic (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Wind Magic (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic (MAX)】

【Experience: 2452154(2600000)】

【Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol/5/3/7441】

【Female/14/2/7428 · Dark Elf · Lail Kingdom Commoner {Lilac}】

【Status: Normal】
【Age: 17 Years Old】
【Level: 17】
【HP: 155(155) MP: 269(269)】
【Strength: 23】
【Speed: 38】
【Dexterity: 26】
【Endurance: 25】
【Unique Ability: Unit Organization (Lv.8)】
【Special Ability: Infrared Vision】
【Special Ability: Inclination Sensing】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic (Lv.6)】
【Special Ability: Water Magic (Lv.6)】
【Special Ability: Fire Magic (Lv.6)】
【Special Ability: Wind Magic (Lv.6)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic (Lv.7)】
【Experience: 798416(810000)】
【Zenom.Firefreed/5/4/7416】
【Male/19/1/7402 · Dwarf · Firefreed Family Head】
【Condition: Normal】
【Age: 43 Years Old】
【Level: 21】
【HP: 133(133) MP: 9(9)】
【Strength: 27】
【Agility: 11】
【Dexterity: 30】
【Endurance: 24】
【Special Skill: Infrared Sight】
【Special skill: Small Magic】
【Experience: 1269849(1430000)】
【Ralpha.Firefreed/25/12/7429】
【Female/14/2/7428 · Human · Firefreed Family Eldest Daughter】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 17 Years Old】

【Level: 17】
【HP: 159(159) MP: 27(27)】
【Strength: 23】
【Speed: 29】
【Dexterity: 26】
【Endurance: 25】
【Unique Ability: Spatial Understanding (Lv.8)】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic (Lv.3)】
【Special Ability: Fire Magic (Lv.5)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic (Lv.5)】
【Experience: 802926(810000)】
【Bernadette.Koloil/4/4/7429 】
【Female/14/2/7428 · Rabbit-People · Sub-Baron Koloil Family Second Daughter】

【Status: Normal】
【Age: 17 Years Old】
【Level: 17】
【HP: 152(152) MP: 94(94)】
【Strength: 22】
【Speed: 32】
【Dexterity: 23】
【Endurance: 22】
【Unique Ability: Shooting Intuition(MAX)】
【Special Ability: Super Sense of Hearing】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic(Lv.4)】
【Special Ability: Water Magic(Lv.5)】
【Special Ability: Fire Magic(Lv.5)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.5)】
【Experience: 749524(810000)】
【Torkelis.Kalstalan/13/5/7429 】
【Male/14/2/7428 · Elf · Viscount Kalstalan Family Third Son】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 17 Years Old】
【Level: 17】

【HP: 156(156) MP: 52(52)】

【Strength: 23】

【Speed: 30】

【Dexterity: 26】

【Endurance: 24】

【Unique Ability: Scale (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic(Lv.3)】

【Special Ability: Water Magic(Lv.4)】

【Special Ability: Wind Magic(Lv.3)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.4)】

【Special Ability: Infrared Vision】

【Experience: 707359(810000)】

【Gulinel.Akdam/2/7/7429 】

【Female/14/2/7428 · Dwarf · Rombert Kingdom Duke Rombert Territory

Registered Free Person】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 17 Years Old】

【Level: 16】

【HP: 159(159) MP: 36(36)】

【Strength: 27】

【Speed: 19】

【Dexterity: 31】

【Endurance: 27】

【Unique Ability Mapping (MAX)】

【Special Ability: Wind Magic(Lv.4)】

【Special Ability: Fire Magic(Lv.3)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic(Lv.4)】

【Special Ability: Infrared Vision】

【Experience: 669631(680000)】

【Sajes.Basutorial/13/12/7444 Sajes.Basutorial/4/7/7429】

【Male/14/2/7428 · Cat-People · Rombert Kingdom Duke Rombert

Territory Registered Free Person】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 17 Years Old】

【Level: 13】
【HP: 132(132) MP: 18(18)】
【Strength: 19】
【Speed: 27】
【Dexterity: 20】
【Endurance: 20】
【Unique Ability: Resistance(Temperature)(Lv.3)】
【Special Ability: Wind Magic (Lv.0)】
【Special Ability: Earth Magic (Lv.0)】
【Special Ability: Water Magic (Lv.0)】
【Special Ability: Fire Magic (Lv.1)】
【Special Ability: Void Magic (Lv.2)】
【Special Ability: Night Vision】
【Experience: 284678(350000)】
【Dadino.Zulu/3/6/7442 Dadino.Zulu/20/7/7422 】
【Male/24/5/7421 · Lion-People Race · Viscount Greed Family Owned
Slave】

【Status: Normal】
【Age: 25 Years Old】
【Level: 18】
【HP: 161(161) MP: 5(5)】
【Strength: 29】
【Speed: 27】
【Dexterity: 16】
【Endurance: 26】
【Special Ability: Small Magic】
【Special Ability: Instantaneous】
【Special Ability: Night Vision】
【Experience: 934269(950000)】
【Maruso.Angela/15/8/7442 Maruso.Angela/12/8/7422 】
【Female/14/9/7422 · Dog-People Race · Viscount Greed Family Owned
Slave】
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 25 Years Old】

【Level: 18】
【HP: 139(139) MP: 5(5)】
【Strength: 20】
【Speed: 30】
【Dexterity: 15】
【Endurance: 22】
【Special Ability: Small Magic】
【Special Ability: Super Sense of Smell】
【Experience: 908912(950000)】
【Lorence.Giberuti/5/5/7444 Lorence.Giberuti/23/10/7419】
**【Male/1/9/7418 ▪ Dog-People Race ▪ Viscount Greed Family Owned
Slave】**
【Status: Normal】
【Age: 27 Years Old】
【Level: 5】
【HP: 108(108) MP: 6(6)】
【Strength: 16】
【Speed: 19】
【Dexterity: 11】
【Endurance: 15】
【Special Ability: Small Magic】
【Special Ability: Super Sense of Smell】
【Experience: 20643(28000)】

Chapter 220: Shape of 8th Floor

Year 7445, Month 12, Day 21

In order to progress to the end of the year I decided to make from the 19th until the 27th, this 9 day period the last time we enter the dungeon this year, then from the 28th until January 6th of next year those 9 days would be the New Year holiday. And then, this time we entered the dungeon with the full members of the {Slaughterers} different from the past few months. I gave the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} a slightly early and long New Years holiday.

Of course, I said if they want to enter the dungeon during the holiday they're free to do so, I also said they have no need to pay a share to me for that time. However, I told them absolutely not to step foot past the 2nd floor and since they're entering the dungeon under my command they'll have to pay for the entry tax and food expenses on their own money. Also, it's only obvious but I don't intend to loan out my four combat slaves either. After saying that far and honestly speaking I don't think anyone will try to enter the dungeon during the holiday.

Though I say that, I thought someone would complain because their earnings were reduced and had thought up an excuse but no one said any complaints and rather raised cheers of joy. Since I found it a bit strange I tried asking Kamu about it and it seems including her everyone was a bit worn out.

Ever since the party changing test about two months ago, there's

some members who have started running here and there so I was smiling over the delightful trend. However, not only does doing that consume quite a bit of stamina but there's also the consecutive battles on the 1st floor of the dungeon. They return to the surface completely exhausted, force the food down and are unable to drink any alcohol, then return to their inn to sleep like the dead. The next morning after waking up they do some running right away and then it's back to combat in the dungeon again. In regards to income while they aren't obtaining any expensive magic items or precious gems or ores but from the roughly three times a month they enter the dungeon, their income is about 800,000 - 900,000 Z so they didn't have any complaints. Rather it's increased since their time in {Sun.Ray}.

The number of days they're entering the dungeon itself has increased but for the time being it's all day trips and counting in terms of months it's around 20 days. During their time in {Sun.Ray} they entered roughly twice, for a total of around 18 days so it's only increased by just a bit. In regards to the safety of it while they're experiencing consecutive battles where they have almost no time to let their guards down, since there's the reliable leaders dispatched from the {Slaughterers} their feelings are able to relax a bit knowing that there's no worry even if they get a bit injured.

That's the reason and everyone was just thinking about enjoying their own holiday and dedicating it to get some rest. It seems they heard from the members of {Slaughterers} that were dispatched up until now that there's "always a long holiday at the

end of the year" so they were secretly looking forward to it. Both running and entering the dungeon during breaks aren't an obligation or anything else so if they don't want to do them there's no reason to do it. Though if you were to ask me, doing it increases our overall combat forces so I'm happier if they do it but as long as they do a proper job on the days that were for entering the dungeon then after that it's fine for everyone to do whatever they please.

In the first place I'm sure there was people who dedicated their days off to training and people who never did. Since people naturally lean towards the more comfortable direction, anyone who won't do it unless forced I'll just treat like that, and that's all there is to it. For example Rokko already knows he sucks at arithmetic(it's not particularly unusual. However, it's unusual for an adventurer who has a lot of occasions they need to calculate money) but it seems he has no intention of studying and no intention of changing I'm sure. It's the same for Jeru as well who can't read or write.

In comparison, recently it seems Zulu, Angela, and Giberuti are being taught to read and write by Basutorial and it seems starting with Catherine, John, Terry, and even Zulu's woman join in as well.

I don't know who started it up but it's a good trend.

If it's necessary I taught Zulu and Angela numbers and some Kanji characters in Japanese as well as some Arabic numerals but that's it. I'm sure looking from their end they wanted to ask about more commonly used numbers and letters. I knew they were looking like they wanted to be taught but I guess they were showing restraint

towards me, they never said anything so I didn't teach them either.

After learning that Okonneru and Garuhashu as well as Firenoto and Manzokki were being taught some basic addition and calculation as well. However, it seems that in addition to teaching them to read, write, and do arithmetic Basutorial is also teaching them some simple science and he was even teaching some basic agriculture as well. Since the four of them seemed to have some interest they'll probably join in as well eventually.

The start of the problem was that sometimes Zenom would join in there as well. Just it seems he was just joining in to listen (since Zenom was originally a commoner on top of the long period he was an adventurer it's only obvious Zenom can read, write, and do fundamental arithmetic) but he was having a hard struggle with division, fractions, and decimals.

And then, when he tried to confirm what he learned with Ralpa it was exposed that Ralpa can't sufficiently do fraction calculations either.

Hearing that Miduchi, Toris, Bel, Gwine, and I all laughed out loud but just in case we tried giving Gwine several problems as well and hers was faulty as well. Excluding Gwine the four of us exchanged glances as we turned pale and in a hurry we tried calling Rodrick to confirm everyone.

Up to algebra starting with myself, Miduchi, Toris, Bel, Basutorial, and Rodrick all had no problems but when it got to Trigonometry and Logarithms Miduchi, Bel, and Basutorial dropped out, and at differential and integral calculus Rodrick dropped out. When it got

to complex numbers, vectors, and discrete numbers I was the only one remaining. Though I say that since mixing probabilities and prime numbers were a required subject for ciphers that was a bit unfair. In terms of the calculations themselves Toris was overwhelmingly faster than me after all.

I thought that the memories crammed in when you're young weren't so easy to forget but it's been long since Saturday was made into a day off as well. No, it's probably because the cramming method in my case was a bit unique as well. Since it was still barely within the Showa era when I entered Self-Defense university it seems I was made to learn in a unique way. Though I say that it's nothing particularly special. Under the policies of the battalion(in Self-Defense university they called each dorm a battalion) it was just a matter of those who had bad grades starting with sanctions of the fist were made to experience some extremely unreasonable corporal punishment pretty often.

The official stance for it was that since we're receiving a salary in the form of a student allowance paid through taxes studying is our occupation so we're not allowed to slack off even the slightest bit. In order to not cause trouble to the surroundings we had to spend our days desperately studying(putting it honestly and since each room definitely had an upper classmen you shared it with when you took the punishment it occurred as a unit with other people in your room so not only would there be the punishments from others but also from the upper classmen in your room as well). I remember studying together with my classmates in the same room countless

times. Thanks to that even though a number of decades have passed I still remember quite a bit.

Putting aside complex numbers and vectors, fractions and decimals are necessary right. Since everyone agree we forced Ralph and Gwine into the Basutorial class, while it goes against my policy a bit we decided to force them to learn it. Incidentally the individuals themselves were saying, "I can do it! I can properly do it! I just forgot it for a bit!", "I just made a small mistake in the math! It's alright, I can properly do it!" but at the point they couldn't do division between fractions no one was willing to believe them. If I remember correctly you learn it in elementary school right?

Right now, we're in the teleport crystal room on the 7th floor of the dungeon but under teacher Basutorial my three slaves are being taught basic arithmetic at the first year elementary school level. When that ends he'll teach a bit higher arithmetic to Zenom, Ralph, and Gwine.

"It would have been good if I had you teach me sooner.."

Zenom said that. Ralph and Gwine were making displeased faces.

Since it's gotten a bit pitiful I won't say anything more.

"We're going a bit further into the 8th floor starting tomorrow, so don't try to overwork yourself too hard."

Miduchi is saying something to them. The day before yesterday and yesterday we cleared up through the 6th floor. Since the magic stones from the 8th floor aren't all that high in value we spent just today defeating ogres on the 7th floor and gathered 35 magic

stones from them. Since it was about a good time we moved to the teleport crystal room on the 7th floor and decided to prepare for tomorrow. Starting tomorrow for one week we'll be aiming for further into the 8th floor.

.....

Year 7445, Month 12, Day 27

One week has passed since we started exploring the 8th floor, today is the last day.

The information that George Rombert the First is said to have left behind (the one about only being able to think it's a number of places overlapping) was denied on the second day. At the same time it was identified that George Rombert the First most likely didn't have a Unique Ability like Gwine's {Mapping} or Ralpa's {Spatial Understanding}.

After we teleported into the 8th floor, it was the same moving through the cave-like passage until there was a split path.

However, most of the passages were dead ends and in those dead ends there's a new teleport crystal and pedestal enshrined.

On December 22nd (the first day) we decided not to touch those teleport crystals and just returned the way we came and the entire day ended in teleporting back and forth between the 7th and 8th floors. In the end we came to the conclusion that the 8th floor was a gathering of small areas and we decided to start investigating where the teleport crystals in the dead end passages teleport us.

On December 23rd (the second day), we gathered our resolve and tried grabbing the teleport crystal while chanting the incantation

and proceeded to the next area. The place we teleported into was just another cave-like passage the same as the others. And then, ahead of that we discovered another teleport crystal but we weren't surprised. It's because we had already predicted it. Gwine's Unique Ability can only see one area at a time. When we tried teleporting using the same crystal it returned us to the original teleport crystal we came from. Of course the incantation wasn't the same.

However, while we were in the process of repeating teleport countless times Ralpa's Unique Ability leveled up. It's because every time we teleported she had to use {Spatial Understanding} to confirm the direction. When it first leveled up, Ralpa suddenly showed symptoms of confusion.

Previously, I thought Ralpa's Unique Ability would level up pretty soon but it got stupid trying to count it every time so I had left it alone. However, I don't know if her Unique Ability is unique but it seems she noticed the maximum level expanded ability right away.

It seems she even managed to perceive the equipment we were holding. It seems she suddenly felt a variety of mixed items floating in the space near her and her head got mixed up unable to keep up with the processing.

It wasn't after things entered from outside the effective range but the moment she used her ability she could feel everyone's equipment as if it was floating in the air and she ended up feeling sick.

The moment I heard that I realized her {Spatial Understanding} had

leveled up and when I used {Identify} on Ralpa down to the sub-windows there was some new info added.

【...The MAX level expansion ability makes it possible for the user to be able to recognize all unnatural inanimate objects that exist within the effective range. It's possible to recognize them even when they already existed within the effective range before using the ability. Furthermore, even if the user leaves the effective range they'll still be able to perceive the objects within the effective range until the duration ends.】

Shortly after that, since Ralpa had to go to the bathroom she and the other women of the party teleported using the teleport crystal we had just used. While making a bitter smile as we watched the women disappear to go to the bathroom we started confirming the safety of our surroundings. We only just teleported here a moment ago so we were already able to guess it's not immediately dangerous. Before long when the women returned and joined us again Ralpa was extremely excited.

It seems while enduring her urge to go to the bathroom Ralpa left the other women to be cautious in the area of the teleport crystal as she moved about 20 meters away but on that occasion it seems she able to feel the fact that they left the range of her {Spatial Understanding}. However, even after she left the range of it she could still perceive the other men and I wandering around in the effective range even after that and near the far upper edge of the effective range she could also feel the boots of the women being cautious of the surroundings.

Thanks to that Ralpa was able to recognize that the origin point

of the teleportation and the destination weren't all that far away in distance and furthermore in terms of position they were almost on top of each other. Hearing this the words, "almost like places that are overlapping" left from Rombert the First's life story made sense to everyone. Up until now we thought that the teleporting was just taking place in the 8th floor but we thought of the possibility that we teleporting across floors.

Of course, just like matching up puzzle pieces together, eventually we would have realized it by matching up the areas of the map that Gwine is producing. However, it's a godsend we were able to notice it on the second day. Since there was no difference in the monsters we encountered in the halls I could have sworn it was still the 8th floor(obviously it's hard to imagine that a distance of just 40-50 meters above or below is the difference between the 8th and 9th floors but you could say it's a big harvest we were able to think up the possibility).

Even more so since we didn't use a teleport crystal in the center of the dungeon so you could say it's only obvious.

Up until now unless you used the special teleport crystal in the center of the dungeon, there was no moving between floors. The only exception was the teleport pitfall trap that I fell into in the past.

Here the opinion that teleport traps on the 6th floor as well were in fact not actually traps came out as well but since they're fundamentally different from the teleport crystals which only teleport you if you actively chant the incantation, that opinion was rejected.

Also, it seems it's only obvious that the previous teleport crystals are at the very least over 50 meters apart from the teleport destination, so you could say it's only thanks to good luck that Ralpa noticed from one of the very few "short range teleportation" areas.

Starting from December 24th (the third day), in any case we started clearing through the caves, we started to focus only on arriving at new teleport crystals. During the two days up until then all of the areas on the 8th floor we teleported into had been ones Gwine already had mapped so we chose some new teleport crystals. However, when it came to that there were dead ends as well and times when we had no choice but to spend time going back down the passages we just came as well.

In order to avoid that, whenever we came across a new teleport crystal we would immediately start teleporting over and over. While in the process of that we discovered several routes that lead to teleport areas we had been to in the past. If we think about producing a perfect map then we'll have to properly walk all of the distance over again but it's certainly true the amount of distance we traveled increased by quite a bit.

And then today, December 27th (the sixth day) on the last day we were finally able to arrive close to something like a monster room. Tension ran through everyone. Slowly, very slowly, we moved closer to the room. I remembered back to the time we first stepped foot in the dungeon of Baldukk and approached the room with a {Scavenger Crawler} in it.

I hold back the bitter smile I had been making before noticing it

and with the bayonet in my right hand and my left hand ready to use attack spells a any moment we approached the entrance of the room.

.....

It appeared.

【

【Male/15/11/6924.Troll Race】

【State: Normal】

【Age: 521 Years Old】

【Level: 7】

【HP: 722(722) MP: 1(1)】

【Strength: 52】

【Speed: 23】

【Dexterity: 12】

【Endurance: 37】

【Special Skill: Dark Vision】

【Special Skill: Super.Regeneration Type III】

Things in regards to 【Dark Vision】 are fine. I can somehow guess.

I'm sure it can see right now almost as if it was during the day or something like that. However, 【Super.Regeneration Type III】, it says?

【Special Skill: Super.Regeneration Type III; All damage other than burns suffered will be recovered at a rate of 1 HP every 5 seconds. Body tissue that was lost during that process will be replaced as well. Furthermore, the functionality of internal organs that have suffered damage will recover as well. In the case that a portion of the body such as an arm or leg is lost, if the lost portion is nearby it's possible for the wounds to reconnect in about 5 seconds. In the case that the lost portions aren't connected together but regeneration, it will take around 1 day to regenerate

1 liter of the volume of flesh.】

It's long hair is moving almost as if wet from the grease it's covered in.

It's skin is deep green and covered in bumps and warts almost as if it has a skin disease.

With long sharp and slightly dropping nose.

A large split mouth that almost reaches to it's ears.

There's two large deeply sunk in holes almost as if they look to be open, though whether or not it actually has eyeballs can't be seen for sure.

The wrinkles of it face give off an overall impression like that of an ill-tempered dead tree like old person.

It has thick and strong looking nails with a black luster on it's large hands and long arms that almost seem unbalanced for it's body size.

It's just a bit tall and thin and it's rib cage sticks out of it's body.

It's spine is sticking out almost as if it was a dorsal fin that degenerated.

The surface of it's skin is dirty the same as usual but the muscles on it's legs are tightened giving a good idea of it's strength.

The only thing it's wearing on it's body is something like a loincloth.

In my past life, it's a completely different existence from the heartwarming creature drawn in the books by Tove.Jansson that I was engrossed with in my childhood.

You could quite literally call it an atrocious monster beyond even that of an ogre.

Two of those were facing each other crouched down biting into the
soft stomach of a Giant Mantis.
I heard the sound of somehow hold their breath behind me.

Chapter 221: Footprint

Year 7445, Month 12, Day 27

The sound of slurping an insects internal organs echoes around and a bad smell covers the area.

""Return""

An order from Miduchi's {Party-ization} was sent out. I guess she's saying we should all return back to a safe place before discussing things once again. Just as you can expect from an opponent that looks stronger than ogres, it's important to confirm the sequence and things. Let alone when it's against an opponent with a skill like {Super.Regeneration Type III} that makes no sense. It's also a monster that we're seeing for the first time so there's no loss in being careful here.

"Most likely, that's a Troll."

After returning about 200 meters to a passage with good visibility, we all gathered along the wall as teacher Miduchi's lecture time started.

"Troll.."

"Somehow, I feel like I've heard the name before."

"..The Troll I know of is a lot fatter.."

"So that's a, Troll huh.."

"Troll?"

Just now Toris and Zulu said things like they know about it.

"Zulu do you know about it? Probably, I think there's no mistake that it's a Troll or a related species. Even if you injure them they recover from it right away and they're a troublesome monster where even if you cut off their limbs, the limbs move and they

continue to attack."

Miduchi glanced at my face for a moment while explaining it. Yeah.

That's the right answer. I told her with my eyes. Certainly it was a Troll. But she really does know anything. Incidentally Toris said something like he knew it as well but it seems it was a character that appears in a certain famous computer game. Even I've heard the name of it before.

Well, in my case if you were to say {Troll} the first image that comes to mind is a {Trawl}. Though I think the spelling is probably different. Because the body of the fish is easy to hurt, in exchange for the value of it depreciating rapidly, it catches bottom dwelling fish (it catches the type of living along the ocean bed. Obviously shrimp and crabs are included) and quite literally catches everything it can so it's huge on unloading.

"I've never seen one before. In the Southern parts of Devas of the Weshuppu region I've heard that a monster called the {Swamp.Troll} appears in the marshlands there. It seems it's extremely powerful on top of being brutal, it has enough stamina as if it doesn't ever get tired, and it moves at quick speeds which don't match up to it's large body so it's a frightening monster and just as Miduchi-sama just said even if you injure they recover right away, I've heard it has a very troublesome regeneration ability. However, that is.."

Something like that is in Devas! It's hard to tell while it's

crouching down, but that, if it were stand up I feel like it'll be taller than an ogre.

"Th..That sort of enemy how are we supposed to fight it!?"

Gwine said with a slightly frightened expression. Yeah, it's not unreasonable to say something like that.

"There's several methods but the representative is to burn it's wounds with oil and fire or acid. Also, it's a method that takes force but you accumulate damage on it to where the regeneration can't keep up to defeat it and then set it on fire again to kill it."

In the end it's fire huh? It seems like acid works as well but as expected we aren't carrying it around with us and in order to kill something that large you'd probably need a bath full. Then, in that case the most realistic is using attack spells with fire magic as the base. If it was just using the fire elemental magic itself then it would be simple to bury that entire room in flames but if no continuation is added to it, it'll disappear in an instant and as expected just an instant will probably do almost no damage. Ah, there's no need to worry about running out of oxygen when using large scale fire. If you use fire magic to set something on fire it uses oxygen to burn whatever it does but any of the flames other than that seem fine. It seems that in the effective range it's making a mix of flammable gas in the air and lighting that and it disappears in an instant before it burns up the oxygen in the air. Though if you add continuation to it that isn't always the case. I don't really get it for sure but haven't I mentioned that among the elemental magics fire and wind were slightly different?

"In that case I guess {Flame Thrower} would be best?"

Ralph said with a belligerent expression. I think it's good.

"..Otherwise, we have Al-san freeze them in ice I guess. However,

I've heard about them when I was younger as well but it seems that Trolls don't breathe...It might be impossible to suffocate them to death."

Bel said while making the thinker pose with her hand on her chin.

"Ah, that, I've heard about it as well."

Zulu agreed with what Bel said. Wha~? Really? That's really troublesome...I haven't read the species sub-window for them and I don't know if even that information is written there. It seems Miduchi's knowledge isn't complete and she made a surprised face as well.

"In order to do it safely I guess I'll have to do it with the resolve of at least freezing the entire room and make the ice go up to about their shoulders, then we can cut off their heads I guess?"

After I said that, Miduchi said, "That's right. Or else use a high level attack spell with fire magic..though I think just freezing them would probably use up less mana." while nodding. I felt a bit like, "Hmn, I wonder about that~"

Their HP is over 700. Putting aside the fact that they're weak to fire and regenerate, in order to blow them away with a single hit an attack spell beyond the {Heavy Catapult} class would be necessary. Even if I don't add missile to it the MP consumed is 10. It's nothing significant to me. In the case of freezing things it takes either level 7 double or shaving a bit off level 8. Even if we think in terms of using level 8 that's 16 for the fire and water magic, then things like transformation and control take another 10

or more MP. After that if you're thinking about cutting off it's head and burning the wound then wouldn't using attack spells consume less MP..I guess?

If missile is added to it then there's almost no chance of missing but it seems it's an opponent who blowing off their limbs doesn't have much meaning. Even missile since the user still has to actively guide it can't be called perfect, if you aim for the head and they use their arms to block it trying to slip through that block is nearly impossible. Furthermore when it comes to the high level huge missiles in the case that you need to make sudden or sharp movements, there's no choice but to lower the speed quite a bit and the force behind it drops.

Certainly if you abandon guiding it and shoot it a number of times it's inefficient. If you want to make it guided and guarantee hitting it in the body or head then while it depends on it's Speed at best it's {Arbalest} class. If you want more reliability then it's necessary to drop it down to the {Javelin} class. In the end that would still mean hitting it with countless shots.

In that case then freezing it which seals the opponents movements..there's no other choice than that. Umu, from here on out freezing is appropriate to be named an all-purpose weapon.

"Then, let's go. First off I'll freeze them. I'll make a portion of it easy to climb on top of so we'll quickly cut off their heads and use {Flame Thrower} to burn the cut. After erasing the ice we'll thoroughly burn the corpses as well."

After confirming everyone nodded, we started towards the troll room once again.

.....

It seems there was no problem at all.

I guess that means, even if it's got a special skill like

【Super.Regeneration Type III】, there's no living creature that can survive having it's head cut off.

The moment the flames from the {Flame Thrower} hit the wound where we cut off their heads, an ear piercing scream was let out as they died, and we were able to finish off the Trolls.

【Troll Race's Head】

【Troll Race】

【Condition: Damaged】

【Manufacture Date: 27/12/7445】

【Value: 22】

【Durability: 72】

【The decapitated head of the Troll Race.】

【The wound was burnt after being detached so the tissue has died.】

Since the huge head was rolling around on top of the ice with an unpleasant~ look after Identifying for some reason it pissed me off so I was going to kick it away from the ice..but it looked heavy and I didn't want to hurt my ankle. While ignoring the head I got ready to use {Anti-Magic Field} to erase the ice and told everyone to get off the ice.

By the time we returned to the troll room, the stomach of the Giant Mantis was already eaten and the upper body of it was still dragging itself along as it tried to leave the room. I don't know why but for some reason it didn't show any interest in us so we we moved to the edge of the passage and a short while after seeing it pass by us, Bel shot it with {Flame Javelin} and completely killed

it.

During that the Trolls were, I don't know if it's after meal

exercise, but they were wandering around the room.

Before they noticed us I froze them and we quickly cut off their heads.

I used 18 MP(enough to erase 15 MP worth of spell) to make an {Anti-Magic Field} and then shaped it to cover the entire surface of the ice below my right foot. Then I pushed that towards the ice. When it comes erasing it all at once this method is the easiest. Though it takes the shape of just I the caster jumping down from a height of over 2 meters but if it's me then that level of height is no problem if I prepare myself before hand.

After the ice had disappeared Zulu and Angela took out some large knives and approached to start gathering the magic stones from the troll's corpses.

""Watch out!!""

I don't know if it's because they were packed in ice they had numbed with the cold but while their movements were extremely dull, the Troll's corpses without heads started moving! At the same time as several shouts were let out Miduchi, Bel, Ralpa, and Gwine all used flame type spells to hit the corpses of the trolls.

I hit it with {Flame Arbalest Missile} as well. Ah, I guess it didn't need the missile like this.

But what in the world..when I used Identify on it just now it clearly had the details of a non-living creature! Putting aside the giant crickets which originally had low HP, it's not as if some of the large insect monsters like the mantis or centipedes don't continue moving for a short while after losing their heads but

that's all limited to just the bugs. The first time we saw it since it just wasn't seeming to die I think Ralph tried confirming it with {Detect.Life} was it. She said, "There's no reaction so it should be dead!" and things almost went into a panic. I was surprised as well. It was a strange situation where even though Identify said 【Condition: Death】, it still had MP remaining. Zenom calmly said, "It's probably something like an undead right" and cut it into pieces down to the body killing it. A short while after that we found out that they were against fire so we started setting them on fire and excluding a few had Basutoral, Zulu, and Angela take them on. In exchange for not being able to aim for their vitals and finish them off in one hit, they don't stop moving until you completely drive their HP into the minus so I thought they would be a good training opponent.

A short while after that I don't really know why but it was identified that the spell {Detect.Life} doesn't work at all against insect type monsters. Since the 8th floor(9th floor?) is mostly made up of insects before we noticed we had stopped using it. Regardless in my case I can see further with Identify.

Just in case I tried using {Detect.Life} again now but obviously neither the head nor the body of the trolls were detected by it.

After it finally stopped moving, I used Identify to check that the details had become that of an object then checked it's status in a way while showing it off to everyone else who was on guard to calm them down, then once again ordered Zulu and Angela to gather the magic stones.

The Identify value on the magic stones from them was roughly 150,000. I guess that means if we sell them they'll be around 1,000,000. When it comes to the counter sale price I guess that's over 1,300,000 huh...I wonder about that? If it's just this level of difference then I think the purchase will be fine though. In any case, let's proceed ahead. There's another cave further into the room.

.....

Since then we cleared through seven rooms with trolls including the first room. It was a single route forward. The rooms slowly increased in size and as we advanced forward the number of trolls increased by one each. We were also able to confirm that after freezing them and cutting the head off if we burn both of the cuts with fire magic we can weaken them quite a bit. Around the fifth room I intentionally left just one troll alive so we could try fighting it head on.

Since it had been frozen, it's movements were considerably dull and we were able to defeat it by just cutting it normally with swords. If you burn the wounds before it regenerates then it dies just like that.

When we went to enter the eighth room and the route from the teleport crystal stretching up from the seventh room was the same cave-like passages up until now but just the room ahead of that was different. The width of it was around 80 meters and inside of that room with a depth probably double that there was the same kind of altar you can see on the 5th and 6th floors.

The difference was that there were no gargoyle statues and the

construction of the altar was considerably extravagant.
And then, no matter how long we waited the boss of the room that
should have been summoned wouldn't appear, not just that but when
we tried approaching the altar it's something we noticed but the
door of the shrine on top of the altar was a bit open from the
start.

Additionally this room seemed to be a dead end.
"Even though it's been a while and since it's an extravagant
version I had my hopes up.."

Ralpa whispered while keeping her guard up.
Really though. I had my hopes super high for it as well.
"..Nothing is coming out.."

Zenom said while on guard with his tomahawk.
"..Could it be..No.."

Toris was about to say something.
"What is it? Is there something you noticed?"

When I tried asking Toris and he covered it up with the words,
"Hmn, it might just be me overthinking it."

""Ah!""

Miduchi, Bel, and Gwine all raised their voices at once. Everyone
jumped a bit startled and checked the surroundings but there was
nothing different.

"I'm sorry. But, isn't this, one where what was inside of it has
already been taken out?"

Miduchi acted as the representative of the three apologizing for
startling everyone as she said.

"..I see now..And, what's your basis? I think in all of the altars
we've seen up until now there weren't any with the door open from
the start. After several days or so the door would shut again and
then the boss is summoned, then if you defeat that the door opens

wasn't that how it works? Though they're empty pretty often." Though I say that, I think Miduchi's theory is correct as well. I

mean, the only one's who have to the 8th floor is just us after all. If it was after another party had come and taken it then it's not as if it wouldn't make sense within a few days of that but right now that's unlikely.

Then, in that case, wouldn't it mean that whatever was here was carried out around 500 years ago? and it's only obvious to think that. I think it's possible this is where the treasure that George Rombert the First is said to have obtained in the dungeon was enshrined. Not something like a magic tool or gold ore but maybe something with far more value? Though since whatever that may have been was never conveyed, we have no way of knowing.

A magic sword with something, or other name or an enormous raw gem with an earth-shattering value that when split was capable of producing over 1,000 gem, or a powerful magic item and it's still used by the King deep in the castle now, there's a lot of different things said but no one knows for sure. If you were to ask me I have some ideas on what it may or may not be but it's not particularly like I have any foundation for it nor do I have any confidence in it. It's limited to just what I can imagine and even in the off chance that my prediction is correct, after all I'm sure it would still be surprising.

In any case, it's been over 30 minutes since we arrived in this room but not a single thing different has happened.

What we obtained from the dungeon this time was some considerably valuable magic stones and other than that we established the fact

that there were altars beyond the 8th floor as well. Additionally there's the fact that the 8th floor was a gathering of smaller areas and in order to make it into a map, there will be a lot of areas overlapping, so it's very possible we're going back and forth between the 9th floor as well.

In regards to that there's probably no other method than exploring the 8th floor a bit more and then after properly confirming it's safe, trying to check using Miduchi's {Party-ization}.
I guess we'll return with this much for this time.

.....

After returning to the surface and entering Boil Manor there was a message waiting. The details were that the first knight group was going to be performing a parade for the New Year in the capital, so it was an invitation(order) from sister for Miduchi and I to come and watch.

It looks like we won't be able to go to teacher Mila's place this time...

I wonder if it would be best to bring along extra dried fish next time as an apology?

Chapter 222: Parade

Year 7445, Month 12, Day 28

Last night, the number of magic stones we sold was 35 each of both trolls and ogres, 84 crickets, 40 huge praying mantis, 53 huge centipedes, and 11 scavenger crawlers.

In total it came out to 78,000,000 Z (78 gold coins). It was our first huge earnings in a while. Excluding the slaves I paid everyone a bonus of 1,560,000 Z, and my net income was just over 67,000,000 Z. If we could manage this every time then I'd be able to pay everyone close to 5,000,000 in bonuses every month but...This time it was a bit longer than usual, so I guess that's unreasonable huh?

Also, Ralpa and Gwine seem like they would waste all their money on things that make no sense after all..Though that's fine. I handed them 1 gold coin, 2 gold Shu, and 6 silver coins while saying "Put some into savings." It seems that everyone is borrowing a shared locker at the temple together with Zenom as the representative.

I thought Miduchi would sponge off of my locker but it seems she's using the same locker as everyone else. Everyone put their gold coins into a small bag with their name on it and left it to him. I told her, "I don't particularly mind if you use mine as well you know." but she said that she's participating in order to help reduce the monthly management fee of 300,000 Z so that made sense. It seems just Toris and Zenom are paying a bit more.

I went straight to the temple to deposit the 67 gold coins and put the bag into my locker. There's 2 bags with 1,000(1,000,000,000 Z) gold coins each, 2 bags with 500(500,000,000 Z) each, 7 small bags with 100(100,000,000 Z) each. I have about 10 times the amount I did two years ago around the same period but it's still nowhere near enough. Since the lockers are considerably big so there's enough capacity for you to fit around 20 bags with 1,000 gold coins in each.

Thinking about various things and I want at least enough gold coins to fill this locker full. If I get greedy then at least two lockers full. The spear being used by Gwine, the sword being used by Bel, and there Water making bracelet.

I don't know what kind of money we'd make if we sell them but I don't think it would be bad to hope for amounts in the hundreds of millions for the weapons.

It's been three and a half years since we came to this Baldukk, though about half of it is profits from my business but a large portion of the remainder is earnings since we reached the 7th floor and if we continue at this rate then it shouldn't even take 10 years for me to accumulate 100,000,000,000 Z or so. However, around here all at once, I want some kind of big profit. I won't say something luxurious like several hundred billions. It's fine if it's just ten billion or so...I guess that's still luxurious huh?

Well, I'll hold my hopes high for the 8th floor.

Last night after that, I joined up with my four combat slaves I had left behind and we all went to eat dinner together. During the time we were exploring the dungeon, it seems my combat slaves were

training and making sausages. After listening to their conversation and Catherine is giving her best. Today and tomorrow other than running it's almost entire days off, the day after tomorrow I intend to go to the capital together with Miduchi, Basutorial, and Catherine to look at several candidates for a factory. In any case let's get some good rest today and tomorrow. I ended up enjoying it slowly and laid back while taste testing sausages at lunchtime.

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Year 7446, Month 1, Day 1

The capital of Rombertia in front of Greed Company, Miduchi and I are standing on Bell Street together with the employees waiting for the parade of the first knight group to pass by. Since it's in the middle of winter it's considerably cold but everyone was in a reasonably warm outfit and we bought some hot stew from a stall so our preparations against the cold are perfect. Every since we replenished our stock of products the other day, our customers have been returning to the company so today on New Years it's the first day off for everyone in a while.

In order to let Anna see well I'm letting her ride my shoulders.

Hanna is riding on the husband who married into Dianne's family Luke's shoulders, and Kanna is riding on Rozral's shoulders who he's attached to on the level of becoming a grandfather. I guess Anna was copying a line Leila uses when apologizing, "I'm sorry, president."

and she said that but something like a young Cat-person girl is completely light. Also, I can easily tell from their lively voices. Hanna and Kanna were both enjoying themselves as well.

""Oh!""

"Ah!""

The officials that are leading them sing a song in a loud voice as they approach.

The voices of the officials seem to already be getting a bit hoarse and it's completely unknown what they're singing.

The cheers of the citizens lined up along the road echo through the capital.

The parade should already be just past that corner.

The children that we three have on our shoulders are in high spirits.

Hey now, it's dangerous so don't move around that much.

Right behind the officials the first company commander Viscount Gendail is riding on horseback.

Shortly behind him the platoon commanders are following but among them the first prince his highness Prince Richard Rombert the Fourth was included because he's a platoon commander of the first company as well.

And then, after that commanders is the regular knights of the first company, then even further behind that are the squires holding up the national flag and flags for the knight group draping from long handle weapons as they walk. Behind the first company is the knight commander Baron Logan and the sub-commander sub-Baron Bittowaz, as well as some knights that seem to directly serve them are continuing along as they wave to the citizens on the roadside.

Following that as the commander of the second company Viscount Balkisas and then the commander of the third company Viscount

Kendus, sister was included among the regular knights of the third company as well waving at the citizens cheering them on with a full face smile.

All of the true knights of the knight group drew their swords while still on horseback when the parade passed in front of Greed Company where we were watching from and then after lifting them as a greeting they returned them to their scabbards. It seems that in front of influential merchants they deal with they do those sorts of performances. Leila explained that they do these sorts of parades one every three years or so.

Anna, Hanna, and Kanna were all overjoyed and frolicking to the point where it seemed like they would pass out.

"However, it's quite something."

Rozural started talking to me. I understand well what you want to say.

"Yeah, really."

"That there's this many people who want to use the armor made by Bakuddo is.."

Luke said as if he was moved.

It's close to saying that all of the commanders of the first knight group are wearing the black rubber protectors, even among the regular knights the ratio of those wearing them is close to half.

Even among the squires there's a couple wearing black armor here and there so they stand out.

Sister might have wanted to show this to me.

Sister drew the long sword that I designed, lifted it into the air, and smiled cheerfully before putting it back in her scabbard as well, then continued along with the parade facing forward.

After that, with a slight space between them was the second knight group, third knight group, and fourth knight group, as all of the knight groups continued with the parade. Of course, there's also things like security and patrols so I'm sure only the first knight group has almost all of it's members participating. It seems they adjusted it so the number of people of all of the knight groups would be about the same as well.

It took over 10 minutes for the knight group parade to pass in front of Greed Company. In total there probably wasn't even 1,000 people but it's not like I actually counted them..at best maybe around 500 people?

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Year 7446, Month 1, Day 2

After Miduchi and I returned to Boil Manor from the capital last night, before dawn at 5 in the morning we gathered in a corner of the entrance plaza of the dungeon of Baldukk together with my 7 slaves including the newcomers. Today and tomorrow we're going to clear through the 6th floor and then from the day after tomorrow, January 4th we'll spend almost entire day training these guys against ogres on the 7th floor. If you were to ask it's pretty tiresome but there's not many opponents so convenient for earning experience quickly as ogres. Also, I wanted them to feel the sensation and speed in clearing through to the 6th floor in two days with their bodies.

"With this I think there will be no problem for three days. Just in case I included a bit of extra but..Master, after all I as well.."

Giberuti said while handing enough food for 6 people to last over 3 days to each person to put into their bags.

"Yeah, it's fine. I just want them to know what our manner of doing things is like. There's no need for you to act as {porter} for it."

"However, master.."

Hearing my reply Zulu said anxiously. Come to think of it Zulu was the only one against us going to the 7th floor with these 6 to the end. He was loudly nagging that I should at least let him or Angela accompany us.

"Zulu, I'm grateful that you're worrying about us but you should have a bit more faith in this person and myself. Or else are you worried because I'm the one accompanying them?"

Miduchi said while poking Zulu's high up chest.

"No!! Madam! Of course that's not the case! I'm very sorry for saying something beyond my duties. Please forgive me."

It seems Zulu realized he was saying something too forward and lowered his head while embarrassed and apologetic.

"Sorry-Sorry. That was a slightly mean way of putting it. But, even Henry (Henry.Okonneru) and Mekku(Meisun.Garuhahu) were true knights of Devas right? Their skill is guaranteed right?"

It seems Miduchi doesn't mind it and she's indirectly showing some care for the newcomers as well. Henry and Mekku were both saying something like, "Please leave it to us! Zulu-sama." In some ways it's a weird picture where true knights are lowering their heads to Zulu who was just a soldier but Zulu is my head slave after all, it's only obvious. It's good that there's a proper order going.

"I don't have feel any unease at all. Rather than that, the fact that the two of you won't be able to get any decent rest..I'm worried about your bodies.."

Angela is saying it worried about us but we were able to rest plenty the past two days. Since we have bodies in our teens that's plenty.

"It's alright Maruso. We properly got some rest so there's nothing to worry about."

"Yeah, there's no problem...That's right, Giberuti. We'll be returning on the evening of the 4th so prepare some oysters with this. I want to eat a pot."

I laughed while saying to Angela there was no need to worry and putting 1 silver coin into Giberuti's hand. In reality I want to eat raw oysters but as expected food poisoning is scary. If the type that's eaten raw in Japan was in circulation then it would be one thing but I don't have the courage to eat the oysters of Orth raw. Eh? I'm not that much of an idiot.

"The four of you, make sure you learn well the methods from master and the madam. And also, no matter what you see you're not allowed to speak about it. You're not allowed to discuss it even to just us or among yourselves. Alright!"

It seems the instructions from the head slave have ended.

But that, I was thinking of acting cool while saying it...

Also I don't particularly mind talking about it in place with just my slaves or the {Slaughterers} though...

Well then, shall we go? It's necessary for them to learn the methods of the {Slaughterers}.

"Henry, Mekku. In regards to the 1st floor for today but you two

are the {Assault Sweepers} of both flanks. Rubi(Rubano.Firenoto) and Jesu(Jesutasu.Manzokki) will protect the middle and are {Spear Interceptors}. This person and I are the {Advance Guard}."

"Well, what we're about to do after this is our normal method with the {Slaughterers}. The important points like monster rooms just Miduchi and I will take care of but we're going to be moving quickly. Don't fall behind."

After I said that we moved from a corner of the plaza to the entrance of the dungeon.

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"Alright, let's take a 15 minute break. Anyone who wants to go to the bathroom say something now while you can. No monsters will approach the surroundings of this room so you can relax. Anyone who wants to drink something bring me your flask."

The current time is around 9:30 am. Our distance through the 1st floor today was around 9 km in all, that would mean we proceeded through the dungeon at a speed of about 2 km/hour. From a general view it's a considerably fast pace. But, there's no way to be satisfied over it. If it's the current {Slaughterers} we can do about 3 km/hour. Just a bit slower than the speed you walk along the road in the middle of town.

All four of them are making slightly tired expressions but it seems they can still go on for a while. Since Miduchi and I are cutting into combat with all of the monsters we encounter along the way, they're just surrounding the ones we miss and beating them to death so I guess they aren't all that tired.

"Even though there's six people our pace isn't all that different

from usual huh..that's amazing."

Henry said.

"That's right. Master is an amazing person."

Rubi agreed.

"Mu..The {Exterminators} took a bit more time huh.."

Hearing Henry and Rubi's words Mekku said to Jesu.

"Is..that so? I thought it felt about that same.."

Jesu replied without confidence.

"We're moving a bit slow right."

"It can't be helped, since we're having Mekku use magic after

all...I intend to raise our pace a bit more on the 2nd floor

though, if things go like this then it'll take us until night to

clear through the 3rd floor. Up until then I'm sure his spell level

will increase as well..No, we'll raise it..raising it is more

correct..There's tomorrow as well..after all and as expected I

guess that's impossible huh?"

While they were talking to the side Miduchi and I were discussing

in a whisper.

In order for Mekku to earn experience with magic, we held down a

living goblin and had him use earth magic to create dirt on it's

face suffocating to death. It was a last resort since his void

magic level is low and he can't use any proper attack spells. In

the past, we forced Ralpa to do it against her will as well. If

you pour a single cup full of dirt into their mouth while adding a

direction to it then something like a goblin will easily suffocate.

Even Miduchi started saying she couldn't watch.

Normally even I know that you should spend a reasonable amount of

time aiming for level 3. It's better to spend a reasonable amount

of time becoming familiar with spells when the level is 1-2. Since

it seems the knack for controlling mana is different for each person you have to get used to your own feel for controlling it.

If your void magic level reaches 3 you can use the standard attack spells so after that you don't need help and you can just continue damaging yourself. Currently Mekku's mana amount MP is 10. If his void magic level increases then he'll have 11. Since earth magic will most likely increase as well 12 huh?

It should be fine if we have him use {Stone Javelin} once every 30 minutes and get used to using it for attacking. Though I say that, for it to be practical..it'll probably take a reasonable amount of time for him to be able to fire it within a few seconds so I think it's quite a ways ahead though. It's probably best to estimate it as taking at least half a year.

If it's up to the 5th floor or so unless a considerably powerful enemy appears the {Javelin} type attack spells have plenty of attack power to act as a trump card. If most monsters take a direct hit to a good spot from it then you can finish them off with just that. Even that {Frost Lizard} can only endure about three direct hits. Depending on how it goes even two hits could considerably weaken it. If it hits, that is.

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""Ha~!!Ha~!!Ha~!!""

The four slaves are breathing heavily as they cling on to the spears in their hands or put their hands on their knees.

The current time is 9:00 pm. We cleared through the 1st floor in about four and a half hours but the 2nd floor took five hours, and

when it came to the 3rd floor it took a whole six hours. We finished up lunch by biting into some hotdogs while moving. Our dinner for tonight has gotten a bit late but we boiled some baldoggie, cabbage, carrots, and potatoes together. It's not a stew like pot-au-feu so it's not very good but that can't be helped.

"I want to try and short the entirety by another five hours."

"I guess so..It's best to clear through the 3rd floor by 4 pm on the first day after all.."

This teleport crystal room on the 3rd floor gets packed pretty easily. There's always second-rate and half first-rate parties camping at any time and depending on the case there's sometimes top teams as well. Since we ended up arriving late today we weren't able to secure a spot along the wall. Somehow it feels like the best spots are the corners and next is along the walls. If you can arrive here at around 4 pm then while the corners might be impossible, in most cases you can find a spot along the walls.

Just because it's the New Years when it comes to adventurers there's not very many who take a break. It's normal to enter the dungeon along the schedule that was decided by the party. Since pretty much all the time they aren't in the dungeon is something like a holiday there's not many groups which adhere to the New Years break. Rather the restaurants are packed and other stores are often closed so there's quite a few groups that enter the dungeon during the New Year as well. The brats who work at the inn take breaks in order over the New Years so it's easy for them to run out

of helpers. That equals the quality of service being easier to drop as well.

By the way, just as would be expected from taking quite a bit of time Mekku's magic gained quite a bit of experience. In just today it seems he was able to do around 400 in damage with magic and in order for his void magic to increase level I guess he needs to deal around another 2,200 or so damage with magic? If he were to just slowly and steadily use useless spells it would take over one year to earn this kind of experience so you could say it was worth it.

Tomorrow is..there's only undead on the 4th and 5th floors so there's no suffocating or anything about it...He can't make enough dirt to make the boars on the 6th floor or the ogres on the 7th floor suffocate either...Well, if we can find another chance in the near future then if we just have him gain experience the same as this time he should be able to level up in a reasonably fast speed.

However, looking at their current state I feel a bit uneasy leaving them to keep lookout. It's a huge service. It should be fine for just Miduchi and I to take shifts as lookout. While telling the four of them not to worry about it as they apologized I had Miduchi rest first.

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Year 7446, Month 1, Day 3

Hmm..So their levels increased huh. Different from yesterday, since there's almost no way for suffocating them to death working, I shifted the direction of having the slaves gain experience. Certain

kill technique, freeze their lower bodies. Thanks to that Rubi and Jesu were able to increase their levels on e each and became levels 7 and 6. As expected it was impossible for even Henry and Mekku. But, in the 7th floor we'll reach tomorrow if I freeze ogres leaving just their heads out, if they kill one alone they should earn about 1,500 each. If we were up for it, it's not a dream to even have all four of them earn 10,000 experience points each in just a single day.

I'm fine with doing it but there's not much meaning to it right. If their ability levels and Endurance increase then their HP will increase and that means the room for negative HP will increase as well making it harder for them to die though. The increased ability levels won't contribute much. Rather, while their ability levels are still low it would be better to have them continue running and analyze the relationship with their increases in ability levels.

It's not particularly like I have some definite basis for it but I feel like the increase in ability levels is a bit faster when they're lower and you don't depend on level ups to increase them. In the first place even this time is originally to have them understand that the {Slaughterers} have this sort of feel and leveling up isn't the objective. We can have them accumulate experience anytime time after all. Oh~ when we return maybe I should tell John and Terry to start running every morning from here on out as well. Whether they cry or scream and even if I'm cursed at by Ralpa as being an ogre, it's not like just running will kill

someone after all. In the first place down to their last drop of blood John and Terry belong to me.

Henry is thinly cutting some pickled cucumber. Jesu has some water boiling on the stove and is cooking baldoggie in it. Rubi is cutting bread with a knife. Mekku is pulverizing some mustard leaves to make mustard. I'm barefoot and just dazing as I watch them do that with my feet in the foot bath.

Miduchi is taking her shower first.

In the afternoon we cleared through to the teleport room on the 5th floor, then when we finally arrived at the teleport room on the 6th floor with the slaves eyes going wide seeing the shower room, kitchen, and foot bath, I ordered them to prepare dinner.

"Ha~ I feel refreshed. Do you want me to add some hot water?"

After Miduchi finished taking her shower she called out to me.

"Hn? Yeah, please do."

It'll probably take a bit more time for the food to be done. They should be making some soup as well. Taking Miduchi's place I went to take a shower and dinner was finished being made. Oh my~ I wonder if I took my time too much?

Sorry for making you wait.

"He~ this is delicious."

Just for a glance, it looks like completely normal vegetable soup but the stock is done properly.

"I was taught by Larry."

Rubi made an embarrassed smile as he stretched his hand out. After handing him my empty cup I said, "Ah, I only want about half full" and had him fill it before taking it back and I also ate some bread in the form of a hotdog lookalike. The flavor of the karashi which

passes through the nose is good. It wouldn't be this good for just {Mustard}. I don't know about Miduchi and their tastes but I like karashi more than {mustard}.

It seems Jesu has tears welling in his eyes from the karashi but he properly has an appetite. Henry and Mekku are eating plenty as well. Judging from their way of eating they don't seem to have any resistance to karashi. Miduchi is claiming to be "without wasabi" and hasn't added any karashi. So it was no good huh? In exchange she has some sauerkraut finely cut up on hers. Lactobacillus is necessary right.

"Ah, listen while you eat. Tomorrow is finally the 7th floor. We'll have you fight against ogres. Starting off Miduchi and I will show you an example without magic. After that show me you can take one down with just you four. We'll properly be adjusting the number so there's no need to worry."

"It's fine for you not to get that tense. If you do it with the four of you then there's no problem. However, Henry and Mekku should focus on defense. While the two of them are enduring the attacks of the ogre I think it should be fine for Rubi and Jesu to attack."

Fu~Fu~ Miduchi said while blowing on the hot soup to cool it down.

Henry and Mekku were exchanging glances while nodding. Rubi was slowly nodding to himself and Jesu gulped as he swallowed what he had in his mouth before nodding.

After explaining the attack methods of the ogres and how to get into an effective position we decided to rest. As expected I doubt we'll be able to get through it without everyone unharmed. I told

them to relax because I'd definitely heal them even if they suffer serious injuries before leaving lookout to them and going to sleep. Well, I'm sure no one will come to the 6th floor so in the worst case even if they fall asleep while on lookout it should be fine.

Chapter 223: Strengthening

Year 7446, Month 1, Day 4

Today we plundered 10 ogre magic stones on the 7th floor so it's been a decent profit. I was able to return to the surface while feeling reasonably good and ate a pot of oysters. After all oysters are delicious right. If I just had some miso and ponzu then I'd have nothing more to say but things that I don't have can't be helped. Even boiling them together with cabbage and pork delicious things are delicious. If I could had some rice to cook it with to make oyster then it would be great though..I notice there's no meaning to continuing with things I don't have. But, it can't be helped thinking about it right.

However, after all I guess you could say, I had already predicted it ahead of time but Henry and Mekku who were acting as tanks at the front line{Vanguard} suffered quite a few injuries. My combat slaves managed to take down one ogre(of course, it was on top of us adjusting the numbers though) with their own abilities.

I had them a fight a total of three times but the first two times left pretty miserable results. The first time, at first Miduchi hit it with a throwing noddle smeared with paralysis poison. However, before the paralysis poison could take effect Mekku took a hit from a club and broke his right arm, additionally some of his ribs broke as well. Seeing Mekku defeated and send flying in a single blow, Rubi and Jesu's morale was on the verge of collapse. Miduchi was about to jump in right away but I held on to her arm to hold her

back. It's because Henry who somehow was able to endure started reprimanding and encouraging them.

Although, when that Henry was stepped on with it's right foot and had his movements sealed, he ended up taking a blow, his shoulder of the arm he was holding his weapons suffered a pulverizing break and he wasn't able to move anymore. At that point I intervened and easily parried the attacks of the ogre who the paralysis poison had started taking effect on while Rubi and Jesu continued to attack and kill it. The two front line members who were injured and fallen we took our time healing after finishing off the ogre.

The second time we used the paralysis poison as well. However, before the paralysis poison could take effect Mekku's long sword was suddenly knocked out of his hand. Well, it was fine how he didn't adhere to the weapon that fell to the ground and immediately pulled out a knife(in order to gather magic stones I've given everyone a knife), but after that was bad. Mekku tried to attack with that small knife. I can recognize his guts but obviously even if you land a hit with it there's almost no meaning. If he was used to combat against ogres to where he could aim for the tendons in it's arms or legs then it wouldn't be as big of a problem but Mekku doesn't have that sort of experience.

The opponent was a brawny giant with a height of over 2.5 meters that easily swings around a massive club. Even if he's swinging around a knife with a blade of at most 15 cm the ogre wouldn't recognize Mekku as any sort of threat. It's like an elementary schooler wielding a box cutter to try and restrain a brainless

adult swinging a metal bat around. If it was a member of the {Slaughterers} on the contrary they'd make use of it not paying attention to them and use someone else as a decoy while they cut the tendons in it's arms or legs. Even if they can't actually manage that just trying to do that would be enough to pull the ogres attention back to themselves.

Since Henry ended up essentially one on one against the ogre he tried to take an attack with all of it's strength using his shield and his posture crumbled, then took a kick to the flank during that time being sent flying 3 meters where he passed out in agony. Mekku wasn't able to pick up his own weapon and unable to decently keep it in check with the knife he wasn't used to as he was driven into full defense. Even then if he managed to make good use of his remaining shield to endure something could have been done but since he wasn't used to combat against ogres, it was just a matter of time before he couldn't endure anymore. Obviously hoping that the opponent would go off guard just by enduring is an empty dream. He wasn't able to create any openings for Rubi and Jesu to attack with the spears.

Miduchi intervened and after cutting the ogres right arm that was holding it's club off from the shoulder to earn some time, I picked up Mekku's long sword and handed it to him. As expected the ogre who had suffered serious injuries on top of having the paralysis poison circulate had it's movements dull so keeping an ogre without it's main arm in check wasn't a problem. Rubi and Jesu obstructed the ogre from trying to pick up it's club with it's remaining left

arm and that made it possible for Mekku to parry it's attacks as well.

It took Rubi and Jesu close to 20 minutes to finish off the ogre but well that's fine. During that time I had plenty of leeway to use a healing spell on Henry.

The third time, the last time just the same the two front line members ended up suffering bruises to their left hands holding the shield but I guess they were getting used to it they were able to avoid any fatal blows during the rest of the combat. There was some spectacles that made me nervous watching as well but Henry and Mekku somehow managed to endure and create an opening, then hearing Mekku and Henry's command Rubi and Jesu attacked it precisely. It took four people over 20 minutes to finish off just a single one of them, and near the end both the ogre and the two tanks were basically in a mud slinging match with how worn out they were but in the end they were able to finish off an ogre without Miduchi or I intervening.

As expected the two of them were true knights, they were skillfully able to overcome their fear and their instructions to Rubi and Jesu were good as well. Well, I don't feel like I lost out buying them I guess.

Particularly the events that happened today, the combat on the 7th floor, the four of them were made to report it to Zulu and Angela.

And then they received a harsh rejection.

It's fine to do the report but you know, if you don't eat soon we're going to eat all of the oysters.

John and Terry are still growing after all.

Since they're delicious you should eat them before they cool down.

It's a waste of magic stones for the restaurants of Orth so they can't continue heating up the pot on the stove forever.

Look, you all stop preaching for so long.

When we're eating meals let's at least eat with a good feeling.

.....

Year 7446, Month 1, Day 29

Starting tomorrow we're entering the dungeon again. So today is the

fun pay day. I paid 200,000 Z to each of the members of the

{Slaughterers} and pay the slaves their wages as well. The three

veterans got a salary raise of 10,000 Z each. Zulu gets 90,000 Z.

Angela gets 80,000 Z. Giberuti gets 50,000 Z. And then, the former

knights Henry and Mekku get 60,000 Z each, Rubi and Jesu get 40,000

Z each. John and Terry don't get a salary raise this time so 6,000

Z each.

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Year 7446, Month 2, Day 14

Today is the 18 year old birthday for us reincarnated people. This

time Toris was dispatched to the {Exterminators} and Miduchi to the

{Butchers}. It's the third day since we entered the dungeon, a day

we had planned to earn against ogres on the 7th floor but during

breakfast Bel said, "It's our birthday after all, there might

be something good." so we decided not to clear through to the 7th

floor and decided to take a look in the altar rooms on the 6th

floor. It takes around 1.5 hours round trip but if we just focus on

clearing through it only takes about 3 hours for the 7th floor. I'm

sure we won't be punished for playing around just a bit.
We beat down the 5 {Quad-handed Apes} that were summoned as well as
the 4 gargoyles and then watched as the door to the shrine on top
of the altar opened while praying.

There's something in it!

Oho!!

While everyone was cheering to the side, I quickly used 【Identify】.

{Cursed.Items} are no joke after all.

【Bracer.Of.Might】

【Black Ogre Leather】

【Condition: Normal】

【Manufacture Date: 14/2/7446】

【Value: 1】

【Durability: 9999】

【Ability: Through an increase in defensive capability to the

equipped location damage to the applicable area is reduced by 1
point. Also, Strength is increased by 2 points.】

【Effect: Equipping this increases Strength by 2 points. Also, the
proficiency level of Strength increases by 2 points as well.

Furthermore, there's no effect on HP.】

Just from a glance there doesn't seem to be any problem.

"Well then, Angela, I leave it to you."

Being ordered by me Angela took the bracer out from the
shrine.

"Status Open"

【Bracer.Of.Might】

Just from looking at it, it seems to be made of black leather and

has a feel like you wear it on your forearm. It has a width of

around 10 cm and you could almost say it's a wide bracelet. There's

nothing that seems like ornaments on it.

"Supposedly it's a Bracer.Of.Might. Also I feel mana from it."

I said while taking the bracer in my hand and looking at the status again.

"Oh~ a {Magic.Item}! Isn't that great!"

Ralpa raises her voice in delight.

"Pl..Please show it to me!"

Basutorial checked the status while excited and let out a voice like ho~ho~ in admiration but do you really get it?

"Judging from the name I guess it would increase the users power?"

Bel seemed happy as well. Correct!

"I guess it raises Strength to increase attack power?"

"Ah, I see."

Hearing my words Gwine chimed in.

"Then, in that case wouldn't it be most effective for Gwine or Saji who use the spear to have it?"

Zenom laughed while saying. Certainly that might be true.

"Then, since Gwine is already using the magic spear, Basutorial, you use it."

When I said that and Basutorial let out a surprised voice like, "Eh? Me.." That's right, you.

"Well, try putting it on. If you it makes your thrusts even sharper wouldn't it be a gain?"

Basutorial passed both of his hands through the bracers and started thrusting the spear a bit of distance away.

"Oh! Certainly! I feel like the spear has gotten a bit lighter!"

Basutorial happily raised his voice.

"Just a minute, Saji. Let me try using them as well."

It seems Ralpa is interested.

"..Somehow the sensation is just a bit.."

It seems she felt off with them. I'm sure that's the case. The tomahawk is a weapon that's different from the sword and spear where the damage doesn't largely differs depending on the angle you drive the blade in so it's difficult to handle. Well, even if the angle is a bit strange the destructive capability from it's weight can't be ignored. If you can properly drive it into the opponent at the ideal angle and speed then excluding the magic weapons it boasts even higher attack power than my bayonet. If she wants to use it Ralph is fine as well but I'm sure it would take some time to get used to it and since it's necessary for her to get out and move around actively at the front, it's better for her not to feel like something is off with her body. If you get it then be patient for now.

However..this is a good omen!

I wanted to quickly clear through the 7th floor as well but I couldn't give up on the earnings from the ogre mage room and the ogres we encountered either. It was just past noon when we arrived at the teleport crystal room on the 7th floor, around 1 pm. The increase to Basutoral's attack power wasn't something that could clearly be seen or felt but when I used Identify on the ogres he was up against, I certainly felt like the damage he was dealing increased by a bit. It's true that it's something better to have than not.

If we can make it to the altar rooms on the 8th floor with this momentum then let's go, is what we decided on. However, we can't fight with empty stomachs. We had Giberuti prepare some lunch and

properly ate or meals.

Other than the extravagant version altar we found on the 8th floor one upon a time we've discovered four normal altar rooms. It's not like they have consecutive monster rooms just before them, they're just normal monster rooms with altars and 4 gargoyles in each that we've encountered up until now. Also, thanks to Miduchi's {Party-ization} we were able to confirm that partway through the 8th floor areas the floor changes as well. When the floor changes (it's unknown whether it's the 9th floor or not so I can't say anything though) it seems the monsters that come out in the passages change a bit as well.

How do I put it, the crickets don't have the name of {Giant Cave Cricket} but rather {Giant Color Cricket}, and then the color is things like {Red} or {Green}, that sort of feel. Also, another big difference is that something like a rhinoceros beetle started to appear. Since it's shell is hard the spears can only aim for the soft stomach parts of it. It's a large 70-80 cm or so drone beetle like {Beetle}. Though since they have scythes the praying mantis are scarier. Particularly the brown colored mantis have quick movements so they're reasonably powerful enemies.

Though I say that, Trolls which we haven't frozen are overwhelmingly stronger. Up until now the monsters summoned in the monster rooms of the 8th and 9th(?) floors always include trolls. Since we've already gotten quite a bit used to them we aren't freezing them every time.

Also, it's something we found out while up against trolls on the 8th floor but if you injure the trolls to the point where they

can't move and forcefully tear their magic stone out before they can regenerate and they die without regenerating anymore. If you cut off their head and then burn the cut shut even without a head they'll still move around for a bit but even if you just leave them alone they'll die eventually. The regeneration speed of 1 HP per 5 seconds is considerably fast but if you normally accumulate damage on it and drive it's HP into the negative regions then even if it's HP regions to the normal zone it won't be able to properly move so during that time it's fine to take out their magic stone or fine to completely burn them to death with fire as well.

For about one hour we repeated teleporting into the 8th floor and managed to reach an area that leads to an altar room. If we have Gwine teleporting consecutively becomes quite a bit easier. If it's an area that's in her memory then she'll know right away after all. It's big that we can return within the 10 seconds or so that it takes for the incantation to appear when it's a destination other than our objective. We're able to reduce the time just by not having to search for the number every single time.

And then we came along to an altar room on the 8th floor. I buried the gargoyle statues up to the neck just leaving their heads out ahead of time. I blasted 1 of the 5 trolls that was summoned with an attack spell using fire magic as the base killing it instantly, then blow one more away just the same. While everyone else slowly finishes off the remaining three before I noticed it's become my job to cut off the heads of the gargoyles buried in dirt.

Now then~ the door of the shrine is opening!
It would be great if something is inside of it.

..Oh!

It seems that just as expected of today being our birthday, it's the greatest day.

That is..an axe huh!?

【Cold Axe.Of. Returning】

【Chill Iron】

【Condition: Normal】

【Manufacture Date: 14/2/7446】

【Value: 1】

【Durability: 32568】

【Ability: 60-250】

【Effect: A durable throwing axe made of Chill Iron that can also be used as a hand-axe. After throwing it, regardless of whether it hits, if the hand that threw it is stretched upwards while the user wishes for the return of the axe and opens their hand, it will always return in a way that the handle hits the palm of their hand. The user will naturally be able to understand the method of use.】

Ohho! Amazing~!

Both the lower and upper limits of it are above 50 and considerably higher than the current axes. I still don't really get the meaning in the number though. I wonder if the 【Greater Identify】 that George Rombert the First had could open all of the sub-windows related to that? I'm envious.

With a deep blue metallic axe head and a handle most likely made from the same material. The handle isn't straight but has a slight curve in two places and somehow gives off an impression that it's easy to use. The handle portion is covered in some durable looking leather that somehow gives off the feel of a high class item.

"Since it seems to be a throwing axe, I think Zenom should use this."

Ralpa occasionally throws her axe as well but Zenom is more skilled. When it comes to calculating the number of rotations of the axe for the distance and timing, the control of power used in the throwing it, Zenom should be able to make better use of it.

".."

Ralpa was making a strange face with her lower lip sticking out but it seems she doesn't have any complaints. It can't be helped right.

"If you want to use it then it's fine for you to use it?"

Zenom said with a troubled face.

"Judging from the name it seems that after you throw it, it'll return to you right? Then I think that Zenom-san who's good at throwing should use it."

Bel laughed while saying with a feel like, how unfortunate. Ralpa said, "Yeah, that's right. I know." and also "Father you use it." while looking at Zenom. I smiled while handing the axe to Zenom and saying, "Zenom should use this." Zenom made a bitter smile taking it.

"It'll come back after throwing it? I wonder how it feels?"

Zulu said with a feel of great interest. Oh~ about that. I'm interested too.

After Zenom took the axe from me it seems he checked the status but soon after changed his expression and threw the axe at the corpse of a troll laying around. The head of the axe stabbed into it to the point where it couldn't be seen anymore.

Zenom quickly lifted his right hand up and opened his palm.

Several seconds (I don't think it was even 5 seconds?) the axe

automatically pulled itself out and with a hy~unto~ sound while spinning returned back to Zenom's hand. Of course, in a way where the handle was settled in the palm of his hand. It was almost as if a video was being played in reverse, that sort of surreal image.

I somehow expected it but everyone including myself had our mouths hanging open like idiots as we watched that. Zenom looked at the axe after it returned and then threw it at the troll's corpse once again. After confirming it splendidly hit just like last time and Zenom suddenly started running.

That's right, there's few instances where you'd always be standing in one place while in combat. You're always moving around. While Zenom was running with his right hand stretched out the axe went flying towards him. The trajectory was as if it was moving in arc matching with Zenom's movement. Without even looking at the axe flying towards him he tightly grabbed the handle of it. It returned to Zenom's hand almost as if there was some kind of invisible rubber string attached between the handle of the axe and the palm of Zenom's hand.

And then he tried throwing it while rolling to the side in a difficult stance. Without missing it's aim the axe hit the Troll's corpse for a third time. It seems Zenom ran behind the altar. The axe came out of the corpse and then showed some unnatural movements as it flew over the top of the altar and we could hear the sound of grabbing the handle from the other side.

Seeing that sight all of us had our mouths stretched so far our
jaws might reach the ground with our eyes wide open.
Zenom returned in front of us as we were all making idiotic faces
and after wiping the axe off with the hand towel on his waist
said.

"This is a good axe."

That's splendid.

Chapter 224: Ticket

Year 7446, Month 2, Day 29

Last week when we left the dungeon a letter had arrived from my brother in Bakuddo. It seems the next time they'll come is near the end of next month. The confusion from dispatching last year has already calmed and it seems they're bringing another huge load again. Since he has various fine jobs he has to take care of as the lord, the one coming this time is sister-in-law Shani-san. It seems that mother can't take her hands off training Zetto and Becky with magic. Come to think of it Zetto and Becky should already be six years old? Seven years old? I want to see them.

Maybe when sister-in-law Shani-san returns I'll accompany her and return once as well. There's also the matter with Kuro and Mary. It seems they're still squires. Though I say that, they started off as Free People who didn't have any sort of combat training. Even if they're reincarnated people blessed with a high degree of growth, there's no way they'd make it as knights in just four years. Even the child of a commoner that's received combat training since they were young takes an average of four years. Doing it in less than that is impossible. Not to mention, they weren't enlisted after being properly recognized for their abilities.

Ah, putting that aside, as expected we weren't able to get our hands on any treasure in the dungeon this time. But, there is one thing that's bothering me. There's clearly some changes that can be seen in the teleport room on the 5th floor. One of the corners is

the place where we {Slaughterers} have been using since the year before last but it was prepared with a reasonable level of kitchen, foot bath, and other facilities. Of course there's a shower room as well. The corner diagonally from that was where the facilities the former {Sun.Ray} used that was left just like that. Occasionally we're cleaning it as well.

When we first absorbed {Sun.Ray} we discussed moving these facilities to the teleport room on the 7th floor but since they were all worn-out and cheap everyone was against bringing those to the front line. Above all else Giberuti said, "If it's this then I can't make anything very delicious." which decided it. We thought that eventually a reasonable number of people might stay in the 5th floor so we decided to just leave it as it is.

The change that we noticed this time was that of the remaining corners left one of those was suddenly furnished with another cheap portable stove comparable to the one {Sun.Ray} had and there was also some boxes which we have no idea what's inside of them packed together. It's probably large pots, kettles, and stuff though.

Additionally there was around 10 peoples worth of blankets and bedding. The floor was dry and we couldn't see any traces that it was being used but inside of the shower room bucket there was a single magic stone from a boss on the 2nd floor, the Owlbear. They probably intended it as payment for using it. The Identify value was about 6,000 so if we sell it that'll come out to over 40,000

Z.

The {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} huh? Otherwise maybe

{Gehenna.Flare}. At the very least some place has completely cleared the 5th floor and it's evidence that they're clearly aiming for the 6th floor as a hunting ground.

Eh? Zenom? He's super strong as usual. That magic axe can be used even if you don't throw it. It seems Ralpa borrowed it from Zenom and tried using it as well but said, "This is a waste for me to have." and accepted it.

Putting that aside, today is the first day of a three day break.

Currently we're in the middle of a rest break from doing cooperation training a bit outside of the outer crater, having tea time.

"Is it fine to talk for a bit?"

Kamu came over to where I was accompanied by Rokko.

"It's about the dungeon but I think it would be about a good time for us to go to the 2nd and 3rd floor as well though.."

Rokko said while chewing on the stem of a long piece of grass. What era delinquent are you from?

This guy, even though he's an elf and his build is completely different.

"..Why?"

From the 1st floor until the 3rd floor, excluding the room bosses fundamentally all of the monsters you encounter in the halls are the same.

As you go to the lower floors there's a tendency for the levels of monsters to vaguely get higher but from the 1st floor to the 3rd floor there's only an average of a 1 level difference. The 2nd floor is in the middle of that.

"No, I mean, putting it frankly the enemies on the 1st floor are an

easy victory right?"

Don't lie. Even the {Slaughterers} would suffer some injuries if we spent an entire day running around the 1st floor fighting consecutively. Since we have a lot of members who can use magic I wonder if there's an impression of us not getting hurt very often? Even that has it's limits and as we get tired our movements get dull. It's only obvious eventually we'll end up taking some attacks.

Call it an easy victory when you can spend almost an entire day fighting it alone without getting hurt even once. She must have noticed my displeased face, Kamu started talking try to follow up for him.

"Nn..It's a bit difficult to say. That is, we were originally called one of the top teams right."

Yeah, and?

"And you know, since around August of last year, it's been about half a year..that we've always been on the 1st floor? After all you know, isn't it a bit embarrassing?"

I see now, the so-called pride of a former top team huh? Though if you were to weigh out pride and your lives I'd pick my life. Even if it's uncool I think it's better than dying. But, I have no intention of rejecting their pride itself either. It can become a big driving force after all. Also, while there's only a handful of them in a persons life but there's times when a person needs to remain obstinate with their pride on the line as well. Although, I don't think right now is that sort of time.

"That sort of thing huh? Got it. If you can clear through the 1st floor in 4 hours then that's fine. I'll keep an eye on things in

the dungeon for a week starting tomorrow. I'll make the decision based on you all making it to the teleport room on the 1st floor a number of times. I guess departing at 8 am in the morning and returning at 5 pm in the afternoon? The condition is arriving at the teleport crystal two times every day. Ah, I'll also add the conditions for going past the 2nd floor as well. If you can reach the teleport room on the 2nd floor by 5 pm in a stable way after departing at 8 am then it's fine for you to go to the 3rd floor. The condition for going to the 4th floor is departing at 8 am in the morning and reaching the teleport room on the 3rd floor by 8 pm, if you can do that then I'll make going to the 4th floor okay as well I guess."

"4 hours huh..Alright, that'll be easy!"

"I thought you would say that. Well just watch."

"Yeah, I'm holding my hopes high. And then, from here on out just fundamentally think of the leaders we dispatch from the {Slaughterers} as an advisor for command during combat and achieving objectives. For example you can ask them a plan on what to do for reaching the 1st floor in 4 hours. If they think everyone's idea is correct then I'm sure they'll adopt it and if they don't think it is they probably won't make use of it. They'll only have the authority over things like the timing and duration for breaks and who keeps lookout then. I want everyone to start thinking about picking the course and the speed it takes for moving through the dungeon. I'll tell them to abide by your requests in regards to the course and speed as much as possible."

They should have already learned about the pace from the dispatch

leader from the {Slaughterers} as well. Wouldn't this be just right? Putting aside clearing through the 3rd floor, if it's their current abilities then I'm sure it would also be best to raise the standard and I'm sure they can at least manage going to the 3rd floor.

Then, in that case, I'll need to prepare some proper bedding and blankets for Henry and Ruby as well. Also, it's not just the {Butchers}. I'm sure the {Exterminators} will also get fired up over the rivalry as well. Even they originally had gone as far as the 4th floor.

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Year 7446, Month 3, Day 6

According to Bel who accompanied the {Butchers} and they were properly able to reach the teleport room on the 2nd floor twice every day.

"Then starting next week it's fine for you to go to the 2nd floor.

If you can precisely clear through the 2nd floor by evening then it's fine for you to go to the 3rd floor as well but prove it to me by showing you can continue it for at least one week."

I declared that to the members of the {Butchers} including Kamu and Rokko when I showed my face at their usual gathering place for dinner. They were all happy hearing that.

.....

Year 7446, Month 3, Day 15

Well I had already expected it but the {Butchers} gained the ticket to the 3rd floor as well. You might think they were fast to clear through the 2nd floor but if you can clear through the 1st floor twice every day it's not strange at all.

Rather than that hearing that the {Butchers} could go to the 2nd floor the members of the {Exterminators} were roused as well and started giving it their best challenging for the ticket to the 2nd floor. However, for the last two days they weren't able to arrive there twice by 5 pm. The day before yesterday they ended up being 30 minutes or so over and yesterday it seems they were 40 minutes over.

This time, since Miduchi was dispatched to the {Exterminators} they must have thought it was their chance since they didn't need to worry about healing spells but..it seems they decided to challenge it a bit too soon. Although, it seems like their teleport luck wasn't very good and on the last two days they ended up with routes that took 9 km and 10 km. They say luck is a part of ability as well.

However, it's a good trend. I went to the trouble of dispatching a leader from the {Slaughterers} so they wouldn't get too impatient and trip up somewhere. I wanted them to get into the habit of properly setting goals, and building up their true abilities while aiming ahead for them while they can now.

Well, if it's like this then it's just a matter of time before the {Exterminators} get their hands on the ticket to the 2nd and 3rd floors I'm sure.

.....

Year 7446, Month 3, Day 24

As expected even if they're the {Butchers}, their hands weren't able to reach the ticket for the 4th floor. According to Ralpa who was accompanying them, even then it seems like they're using their

heads and the amount of time it took them to clear through the 1st floor was 3 hours. And then they took a slightly early lunch in the teleport room on the 1st floor before immediately wanting to step foot on the 2nd floor.

It seems they understand the importance of getting proper breaks and resting but Ralph evaluated them as being in a hurry.

Putting aside the {Butchers} who are in a hurry, the fact that

Ralph is evaluating them that way means they probably want to proceed without taking much of a break at all. If I hadn't left Ralph with authority as the leader it might have been dangerous.

Also, the {Exterminators} were splendidly able to gain the ticket to the 2nd floor.

If you were to ask what the {Slaughterers} have been doing and we've filled in quite a bit of the map of the 8th floor. I guess around 50% of the entirety? However, when it comes to things across the floors and it's hard to tell. If it includes the 9th floor then it wouldn't even be 50%. In the off chance that the 10th floor is mixed in as well then it would be even less I'm sure. The room bosses are just trolls as usual. The only thing we could call a harvest is that we obtained just a single gold ore.

We still haven't found a monster room in the area we believe to be the 9th floor where the monsters in the passages change.

Starting from the 8th floor, to the 9th floor(convenience sake), returning back to the 8th floor, then if we have good luck(?) we'll find a monster room, that sort of feel. If we have bad luck(?) then it's just a matter of going back and forth between the 8th and 9th floors. Ah, also we found the teleport crystal that leads to the

9th floor as well. However, we haven't tried touching it. If you were to ask why, it's because it gives off a completely dangerous feel to it. Or at least the reason for that is because, while it's not to the extent of the 14th floor that I was forcefully teleported into in once upon the time, but based on the map it seems there's a strange and stupidly large 2 km diameter or so room in the center of the 8th floor.

The salvation is that just like the other parts of the dungeon, the floor still gives off light when moving.

Even then because it's too spacious our field of sight only goes about 50 meters or so as usual. Even when I tired looking around with Identify vision I wasn't able to find anything that seemed like a monster in the range of it but there were rocks laying around all over the place so it's not like things were clear enough for me to see even in the effective range of Identify.

The huge once were even as high as 5 meters or so. Of course, nothing got caught in the spell {Detect.Life}. either.

Miduchi commented on this situation as, "It feels like there's a {Guardian}." In other words, it seems it would be best to think that there's something like a gatekeeper guarding the teleport crystal that leads to the 9th floor. I wonder if it's something like {The.Gazer} we encountered on the 14th floor? Then, in that case it's only obvious in regards to the 14th floor, but if we think that there's one on the 13th floor as well, then that would mean they start to appear in the latter half of Baldukk dungeon. After all the 7th floor must have been the center and midway point of the dungeon.

"They were pretty common in games right. Something like a mid-boss standing in wait at the end of each floor. If you don't defeat that then you can proceed to the next floor. Though it's often the case that there's some kind of condition or a special key needed for a door, the one who usually has or manages that is the boss that protects the floor."

Everyone was nodding hearing what Miduchi was saying. Toris and Basutorial were saying something like, "I thought it was unnatural there was nothing like that up until now." Then say something about it.

However, if something like that is there then it'll be difficult.

Honestly speaking I don't ever want to encounter something like that again. What we obtained was huge but it was way too dangerous. Though I say that, it feels like if we can't do something about it then we can't get to the next floor either. It might not be bad to go with just Miduchi and I again but if it's not {The.Gazer} and a monster which is better to have a front line against we'll be in trouble.

I think it's unlikely but if something like 100 trolls were to appear if I freeze them all at once we can probably win but after that is the problem. It would take too much work to let them out of the ice on at a time and take them on with just the two of us, eventually we'd end up completely exhausted and worn out.

Well, regardless of what I'm saying it's still scary.

The ambiance of the center room of the 8th floor is really, in any case just gives off an ominous feel. It's to the point where I even start to suspect whether it might all be a trap that makes you

hesitate to enter with a small number like one or two people.
Of course something like that, it's not as if there is
something.

Putting that aside, around tomorrow or the day after that

sister-in-law Shani-san should arrive.

I wonder what I should do about returning home to visit?

It's fine to go but if it comes to that then we won't be able to go

to teacher Mila's place again and as expected it's a bit scary to

pull out even Miduchi..but I can't just keep ignoring Kuro and

Mary. If you say that I still have about one year of leeway left

then that's true but I don't think it would hurt at least seeing

their faces. Also, I want to see Zetto and Becky as well..

If I'm going then I'd like to show everyone Bakuddo as well.

However, right now is the ideal time to train the {Butchers} and

{Exterminators}.

Above all, I want to see Myun's face.

Even if I had multiple bodies it wouldn't be enough.

Chapter 225: Scarface

Year 7446, Month 3, Day 25

Sister-in-law Shani-san arrived in the afternoon. Since the still was still early they said that after a short break they would go to the company in the capital and then make deliveries and take measurements for the knight group tomorrow. Also, in regards to my returning home but the I discussed it together with the {Slaughterers} the day before yesterday and yesterday and decided on it.

Since there's also the two reincarnated people, Kuro and Mary, in the end I decided to return to Bakuddo once. There's also the matter of greeting my parents so Miduchi is coming along as well. Also, Gwine is accompanying us.

The reason is simple. It's for producing the map along the way.

Gwine is a Free Person but we'll be accompanying as well and above all else she's also an employee of Greed Company so there's no problem with moving between different territories. I already knew that when it comes to the registered employees of Greed Company which has a Type-2 First Variety license I can easily get proof of passage issued for them.

After that is one more, I'm having Angela accompany us to take care of everyday tasks.

Putting aside Miduchi and Angela, when I said I would be returning along with Gwine, it's only obvious there's someone who butt into the conversation.

"Eh~ if you're bringing Gwine along then bring me as well."

"Just a moment Ral, think about it a bit."

"Eh~ I mean, isn't it unfair for just Gwine. Bel, don't you really want to go along too?"

"Eh? Th..That is, of course I want to go a bit as well but..I've never gone out to any place other than the capital after all.."

"What are you saying you idiot. It's not like we're going to play."

We are going to play though.

"I want to go too, I want to go, I~ want~~ to go~~!"

Chi..It can't be helped.

"Hey Ralpa, listen carefully to what I say."

I put my hands on both shoulders of the idiot and made an expression that I thought seemed pretty serious while properly staring into her eyes. Stop turning red..somehow it makes my ass itch.

"You already understand that I can't bring along everyone right?"

..Yeah, that's right.

Putting aside that I'm leaving behind my slaves, right now is the ideal time to train the {Butchers} and {Exterminators}. Isn't that something you said as well?

It's necessary for someone to properly look after them. Then when it comes to that you know, think about who's staying behind. Zenom is reliable but if his most beloved person isn't beside him..for a number of months don't you think he'll started to get worried.

Toris has recently started to use his head but if it's just Bel

acting as advisor to him she's still got a ways to go. Someone needs to lend them their wisdom.

Bel is level-headed but she has a tendency to get too far ahead of herself. Toris still can't properly hold the reins on her. Don't you get that it's necessary for someone to hold things in check?

Basutoral is still a newlywed and Zulu is my head slave. There's no way for them to move.

You already get it right?

Listen well, you're the one who's been together with me for the longest. While I'm not around, out of everyone who in the world do you think it is that I can trust to leave things to the most? Are you going to make me say everything?"

"Eh...Yeah..If that's how it is then..me..I guess?

That's right isn't it. It's just as Al said.

A ha ha..I still wasn't thinking enough about it...

..Yeah. Alright! While you're not around, I'll properly keep an eye on things!"

And she's saying something like that.

I'm saved she's as easy as usual.

In the first place in regards to the {Slaughterers} I haven't left anything to you.

Everyone who heard it was looking at the lone idiot get roused up with lukewarm eyes.

Also it's only obvious but along with my returning home, exploring the 8th floor is put on hold. Everyone who remains will be looking after the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} but as long as they don't do anything unreasonable since a lot of them were originally veterans it should be fine. Rather than that, by the time I return

they might have gained the ticket to go to an even lower floor.

Zenom said, "Leave it to us, also their abilities were originally high. By the time you return we'll show you can we can pull them up to the 5th floor." while smiling.

There shouldn't be any problem with leaving the {Slaughterers} to Toris and Zenom. If it's them then even without Miduchi and I they should be fine up to the 7th floor. If they leave some leeway and only go up to the 5th floor or so while I'm not around then there shouldn't be any real problem. As long as they remain completely careful of the powerful enemies that rarely appear and avoid them then they have Gwine's map so it should be like riding a big boat.

I gave out some detailed instructions but Toris said, "Leave things to me.", just in case I also gave 50,000,000 Z in cash to Zenom. And then, each of us got on our war horses to be included in the caravan that sister-in-law Shani-san was commanding. Because of problems with their physique, Gwine was riding with me and Angela was riding with Miduchi, also in part to act as horse riding training for each of us.

Putting aside Gwine who's gone to play in the capital and made up excuses to ride my horse under the guise of horse riding training all the time, Angela said, "For a mere slave to ride a horse.." and was showing restraint but I've heard that even the fourth knight group has combat slaves that ride horses and act as commanders. Even if combat is impossible at least become able to ride it while it walks.

We quickly finished up the deliveries in the capital and I told

Rozural and the others that I would be gone for about 2.5 months returning to Bakuddo for a bit this time. I also told them that if any problems occur during that time to report it to Toris or Zenom, additionally since it's about that time I told them to start organizing their belongings.

It's almost been about two years since they came to the capital.

The next time there's deliveries another squire family should come to Rombertia to switch with them. Going off of the period it should probably be around summer. Since there's also the matter of teaching them their jobs, we should look at the change taking around 1-2 weeks in time.

There's also the amount of furniture that's increased in the capital so it's necessary for them to at least organize it so it can fit into two carts. Even when they go to return to Bakuddo I'm sure that they won't return with a completely empty load. They'll probably do business in Keel and Doritto, so they should normally be stocking up for the sake of that.

In order to thank the Saguretto Company of Doritto for coming to Bakuddo every month at a fixed time to sell us daily necessities we also bring back unusual goods(It's generally mirrors that don't reflect very well, small bottles with perfume, expensive accessories, or cloth dyed a beautiful color. Depending the case they carry magic stones for other companies as well) from the city and that's an important job. Of course it's not for a free.

.....

The journey to Bakuddo was advancing smoothly. We followed along the coast from Baldukk towards the Southwest direction about 100 km

over 3 days and arrived at a location that Gwine didn't know about. Starting from here the amount she was talking decreased and she was often looking restlessly around the surroundings. I guess a map of the areas along the road are properly being carved into her memory.

Along the way, since we didn't do anything like staying several days other than just lodging, in around two weeks we were able to make it to around the mountain road I met Zenom and Ralpa in the past. That time we were staying several days to play in a number of towns here and there along the way, so it took around three weeks from here to Baldukk. I was curious about everything I saw. I was a brat after all. Though I guess that's still the case now huh?

Just like that another week passed and we entered Viscount Penlaid's territory as we left the royal territory. We entered a random inn in Karumu the capital of the Viscount's territory and everyone ate dinner together. Since the restaurant the four of us entered was a bit packed we all ended up eating at a table a bit away from everyone from Bakuddo.

Angela was quietly eating her food without joining the conversation but since we're all brats, not to mention excluding me they're women, I guess she was being cautious someone might try to pick a fight with us as she scanned the surroundings. Even though it's fine for her not to be that highly strung..Even though she was given detailed instructions it's quite hoesnt of her. With that loyal dog on our side we were,

"Come to think of it, it wouldn't be strange for there to be a
"reincarnated person" around here right."

"That is certainly true..but, there's no way of searching for them.."

"Right~ Mary-san, was it? If their house is a business like hers and it's going well there's not much need for them to move around after all..If that sort of thing hadn't happened then even I think I would be a peddler around now."

"Hmn, that's right isn't it. Even if they were born as a serf, normally they almost never have any chances to leave their village since they're born..Kuro and Basutoral are special cases I'm sure.."

"Thinking like that and Toris-san had things quite difficult right.."

"I can recall his troubles. I heard that he walked around quite a bit."

And, we were talking about things that there wasn't even any way of entering.

In our surroundings what seemed to be merchants from a different caravan were talking about how they were attacked by a group of orks last month. It seems they were attacked on a road barely along the border between Viscount Penlaid's territory and Viscount Yoraizu's territory in the Southeast. If I remember correctly I think Marquis Webdos's territory had a really small area of border connected to it as well.

In the south of Karumu there's the Pitosu mountain range with it's highest peak of Mount Pitosu at 1,500 meters towering just before Marquis Webdos's territory. We have no choice but to take a bit of a detour around towards the direction of Viscount Yoraizu's

territory but there should still be a distance of several tens of km until the border so they shouldn't be any harm to us. Since it's not on our way I don't have much interest but in the East of Viscount Pendlaid and Viscount Yoraizu's territory is that Dirt Plains and there's a bunch of small territories. Though I say that, it doesn't have much relation the borders of Viscount Penlaid and Viscount Yoraizu's territories. It shouldn't have much relation to me in the future either I'm sure. When it comes to the Dirt Plains rather than something like orks I'm sure Devas Kingdom is scary.

Putting that aside, since it seems their caravan took a skilled ambush they suffered a decent amount of damage but they were splendidly able to repel them. As expected of a Type-3(probably) company wandering around in the remote areas. The skill of their escorts must have been good as well. However, it seems they weren't able to kill the orks that attacked them. Even though they were able to do a reasonable amount of damage, since the attacking side retreated before taking any damage they must have a considerably careful and intelligent leader. Different from Baldukk dungeon, I guess that means that the orks wandering the border of Viscount Yoraizu's territory are quite something.

It seems a bit of that conversation entered Gwine's ears as she lowered her eyes and bit her lip.

The only thing the three of us could do was offer Gwine some vodka.

We plan to depart early tomorrow morning so we decided to quickly

go to sleep.

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Year 7446, Month 4, Day 22

We finally returned back to Keel. Now that we've come this

far it's just another week in distance until Bakuddo. Sister-in-law and I both tried to stay at the nostalgic Binsu Manor but there was only one two-person room and three one-person rooms open. In regards to the one-person rooms on the top floor we left one to sister-in-law and one to the veteran squire Jimu, while on the lower floor Miduchi and I took the two-person room, and Gwine took the one-person room next to that. The remaining escort squires and Angela who there wasn't enough rooms for were able to secure a slightly cheaper inn without problem.

Following that sister-in-law and the squires stopped by Webdos

Company, they went to sell wholesale the things they stocked up on in the capital. Also, it's only obvious but we aimed our horse's heads towards the headquarters of Webdos Knight Group. Kuro and Mary should be getting along energetically. Currently, I wonder to what level they've reached with using weapons? Putting aside investiture as a knight, I wonder if they've at least set it as their goal?

There were two gatekeeper-like soldiers standing at the gate to the

knight group headquarters just like in the past. We were asked our identities but both Miduchi and I were wearing the rubber protectors from Bakuddo. Their voices were soft. I guess before I noticed the interactions for Bakuddo have changed to those with a direction relation. Come to think of it, other than the provision

to squires of Bakuddo village the only ones we've sold this armor to is the first knight group. We are selling a small amount to the second knight group as well but we shouldn't have been selling them to the Webdos Knight Group.

I stepped forward and stretched out my hand to have them confirm my status while requesting to meet Kuro and Mary. However, unfortunately right now excluding the bare minimum number of people most of the knight group has been out since two weeks so our meeting was impossible right now. It seems they've gone out to subjugate a {Horned Bear} in Buraizu Village which is about 1.5 days walk to the Northeast from Keel.

This morning, they received contact that they were safely able to defeat it so at quickest they should be back tomorrow evening or at least the evening of the day after tomorrow. It seems that two squires were killed by the {Horned Bear} but supposedly the victims weren't Kuro or Mary. I feel a bit sorry for the two who passed away but I was bit a relieved after confirming that.

If they're not around then it can't be helped so I tried asking about Kuro and Mary. Whether or not they have any plans to receive investiture as knights, and if they do around when, or if that isn't the case their evaluation, I have a lot of things I'm interested in. However, as expected the gatekeepers were keeping their mouths shut about details of the members reputation inside of the group to outsiders like us and we were able to gain any information.

No matter how I tried asking they wouldn't respond to anything other than the fact that they were safe, so, I was just about to

try yelling that my brother and his wife were members, and even that wife was the commander's daughter! borrowing the authority of relatives but since it seems shameful I stopped. It seems I'm still quite young as well.

In the first place since they saw my status they should already know I'm from the Greed household.

The fact that they weren't trying to suck up to me is proof that discipline is properly being maintained. Being devoted to your duties is a good thing and Marquis Webdos Territory with a knight group like that is a good territory. No, that's being a poor loser.

In the first place there's no benefit to them trying to earn points with me.

It can't be helped. It should be fine if we meet them on our way back from Bakuddo. I thought about showing my face in Mary's house at Binsil's restaurant but stopped. It's fine on our way back.

We returned to Binsu Manor and Miduchi handed me a knife with an expression like she had determined her resolve.

"Erase the scars on my forehead and cheek."

"Is that fine? The chances of it not healing are higher.."

The scar on Miduchi's face is one from quite a bit in the past, she suffered it when she was still a child. She said that the injury was serious and even {Cure All} couldn't completely heal it. That is~ I'm sure. If you don't use healing spells soon after you suffer injuries sometimes the scars remain. Even teacher Mila said the "scar itself has become the normal state" for the body already so even if you try gouging out the wound and using the spell

{Regenerate} there's not much hope for it to cleanly heal back over. Even if the new wound heals right away, she said the old scar will end up being regenerated together with it.

If it won't be fixed then going to the trouble of suffering such pain will just end in a loss, in the first place it's not so easy to gather the courage to gouge out your face. Certainly scars on the face are a point that's said to be unattractive and it can be thought that it's become a complex for Miduchi. I can understand her feelings of wanting to heal them.

"Yeah..But, I feel like if I don't test it out now then I'll never be able to gather my courage for the rest of my life...As expected I can't gather the courage to gouge my face out on my own so I'd like you to do it for me."

In order to not get them dirty she took off the clothes on her upper body and sat down on a chair as I looked into Miduchi's eyes.

It seems her intention is strong.

"You...But, if that's what you want then I'll do it."

Just in case I thought and gouged out my left arm. Then quickly used the spell {Regenerate}..since I haven't practiced it very much it took close to 1 minute. No, even like this I practiced it around 50 times. Along with the activation of the spell the flesh from the wound on my left arm swelled up as we watched and returned to completely clean skin. Though it's dirty with blood.

Oh~ ouch. I immediately used {Cure All} on myself consecutively for the sake of stopping the pain.

Seeing my left arm Miduchi smiled just a bit and nodded.

Miduchi folded the towel in her hand and bit down on it.

I understand.

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"It's impossible...The scar returned."

Miduchi is looking downward. I used healing spells plenty on it and

there shouldn't be any pain remaining anymore.

"Idiot, don't cry."

".."

"Father, brother, sister-in-law, and even sister have all met you

with that face right? What's there to be embarrassed about at this

point.."

"..That isn't"

"..Though I get your feelings."

"But, I still haven't met mother-in-law, and there's everyone from

the village as well.."

"No one will be bothered over it."

"I'm bothered over it.."

"I see..Sorry. That I was thoughtless.."

"Wun, it's fine. But if even you had these sorts of scars.."

"Certainly I know your face from the time when it had no

scars."

"Then.."

"But, I think your current face is even more attractive."

The next morning, when we were having breakfast with Angela who was

staying in the cheap inn, she said, "Your face is red. Have you

caught a cold?" to Gwine who was staying the room next to ours. I

guess the stimulation in the night was slightly strong for Gwine.

We're, still young after all.

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Year 7446, Month 4, Day 28

We've finally arrived at Bakuddo village.

However~ it's something I felt since around the time we passed the town of Denzulu but the roads leading to Bakuddo haven't been properly maintained. Particularly from Badeddo village to Badetto village, and then the road leading to Bakuddo village has all sorts of rugged rocks laying around, there's mud remaining here and there, the condition was considerably bad. If it's this certainly at best you could call it a remote region. Along with that our advancing speed dropped quite a bit as well. Once again I realized that the maintenance situation of the roads in the King's Direction Territory leading between the towns and villages centering around the capital Rombertia are extremely excellent.

Seeing Bakuddo village it's..truly been four years I guess? It's

the nostalgic scenery of the village.

Was this road this narrow?

Were the tobacco fields spread out over there that small?

It seems that that area has become a field for rubber

trees...

Why is there soba spread out in a place like this?

If you're going to scatter soba either way then on the other side

of the river is...

The scenery of Bakuddo village dyed madder red on the verge of

twilight wasn't particularly beautiful.

But, for some reason it hit my heart.

In terms of time it should be about when the serfs are finishing up

their jobs for today and heading home.

There's still a considerable number of people in the fields and

they're in the process of cleaning up.

"Al, is it nostalgic?"

While Angela was controlling my war horse with unfamiliar hands,

sister-in-law Shani-san said as she approached us on her war horse.

"Yeah.."

Since we approached the village from the South everyone in the fields noticed us and are waving their hands. However, after noticing again that the number of horses increased and there's more people they came running over. I never got very familiar with any of the serfs from the village but it seems they remember the little brother of the lord. I was a bit surprised when everyone started saying things like, "Al-sama! Welcome home." or "Al-sama, it's been a while. I'm glad you're healthy."

"Surprised? Everyone is grateful to you. In regards to rubber, substitute fields, thresher, and the use of horses and cattle in farm work. The taxes haven't changed since you left but the income itself changed. It's just a bit but the amount of wages we can give to the serfs has increased as well...Of course, it's not like you made all of it but everyone knows that you prepared it and left the path for us. The former master talked about all of it after all."

I see..Father...

"Well, in the past I was surprised by you as well. Even though I heard about you from Farne. But, okay? It was certainly you who helped make this place this wealthy. I think that taking a look around once while you can now would be for your sake."

Sister-in-law...

By the way, it's only obvious but in regards to Miduchi, Gwine, and Angela, it seems they're being politely ignored.

However, there were a lot of people who made surprised faces seeing

Miduchi with the rubber protectors on as well.
I guess it's because they aren't used to seeing dark elves. Miduchi
has her face raised while wearing a helmet with the same design as
mine. Yeah, that's fine.
Ah, what I can see over there is the house.
It seems that the water bucket I made in the past before leaving
the house is still being used just like that.
It hasn't changed...
And, in that case, I wonder where the four of us will be
staying?
Well, I'm sure Miduchi and I will be in the guest room
though.
Ah, come to think of it I never mentioned it.
Our village even has a bath.

Chapter 226: Bayonet

Year 7446, Month 4, Day 28

In front of the fence that surrounds the house there's a large stable and on the other side of there's plaza that also acts as the training place for the squires. Even further in on the other side of the plaza is three storehouses that have been there since before I was born. From a position where we can see the plaza on the left side of the stable is the main building of the house that hasn't changed at all. In the back of the main building there should be the small storage room that I lived in for a period connected to it. Beyond that in between the storehouses and storage room is a bit of a plaza and that acts as the training place for the squire children under 10 years old to swing their swords. How nostalgic.

"What the, if you're going to come home you should say something.

We haven't prepared anything."

Brother said that while smiling and welcoming me. It seems when he was patrolling around in the village he caught sight of us and came running back on his horse. He detoured around the gate of the house and waited for us.

"Sorry, brother. But, I wanted to return once now while I still could. There's something I want to talk to father and mother about as well."

I exchanged greetings with brother while putting my horse into the stables.

People came out of the house as well. It's father and mother. The

two of them were smiling. I left Angela to take off the harness while I approached my parents with big steps accompanied by Miduchi and Gwine.

"I've heard from everyone. You're Chizumagurol-san right?"

Mother smiled seeing Miduchi.

It was the same that time with sister-in-law Shani-san, she

shouldn't become an unpleasant mother-in-law.

"Yes. It's nice to meet you, my name is Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol.

Sorry for the rudeness of not changing."

Miduchi unfastened her helmet with her left hand and held it under

her arm as she stretched her right hand out to mother, it seems she

was able to properly talk without biting her tongue.

She's grown a bit as well I see.

"Has this child been causing any trouble for you?"

"No way! I've always been in his care. Also, the other day

Shanleid-sama and Milhaia-sama even prepared armor for me.."

"It looks good on you..{Status Open}."

Mother took Miduchi's hand and smiled while checking her

status.

I thought there wouldn't be any problems but this is a

relief.

"Who's that?"

After greeting Miduchi, mother asked while looking at Gwine.

I guess it's no longer necessary, to introduce her.

"U..Umm, M..My name is Gullinel.Akdam. I'm always in the care of

Al-san~"

..Why are you biting your tongue.

While we were exchanging harmonious greetings, an ear-splitting

high voice echoed around ruining the atmosphere.

"Becky-sama!!!"

It's the voice of a boy.

"Uwaa~n!! Big brother hit me seriously again~! I'll tell father on you!!"

"It's training so it can't be helped right!! Here stand!!"

So Zetto and Becky were in the middle of training...

"Those kids~! Sorry, I'm going for a bit. Al, sorry but look after my horse!!"

After saying that brother pushes the reins of his horse over to me and ran off between the stables and the house.

I made a bitter smile while asking my parents, "Just now was that Zetto and Becky?"

"The first voice was Al. Those kids, no matter how many times we tell them they start doing make-believe practice matches all on their own. Unlike you kids they're hopeless prankster brats. No, I guess Mill was like that as well huh?"

Father said while shrugging his shoulders. Al? Al is..Ailad huh!

Come to think of it he was the same age as Zetto and Becky. Though I say that they should still be 6 years old. Have they already started training with the sword? Ah, No, in the past, since I said great-grandfather gave advice around when Mill was 5 years old, so I guess they're still continuing that...Isn't that my fault.

"Sister was intense but I think she properly obeyed the things she was told."

Remembering my respected older sister's pitiful chest I felt just a bit bad so I defended her.

"Father-in-law, mother-in-law, I'm truly very sorry.."

Sister-in-law Shani was making an apologetic expression while

lowering her head deeply. She must be feeling responsibility. Come to think of it I remember hearing that when sister-in-law Shani was

in the knight group she was quite arrogant as well. That, isn't it sister-in-law's genes?

I can hear the breathing from the horses that were pulling the carriage. We were forgetting about the congestion of the three carriages we left near gate. We keep the carriages parked in the area between the stable and the fence. The squires were making bitter smiles. After lowering her sister-in-law starting leading the horses and carriages. Since the carriages were almost completely empty, while we were standing around right near the entrance of the gate the squires were untying the carriages from the horses. A carriage that's close to empty can be pulled with just human power.

Asking the squires that started putting the horses in the stable, Angela who finished putting away the harnesses came forward and knelt in front of my parents to greet them.

"It has been a while, great master."

Father calmly nodded as Angela turned to mother to greet her as well.

"It's nice to meet you, great madam. I'm my master Alan

Greed-sama's combat slave, Maruso. Angela. Pleased, to meet you."

"It's fine if you don't humble yourself that much in our household.

I'm Shirley. Shirley.Greed. Call me Shal."

However, Angela just said, "I understand." without changing her posture and then stood up as politely as possible before taking one step behind me while keeping her head lowered without making eye contact.

Umu, that's good, Angela. It's a greeting that shows you've

properly been disciplined. Mother is saying something like that but it's not that sort of problem. As expected of her having spent several years by my side. Mother might just be a madam that lives in a remote region now but in the past she was in a position where she was the grandchild of Duke Sandak in the capital. She should be used to seeing slaves that were properly disciplined. Father is nodding to himself as well.

"..Nn? I guess it's just a bit big huh...Well, I guess that's just right for now.."

Father whispered while looking at me.

Excluding the fact that the new model of rubber protectors that sister-in-law Shani brought were just a bit big, they fit perfectly on my body. Just in case I also brought along my old suit as well. Since my old protectors were a just right match to the physique of Jesu (Jesutasu.Manzokki), I took his sizes intending to request some small adjustments.

"That's right! Thanks, father. This armor, I really like it."

I forgot to say thanks to father for treating me to the protectors I received. Even though it should have been the first thing I said.

"Nn..It looks good on you. By the way, what's going on today? Did something happen?"

"Ha ha, it's not like anything has happened but it was just stopping by for a bit when I came to fulfill a promise...Also, some boots, I thought I'd like to make some proper ones for all of my allies and slaves...That's right, it's about this though. Ah, Yeah, I'll convey the improvements for them and I'm sure it'll take a

reasonable amount of labor but I think they could be sold for a high price as a new type of military boots. A shoe maker, you hired one right...Also, I saw Kerry's wife's armor last year but I thought that model might be good for adventurers as well. I thought if I used this Angela, since she's a Dog-person, she might be just right for making adjustments to the model."

..I can't trick them with this sort of excuse.

"..Right now, we're stepping foot on the 8th floor on the dungeon in Baldukk...And, we've got good prospects for making it to the 9th floor. However, whether or not we can make it, whether we can surpass his majesty George Rombert the First or not, I don't know. It feels like it's just~ a bit dangerous as well. I intend to take responsibility and protect my allies and slaves with all of my power. I won't let even a single person die. Of course, I have no intention of dying even more so. But..But, I just wanted to see everyone's faces once more now when I could."

Mother's hand twitched as if she was going to embrace me. But, she pulled it back right away.

Thank you, mother.

While we're staying in Bakuddo, Miduchi and I were staying in the guest room, while Gwine and Angela were lodging in the house of the Ryogu family. If I think about it for a bit the maid in our house Sonia, she's living in the Ryogu family house with her grandfather, and the other members of the family Rozural, Wendy, Dianne, and Luke are all in the capital so there's rooms leftover.

We changed in the guest room and when we sat down at the table for dinner Zetto and Becky were making strange faces seeing two unknown

adults like Miduchi and I. They were two and a half years old when I left the house. It's not unreasonable that they don't remember me.

It was when brother introduced us saying, "Here, you two, greet them properly. It's Alan. My little brother and your uncle. And also this is Miduchi-san." Putting aside their uncle who suddenly appeared, they must have been creeped out by the woman with light purple skin and white hair.

The two of them were sitting on both sides of sister-in-law Shani but when they saw us enter the dining room, their eyes went wide as their attention was focused on not me but Miduchi. It can't be helped though.

"Hel..Good evening. I'm Zerulotto."

"Rebekkana..Hey~ why are you that strange color?"

This brat~! Don't say things like that to my woman, she'll get depressed!

Faster than I could reflexively glare at Becky sister-in-law who was in between the two kids slapped Becky. As expected of a Webdos Knight. That was beyond just having fast hands.

"Hey!! What kind of things are you saying this child!! Apologize to Miduchi-san!!"

"Buggyaaa~!! I..I'm schhai~ii~! I'mmsshowwry! U~uu...hikku"

"No..No way! It's fine! I don't mind it! It can't be helped..I'm sure you were surprised right? I'm sorry for surprising you, Rebekkana-chan."

Miduchi was the one who got a lot more flustered and she quickly ran over to Becky to wipe her tears as with a handkerchief as she cried in a loud voice. Father, mother, and brother all apologized

to Miduchi as well. Even Sonia who prepared the food and was bringing it ended up doing her job with an apologetic face. Zetto was peeking out from behind sister-in-law Shani's back to get a better look as it was his first time seeing a dark elf. I couldn't do anything but make a bitter smile on my own but honestly speaking, I felt a bit sorry as well. After the uproar calmed down, we properly exchanged greetings and everyone sat down at the table. After all it seems that Zetto and Becky were curious about the dark elf as they were glancing at Miduch occasionally. Every time Miduchi noticed she would smile. Sorry about that. At the very least I'm sure it wasn't a good feeling.

While having dinner(obviously it wasn't anything luxurious but it seems the menu was improved quite a bit) we talked about various things. About sister, our adventures in the dungeon, and then baldoggie. It seems that the baldoggie father ate when he came last year was conveyed with quite a bit of exaggeration added to it. This time, we had sister-in-law eat it as well but she made just a slightly complicated face, even then she said it was good but I still felt something was a bit strange, so that's what it was.

It seems Zetto and Becky got used to Miduchi while we were having dinner and they started badgering her for stories about the dungeon and Baldukk. By the time we realized it the time had passed 6 pm. It seems that today is the day for women to enter the bath so sister-in-law Shani told the kids(In Bakuddo up until they formally started training with the sword or farm work at 7 years old, both

boys and girls are put into the baths every day) to go and get ready to enter the baths and invited mother and Miduchi as well. Miduchi was looking forward to the baths as well so obviously there's no way she'd turn it down. Becky seemed to want to go to the baths while holding Miduchi's hand so Miduchi happily held her hand as they left.

Probably Gwine and Angela should be going to the baths about now as well. There's no way Gwine would miss her chance at the baths and I already told them that in Bakuddo even slaves enter the baths so Angela shouldn't hold back either.

After father, brother, and I took showers in order, we were drinking some alcohol.

"Are Zetto and Becky properly using magic?"

Close 1.5 years has passed since the two of them started magic training. Zetto's MP is 318 and Becky's MP is 330 with just a small difference but judging from the fact that they have a considerable amount I can already tell they're training properly. It seems Zetto can use earth and water while Becky can use fire, water, and wind. Their skill levels have already reached 3.

"Yeah, they're doing well. They have a high amount of mana after all. Their growth is fast as well."

Brother said that while nodding.

"It's good that the two of them seem to be blessed with talent.

We're properly having them train with the sword as well. If it's possible then we'd like for both of them enter the first knight group."

Father said that in a good mood while tilting his alcohol cup filled with premium vodka I bought in the capital.

If they're being worked hard by brother and sister-in-law then won't they be fine? If their skill with magic is good then just like sister they might pass from just that though.

"Father, stop with that. It's because you're always spoiling them like that they even tried to do a make-believe practice match today. It's still too soon for them."

"Farne, I've said it countless times but I already know that when Mill was around that age she was doing make-believe practice matches against you. Even if they end up getting hurt a bit that's good training for healing magic as well."

Eh..That's how it was!? I didn't know..I was only allowed to start training with the practice matches after I turned 10 years old you know...Even though I was only allowed to do swinging and practicing forms up until then...I still clearly remember the first time I was permitted to have a practice match. I'll never forget that shitty sister's face as if she was enjoying bullying the weak. Who knows how many times my ribs and arms were broken...

"Do you want me to heal you? Hey~ do you want me to heal you? I can't tell from that expression. Properly say please as you ask~"

Ah, shit. It pisses me off a bit remembering it. Back then if I suffered a heavy injury like broken bones I couldn't use magic. If it was a light injury like bruising then it was fine though. Back then, I even started to think sister was a demon. Even then seeing sister have practice matches against father and the adult squires, I knew she was going easy on me though.

After that when brother and sister-in-law returned from the knight

group and she started being worked to the bone by them I remember grinning as I watched that thinking it served her right. I said the same lines myself.

"Do you think you can enter the first knight group crying just because it hurts? These sorts of times, what do they say again? Plea~gue"Stop being an idiot and hurry up and heal me. It's a waste of time."

I was hit by brother right away though. I thought it was pretty unfair.

By the way, when Miduchi returned from the baths she was quite excited as she talked about them. After it seems she was together with Gwine and Angela in the baths and they were excited over them as well. But, as expected it seems it was packed with people so they couldn't slowly take their time soaking and intend to enter once more later.

However, I was a bit surprised hearing more details. It seems there's still only one bath for pouring the water but they increased the number of baths by one and they're lined up by each other. It seems that's become the washing place for your body. At the same time it's supposedly reached the size where 40 people can take a bath at once.

If you cut off the bathing time at around 15 minutes then in 1.5 hours it should plenty for half of the citizens of Bakuddo to take baths. Although, around half of the people enter in order starting from noon so it seems they're able to take a bit longer in bathing time. Since it's the first bath in a while both Miduchi and Gwine wanted to soak until they were satisfied.

Since Bakuddo is made up of entirely farmers even at least during this season most people go to sleep by 7:30 pm. There's almost no one who stays up past 8 pm so I told them to take their time soaking. I think the pouring bath water should still be plenty warm and if it comes to it Miduchi can make plenty of hot water as well.

.....

Year 7446, Month 4, Day 29

The next morning, when we woke up Sonia had already started work and breakfast was prepared. After finishing breakfast when I was going to go running with Miduchi and Gwine we were stopped. It seems brother is going as well so he told us to wait until he's ready. So he was still continuing with it huh? But, it seems that brother still can't use magic while running. It's something that took even me four years during my childhood to acquire. If it's brother who has far less mana than I do then even in the same four years I'm sure it's impossible.

Rather, if he was able to do that much in four years as well as expected I'd get depressed.

After Gwine and Angela finished breakfast it seems they came to the gate of the house right away and were waiting.

"A..Al-san, good morning."

"Good morning, master."

"Yeah, morning."

"That, bath! Ha~ I'm glad to be alive!"

"I was surprised as well. Since Gwine talked about how wonderful it was I was wondering what it would be like but..it felt a lot better than I thought."

The two of them were excited and talking on from the early morning

just like Miduchi last night.

"Right! It felt really~ good.."

Again you too. I heard plenty of that, last night. Brother is

laughing as well.

"That's right isn't it, I remembered that it's been countless years

since I've entered a bath that pretty right!!"

"All of the fatigue up until now disappeared and it was heaven. So

that's a bath huh..It's a waste for someone like me."

"Al, Akdam-san is a Free Person right? Has she entered a bath

before?"

"Yeah, there's a public bath in the capital as well. Though the

bathtub is smaller than the one we have and it has dirt floating in

it. Unless you're the first one to enter it that day, it's dirty so

it seems no one wants to soak in the bath."

I've gone to the bathhouse in the capital as well but after seeing

people, who no matter how you look at it haven't entered the bath

in several weeks enter without washing their bodies, I swore never

to go again. There's no special bath service for any of the

brothels either.

Including brother the five of us started running the footpaths

between the fields. It seems the serfs have started heading towards

the fields. Different from usual since I don't have my protectors

on and I'm not carrying any weight it was nothing more than light

exercise for me.

After returning from running Zetto and Becky were sleeping after

exhausting their MP.

They'll probably wake up around lunch. We'll take showers in

order..and when I was thinking that I was invited to the baths by brother.

Yesterday was the day for women but today is the day for men. There was an exclusive person in charge of managing the baths and it seems that it's setup so you can enter the bath from the early morning. That's amazing~ or at least just as I was thinking that it was my job to make the hot water. It seems that since I'm here they told the person in charge yesterday to open the baths starting this morning. Brother and I took our time soaking in the bath and I was able to enjoy it for the first time in a while. In the rubber work shed nearby everyone centering around the Donneoru family had already started their work. The work shed was renovated and had become about double the size. It's already no longer a shed. It's a factory.

"Then, I'm going out to do patrols. If there's something you want to request for the boots or armor just say something. Everyone has already gotten considerably skilled after all. I think they'll probably be able to move just as you please."

I joined back up with Miduchi and the others and showed my face in the rubber work shed. With Rassegu and his wife Mili as the heads there was about 20 people working. Taylor is still the center of the work as usual. Enbert and Myun are here as well.

"Al-sama! Oh my! Oh my! You've gotten so big!"

Myun noticed me right away and ran over.

I can see the top of Myun's head as she embraced me and kissed both of my cheeks.

"Tonight, as the usual place."

I whispered that to Myun in a quiet voice no one else could hear

then embraced her and said "Myun! It's been a while."

"At the northern outskirts."

Myun replied to me in a whisper as well. Well, I guess we can take our time talking more on the outskirts of the village.

Soon after all the other artisans came over and surrounded me. It seems they've heard my reputation from brother and the other squires who came along as escorts and they all seemed to want to hear my stories. I'll tell some stories slowly later, it's difficult being a popular person.

I was finally released, so I asked for them to make a protector like the ones the Dokush family use in Angela's size. In regards to the boots it seems a shoe maker named Baru is making them so I'll have to go to him but since I've already passed it through brother there shouldn't be a problem.

Miduchi, Gwine, and Angela seemed interested in the manufacturing of rubber they were seeing for the first time but they were shocked by the smell of latex and sulfur which was incomparable to that of the workshop in the capital. However, they showed admiration over the fact that only all of the workers were making use of magic in their work. Among the people in the village who can use magic about half of them are gathered here. They were watching the process of stirring it in the buckets, then mixing in charcoal carbon powder which has had it's particles sorted with magic, as well as the adding of sulfur, heating, those sorts of processes.

"Al-san, how much is rubber armor?"

Gwine finally asked it.

"The employee price is 20,000,000 Z."

The employee discount is 33% less. Around that much should be good.

Though my profits are zero.
Rather it's basically the direct sale price so there's no need for
it to pass through me. It should be fine if I pay the bill in
advance to brother later.
"Is it fine on deferred payment?"
"Of course it is."
"Then, I'd like one suit as well."
"Do you want the general purpose model like the knight group,
Miduchi, and I? Or else would you prefer the new model like what
I'm having made for Angela?"
"Since monsters are the opponents, I guess the new model would be
best?"

Yes~ thank you for your business. Move around to have your
measurements taken together with Angela. During that time I took
foot molds for everyone to shoe maker Baru's place and discussed
the knit combat shoes with him.

After that in the afternoon we slowly killed time playing with
Zetto, Becky, and Ailado.

Since he's the same age and the heir to the Tobas family, it seems
Ailado was allowed to participate in the sword training from early
on as well. It's only obvious but his MP was 2. Come to think of
it, I gave Ailado a bayonet didn't I. It's the one with the rivet
on the sword where you can take off the tip. I wonder why he isn't
using it?

I wanted to know but couldn't ask. It could be she still hasn't
given it to him. However, if he's going to use it in the future
then I want to at least show him the forms. There's probably no one
around who can properly teach him after all.

The bayonet is used in both the American and Russian armies but I've heard that now they fundamentally don't use the thrusting model. Even the length of the bayonet's blade seems to only be at the level of a knife. Or, rather, it might more correct to say they have fixtures which let them attach a knife to the bayonet. In the self-defense force of the Japanese army that originally had cultural roots with blades, putting aside the base of the bayonets made postwar, there were techniques for slashing, thrusting, and parrying as well. Of course, there's also the methods of attacking with the gun stock and magazine but it's still considered a gun "sword".

I used my bayonet which I brought along to show the forms. It seems it's the first time Zetto and Becky have seen the bayonet and they were looking at it curiously but Aildao was different. After all, it seems at the very least he's seen it before. He was closely watching my movements.

However, it's considerably difficult to call "Al". So we don't end up overlapping rather than calling him by the abbreviated version give him a nickname..Like Avu or Akkusu. Isn't that how it is in most cases.

.....

Late that night, after waking Miduchi up the two of us quietly snuck out of the house. I pretended to be going to the toilet and intentionally called out to Miduchi while leaving saying, "I'm going to get some air." Miduchi made use of her stealth skills to sneak out from the window without making a sound. Miduchi was even holding both of our weapons and shoes. As expected she couldn't

hold our protectors but there's no problem.
Just like that we put on our shoes and started towards the northern
outskirts of town.
There's the things I wanted to talk about with Myun and that I
wanted to introduce Miduchi to her as well but in the first place
one of our objectives for sneaking out of the house is to go and
hunt the monster called Shurika. The body of the Shurika is one of
the necessary ingredients to make the medicine for Godu~guru-san.
I've hunted them together with Myun when I was still small.
We steadily passed through the rubber fields in the north and
arrived close to the outskirts of the village.
It seems that Myun still hasn't arrived.
Just like that we waited for about 30 minutes.
Myun has come.
For some reason Ailado is together with her.
Even though he's still small he had the large bayonet with
him.
Come to think of it, Ailado didn't inherit {Disguise} from
Myun.
It's a special skill that's unnecessary for him.
If he had inherited it I'm sure there would have been an uproar
when he was born.
Back then, I think Myun lightly said, "I thought it would probably
be fine." was it.
It seems that it's almost always inherited from the males of the
Sagal family.
However, for her to bring along Ailado...
I wonder if her husband Bosshu knows?
Since Myun's capable of moving stealthy like Miduchi I wonder if
they were fine?

Chapter 227: ZONE

Year 7446, Month 4, Day 29

"Did we make you wait?"

Myun said a bit apologetically.

"No, since we didn't specify a time. We were the ones who came early just in case so don't worry about it."

I use the spell {Light} on the rock I had in my hand lighting up the area before taking another look at Myun.

It seems because of her age her physique has rounded out a bit but her charming features are the same as in the past, she was looking at me with a gentle expression.

"Myun, I'll introduce you once again. This is Miduchi.

Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol. She's my woman. Miduchi, she's Myun.

Myunelin.Tobas. My benefactor. I was taught various things..Oh that's right, she's the one who taught me how to use the throwing needles."

"Once again it's nice to meet you. I'm Myunelin.Tobas. I worked as a maid at their mansion when Al-sama was little. Al-sama is my benefactor. Please take good care of Al-sama. Please support him."

"Stop that, Myun. If you're going to say that then the number of times I've been saved is far greater."

Myun just smiled.

"It's nice to meet you again too. I'm Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol.

Please call me Miduchi. And also, I've heard quite a bit about you. This person..that is, thank you very much for taking good care of him."

After Miduchi offered greetings to Myun, she crouched down while smiling matching her eye level to Ailado's who was hiding behind Myun holding on to the end of her skirt. Though there is some light, being smiled at by a dark elf in the middle of the night is..I wonder about that? Ailado seems to be a bit afraid of Miduchi. This kid as well huh..Though it can't be helped, I'm sure Miduchi feels pretty depressed.

Miduchi's eyebrows raised to a frown as she got a bit depressed.

There's several elves in Bakuddo. However, it's only obvious but there's not a single dark elf. Most likely there's not even any in Marquis Webdos's territory either. Let alone, Miduchi's skin color isn't even similar to the average dark elf which is close to black.

Just as expected of an elf the features of her face itself are in the category of a beauty but her hair is dyed white, her light purple skin, her face which has a large scar across it that stands out, about the only place on her that seems to have blood flowing to it is her pink lips. I'm sure she's scary to children.

"Come now..Al! I'm very sorry. I'll harshly scold him later, so please forgive him."

Seeing that state Myun apologized to Miduchi and I with an amazing momentum. I predicted things would become like this the moment I saw Ailado here..it can't be helped. However, there wasn't anything when we met him this afternoon right...Particularly because I know Miduchi was a bit happy after that~

"Please don't worry about it. It's something that can't be helped."

Miduchi stood up and took a step back while saying with a slightly

discouraged face. She's probably trying to hide behind me.

"..I'm sorry."

Myun apologized with a voice as quiet as a mosquito. Ailado has only just turned 6 years old. I think it really can't be helped.

"By the way, why Al?"

In order to change the topic and I tried asking the reason why she brought Ailado.

"Umm, this afternoon, it seems you showed this child how to use the short spear and...I'm truly very sorry. Since it was only vaguely remaining my memories, I could only teach him simple things to is so..Thank you very much...Here"

"I'm sorry for being afraid."

Myun thanked me as she pulled Ailado out from hiding behind her and he lowered his head apologizing to Miduchi.

"It's alright, don't worry about it."

Miduchi lowered her eye level to Ailado's again and said that while brushing his head. It seems Ailado accepted Miduchi without being afraid this time. After Ailado had his head brushed by Miduchi he looked at me while opening his mouth.

"U..Umm..Alan-sama. Thank you very much!!"

That's something I did all on my own, so it's fine. It's nothing to be thanked over. I personally am quite happy that you, Ailado, were properly watching it. I look at Ailado as he lowers his head to me still holding the bayonet and after crouching like Miduchi just was I put my hand on his head before opening my mouth.

"Al. That bayonet is something I used in the past. Using that I fought against {Horned Bear} countless times. That weapon you're holding right now is the one in Bakuddo that has cut through the most {Horned Bear}. It's even stabbed all the way in to the base of

the blade. Thanks for taking good care of it. Next time I want you to use that and support Zetto and Becky."

"Yes!"

"That's a good answer."

I brushed Ailado's hair while standing up and looked at Myun.

Myun is smiling with both of her hands on Ailado's shoulders.

I can feel gratitude from her expression.

After that, we sat down on some appropriate rocks and discussed

recent events for a short while, as we spent about 30

minutes.

Midway through, as I talked about the first knight group, the

dungeon, and the monsters we've defeated there Ailado leaned

forward as if he was greatly interested in it. Miduchi talked quite

a bit as well so it seems Ailado has gotten considerably used to

her. Furthermore, it seems that since Ailado turned 5 years old in

the spring of last year Myun has secretly been teaching him the

sword periodically in the night without telling her husband Bosshu.

It seems it's not the Fogen sword style commonly taught in Rombert

Kingdom but the style Myun learned in the past. I guess it feels

kind of like the swordsmanship Miduchi uses but an amazingly~

inferior version.

However, periodically huh? I wonder if it's not every night because

of, the..{Yes/No} pillow problem?

"..Then, we're going to get some light exercise. If we're not doing

anything our skills will dull after all."

Since it seemed to be at a good point we finished up saying that.

Ailado still seemed to want to hear more stories but it's the

middle of the night, I'm sure it's about time for good children to

go to sleep. Ailado who seemed reluctant to the end was clinging on to Miduchi when we split ways. He's completely gotten used to and opened his heart to her it seems and, that's great. But, that's mine. Stop burying your face.

During that time I was whispering in Myun's ear in a small voice.

The primary objective for why I took time tonight was this.

"In regards to that one matter but, soon after that I cut off any future distress. So you can relax. There's no problem. It took some time to convey it to you..I'm sure I left you feeling worried for quite a long time right? Sorry about that."

I said that and lightly lowered my head.

"Al-sama. I wasn't worried about anything at all."

When I raised my head Myun showed me the same smile she did once upon a time.

Yeah, I said to just act like you were riding a large boat right?

.....

After we split up with Myun and Ailado, Miduchi and I started heading West from the village. There's a cave in the mountains there where Shriekers live. The Shriekers in the vicinity of Bakuddo don't get very big and if you just stick a worn out cloth into your ears as ear plugs you can hunt them without much trouble. Even if you ignore them as long as you don't get near they aren't a big problem.

Come to think of it in the past, I pestered Myun and went to hunt them countless times. Shriekers are small mushroom like monsters with lots of small legs and the thing itself doesn't have much fighting power either, if they were intent on it even a

non-reincarnated normal child could kill them I'm sure. However, when they feel the presence of the animal that is their prey in their surroundings a shrieking scream is let out from the several holes(though it's not a mouth so calling it a scream is strange) open in the back of it's head and that calls over nearby monsters.

If it was just that then it would be fine to quickly kill it, take the magic stone, and run but if you hear the scream from nearby, in the worst case you might even start to feel weak. In order to avoid that we're wearing ear plugs.

While Miduchi and I were heading towards the Shrieker's cave I started talking about stupid old stories like, "The first time I went to hunt shriekers, before that Myun ended up getting hurt to a different monster we encountered but I magnificently saved her. Not really though." or "The next time when we went I ignored Myun's warning and heard it's scream from close proximity and ended up being drained of my strength and pissing myself. It's true though."

Inside of the pitch black and eerie forest, as we we had to walk with just a {Light} on the level of a flashlight, I was trying to lighten up the mood a bit. However, Miduchi said, "It's fine if you don't try to mind me that much. I, can properly see after all.", hearing that I remembered, come to think of it Miduchi had the special skill {Infrared Vision}, and got a bit depressed.

According to Miduchi rather than the surrounding air the surface of the trees is just a bit lower temperature and she can see them without problem. Rather, I was told that while I'm nearby her the

infrared rays being emitted from me are more of a hindrance. Then, what about the infrared rays coming off yourself, and I wanted to say that but remained silent. I'm sure the infrared rays she gives off herself show up in her sight as well but she's already used to them so there's no problem.

It's only obvious but our combat abilities are considerably high.

We naturally obtained the shrieker's body that was our original objective, but we also hunted a {Manta Ray}, a ray like monster which seems to fly through the air, that came lured by the scream, as well as some hobgoblins.

The only monster that could be considered a threat around here is the {Horned Bear}. Even that as long as it doesn't catch us of guard from a close distance, I'm sure it would be no problem for Miduchi and I. In another two hours or so it should be daybreak.

Furthermore, when we returned to the house brother was using {Light} to see as he did form practice.

"Oh? The two of you this late at night..I guess it's about daybreak huh? What time is it now? Did you go out? I didn't notice at all."

And looked up at the still pitch black sky while laughing and wiping the sweat with a hand towel.

"A..Ah, we're adventurers after all. Monsters are opponents, so we didn't want to let our skills get dull."

And I laughed while covering it up and handed him the magic stones we gathered.

"Ooh!!...This many..Isn't there over 10 of them!?!..That's amazing. Is it fine?"

"Of course it is. Just think of it as the fee for lodging and accept it."

"Hahhawwa. Don't worry so much about it, use up some money company president..And I guess you already ordered some armor didn't you."

I laughed at the boring joke but I was surprised. So brother was training at this sort of time in the middle of the night?

In the day he has to do patrols and look after the training of the squires after all..I guess he can only find time late at night like this.

.....

Year 7446, Month 4, Day 30

The next morning, soon after having breakfast mother threw Zetto and Becky into the lord's office room on the second floor in order to start magic training. It seems she wanted hear various stories from Miduchi and I but I said we can talk about that sort of stuff as much as she likes afterwards and had her do the magic training.

During that time we went out to do some running and when we returned we showed sister-in-law Shani the spells {Predict.Weather} and {Detect.Life}, and brother the spell {Divination}.

Sister-in-law Shani has aptitude with all elements of magic and her mana is just a bit higher than normal. Her skill levels including void magic were all level 4 and not very high(Since they're on the level of a full-fledged magician taking her age into consideration you could say they're decently high).

In regards to brother he has more mana than Miduchi. Even at longest if he practices for a few days he should be able to sue it.

However, I told him he should make this into a trump card.

Additionally I captured a random frog and showed off the spells {Flesh.To.Stone} and {Remove.Petrification} as well.

Incidentally, leaving brother and I who took showers to the side,

Gwine and Angela came in the morning to invite Miduchi to the baths. In order to get off the sweat a shower is plenty but once you've entered a bath.

I can understand their feelings.

After we had lunch, we had training together with Miduchi, Gwine, and Angela at our training area.

Today the squires that work on manufacturing rubber products are participating as well. The commoners and slaves who don't have a role as squires continue manufacturing the rubber products...Huh? Was the training of Bakuddo's squires always this easy? In the past I had the image of it being insanely harsh but...

"It seems you're unsatisfied."

Brother made a bitter smile while talking to me.

"No, not particularly, that sort of thing is.."

"It's not just you. If I look at everyone's faces I can tell. Don't put us together with first-rate adventurers who are challenging the dungeon everyday."

Brother shrugged his shoulders and raised his voice putting some fighting spirit into the squires.

"Hey, Whitney! You're posture no good! Al is laughing! In the past, didn't you teach Al the sword!"

I'm not laughing...

Even Gwine and angela who were the weaker members of the {Slaughterers} almost always gained complete victory against the squires. Of course, in terms of technique in using the spear or

sword it self the squires are better. However, when it comes to the sharpness of thrusts and the control of body weight when switching from sweeps into attacks Gwine's tactics seem to have increased. Angela was being Angela as well, if she just goes on the defensive she's absurdly strong. Also, she's skilled at cooperating with the partner she teams up with and can skillfully break the opponents posture making it easier for that partner to attack. It's because we've always just been beating defense and cooperation into her after all.

Well it's fine.

"Brother, let's fight."

The wooden bayonet I used in the past disappeared somewhere so I can't use the bayonet.

While holding a wooden sword on guard I called out to brother.

.....

After all brother was strong. Recently, even when in practice matches I rarely take any attacks. Very rarely it's at the level of being hit by Zenom's axe and even that's when there's more opponents and when the setting is that I'm alone protecting the rear. Even though that's the case, in this short period of time brother's wooden sword directly hit me. Even though it was one on one...Of course, almost all of mine, the attacks I made in which I was trying to hit landed but brother's level is only 11.

Furthermore, judging from the experience points he should have only just hit level 11 this year. Even though I have over 3 times his

Speed and even Dexterity is 2.5 times higher...

When I was easily able to parry his trump card double thrust blow,

I was convinced that my skill had already exceeded brother but he passed through my side and I took a hit from my flank to my back and choked up on breathing for an instant. It seems the protectors protected my kidney so it wasn't seriously damages but rather than that the shock from taking a solid direct hit caused me to choke up. It was a thrust that came flying with the perfect timing. This is depressing. This, it's seriously depressing. I've definitely not been slacking off in my training. I've continued with my running as much as possible and I haven't neglected live combat either. Confessing it and one on one as long as the opponent isn't a monster, I even think I wouldn't take a direct hit so easily. Of course, I wasn't letting my guard down from self-conceit either. There's no way I could let my guard down with that brother as the opponent. As proof of that other than that one hit I was able to either evade or parry them. Of course, not just Miduchi who was observing on the side, but Gwine and Angela were surprised as well. Around three years ago, the only one who saw the practice match against the first knight group was Angela but it seems even she thought I wouldn't take any attacks from brother with my growth. Most likely, brother is making use of all of his ability levels. In addition to a natural talent with body balance and great effort that has never stopped he's making every bit of his bodies potential ability his own. Through training, I wonder if he's reached the realm of being able to freely remove the brains limiter on his power through willpower? No, Well, if you look at it

objectively you still can't say anything but that it was overwhelmingly my victory.

However, at the same time I understood that I still have plenty of room to grow greatly as well. It's proof that starting with {Hyumu}'s the people of Orth, through talent, and depending on how they do it willpower and concentration, can pull out the potential of their bodies to their very limits.

.....

Year 7446, Month 5, Day 1

In the morning the base of everyone's boots was completed. Just as expected of someone dragged out by brother, the shoe maker Baru was quite fast at doing his job, a skilled artisan. Gwine and Angela's protectors are almost completely already and just have several adjustments remaining. I'm sure we'll be able to depart the village tomorrow. When it comes to the rubber armor itself it's fine if we just wear it and the only real baggage we have is the boots. If we just hang a big bag from the saddlebag it should be fine. Even then if it gets difficult then it's just a matter of us taking turns getting off the horse and running. At the very least if we make it back to Doritto then the roads get quite a bit better after all.

I had predicted that we might be told to carry the goods that were already complete ahead of time but during the next delivery the Donneoru family will be coming to the capital and the Ryogu family will be returning to Bakuddo. Since there's also the carrying of their furniture, I was told there's no need to push ourselves to bring anything.

I decided to take him up on his words.

Today I enjoyed the baths a number of times as well.

.....

Year 7446, Month 5, Day 2

Just past noon, after splitting up on the two war horses we

departed Bakuddo while on horseback. Miduchi and I are wearing the general model rubber protectors while Gwine and Angela are wearing the new model hunting purpose protectors.

In order for them to get used to the new combat shoes, Gwine and Angela are walking without riding the horses. Their protectors have the defensive capability focused around the vitals and limbs so the weight is a bit heavy as well. Since they've only ever worn leather armor up until now there's no choice than to be patient until they get used to it I'm sure. However, the places that beasts and monsters bite on to can be said to almost always be the limbs.

Only the outer parts of the fingertips are fortified like mittens

and on top of a large {gauntlet} that goes from the fingertips to the elbows, on the general model there was a rubber or hardened rubber band, but up until the inner thighs they have ebonite plates allotted. Of course it properly takes into consideration mobility as well and is arranged in a way that it doesn't impede movement during combat. In comparison, it doesn't take attacks from projectile weapons to the body into consideration. The overall design has an increase in the number of curved surfaces, on top of abandoning the anti-bow and arrow gaps, it has a glossed sheen that almost seems wet.

Though I say that, according to what brother said even this could be said to have a bit better defensive power on the body than the third generation model that I used for many years. Supposedly they're always making improvements to the materials and design including the ebonite. Even in comparison to the armor I'm wearing now the thickness isn't all that much different from the ebonite plates on the surface but it seems on the back they put an engraving cooling fin in like an air cooling engine, they made use of the gaps from there to add hardened rubber along with the uneven parts, so it seems it's got a hybrid structure which is both light weight and maintains the defensive power. It seems this structure has even been used in the armor on Gwine and Angela's limbs. It feels even more reassuring than up until now. I'm sure we can relax and challenge the dungeon.

It was a bit regrettable parting ways with Zetto, Becky, and Al who had completely gotten attached to us but there's no meaning to laying around for too long.

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Year 7446, Month 5, Day 6

In less than one week we arrived at Keel. For the time being after securing an inn the first place we'll go to is the headquarters of the knight group. Since the time right now is just past 2 pm, this time for sure we should be able to meet them. In order to appeal to the gatekeepers we went without taking our armor off. After informing the gatekeepers of our visit and that we want to meet them, the four of us were on standby.

Shortly after a girl the same age as us came out of the

headquarters. She's wearing leather armor that doesn't seem to be very good in quality and has a long sword on her waist. Her black hair that almost looks wet has gotten shorten to keep it out of the way but I can recognize her facial features.

She must have noticed seeing the group equipped in high class rubber protectors from Bakuddo.

She approached us with a rhythmical pace.

Even though she didn't have even a splinter of an impression to her but..I guessing people can change.

Chapter 228: Kuro and Mary

Year 7446, Month 5, Day 6

Mary's face as she walked over here had completely lost it's softness and tightened up. It seems she's gotten a bit of a suntan as well. Oh~ all of us still had our helmets on. I lifted my chin up while untying the string on my helmet to take it off. I'm sure my hair that's been dyed bright red stands out.

Seeing my dyed hair, Mary made a slightly surprised face but even then she continued walking without breaking her pace.

"You seem healthy, Mary."

"Thanks to you. I've prepared a room. These people are?"

Mary smiled a bit and said while looking at Miduchi and the other two.

"They're all my party members. I'll introduce you later. Where's Kuro?"

"Right now is our break time between shifts so he went out shopping for a bit. He should return soon. Please come this way"

"Wait just a minute. Is it fine to tie up our horses to the stake here?"

"Yeah, that's no problem. It's fine for you to keep your weapons as well."

Hearing that Angela quickly fastened the horses.

We were let through into the room which I had an interview with commander Sendhel once upon a time. After entering the building we crossed paths with several people but Mary always retreated to the side of the halls and waited for the other party to pass by. It couldn't be helped so we copied her as well.

"I'm sorry. Since I'm a squire..In the knight group the visitors

who stop by receive the same treatment."

Obviously~ I already knew that they wouldn't become something like

a true knight in just four years. It can't be helped.

"Now then, shall we at least do introduction before Kuro returns?

Yeah. Everyone, she is Mary, Marissa.Binsil. She's supposedly still

a squire so a Free Person I guess?"

"Yeah, that's right. It's nice to meet you. I'm Marissa.Binsil a

squire of the Marquis Webdos Knight Group."

Mary stood up with a firm posture and introduced herself like a

soldier.

"I said it before but she might look like this but formerly she was

an old lady just a bit younger than I was. Don't forget your

respect for the elderly."

I said it like a joke but Mary glared at me with terrifying

expression.

"Something like our previous ages don't matter at all! Since I'm 18

years old now. Rather than that quickly introduce us."

"Yeah, looking from your left is Miduchi.

Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol."

"It's nice to meet you, Mary-san. I'm Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol. Just

as you can see I'm a dark elf. I've dyed my hair but if I remove

the dyes it's completely black. Since it seems this person has been

in your care, thank you very much."

Miduchi said that while taking a step forward and stretching her

right hand out to Mary. Mary grabbed that hand and shook it but it

seems she was a bit overawed by Miduchi's skin color.

"..It..It's nice to meet you...I'm sorry. It's my first time

meeting a dark elf and..That is...Also, this person?.."

"Yeah, there was a bit of a relation in the pa"I'm his wife."we
still aren't married."

Hearing our words Mary made a slightly cheerful face saying, "You
too.." and smiled while looking at Miduchi's face.

"After that the dwarf in the middle is Gwine.

Gullinel.Akdam."

"It's nice to meet you, Mary-san. I've heard stories about you from
Al-san. I'm Gullinel.Akdam. I'm the same as Al-san and Mary-san as
well."

"I thought that might be the case. That's a lovely beard."

Mary brought Gwine's beard into the topic. Since she's popular
right now you shouldn't touch on that topic.
Japanese people are supposed to be attentive listeners you
know?

"Ehe~ thank you very much. It takes quite a bit of work,
this."

No one was asking about the work or anything. But, it seems she's
already completely gotten over it.

"The one on the far right is the Dog-person and my combat slave,
Maruso.Angela. Everyone normally calls her Maruso. Ah, she's the
only one who isn't a Japanese person but she knows the
circumstances somewhat so don't worry too much about it "I still
haven't told her about the techniques that only we can use but if
it's necessary there's no real problem with talking about
them.""

"It's nice to meet you. I've heard various stories from master. My
name is Maruso.Angela. From here on out, it's good to know

you."

"It's nice to meet you too. Since it's just a bit nostalgic, I might reflexively say words that you don't know but please pardon me."

Now then, that's plenty for introductions. I need to ask what needs to be asked.

I sat down on the sofa and opened my mouth.

"Mary. Sorry about suddenly coming to ask for you. It's been four years since then. I wanted to hear your response. Since I also had some business returning to my parent's house, I stopped by on the occasion."

".."

Mary was just looking intently at me with her mouth shut.

"I said it before but no matter what the conclusion you've come to, I won't resent you."

I wonder if it's a reply that's difficult to say? and thinking that I made it easier for her to say. In the worst case, if she doesn't want to join us then it's unfortunate but can't be helped. I'll just have to think that our connection was weak and there's no choice but to give up "for now". Of course it's nothing to get angry over either.

"It seems you're said to be the number one adventurer in Baldukk right now. In just a mere four years, it's quite something."

After all is she going to turn it down? First off I guess I'll quietly listen huh?

"Until the other day we went to subjugate a {Horned Bear} in Buraizu. It happens about once a year right. These sorts of things. We went once last year as well but that time no one died. But, this

time even two people died.."

It might just be my imagination but I felt like the tone of Mary's voice dropped a bit.

"I didn't see one of them but the other one died right in front of my eyes. Their head was sent flying from a single hit of the {Horned Bear}. It was a child that was still 17 years old."

Everyone was quietly listening to Mary's voice.

"People die so easily right. I'm sure you already know but last year we went to the war as well. Kuro and I were both sent around to guard the provisions so it's not like we directly crossed blades with the army of Devas, but even from our knight group there were a number of casualties. There were people who were saved even with serious injuries but three people died. I thought it was scary."

But, you didn't quit right? I remembered Mary's face when she said,

"I'll show you I can make use of this chance."

"In our knight group you know, it's turned into a legend."

Ah?

"Your older brother. Lord Farnestan.Greed. He entered at 14 years old and received investiture as a true knight at 16 years old then went to his first battle. There he made some great achievements. He's a hero who after that he threw away advancement and everything else to marry the commander's daughter as if he was kidnapping her and returned to his home town. The Black Eagle of Webdos. The commander brags about him all the time as well."

Hmm.

"Your older sister Milhaia.Greed joined the first knight group just before 15 years old. She became a true knight in a mere three

years. Obviously even in our knight group she's an amazingly famous person. It seems her skill with the sword is quite something as well but what's frightening is her high skill level as a magician. The Black Witch. Even in the war just a while back it's to the point where she participated in the war deliberation as the young age of 21 years old. The commander was bragging about her as well."

What is it?

"And then you. Alan.Greed. In just four years you've become the number one adventurer of Baldukk. It seems there's no one who doesn't know you in that area. Simultaneously you're the founder and company president of Greed Company. It seems you're doing well getting along with Webdos Company without fighting them right."

Hearing Mary start listing out us siblings personal history in a quiet tone of voice, it was a way of speaking as if she was only pointing out the facts, but it was somewhat unamusing.

"You know. We gave it our best as well. When we entered the knight group, putting aside you, since everyone already knew about your brother and sister after all. Ah, I see. I thought that Al was the little brother of some amazing people. Even though I had actually seen your magic and sword right. I realized it once again."

Before I noticed it Mary was facing down sniffing.

"Putting aside Kuro, I didn't know a single thing about how to hold the spear. I was always getting hurt somewhere. But, Kuro and I encouraged each other. At first we were saying we'd become true knights in two years like that..Before we realized that became

three years, and four years, and stretched out.."

It was then that we heard the sound of a knock on the door. Mary asked, "Kuro?" while asking the identity of the person at the door at the same time as it opened, and a man with shortly cut hair and darkened skin burnt from the sun entered the room. It's Kuro.

"Sorry about that. I was out for a bit. It's been a while."

"Yeah, it's been a while."

After finishing up introductions again Kuro sat down next to

Mary.

"How far had you talked?"

Kuro asked. I changed the answer by just shrugging my shoulders.

"Mary you know. Is just a bit {nervous} right now. Have you heard about the incident last week?"

"Yeah, it seems that a squire passed away right in front of her eyes?"

"Nn..Just that huh? That squire who passed away right in front of her eyes, was a junior that she was taking good care of. And because of that she was a bit shocked.."

Hmn, so that's how it was?

"Please excuse me. I'll take over the discussion. Saying it simply.

It's saying something selfish, but another two, no, please wait one more year. We had intended to have given our best quite a bit but after all for the daughter of a restaurant and a failed adventurer that is..during the first year we were basically not able to do anything. It took two and a half years just to be able to have a proper practice match against the other squires. After all the types of people who entered the knight group were those who had

trained since they were little..we were no match for them."

I'm not in a hurry so that's particularly fine but...

"Is it fine to take that as meaning you're going to join me as

adventurers one year later?"

"Yeah that's right. I said I'd definitely return the favor

right?"

Kuro smiled while saying that.

It seems like..he isn't saying anything unreasonable.

"There's no particular problem with waiting. It's strange saying

this but right now our forces are reasonably fulfilled so there's

no need to hurry either. Of course, the sooner you join up with is

the better though. However, I want to hear your real intentions. If

joining up is your intention then, you should have the option of

quitting the knight group right away and joining us as well. You

can already use weapons right?"

When I asked that Mary and Kuro exchanged glances for just a bit

and Kuro opened his mouth.

"Yeah, about that. Sorry but there's a bit of a reason. At the very

least I definitely want to receive investiture as a true knight.

Just as you taught us in the past, we didn't really have any

problem with the academic part of it. It was just memorization

after all. If you just understand the basics and foundations of

tactics then after that it's memorization. When it comes to things

like calculations and accounting we're basically the top in the

knight group. But, after all in regards to combat abilities,

particularly Mary was struggling with it quite a bit.."

"That, I'm sure it's your true intentions but..say

everything."

"..Sorry. But it's true that it's a part of the reason. As a matter of fact, the old man of Binsil said that he wouldn't give Mary to me as a bride unless I became a true knight..If I can become a true knight then I'll become a commoner after all."

"Oh~!!"

The bearded woman started to get excited. This girl, she really loves these types of stories.

"If that's the case then just say it from the start. It's not like I'll get angry."

Well, it seems things have calmed down in a fitting place. After all that rubber bag I gave them as a parting gift when we split ways must have worked. I, did a good job right.

"Sorry."

"I said it's already fine. By the way, you went shopping right?

Could it be a ring? Hn?"

I said it while laughing to try and soften the atmosphere even further.

Kuro and Mary just turned a bit red.

What the, did he really go to buy a ring?

How amazing my reading~

"No, as expected a ring is..I just went out to buy something we needed."

"But it's suspicious how the two of you turned red~ look, look~"

Gwine was looking at his hand as well.

"No, that is, isn't it fine. It's something I received from Al in the past. There's quite a few stores that sell them in Keel after all."

So it was condoms. Gyafun.

.....

One year later, at the very least it seems that Kuro will be able to have his eyes set on becoming a true knight. According to Kuro and Mary's conversation and recently Mary has felt some growth as well, it might be difficult one year later but it seems if she can make some decent achievements subjugating monsters then it's not completely impossible. I heard from brother and the others but it seems they're giving it their best. It seems they intend to join us, so since I was able to confirm their current status there's no problem.

Rather than that, there's one more, thing that I need to take care of in Keel. I want to hear the recent state of affairs from the owner of Ritton, Haritaido-san. That toad-like man has an unbearable appearance but his intellect has promise. Since he was talking about making a second chain store, if he's still lacking in capital then I thought I might offer an investment.

I dragged along the three of them while walking to Ritton but as we approached my resolve gradually grew weaker. Putting aside Angela, entering a brothel together with Miduchi and Gwine is just a bit~ Let's stop. Rather than it's a matter that can be resolved if I just call him out to Dakkuruton. Along the way I went down a different road and started towards Dakkuruton.

My outfit is imposing but just in case I'm still at the end of the nobility as well. I was able to make reservations without problem. Additionally I asked the {boy} to send a messenger to the owner of Ritton that I'd like for him to come by at 6 pm. Obviously it requires adding a bonus fee in there but it's a necessary expense.

"I've got a business discussion. I want to talk with a customer that did some transactions of a reasonable value in the early days. Sorry but eat dinner without me for tonight."

And I said that while we were returning to Binsu Manor and changed into some tidy clothes that weren't very high quality.

It seems that Jaba-Haritaido came running at the invitation of the company president of Greed Company. It seems he remembered me as well. Right now brother is selling to him but the one who concluded the first business discussion was me after all. It seems that when he appeared while rubbing his palms together he thought it was a discussion about another new product. However, the proposal from me was about investment towards a second store. I thought he would be even more overjoyed, but it seems he's not that much of an idiot, and he showed a complete change as his expression turned quite wary.

This is how it needs to be. It's fine if he refuses it for now.

It's plenty as long as the fact that I have reasonable amount of funds and I'm seriously taking it into consideration is conveyed.

Ah, of course, something like a second chain store for a brothel in the middle of nowhere doesn't matter at all. If he wishes for it then loaning the funds for just that is no problem at all. The objective was to strongly leave an impression of my existence in his memory.

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Year 7446, Month 5, Day 7

"Then one year later, come to Baldukk. We'll be waiting for you."

"Umm, Al..Yesterday was..I'm sorry for suddenly saying something weird."

Mary said with an apologetic expression.

"I'm sure things like that happen right. But, death is an everyday occurrence for adventurers. It's something I'd like you get a bit used to. But you know, I'll declare it but I have no intention of letting my allies get killed. I still haven't let even a single person die after all. I'll say it on the occasion but after you become true knights even if you stay in the knight group I won't get angry. Just, I wanted you to know this much. If you come to Baldukk then I'll pay you several times the wages of a true knight."

After I said that Mary made a slightly surprised face but laughed.

"Then, Kuro you too stay well. Even if it's just you, you need to quickly receive investiture as a true knight~ right? It's a common saying, but give it your best."

"Yeah, Mary and I will both return our debt to you. Just wait for us."

I put my arms around Kuro and Mary's shoulders and after forming a circle whispered in a small voice.

"I want you to listen without getting angry. If Mary permits it then, I want you to level up Kuro's Unique Ability {Charm}. You might already know but if you just use it the necessary number of times the level will increase. If Mary says it's no good no matter what, then I won't say anything unreasonable. But, I think it's an ability that is suited for gathering information. I'll leave the

decision up to you two."

That fellow Kuro, since then it seems he hasn't used {Charm} almost at all. The level was still just the same at 3. Even though Mary's ability {Resistance(Poison)} was already at the MAX level. After finishing up saying our farewells in front of the knight group headquarters in the early morning we departed from Keel.

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Year 7446, Month 5, Day 10

It's completely different when the road is good.

In no time at all we passed through Marquis Webdos's territory and entered Viscount Penlaido's territory. Gwine has perfectly remembered the terrain.

"I think it would be more efficient to remember a new route on the trip back. What should we do?"

Normally we'd take a detour on the route around the base of the Pitosu mountain range to the Southwest through Viscount Penlaido's territory. After that we'd go to the capital of the Viscount's territory Karumu, then it's fine if we just follow along the coast.

We have no carriage and we're light, if we don't play along the way we could arrive in Baldukk without even taking three weeks. In the past, when sister returned home once she did a round trip from the capital to Bakuddo in a month and a half. It's not like we have enough horses for the number of people we have so I'm sure we can't go that fast but we should be able to move at a speed where one-way takes one month with plenty of time remaining.

Hm~mm. It's not particularly like we're competing for every day's worth of time. I felt like it would be fine if we could just return

sometime this month but if I think about things from here on out and even if it consumes a bit of time it's only obvious it would be better to make the map for it. The precise route from Karumu to Baldukk along the coast is already in Gwine's head after all and even the road is in her memory. There's no need to take the same route.

"Certainly that's true. Then shall we go this way?"

Not just the Pitosu mountain range but I guess we'll take a detour around Board mountain East of that and pass through Viscount Yoraizu's territory going North?

While having lunch we spread out the badly made map on the level of the warring states era of Japan while deciding the outline of the course. We should be able to arrive at the village in the East Biasso by today. We'll stay one night there. Then about 20 km ahead of that there should be the decently large town of Ramudokku with a population of a few thousand people. If we go that far then Viscount Yoarizu's territory is right in front of us. After eating lunch we mounted the horses and started moving.

Chapter 229: Rumors of a Saint

Year 7446, Month 5, Day 11

We arrived at the town of Ramudokku before the day ended. Northeast from the town of Ramudokku Mount Board towers over at an elevation of about 1,300 meters and acts as something like a gate into the Jindaru peninsula along with the Pitosu mountain range. We intend to take a detour even further to the East around this Board mountain and then go North towards the capital.

We entered a random inn and ate at a restaurant. We really wanted to gather some information on what kind of place Viscount Yoraizu's territory, that's just 10 km or so to the East right before our eyes is like, but we were only able to hear common things and unable to gather any useful information. The reason for this is largely because there were no caravans belonging to Type-2 companies. When they're around I'm sure they're around but I guess we had bad luck.

In any case it seems that along the 20 km road to the first village after we enter Viscount Yoraizu's territory, the roads will change to mountain roads. Since it acts as the boundary between territories there's a considerable distance opened up. Since tomorrow is going to be on a different level from 20 km through the plains it would be best to get some rest early today.

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Year 7446, Month 5, Day 12

In the early morning we departed the town of Ramudokku. On the northern road a bit closer to Mount Board that's right along

the border to Viscount Yoraizu's territory, we passed through the villages scattered along the Board mountains. On our journey to Bakuddo we had heard that orks appear on this road, since it would be troublesome to get ambushed, we decided to completely detour around Mount Board as we advanced down the road going North through the western part of Viscount Yoraizu's territory.

There are some highs and lows of the mountain road but the elevation isn't all that different. The saddlebags on our two war horses are stuffed full with everyone's boots, the leather armor Gwine and Angela were wearing on the journey out, as well as blankets and such. While swaying on horseback as Miduchi and I sit in the rear position we were holding the rucksacks with change of clothes and such in them. Just from a glance it's not as if we don't look like a small scale peddler but if they see four people wearing what appears to be metal armor and heavily armed, there's no way we would be attacked by thieves so easily.

We arrived at Winro village in the evening but other than seeing some goblins in the distance the same as usual along the way there wasn't any particular problem.

The population of the village is about 600 and it's like one size bigger than Bakuddo. Obviously there's no inn.

We put in a word with the lord and got permission to setup camp in the vacant lot near his house.

"It's not as if monsters don't appear in this area but if you're inside of the village then it's pretty much safe."

The son of the lord said that trying to give us peace of mind. Just in case we kept lookout in shifts, or rather it was just to make

sure the campfire didn't go out. After we left this WInro village, there were several forks in the road but fundamentally if we follow along the left side (north side) while trying not to get too close to Mount Board then in 100 km or so we should leave Viscount Yoraizu's territory, and it'll supposedly take us to the center of the Kandeiru area where there's a group of small territories and royal territory in the south of Rombert Kingdom along the northern Dirt Plains.

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Year 7446, Month 5, Day 13

Inside of a deep forest, there's carved trees standing on the sides of the road that act as signs.

On the left side, "To Board Mountain, Massozu Village, 3 hours."

In the middle, "To Samisshu, Kaburokku Village, 7 hours."

On the right side, To Zarakkusu, Visshu Village, 5 hours."

The left side is rejected. What are we going to do going towards the border of Viscount Pendlaido's territory. The direction leading to Zarakkusu on the right is probably referring to the capital of Viscount Yoraizu's territory, Zarakkusu I'm sure. Ahead of that is close to the Zarakkusu mountain range which is at the edge of the Dirt Plains. Rejected. There's no choice but the direction towards Samisshu down the center but, seriously 7 hours...

The current time is roughly 1 pm. Since we're riding on horses we should be able to arrive a bit faster than the time written on the signboard but I'm absolutely sure the sun will set along the way. However, we do have the spell {Light} and I guess we should be arriving at Kaburokku Village around then? Or at least we should

only be a short distance away from that village by then.

"I want to go straight ahead, but how about it?"

I just felt like saying it. Honestly speaking I was hoping for some objections but if there's some opinions that I can accept just continuing straight ahead like this is technically fine as well.

"Nn..Shouldn't it be fine? Both Al-san and Miduchi-san are here, so we shouldn't have any problem with light after all."

This beard-san is no good, she's not thinking about anything~

"We should do whatever master pleases."

Hearing the loyal hound completely throw it onto her master shows my own stupidity. There's no way this girl would object to it.

"Even if we don't push ourselves to walk at night..Even if you use {Light} it's difficult to see where you're stepping? Couldn't we go to Massozu Village and see if there's a road that joins up from there?"

According to the map there isn't one. No, there might be but it's not on the map.

"There isn't one right~ That is. It's fine going towards the North in hopes of there being a road that joins up but if there isn't one we'll end up having to come back again. Even then that's 3 hours and 7 hours so if we have all of tomorrow we could make it to Kaburokku Village. Should we do that?"

"I think that's the better option. If we keep going like this to Kaburokku Village it's certainly true we'll arrive one day faster but it would be pointless if in the darkness we make a mistake and go down the wrong road at a fork right? Even though Gwine and I

have {Infrared Vision}, since the horses are here as well {Light} is indispensable and as expected I can't say we wouldn't overlook these sorts of signs."

"That's reasonable. It's not like we're in a hurry, I guess we'll do that."

We started walking down the road approaching Mount Board in the North.

We were able to arrived at Massozu Village with any major problems in particular. It properly took us 3 hours for the trip. Less than 1 hour after we started down the fork we were attacked by orks. We ended up losing time gathering those magic stones. According to Identify the value of the ork's magic stones was over 4,000, in other words if we sell them they're worth 30,000 Z after all.

There's no choice to ignore them.

The scale of Massozu Village we arrived at was about 50 households and a population of around 300-350. We immediately went to the lord of the village to ask for permission to camp in the village and were told, "If you're not peddlers then it's 1 large copper coin (1,000 Z) per person to provide a lodging place." Occasionally there's these as well. It seems like a poor village after all, this can't be helped. After obediently paying the money and the camp site was a vacant lot at the edge of the village on the side of the large river. Since we still had time to spare we took our time leisurely going there and started making preparations to camp. In the brush on the edge of the lot there were a never of stakes just left knocked into the ground. A caravan that comes to this village must have used it for tying up their horse or cows.

Also, it's only obvious but I asked the lord whether there was a shortcut to Kaburokku Village but unfortunately there wasn't something like that. Tomorrow we need to wake up early and follow the road 3 hours back the way we came.

Since it was close to evening, the villagers were finishing up their work for today as they passed by our camp. Either because they rarely have outsiders come to this village or otherwise because we were heavily armored and armed despite not having much belongings, there was almost no one who talked to us, and it was just 10 year old or so children. It doesn't seem like their parents were scolding them for that so it's not like we're being avoided. I gave Angela the job of buying some fire wood and straw for fodder while giving her several large copper coins just in case, and request Gwine to see if she can buy anything to eat.

During that time Miduchi and I were taking our belongings off the horses and tying them up to the stakes. Since the stakes were hammered in right near the flowing river, our two horses stuck their faces into the river and started drinking the water. Miduchi took the rock salt we stocked up on in the town of Ramudokku out of her saddlebag and started letting them lick it one at a time. I poured water over the backs of the horses and thoroughly scratched the areas around where the saddle was that seemed like it would have itched from us riding it all day.

While we were doing that Angela returned carrying fire wood.

"I'm very sorry, it ended up being a bit expensive."

She said that while lowering her head and handed me the change.

Unexpectedly it had decreased by two large copper coins. It seems

she was able to buy another two trips of fire wood and about double that in fodder. Even then 2,000 Z, isn't that expensive? Going off the market price even 60% - 70% of that is a bit high. Well, it doesn't seem like a very wealthy village, it's poor looking village on a smaller scale than Bakuddo after all. It can't be helped for them to charge a bit extra. We're probably an important source of income for the people of this village. Of course I have Angela taking care of negotiations like this during this journey. Also, it's difficult to think that someone who was born a serf like her would be coaxed over.

"Nn..I'll leave that to you. We'll be looking after the horses and starting the fire."

"Yes, master."

Angela started walking towards what seems to be the house she made the negotiations again.

The firewood Angela was carrying gathered in the area we had prepared for it while Miduchi and I were focused on taking care of the horses. There, Gwine returned carrying what looked like considerably hard brown bread.

"Please look at this, this amount was 8 copper coins!"

Gwine raised her voice as if he she was discontent.

In terms of size there was plenty for four people eat their fill.

However, thinking about the portion for tomorrow morning and it's not quite enough.

"That's a considerable price..The firewood and fodder was 2,000 as well."

Miduchi made a bitter smile while giving Gwine the copper coins she paid in advance.

"By the way, can we talk for a bit? I heard something that bothered me a bit but"

Gwine lowered her voice as she started talking.

"It seems there was a Saint named Peggy-sama in this area. Somehow it seems she's able to heal diseases and injuries through the miracles of the God of the Ground, Nigiwa. I thought it was just healing magic anyways and tried asking that but supposedly it's different..it gives off light when she's healing it seems but it wasn't the blue spell light, but a white light."

"What.."

"Is that.."

Miduchi and I choked up on our words. It's dangerous to make a decision based on just this information but it's possible that Peggy or whatever is a reincarnated person.

"That's right isn't it. I thought that might be the case as well.

And, somehow I was able to find out that it seems she travels around in this Viscount Yoraizu's territory. It seems she came to this village about one year ago as well. Followers..it seems she has several allies as well. I couldn't find out about them but supposedly Peggy-sama's hair and eyes were both black."

"" ..""

"It seems that when she came to this village she was able to heal the lord's mother who had a cold and a young serf girl who had weakened shortly after giving birth just by touching them with her hand. Unfortunately they didn't know anything more than that and they don't know where she is now."

"" ..""

"Supposedly she explained herself as the reincarnation of the

Divine Mother of the Land Nigiwana. Of course the lord and squires didn't believe her that far but since they actually saw her healing right in front of their eyes so they're half in doubt about it. It seems the serf people completely believe in it. They were saying something like Nanmaida~ in front of something like a cross."

""What in the world is that?""

Miduchi and I reacted at the same time.

"Well, I was able to notice because of that as well. It seems that they purchased the cross from Peggy-sama's attendant for 30,000 Z but when they were saying Nanmaida~ towards that I had trouble holding back from bursting into laughter, really."

Gwine said that while laughing. Miduchi and I exchanged glances but this is definitely Japanese person.

There's no culture for idol worship on Orth. The sole thing close to that is the temple, but even that is closer to the places local deities of Japan are said to be enshrined and customarily not something you pray to. Let alone, there's nothing like a small shrine in each household that you pray towards while speaking some chant or prayer either. In reality there might actually be something like that somewhere but I've never heard of anything like it even once up to now.

"That is~ certainly a Japanese person I'm sure...However, a cross and Nanmaida~ indeed. It's probably the words Namuamidabutu mispronounced though, I wish they would have came up with something a little bit better right. Putting that aside I'm going to go and listen to the story as well."

I wonder if that Peggy-sammy or Magaretto-sama or whatever is

trying to make a religion? Through magic and Unique Abilities it's probably not difficult to show something like the miracles of God. Particularly when it comes to that shining hand or whatever if it's not the usual blue spell light then there might be a lot of people deceived by it. If someone actually had their disease or injury healed there then I think an overwhelming number of people might believe in it.

While think about things like that I picked a random, even then a decently constructed house that seems like that of a commoners and asked if the family would sell some kind of food to me. I was allowed on to the dirt floor so it seems that means wait there. I could hear a praying voice with a weird accent saying "Nanmaida~ Nanmaida~" from further in the house. I wonder if it's because it's dinnertime, it seems they're praying before meals as well. When the madam returned with some bread, I tried asking "What in the world was that voice?" and she easily replied, "It's a prayer of gratitude towards Peggy-sama."

I handed her the copper coins she requested while asking about Peggy-sama and she told me the same sort of things I heard from Gwine. "She was a very sacred being. She travels this land, a very grateful being who brings the miracles of God to the surface." is what she said. It seems they're doing a good job at tricking them.

I never even considered trying to become the founder or apostle or whatever for a religion. There's some pretty quick witted people in the world. Somehow I felt like I might be able to get along with

them. In some cases religion exhibits immense power inciting the common people.

If it's really someone excellent then depending on negotiations it might even be good enclosing them in the future. If there's a doctrine or whatever then I can't say anything until I investigate that but if it's an advantage to the political side or seems like it can be changed to be an advantage then it might be worthwhile to adopt it as the state religion of my country.

Though I say that, it seems that Saint-sama appeared in the past few years and not to mention at the time there were suddenly some rumors going around but after that things calmed down. Around the time they were forgotten, it seems she came to the village stating she was the reincarnation of the Divine Mother of the Land Nigiwana and a Saint. And then gratefully distributed crosses purified by that Saint-sama herself for just the cost it seems. I said I would definitely love to see it and had her show it to me,

【Divine Mother of the Land, Nigiwana's Symbol】

【Oak Wood, Magic Stone】

【Condition: Normal】

【Manufacture Date: 4/12/7444】

【Value: 30】

【Endurance: 7】

【A model made with oak wood with a magic stone embedded in it.】

【Effect: None】

and that's what came out. I had expected, "I'm sure just the name of the materials will appear or at best it'll be displayed as a cross." but I was so surprised I thought I might fall over. It has

a name attached to it!? That means it underwent the naming ceremony at a temple. In that case the price of 30,000 Z is too cheap though.

And, in other words I can think of several possibilities.

1. They really got it named at the temple and they're selling those cheap.

In that case they would be suffering some considerable losses on every one of them so no matter what the case this is unlikely.

Though I say that, there is the possibility that through some reason they have a price reduction on the naming ceremony at a temple. It's difficult to imagine though.

2. There's a different Japanese person among the attendants and that person used their Unique Ability to do naming or made it.

In terms of possibilities I think it's the highest one? Though I feel like it might be different from naming.

3. They know of a special way of making things with these sorts of status. They founded a religion in order to make effective use of that.

Well I can't deny it. A magic stone is used in it after all.

It's probably one of those. Or it might be a combination. For example there's the possibility it's a combination of 1 and 3 as well. If they already knew the special construction first then they can pay less for the naming ceremony charge or something, it's also possible they know something that I don't as well. Probably not though.

Whatever the case on this Orth where no religion-like religion exists, it's quite the intelligent method. I'm sure right now they

aren't profiting much at all but if they continue to spread out their influence and even the lords of villages and towns join it, then they might even be able to expand their influence by taking in the Viscount Yoraizu family. If they can skillfully control them and make them into a puppet on the outside they could seem like a normal small country, and in essence, it "might" be possible to found a religious state.

Even if they can't make the Viscount into a puppet, with the brain of a former Japanese person they should be able to succeed at profiting a decent amount from it with a reasonably success rate if they take their time with it.

..However, it seems that right now they're planting the seeds. If I try searching for them it might stand out in a bad way and cause trouble for that Saint-sama. Even in my case while I have a reasonable amount of leeway in time on the journey this time, I don't have enough to spare wandering around Viscount Yoraizu's territory searching for someone who's whereabouts I have no idea on. If I at least had some definite information on their whereabouts then it wouldn't have been bad to and try to at least get a look at their face now while I can though...

I discussed it with Miduchi but just as I expected, she said that even if we meet now there probably wouldn't be much of a plus to it. If they've already continued these sorts of plain propagation for several years then the chances of them abandoning that to join us as adventurers are low and on the contrary it might give the other party the suggestion that they have a future rival as well.

We came to the conclusion that at the very least until I have my own territory to look after there isn't any harm in leaving them be.

If we're going to meet it would be best after I have a decent amount of authority. If it's possible then suddenly appearing in front of them after that and taking them in without giving them a choice would be best. If they intend to oppose us then we'll get to that when we get there.

Hmn, if that's the case then I'll need to be even more careful than ever with what territory I purchase~ On the Dirt Plains the areas that are adjacent to Devas has four territories lined up and they're all Royal Territories. There four Count's are stationed as governors and manage them. Excluding the one farthest to the East, the other three all seem to be obeying the King of Rombert. The one farthest to the East has their territory connected to the something or other Marquis or Duke, an influential noble in Devas, so it seems to be at a considerable disadvantage. As proof of that several years back they lost in quite the flashy way and it seems their area of influence has been reducing since.

I was told that as long as I pay the money any of the remaining three are fine, but of the three the one in the center is excluded from the candidates from the start. If we were looking from how fertile the land is then it's the two in the center and on the East but thanks to that there's a lot disputes. Assuming there's disputes 10 times, 5 of those will be concentrated on the center one it seems. As expected even if I make that sort of land a

candidate it would be pretty harsh so the King didn't really recommend it either.

I'm sure from the King's standpoint he'd like me to give it my best for at least 10 years or so. Well, things around there I'll think about later~ and probably mention as well.

In any case, I should be satisfied with the fact that we were able to gain information on the reincarnated person named Peggy that is calling them self a Saint. Investigation is fine later on. I'm sure this Saint-sama will continue to grow after this after all. If I think about the money and labor requires for the investigation then the current information is just a bit better than nothing. Though if I have the chance to directly meet them and use Identify I'll aim for it. No~thing.

.....

Year 7446, Month 6, Day 4

We quickly passed through Viscount Yoraizu's territory and started going North through the various small Royal Territories governed by emerging and high ranking nobles before arriving at Baldukk. It was a big harvest that we were able to gain information on what appears to be a reincarnated person and the biggest harvest was that we were to get precise mapping information on the roads.

I feel a renewed motivation as the outer crater enters my sight.

Chapter 235: Something Frightening

Year 7446, Month 6, Day 4

"Is it really something that frightening?"

While Miduchi was controlling the horse Angela asked her as she sat behind her.

"Yeah. Normally it's a powerful pain stopper, I guess? There's different strengths in the effects based on how it's purified but even if you just normally gather the sap, boil it down, and then dry it .."

"Stop already. It's not decided if that's the case yet. Everyone, I only intend to discuss this with Toris and Bel. Do not speak about it to anyone else. This is an order."

I cut off Miduchi's words while strongly ordering everyone.

Just before we left Viscount Yoraizu's territory, when we were attacked by a group of orks we easily repelled that and wiped them out. After that, in order to gather the magic stones from them we cut the band of the smelly leather armor they were wearing with a knife.

It's only obvious for unintelligent sub-human monsters to be carrying some kind of low quality pain relieving drug, no one has any interest in that sort of low quality drug which can't do anything more than just stop the pain. On Orth there's a lot better medicines that make use of magic stones in circulation. If you're going to end up using the space either way it's far more effective to carry those kinds instead. However, when Gwine was digging

through the belongings one of the orks was carrying she found something unusual.

It was a pipe with a considerable length.

At first I thought it was a thick {blowgun} and just threw it on

the ground nearby. However, after she stepped on it Miduchi showed a bit of interest and checked the status, before yelling "Ah!!?" as if she remembered. Soon after Miduchi said an appropriate excuse to cover up surprising everyone with her voice smoothing over the situation. However, soon after, she forcefully pulled me a bit of distance away and asked me to use Identify on the nokkusu.

"Just a minute, I want you to try using identify on this nokkusu but..If it's just as I'm thinking then.."

Nokkusu is the name of the pain relieving drug that the ork was

holding. It's a brown colored powder. If you touch them and say status you can see the name of most goods after all. According to my Identify it's a pain reliever made from crushing the flower of a plant called Karesso, then boiling the liquid that comes out down.

The effects aren't very high. Obviously I told her just as I saw it.

And then,

"Nn..But I feel something is a bit off right..I thought it was opium but.."

And she said while putting her hand to her jaw while thinking. But,

on the identify window not even the "na" in "narcotics" appeared.

Rather~ why suddenly something like opium...when I tried asking

Miduchi in the middle of the night when we changed lookout shifts after that and,

"I mean, it says it was made from the flower of a plant and it even

says it's a pain reliever, an ork that wouldn't easily be able to get it's hands on tobacco was carrying a pipe right? If you mix them together isn't that already "opium" right?"

And that sort of reply came back. There's no way that's the case right, I honestly find your brain to be a menace for arriving at opium based on just that amount of information. When I said that sort of sarcasm,

"Eh? You've never tried looking up how to manufacture narcotics?"

And replied with a serious face. No. In the first place, I never had any interest in narcotics at all.

"I think there's a lot of people interested in those sorts of things during middle and high school. I didn't read those sorts of books in the classroom either but I read it at home."

That's the reason why you didn't have any friends right...That's dark after all. Other than studying brats should be playing outside. In the first place middle and high school students should be busy with club activities.

"Umm..I think I mentioned in the past~ but..I was the bookworm-type so.."

Was that the case? But you at least had friends to play with right?

Like shopping with other girls or things.

"..That's why I said, I didn't have many friends...Rather than playing outside with anyone I would read books, games..like SuFami, 32X Mega Drive with added Mega CD, SuperGrafx, Neo Geo, Towns Marty, LaserActive, PiPPiN, PCFX, Playstation, Saturn, ah, though it was the High Saturn that shows MPEGs but, 3D0, 64, DD, Gamecube, Dreamcast, X-box, 360, PS3, Wii, things around that area

particularly after finding a job huh..In any case the only ones I didn't have when I was a student was the Virtual Boy and Playdia and we had the net, I got into the computer when I was in elementary school after all..even after entering college no one talked to me so I couldn't say I wanted to enter a circle..It's fine since I had friends on the other side of the screen! I was the indoor-type! All of the indoor-type kids were interested in these types of things at that age! Someone who was in the swimming club and went to self-defense university, or let alone mar..marri... married wouldn't know understand!! I hadn't even played with my PS4 for two years since I bought it!! Even though it was expensive!!"

Partway through she snapped and started going on about things that I couldn't understand almost like some kind of incantation. No, I have no clue what you're saying. I can somehow figure out that it's the name of games but..Eh? It's not games? Game consoles? Ah, is that so. Were you playing just games that much? Did you have that much free time?

"Ha~? There's no way I could buy all of the games right!? For each console at best about 2-4 games, at most 7-8 games!! Since there's no time to be playing shitty games!!"

I have no clue...

"Hmph. Even though you didn't even know about orks..I..I..I knew about all of the monsters we've encountered up until now! I know a bunch more other than that! That's why it's useful!"

..Yeah, I guess so. Rather~ it's only obvious both Gwine and Angela would wake up with how much noise she's making late at night.

In any case, according to Miduchi this pain reliever called nokkusu

is a type of narcotic that's additive like opium or close to that.

Furthermore, while keeping an eye on things during combat I used

Identify on the living orks but their Condition was Normal. There

was no suspicious sort of display like Addict. "It didn't look like

it was addicted though" and when I pointed that out,

"Ha..This is why amateurs are.."

And I was looked down on,

"Even if it's opium if they don't absorb a reasonable amount of a

reasonable period they won't turn into something like an addiction.

There's pretty much no narcotic that would result in addiction in

just a single try and in the first place we're not discussing

humans from Earth, on Orth who knows..furthermore they're monsters

after all. Also, mixing up addiction to drugs and the symptoms

shown from withdrawal of an addiction is typical of an

amateur."

And I was told that, I guess that is true. I mean, I am an amateur

after all. After that we talked about ti when Angela and Gwine

really weren't listening but my Identify might not be able to

determine chronic addiction, is the conclusion we came to.

Certainly even if I use Identify on a person with an illness if the

symptoms haven't appeared it doesn't show up.

In any case, since we were saying a number of dangerous terms like

"narcotics" and "opium" Gwine was persis~tently trying to ask about

it, we decided to talk about it with these two. Well as expected if

I heard Gwine talking about those words I wouldn't just ignore it

either.

That's the end of this discussion for now.

.....

Our horses ascended the outer crater's of Baldukk and climbed to a place where we can look down at the town. It's a time that's still before lunch.

"I wonder if we can eat Baldoggie for lunch?"

"If they're in the dungeon then I'm sure we can."

I replied to Gwine who was controlling the reins in the front while we started the descent to the town of Baldukk. In regards to the holiday over Golden Week I left it to Zenom and Toris so how long of a period they decided to take off or explore I don't know, whether today is a holiday or if they're in the dungeon is unknown.

It's something we could tell from above but nothing at all had changed with the town of Baldukk since before and after we departed, it's still the same town with a population exceeding 30,000 people.

Along the way, we let down Angela at Shuni and just as we arrived at Boil Manor we were able to catch Cathy as she was climbing the stairs with some Baldoggie that were finished being stuffed and boiled. It was as she was making round trips between their room and the rooftop to smoke them.

"Ah, Greed-san. Welcome back!!"

While Cathy was energetically greeting us I asked her, "Is everyone in the dungeon?" and her reply was that everyone would probably return tomorrow.

"Eh? They aren't coming back every day?"

And Gwine asked. I thought the same thing.

"Yeah, it seems that everyone is going down to the 4th floor now.

It sure is amazing right~"

And Cathy smiled while replying.

"So everyone was able to pass through the 3rd floor in a single day? Even the {Exterminators}?"

Miduchi and Gwine were surprised as they talked but if they're going to the 4th floor then that should be the case. Putting that aside, while going up the stairs to the second floor I asked Cathy about something different. This is something I need to confirm.

"Was there any changing of members between groups?"

"There was not. I heard that they had a test at the end of April but.."

He~

"Hn, I see, thanks. After changing we're going to get some lunch but how about it? You still haven't had any right?"

After asking Cathy and she said she still hadn't so we quickly got changed and during that time she, John, and Terry filled up the smoker with sausages. We waited for Angela to come after changing and then went to eat lunch with everyone.

It should be fine to put off the Baldoggies until dinner.

That evening, I don't know where they heard about it but the members of {Gehenna.Flare} came to the Boil Manor to invite Gwine out to drink. She was saying, "We just returned so together with everyone.." but her expression didn't seem discontent as she was getting shy in front of the dwarf named Garun or whatever from {Gehenna.Flare}. Yes-Yes~ I'm so jealous of your popularity among the bearded. Annoying~

"Don't mind us and go enjoy yourself."

We'll enjoy ourselves on our end as well. Cathy, John, and Terry

are here and there's also the sausages just made today.

.....

Year 7446, Month 6, Day 5

In the morning I went to my company in the capital and was worked to death going over various fine details and meetings. It started to get troublesome for me having to go to every one of them so I narrowed the candidates down to two places and threw all of the details in regards to the sausage factory contract on to Miduchi and Luke.

In the evening when we returned to Baldukk no one from the {Slaughterers} had returned to the surface. We returned to the inn once thinking "It's still bright out so I guess it'll take a bit more time huh?", then when we returned to the entrance plaza it was just as the {Butchers} came out together with Zulu and were all biting into some Baldoggie sold at the stall. After looking closely Gwine and Angela was with them as well.

After being congratulated by Zulu and the other combat slaves for my safe return, I said "We returned with combat shoes for everyone so come and get them later" before biting into a Baldoggie as well.

While we were doing that the {Exterminators} and then {Slaughterers} returned to the surface as well.

We all exchanged greetings and listening to their stories, after all both teams were able to make it to the 4th floor now so they haven't been returning daily anymore. It seems that the {Butchers} have been since March and the {Exterminators} since May.

Hmm, with this I won't be in the red anymore. That's great.

Also, while it seems they underwent the test to change out members, there still wasn't anyone who passed the stamina test and gained

the qualification to challenge someone. Well I'm sure it's impossible in just a few months, as expected.

After that, excluding Zulu who was with the {Butchers} and Toris who was with the {Exterminators}, they reported everything that happened while I was gone to me.

First off the {Exterminators}. It's fine that they've started to go to the 4th floor but after all they're having a hard time clearing through the 4th floor in time, so it seems that it will still a while longer before they can safely go to the 5th floor.

Next up is the {Butchers}. While they managed to clear through to the 4th floor in March, clearing through to the 5th floor in one day is expected to take some time after all.

This is also because of the problem of magic users. After undergoing combat, it's fine when there's not many injuries but if there's quite a few or there's some with serious injuries then they end up using a considerable amount of time recovering mana and depending on the case they may even have to take a break until the pain recedes. Well in some ways you could say it's something that can't be helped.

Finally the {Slaughterers}. While I wasn't around they properly held back on descending into the dungeon down to the 5th floor. I was a bit surprised at this. I could have sworn someone like the gold zombie Ralpa would propose going to the 7th floor.

"I mean..Neither Miduchi nor Al are around..Isn't that impossible if you calmly think about it. After all while you're not around, I have to properly worry about everyone. We can't do anything unreasonable."

And Ralpa said that. Why are you worrying about everyone. I left those sorts of things to Zenom and Toris so it would have been fine if you just lazed around. I thought that for a moment, but come to think of it, I said something random like that to hold back Ralpa who wanted to come along. So she thought I was being serious this entire time..Someone tell her. When I made eye contact with Zenom and Bel who were grinning, I said "Yeah, good work. It seems you've done a good job thinking about everyone." and her face turned to smiles.

After all she's easy. It's really a big help.

After that, Ralpa made a displeased face hearing that Gwine had some armor similar to Angela's made and that I was going to give my old armor to Jesu but after hearing the price she was peeking at Zenom's face. Zenom nodded with a bitter smile but after crossing her arms and thinking, after a short while she didn't say anything more as if she gave up on it.

"Next I'll check to see how much the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} have grown. After that, depending on the situation I might return the {Slaughterers} to our full members and start clearing the 8th floor this month. Everyone, be ready for that to be the case."

I concluded things that night by saying that.

Everyone was probably remembering back to that room on the 8th floor that gave off an eerie atmosphere, and gulp..

Ah, so they were eager. Most of them made expressions like a glare while lifting the sides of their lips. So I was the only one feeling frightened?

Chapter 244: Unexplored Territory 4

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 3

After arriving at the teleport room on the 6th floor in order to recover from the fatigue of today we immediately started making dinner preparations while taking showers in order, and spent time resting our exhausted bodies. And then, soon after we finished meal preparations and everyone had a slightly late dinner. After our meals the slaves who still hadn't taken showers took theirs in order while we relaxed and enjoyed some tea.

Tomorrow we'll clear through the 7th floor before noon and no matter how late we are we should defeat the Minotaur and arrive at the teleport room on the 8th floor by evening, then after we finish setting up the base we'll return to the surface once. I'll give out any necessary instructions and as soon as possible we'll return to the 8th floor again to start investigating the revival cycle of the Minotaur. On that occasion I intend to spend at least one week there.

After all around the 25th of this month the Donneoru family will appear to shift places with the Ryogu family from Bakuddo and I also want to get the sausage factory operating before that. I've already made arrangements for the slaves that will be working there but it seems it's difficult to gather ones that meet the conditions and Madam.Ronslail is having some trouble as well. Well, it's fine since there's no need to hurry in regards to the slaves though.

However, after getting the factory operating it's necessary for

Basutorial and Cathy to stick to it for half a month or so. Since I want to make my plans early on I'm a bit unsatisfied over how difficult it's been to fill in the schedule.

"Now then, we have to get up early tomorrow so shall we get some rest soon?"

After someone says that we naturally decide to sleep. Although, tomorrow we only have the 7th and 8th floors so looking at it with a bit more leeway in our schedule than usual it'll take about 6.5 hours. The current time is about 11 pm so after all we should get to sleep soon.

Just in case the first lookout was Toris and Giberuti, then next is Zulu and Gwine, then after that is Ralpa and Angela, and finally was Bel and Giberuti one more time. Since we never know when {Verdure.Brotherhood} might arrive, we definitely have at least one member who can use magic awake. We're inside of the dungeon and it's not like I completely trust them after all. The reason I split up Ralpa and Gwine was my conscience.

Then~ good night.

.....

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 4

"..up. Master, please wake up."

I was shaken awake. It's Giberuti.

"Hn?"

"It's {Verdure.Brotherhood}. Right now Kalstalan-sama is dealing with them."

..Dealing?

What is it, really~

How troublesome~

I quietly crawl out of my blanket and just in case put my under armor on before looking at Toris standing in the center of the room while still barefoot.

It seems the two old men Viruhaima and Basu are talking to Toris about something. After putting my hand to the clock magic tool and confirming the time it was just before 1 am. It's just a short while before the first shift of lookouts ends. I told Giberuti, "Just in case wake up Zulu and Gwine." before standing up and went to the bench made of dirt before sitting down on it.

Obviously Toris noticed that I had woken up. If it's a discussion that requires me then he would have called for me I'm sure. I sat down on the bench picking my nose and resisting yawns while watching Toris's back.

But, soon after Toris returned after finishing his talk with Viruhaima and the others.

"It seems they're going to setup camp over there. After that they asked if they can borrow the shower so I gave them permission as long as we still have priority use on it."

Ah, I see. It's good it wasn't anything troublesome.

"Nn, I see. Got it. Then, it's fine if I go back to sleep once more right?"

While Zulu and Gwine were waking up and getting ready I fell back to sleep again.

And then, the next morning I woke up a bit late and heard that the {Verdure.Brotherhood} triumphantly departed for the 7th floor a short while prior, and felt a bit unpleasant that we were beaten to it. But, after getting back to things we departed for the 7th floor as well. And then, we encountered the {Verdure.Brotherhood}

surrounded by the maximum number of 5 ogres in the passage, while none of them had died they were on the verge of collapse, and saved them from their crisis. After healing Viruhaima who had suffered some serious injuries, we brought them back to their teleport location without requesting anything major in return and having his heart moved, the old man even started shedding tears for up until..And I was woken up again by Giberuti. Like we'd so conveniently run into them that often~

"We're you seeing a dream? You were making a very happy looking face."

I felt a bit uncomfortable as Giberuti apologized to me with a very sorry face.

"Is that so? I can't remember what I was dreaming."

It was my limit to make a bitter smile while replying like that.

On my way to the shower room to get refreshed I looked at

{Verdure.Brotherhood}'s camp and saw the old Wolf-person woman keeping lookout alone while everyone else seemed to be sleeping. It can't be helped worrying about the sounds of water so I just took a normal hot water shower and then switched over to cold water to relieve the tension and completely wake myself up, then put my equipment on.

I had an extra Baldoggie made for breakfast to have as a hotdog and after thinning out the wine in my wood cup with a bit of water I went to around the center of the room. I called over the Wolf-person who was keeping lookout while she was watching my movements.

"Thanks for your work. Kamushu-san. I don't know if it meets your taste but if you'd like please have this."

I smiled and handed the entire plate of food over to the

Wolf-person who was looking suspiciously over here.

"Eh? Is it fine? Sorry about that. I can't resist these

either~"

Kamushu narrowed her eyes while taking the hotdog and happily returned my smile.

"Is that so, then that's great. Ah, it's fine if you just return the plate and cup at anytime later."

"Thanks. I'm happy. After that it's fine if you call me Julie."

Julie said that while smiling and started stuffing her mouth with the delicious looking Baldoggie right away.

"Well then, Julie-san. We're going to head out pretty soon so please excuse me."

"Yeah, stay safe."

When I returned to the camp of the {Slaughterers} everyone was in the middle of breakfast. I quickly finished my breakfast and after everyone confirmed their equipment, we picked up our inflated rucksacks.

"Alright, no one is forgetting anything. Let's go, Mutoreoki!"

.....

We finally arrived at the final room on the 8th floor in front of the 2 km in diameter area in the center where the Anti-Skill Area spreads out.

We advanced forward thinking it was close and after reaching the point where Miduchi's {Party-ization} was released, we all took a

short break in a circle so we could see what's going on behind each other.

"Giberuti, you wait on standby here. Look after all of our bags.

Just as I said before, a short while after we continue ahead from here and all around that area lightning will continue to fall. At the same time the room will get bright like the 7th floor. Just remain calm and wait without getting surprised. After the lightning disappeared we'll come and get you."

"Yes, I understand, master."

We all put down the rucksacks we were carrying and after gathering them in the shadow of the rock where Giberuti is waiting, we had a drink. We confirmed our equipment once more and after checking that there was no problem we took a rest for a further 10 minutes while simply going over the plan.

"We'll move with {Arrowhead.One} and until hostilities open we'll move with a basic 5 meter interval. The moment the Minotaur enters our sight the battle starts. Alright?"

I said that while looking around that everyone nodded and then continued.

"We've fought it before and if we all go at it there's no doubt about it, if we just keep focusing fire consecutively on it I think we can defeat it. There's no reason why we would struggle. The problem is.."

Gwine gulped and swallowed her saliva.

"In the case that there's more than one of them. In this case, I'll take on one alone. If there's two enemies then if everyone fights the remaining one I'm sure you can defeat it without any trouble at all. Backing me up will make it in plenty of time after that I'm

sure and if the enemies power isn't any different from before then

I think I can defeat one alone."

Everyone was quietly listening to what I said.

"If there's three or four of them then I think we'll probably be

fine. If the tanks {Shield.Holder}'s Zulu and Toris hold out. If it

seems you can defeat them then I don't mind but it's fine if you

just keep holding out as well."

Along with buying her new armor I told Angela that it's fine if she

doesn't use the shield. In the first place she often forgets about

the existence of her shield after all. Her current armor is one

designed under the supervision of the Dokshu family of Bakuddo with

the aim of fighting against animals and monsters so it doesn't take

a shield into consideration. In exchange similar to my own it has a

number of metal bars embedded into the gauntlets of the arms and

the left fist is surrounded in rubber so you can punch with all

your strength. Of course the surface is ebonite.

"If there's even more than that then we'll construct a front

centering around me with Toris and Zulu, Ralpa and Angela standing

at the front line. In this case, Zenom make skillful use of the

axe. The front line should focus more on maintaining the front

through defense than attack. In other words other than having Zenom

move to the back it's roughly the same as usual."

"What about in the case that the opponent isn't a Minotaur?"

Miduchi interjected with a question. Hearing that Ralpa, Gwine,

Zulu, and Angela all looked at her with admiration. I was just

about to say it now as well.

"In that case it depends on the enemy. If it seems like we can

defeat it then we'll go just like that, if it seems dangerous then I'll give out orders for changing the battle formation."

Certainly if it's an unknown monster then it'd be troublesome but if there isn't a large number of enemies then we'll probably be fine. In the worst case, while we're all enduring at the front Zenom can lead the rear and defeat them. In any case as long as that cage of lightning bolts is coming down, we can't retreat.

Now then, let's get into formation and depart.

We made the battle formation {Arrowhead.One} with my at the lead and started advancing.

Soon after Miduchi's {Party-ization} was released and everyone understood that we had entered the Anti-Skill Area.

"It's about time."

Gwine gave the signal.

In another 100 meters or so we'll arrive at the pillar.

I turned around once and after nodding as if to say "It's alright, we can definitely win." to everyone, I turned around again and started forward.

And then, somehow the moment the Minotaur(it was the same and just one of them. That's great) entered our sight the sound like the atmosphere was being torn happened as the cage of lightning bolts was made and the ceiling rapidly started giving off light.

"Let's go!!"

It's time for battle. Along with a battle cry I lowered my stance with the bayonet and then charged ahead at full speed.

Obviously the Minotaur has noticed us and is standing ready with it's {trident}.

"Buooo~!! Goo~daaa~!!"

Shut~up. Wouldn't a female one come out soon?

I knocked up the trident the Minotaur thrust towards me and after

ducking under the handle I smashed the gun stock into the kneecap of it's right leg.

When it's stance collapsed thanks to that arrows shot my Bel and

Miduchi stabbed into it.

The one that hit it in the face was probably Bel.

The other one stabbed into it's chest.

As the Minotaur fell even more off stance Zulu and Toris charged in a body slammed it with their shields.

Ah.

As the Minotaur fell backwards onto the ground Zenom's axe stabbed into it's groin.

"Gaoooo~!!!"

It's over.

The Minotaur let go of it's trident and started rolling around holding it's groin.

The axe has already returned to Zenom's hand.

Ralpha and Angela were both swinging their weapons and beating it to death.

The Minotaur quickly died and the cage of lightning bolts disappeared.

The value of the magic stone was the usual 30,000.

It's hard to call the trident a high quality item as well and was just normal.

..Somehow it seems they're gradually getting worse.

I quickly sent someone to get Giberuti before entering the teleport crystal room. Looking around inside it was still in the same condition as before. I guess there's no change here?

We went through quite a bit of labor to carry our bags inside and

started making the kitchen area but there we were suddenly troubled. We use water for the cooking, cleaning, and showers but up until now we've either gone and thrown it away a bit of distance or the shower we've made use of inclinations to have it drain outside of the room.

"How about raising the floor of the room excluding 1 meter or so around the teleport crystal?"

And I decided to go with a variety of Miduchi's idea. It would be troublesome trying to do that entirely so I decided to make a raised-floor of about 50 cm over a 5 meter area in one of the inner corners to use as our living space. I decided on different corners for the kitchen and shower and made raised-floors there as well. The floor will get dirty but it's fine as long as we have a clean place. It's under the premise that we'll go outside to throw away just the drainage from cooking and cleaning. In regards to that we can just let it build up and after we finish off the Minotaur we can go out and throw it away. We need a lot more buckets. In regards to the toilet..this needs to go outside as well. I guess there's no choice but to have someone go with and guard you like when doing it in the dungeon halls huh? Well, if we can just get a grasp on the cycle of revival for the Minotaur then it shouldn't be much of a problem. Depending on the case it might be good to make the toilet and shower in the shadow of a rock around 100-200 meters away from the pillar this teleport room is as well. After everyone put out some ideas and we decided on the general outline, we decided to return to the surface once. There's also the report to the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} and

the matter of the factory as well. I need to quickly finish up things in relation to that and then we'll come back carrying more materials again.

There's a mountain of things to do.

Chapter 245): Bulk Slave Purchase

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 4

After we returned to the surface in the evening we joined up with the other members of the {Slaughterers} and handed the other customers in Murowa some silver Shu to drive them(There was even 12 of them. That's 30,000 Z. Shit) and then after reserving the store we started talking about the 8th and 9th floors.

"And then, this is the magic stone we took from the first Minotaur."

I roll the considerably white magic stone on the table. It's a quality item that's several times more white than those of ogres so everyone raised their voices in surprise. Even I've only ever seen magic stones better than this from the earthworm and that eyeball bastard.

"Also, this is the battle axe that the first Minotaur was holding.

And, this is the {bardiche} that the one was was holding, and the {trident} from today."

Following that I put the high quality battle axe and other weapons on the table.

"Oh~ it's white."

"This battle axe is of an amazing quality."

"I've seen that degree of color before but it's so white that it's unbelievable it's from just a single monster."

"It's a surprising whiteness."

"{Status Open}..Amazing, a singular stone huh~"

"Let me see it for a bit..Ho~ certainly this is.."

""Ready~go, congratulations, master!""

"If it's something of this high of a quality isn't a waste to sell it?"

"Certainly..it's not like they're troubled for money after all~"

"I've never heard of a Minotaur before but is it strong?"

"Well it does have this much of a magic stone. It's probably absurdly strong, thinking with common sense."

"However, the 9th floor huh..It's difficult to believe but looking at this and.."

"~A double-edged battle axe? Is it..It's a wazamono indeed."

After watching everyone make a racket for a while I continued talking.

"I intend on showing his majesty that battle axe and magic stone on the occasion I report that we cleared through the 8th floor. Sorry but if he says to give it to him then I intend on presenting it to the royal family...Sorry about that, Kevin. That's why if you want to look at it then look all you can now. Though I say that, I'll be showing it to him when the caravan from Bakuddo arrives."

Since I started talking again everyone went silent.

"For the time being until then we the {Slaughterers} will be carrying materials in to the teleport room on the 8th floor to make it into a base. Sorry but hold out for a bit longer. Also, Basutoral, tomorrow you and Cathy come along with me to look at the slaves who will be working in the factory."

"Eh? But didn't they still not finish gathering the number.."

"Yeah, but we can't wait until they finish gathering them. Even if it's a bit few let's get things running by the end of this month.

There's no meaning letting them do nothing after all. And, starting

the day after tomorrow I want you to start making preparations with the slaves to get the factory operating."

"I understand."

"Cathy you help him out as well."

"Yeah, of course. But, what should we do about John and Terry?"

Cathy has been taking good care of John and Terry so I'm sure she's worried about them.

"The day after tomorrow when you make preparations for the factory in the capital prepare rooms for them along with the other slaves."

"Yes."

Cathy who smiled while replying somehow was making a face like their mother.

Though thinking about her age I guess she'd be an older sister.

.....

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 5

The next morning, after finishing running and having breakfast, I went to "Slave Store, Ronslail" together with the Basutorial couple. After going through the basic greetings I asked what the progress was on the number of people they've gathered.

"I'm very sorry, Greed-sama. It's still only 5 boys and 6 girls.

There's others who meet the conditions to be candidates a total of 5 boys and 4 girls but those ones still haven't been properly disciplined so we can't hand them over yet."

11 people huh? It's still far from the 10 of each boys and girls that I was thinking but it can't be helped. Rather~ that's plenty.

"..Nn, well I still haven't decided to buy all of them. Basutorial, Cathy, go further inside and take a look at them. That's fine right?"

"Of course it is..Erenogu, let them through."

Madam.Ronslail ordered her head clerk and being lead by the head clerk Basutorial and Cathy disappeared into the back room. Ah, I need to say this.

"If you two think that they'll be easy to use then it's fine to decide based on that. If you talk to them and feel they don't match up in personality, then you don't need to push yourselves to buy them."

When I said that the Madam made a slightly difficult face but I guess she quickly regained confidence in her own companies training and judgement and nodded as if it was only obvious. Well, if they meet the conditions and they're fine then I have nothing more to say.

"How far has their training gone? Also, you've already confirmed the condition I gave at the start right?"

Just in case I said that but on my hand I have no doubts about the degree of training.

"All of the slaves we have prepared right now meet the conditions that Greed-sama mentioned. However..that is..I might be asking something a bit too personal but are you thinking about selling the children? If that is the case then it's fine even if you aren't that thorough."

I see now, selling the children indeed. So that's how it was taken?

Even I who has long since been dyed in the social ranking based society didn't think as far as raising a slaves child up to a

certain age and then splitting them up to sell. I haven't fallen that far. It's a different reason from John and Terry who I bought as future candidates for managing the factories. However, if it's taken like that then that itself is convenient. I'm sure it'll be a good cover. There's also the reason that I might eventually take them to the foreign country that will be my territory in the future but even if I say something like that now it would be unpleasant being slandered as "someone in over their head". It's still better to be thought of as a brute.

"Now then, that far is..However, even if the price is a bit high I definitely won't yield on this condition."

"Well, that is fine because it doesn't cost much to investigate the family relationships of slaves but..It seems I said something too forward.."

"No, please don't mind it. Depending on the case I thought it would be good work just searching for slaves that meet the conditions, so I don't mind paying compensation that matches up with that."

"It was a bit of trouble but it's not as if it was that difficult at all. If you were to ask which because it was limited to a single race, it was just troubling on that point. It ended up being Hyumu race which were easy to gather though"

The madam replied while smiling a bit.

"Hahha. Even then for you to gather over 10 people in this short period of time, I lower my head to Ronlail Company's purchasing power."

Honestly speaking I was a bit surprised that she was able to gather a considerable number. I thought it would be at best 2-3 people. If

we include the number that still hasn't finished their training
then hasn't she already finished gathering the 10 each male and
female that I request?

The conditions I gave her were:

1. Estranged from parents and siblings (The minimum condition was that they were separated during childhood and after that if they have lack of relation it's even better).
2. Unmarried and furthermore if they're female that they don't have any experience giving birth.
3. If they can just endure some light manual labor then it's fine if they have somewhat of an impairment.
4. The lower limit is 10 years old and the upper limit is 14 years old before adulthood.
5. It's fine if they're any race but all of them have to be of the same race.
6. That they were properly trained as slaves.

those six. However, it seems she was easily able to gather them through the slave merchant network.

I can place my faith in Madam.Ronslail based on the business deals up until now so at the very least I'm sure she wouldn't intentionally try to sell me slaves that don't meet the conditions.

Honestly speaking, my feelings of buying and selling people when dealing in slaves are pretty weak. I'm more or less just going about it as if I'm hiring employees with various settings and conditions to them. Though I say that, I still have the resolve to properly take full responsibility for their lives as well. Since they're still called slaves you could say they're my individual

assets and if it's their fate to belong to me then it's an obligation of a master to prepare a decent happiness for them.

Fundamentally at least half of them(most likely more though) I intend to have accompany me to my territory in the future so it would be pitiful if they have relatives...It's too embarrassing, like I could say something like that. There's technically some other reasons as well but those are fine for now. Also, I don't think it's all that bad to provide a proper place of employment for slaves that are almost like orphans.

"Then, I'll take a look at them as well. Even if I'm having them live in the capital I want to at least get a look at their faces."

After being let through into the back Basutorial and Cathy were asking various questions with a serious face. They were mostly just stupid questions so the details didn't really matter. I already told them that in the future it's possible we could go to my territory and that's why I have no conditions so I'm sure there's a lot of things they wanted to confirm. Particularly Cathy since she was the one who was going to be interacting with them the most her expression was considerably serious. Basutorial was probably worrying about his wife as well. Though that's not the entire reason but one part of why we limited their age to children as well.

"How are they?"

"Ah, I think they're fine."

Basutorial said. Since this guy didn't reject anyone Cathy seems

fine as well.

A total of 11 of both girls and boys. Just as I requested they're

all Hyumu race ages 10 years old to 14 years old.

However, their nutrition condition was probably not very good. It

seems like their meals were improved but everyone gives off a

somehow thin feel.

There was even some that were making slightly frightened

expressions seeing the trained builds of Basutorial and I.

"Ronslail-san. Please allow me to purchase all of them. What is the

price?"

It seems there was some difference between all of them but they

were around 1,200,000 to 1,500,000 each. For all 11 of them it was

14,200,000 Z. It seems she's properly taking profit this time.

After paying 14 gold coins and 1 gold Shu, I received silver coins

in change along with the proof of sale and said that I would stop

by tomorrow morning to pick them up before we left the store.

.....

After returning to Boil Manor no one was around so I guessed from

the time that they were probably having lunch but it's a pain

searching for everyone every time. Since John and Terry weren't

waiting in front of the inn they probably were brought along as

well. It couldn't be helped so we decided to go to a new restaurant

for lunch with just the three of us. In the afternoon we have

combined training just like that so Basutorial and I brought along

our armor and practice weapons.

We entered a place with a strange name like The Chicken Tree. The

appearance of the place was decent, on the better end of the scale,

and the cooking wasn't bad either. It's a fault that it's a bit far

from Boil Manor. I just had a random daily lunch set but it was considerably satisfying and it was quite the good service that you can even drink your fill in after-meal tea for free. If I get bored of the places nearby it might not be bad to walk this far, the three of us were talking about things like that.

"Hey, that, isn't it the {Slaughterers}.."

"Yeah, that's right. I've seen them before as well, it's

Greed."

"I've seen that Cat-person before as well."

"He's a member."

"That woman, I feel like somewhere.."

"Idiot, it's way beyond that~ it seems they went to the 9th floor the other day. There's someone who heard them talking about it."

"9th floor? That's a lie right? Did they exceed the founding King?"

"If the 9th floor was true then that would be the case.

Amazing~"

Ohho~ So it's already become a rumor huh? Praise us some more, bow down before, and respect us. Uhi~hyo. However, the three of us just casually continued talking about the factory while eating lunch without showing any feelings like that, and after properly drinking down the tea we paid the bill and left the restaurant.

"It seems rumors about it are already spreading around."

Basutorial said while grinning a bit when we left the store. Cathy seemed a bit happy as well. I tried my best to smooth over my expression while saying, "That's right. It was this sort of feeling when we went to the 6th and 7th floors as well. It probably isn't

mentioned every time but when we went to the 8th floor I'm sure the information about the troll's magic stones was revealed by the old man from the magic tool shop as well. There's no doubt it was said that we had gone to the 8th floor within two weeks from that." and said with a calm face.

Just because the 9th floor is even more of a sensational story than that I'm sure it'll spread around among the adventurers in no time at all. Though I say that, it seems those guys in the restaurant have considerably fast ears as well.

Just watch, eventually I'll find a valuable {Magic.Item} that everyone is envious of and become a high ranking noble(one with a self-governing territory) after all. And then, while keeping an eye on the period I'll go independent as soon as possible. When it comes to that, I'm sure the rumors will fly around filled with exaggeration again. My fame will rise and it will be even easier for people and goods to gather. The game will come after that.

.....

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 6

After seeing off the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} into the dungeon, accompanied by the Basutorial couple I went to "Slave Store, Ronslail". After receiving the slaves along with the proof of sale, we went to the temple and had them perform the naming ceremony before heading to the capital.

Just in case we pushed the meat mincers that we had made into the cart we prepared for today and tomorrow and then the Basutorial couple sat in the coachman's seat. The slaves are walking being

lead by Zulu, Angela, and Giberuti but this can't be helped. In reality it will take time to travel like this so I wanted to put them on the cart as well but including the first meat mincer we had in Basutorial's room there's a total of 5 of them and also a mountain of preservatives so it was impossible.

After arriving in the capital it's only obvious that there's preparations for getting the factory operating but I need to go with Cathy to greet the various companies that we'll be buying ingredients from and I need to show my face at the dark elf healer's place where we're buying the preservatives from as well. It's also necessary to secure an inn for the slaves.

"If possible I want to return tonight but it's also possible I won't be able to return. Just relax and wait without worrying too much."

After saying that to Zenom and Toris, Miduchi and I each got on our war horses. Basutorial is the one driving the cart. Cathy is next to Basutorial.

I told John and Terry, "You two are the greatest seniors right now. Make sure you do a proper job teaching them." when I introduced the new slaves I also made sure to tell them to properly listen to their seniors.

Along the way, a plenty number of Baldoggie that we had in our bento as well as the ones intended to be distributed as samples were prepared by Cathy, John, and Terry yesterday afternoon.

"Alright, let's go."

It's time to depart.

Chapter 246: Sausage Factory

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 6

A short while after we descended from the outer crater of Baldukk

we took a break for lunch.

Around 10 minutes after putting Baldoggie into boiling water. After

they've gotten plenty hot we put them on some rolled bread with a slice in the middle along with mayonnaise, mustard, and sauerkraut, before handing one to each person.

All of the newly purchased slaves ate as if they were devouring them.

"Hey, don't hurry and slowly eat it. There's still some left."

"If you're hungry then there's still seconds."

"Oh, was the mustard too strong? Sorry about that. I'll give you a new one."

"Your legs have started to hurt..here, it's gotten a bit better right?"

Zulu, Angela, Cathy, and Miduchi were heroically looking after the trouble of the children.

John and Terry have already built up enough stamina that this level of march is nothing and they're wearing rubber sandals so they were helping Giberuti make hotdogs and preparing the beans for tea.

We make a deep bean tea and then after floating a lot of ice inside of it the ice tea is made, it's the obvious choice for drinking in the summer.

I was discussing with Basutorial the arrangement of the meat mincers

in the factory.

He must have given it his best to carefully draw it.

He was showing me a layout plan of the factory while saying "I

thought cleaning would be troublesome if we were to place them here

or here." and I was nodding while listening before just saying,

"That's fine".

We spent 5 hours crossing the roughly 10 km route with breaks in

between and when we finally arrived at Greed Company in the capital

it was past 3 pm.

We already guessed that moving would take some time that's why I

was thinking of having everyone ride the passenger carriage but

including Zulu all of my slaves said, "The start is crucial" so we

did it this way.

I see, if you all are going to say that then it can't be helped,

and making them walk was the mistake.

All of the brats are worn out.

Though John and Terry are fine.

I guess because it's hot out during this season, there was no one

outside of the store.

We stopped our horses and tied them up before entering the always

open door.

"Ah, president! Welcome!"

Anna cheerfully greeted us while Hanna called out as well.

Soon after Luke and Leila appeared to greet us.

Both of them were covered in sweat and their hands were dirty as

well. They must have been counting the inventory.

It's about time for the move so I told them to properly grasp the

amount of inventory and make of list of it.

"Luke, I prepared the slaves that will be working at the factory.

Have you already found a good inn?"

"Yeah, I've already discussed it with them. Just in case they're split up into two locations though.."

"Yeah, that's fine. Basutorial. Go together with Cathy and look at the inns. If there's no problem then I don't mind if you enter a contract just like that. It's fine for you to adequately decide which one will be used by the boys or how to split up the rooms and such."

After saying that far I looked around inside of the store a bit and looked for a place I could fit everyone inside.

The corners of the store are already filled with luggage and boxes ready for the move so I thought it would be troublesome if they couldn't fit.

That, it's probably winter clothes.

Rather than Bakuddo there's a lot more cheaper things in the capital after all.

Since the Ryogu's are paid quite a bit I'm sure they purchased a good amount of stuff.

Incidentally the wages are 500,000 Z a month for the head clerk Rozural, 300,000 Z a month for Wendy the sales clerk, and then 250,000 Z a month each for Dianne and her husband Luke. Honestly speaking for a single family this income(1,300,000 Z monthly income) is most likely the highest in Bakuddo excluding the family of hunters.

I don't think even our house dealt with this much money before we started the rubber business.

For reference the youngest daughter of the Ryogu family, Sonia makes 20,000 Z a month as the maid of our household.

It should have been about the same for Myun as well.

There's a large difference between farming villages and cities

almost like Shanghai on Earth.

These wages are something decided with permission from

brother.

It's something like a bonus for the squire family that goes to the

capital every two years and limited to just a measure for a squire

family from Bakuddo to be employed by Greed Company.

Things like letting them take days off and go on trips through the

capital of surrounding areas, we're urging them somewhat forcefully

to use the money but this is largely to increase the amount of

knowledge the squires have as well.

With this it's almost like I'm buying a favor for them to transfer

to the capital but it's extremely important for me to have someone

I can relax and trust from Bakuddo living in the capital.

Well, along with that there's the wages for the Yotlen family and

some miscellaneous expenses like the Bell Street shop association

fees which cost me 2,000,000 Z a month even if we do nothing at all

though. That can't be helped.

If we can properly get the sausage factory operating and after

removing the expenses 40% of the profits become my income then

about half of the expenses listed above should be taken care of, if

you were to ask me I'd like to just get the sausage factory on

track right away.

I let the newly purchased slaves into the store and had them

exchange greetings in order.

"Al-sama, aren't they just children...Is that fine?"

Luke was saying out of concern but adults are just a bit..After all

the one managing them for the time being is just Cathy. You could say them being younger than her was an absolute condition. Putting aside Cathy that way Basutorial can relax as well.

"I see now..If you put it that way then, I guess so. Their master is no one other than Al-sama after all."

Luke said it made sense and nodded as well.

"For a short while, have someone eat meals together with the slaves. I don't mind if you take the cost of the meals out as an expense. But, it's not like they're going to be living together with me after all...It's necessary for them to learn how to use money...Starting tomorrow all the way until next week give each of them 500, no, 600 Z a day. The week after that make it 4,000 Z per week. If there's anyone who uses up all of it then it's fine to give them 1,000 Z but on the next week subtract 1,000 Z. Starting next month I guess it's fine to pay weekly as well..Well, I guess it is. I'm leaving it to you."

"Yes, please leave it to me. I'll hand it over to the Donneoru family when they come at the end of the month as well."

A 20,000 Z monthly salary huh? Honestly when it comes to living in

Rombertia then including meals it's barely enough.

However, either way we'll be providing Baldoggie as the large portion of their lunch meals.

Even if I say that's no good I'm sure Cathy would pay out of her own pocket to feed them so I'm not going to forbid it.

If we just leave it alone then eventually I'm sure one of the

sharper ones will cover up the amount of meat and make some all on their own to eat.

It would be boring if there wasn't at least someone who does

that.

On the contrary it should be fine if I just tell Cathy to ignore it as long as it doesn't get too bad.

However, if they start to monopolize it or aren't sharing them among the group then I won't show any mercy. Also bullying, that's no mercy. I think just that I won't forgive. I need to mention it later.

While waiting for the return of the Basutoral couple, since it can't be helped wasting time Miduchi and I went to the healer managed by the dark elf Tukerin or whatever to offer greetings.

There was a considerable number of patients in the healer waiting for their treatment. This could take some time, I thought. However, Miduchi whispered something to the dark elf receptionists and was allowed through to the back right away.

But, just I was made to wait in the room outside for a short while.

Miduchi said, "Tukerin-san thinks it's something that has to do with the internal affairs of Lail Kingdom. I need to go and explain some appropriate reason for it so I think you'll be waiting for a short while. It's fine if you don't force yourself to say anything other than greetings. Though it's fine if you talk as well." so I just quietly waited outside.

During that time the dark elf that seemed like an employee was by my side and no matter what wasn't taking their eyes off me.

In a few minutes Miduchi called out from inside of the room so I lowered my head while entering and the middle-aged dark elf that was sitting in the chair was observing me from the top of my head

to the tips of my toes while pointing to a chair with no expression so I said, "Excuse me." and took a seat next to Miduchi. Before I could say any greetings Miduchi said, "Previously, I think you've met before but he's sub-Noble Greed. He's someone who is absolutely necessary so.." and said that. What's that? and shortly after thinking that, "It's been a while since we last met..sub-Noble Greed was it? We're both his majesty's..alike, I won't hold back in my cooperation." said that to me. I have no idea what it's about but it would probably be best to match up with what he says here. Rather~ his majesty the King's whatever or other alike part I couldn't understand at all. "For me as well, it's been a while since we last met, Tukerin-san. I've heard many things about you from Chizumagurol. Last year we were greatly in your care. I'm grateful for your continued cooperation." And said while stretching out my right hand. We both shook hands while confirming our status. Level 14 huh? He's considerably high even though he's not an adventurer. After that we exchanged greetings on the surface and after explaining things about the factory ended the conversation at an appropriate time before returning.

.....

When we returned to the store, soon after the Basutorial couple returned as well.

Right away, we decided to bring along the slaves to the factory.

In a hurry we setup the mincer just as Basutorial instructed. The factory already had desks, buckets, and a large smoker prepared.

After that all we need is the stove magic tool, magic stones, pork, spices and ingredients and we can start operations right away. I intend to go to the magic tool shop Splendor tomorrow to buy the stove magic tool.

I really wanted to go today but I didn't know what size would be needed so it was necessary to take measurements.

Zulu and Angela were a great help doing the work of trying to setup the heavy mincer in the sweltering heat. I'm really glad I brought them along. Basutorial and Giberuti were making difficult faces while looking at the layout of the factory and discussing something. Cathy was giving a simple explanation to the slaves of what they'll be doing. Miduchi and I were holding strings and tying knots to measure things under Basutorial and Giberuti's instructions.

While doing those sorts of things it started to get dark out. It's impossible if we don't turn on some lights soon but let alone lighting magic tools we still hadn't bought any lamps.

Incidentally this factory has two rooms that are about 4.5 tatami mats each attached to it and I intend to have John and Terry live there as night guards.

After throwing their change of clothes and few belongings into there, we all went out for dinner.

We entered a random restaurant and got some meals.

This time we chose a place that was close to the bottom matching up to the wages of the slaves.

The price was around 300 Z per person a decent amount.

We discussed the treatment of slaves under me while eating.

The compensation of 20,000 Z per month starting next month. However

it's paid weekly. If they work seriously then they could get a raise at the start of the new year.

Tomorrow we'll go to buy daily necessities for them. Each person gets three changes of clothes. Underwear is one weeks worth of six pairs.

Other things like towels and bathing tools will be purchased for each person.

I discussed things like that and finally added one more comment at the end.

"Everyone, listen carefully to the things Cathy says and get along with each other. Also, it's fine if you get into fights but do it fairly one on one. I absolutely won't forgive just hiding and bullying behind someones back. Anyone who knows about it and remains quiet is equally guilty. If there's someone who gets bullied say something right away. If there's someone unpleasant than properly say what about them is unpleasant to the person. If they don't fix it from that then it's fine to come and mention it to Cathy or anyone else in the company so make sure I hear about it. Alright, don't misunderstand. First off properly say things to each other. Don't come and tell things to Cathy and I without saying anything to them. This is absolute. Alright."

I looked at each of their faces one after another while putting emphasis on it.

It seems they understood so after having some tea we crammed them into their inns.

We returned John and Terry to the factory but it's summer and they get private rooms, so I told them to endure with just a towel until

we can buy beds tomorrow.

.....

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 7

Today is Tanabata.

But something like that is unrelated.

We're running around shopping since early in the morning.

The change of clothes and underwear, daily necessitates, I left to

Miduchi and Cathy, I went to buy the remaining stove and after

setting that up went to buy a huge pot.

After that we went to the companies that we had been negotiating

with from before and stocked up on pork along with the pig's

bowels.

We're going to be buying from a total of six dealers. The spices

and such was plenty dealing with just one specialized dealer.

We're also negotiating to increase the amount of kazotto(analogue

cheese) as well.

Since they didn't produce a large amount in the first place if they

were to sell all the amount we've requested they won't have enough

to provide to others.

It was necessary to lower our heads to get them to sell as much as

they can.

After letting them eat a Baldoggie simple with Kazotto inside of it

doubling the amount they were selling us was the limit.

If it's this stock amount then we probably can't make very much, I

wonder if it will become a popular product with a premium

feel?

Also we gained the prospect of stocking up on catgut from livestock

while negotiating for the other stuff.

With this not just Frankfurt size but we might be able to make the

easier to eat Vienna size as well.

Ah, I wonder if that means I'll have to make the mouthpiece for the

catgut size...Seriously, that's a pain in the ass...

In a hurry we finished up with everything.

Everything that had a fixed price and could be paid like the inn

fees I paid for three months ahead and already finished

negotiations on the meat and other ingredients that will be paid

for whenever they're delivered to the head office of the

company.

In reality I wanted to return to Baldukk today but it was

impossible.

Tomorrow we'll quickly return and then we need to buy the required

materials for making the teleport room on the 8th floor into a

base.

Also, I intend to leave the deliveries of the Baldoggie from the

factory to the cart we have in the entrance plaza to Murowa so I

still need to go over the fine details of that. In that case the

dungeon won't be until the day after tomorrow huh?

However, with this everything troublesome for the time being

is..there was the move and deliveries to the knight group at the

end of the month...

At that time I need to report that we cleared the 8th floor and

started advancing into the 9th floor as well.

However, something like that will end in a single day.

The really troublesome stuff is transferring over the company work

and the initial operation of the sausage factory huh...

Just in case brother and the others intend to stay in the capital

for about two weeks to help out with transferring over the

positions and such but..there's a lot of stuff that is no good if

I'm not around after all~

Like reporting to the government office, I'm sure that will eat up

some time waiting in line.

Though I say that once that stuff is over it's really the end of

the troublesome stuff, I can see the hope.

Here is a time to hold out.

Chapter 247: Investigation Start

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 8

In the morning, when I was having breakfast together with the Ryogu family and Basutorial couple we discussed things for the time being. First off, after I finish eating I'm returning to Baldukk right away. Next up we're leaving Cathy towards the test operation of the factory next week. And then, at the end of this week we'll just send back Giberuti from the dungeon and have him act as advisor to Cathy.

"Starting tomorrow I'll be in the dungeon for at least 10 days.

Once I leave I'll come by once to check on things."

We'll enter the dungeon again starting tomorrow(if the remaining members paid attention and have already finished buying the materials then it'll be when we return today after taking a break around noon though) and it's necessary to finish up making the 8th floor into base.

"After that we'll be going back into the dungeon again right away though. And then, around the time we leave..Umm, around three weeks later brother should come as well. Then since there's a lot of things to do I think I'll be staying over here for about one week."

I told them my general plan. Furthermore, I gave out instructions to provide the slaves with rubber sandals and while discussing other fine details breakfast ended in no time at all. After that we returned to the store and after waiting for Zulu and the others who

were eating with the slaves to come back we returned. When we went to depart and split ways Basutorial and Cathy kissed. How nice, being young. It feels bittersweet.

"What are..you doing?"

I said to Miduchi. Stop biting your finger. It's shameful.

The four other than Miduchi and I are riding the carriage we

borrowed in Baldukk. With the Ryogu family and Cathy waving as they saw us off we left Rombertia.

.....

Quickly returning we arrived at Baldukk just before 10 am. After

returning the carriage and going to Boil Manor it was just as Zenom and Toris came back carrying a lot of bags. Oh~ they sure are helpful.

"Welcome back, Al-san. We've already prepared all of the materials.

If we just purchase the food then it's all done. Bel and the others went to buy that stuff."

"Nn..I see. Then I'm heading off to Murowa to discuss the matter

with the cart. After everyone has gathered prepare the equipment and wait at the entrance plaza...Ah that's right, Giberuti, take my armor from Miduchi and hand it to Zulu. Just have Zulu wait in the entrance plaza with it."

After leaving my horse in the stables I gave instructions to

Giberuti for just Zulu to remain while they all go ahead.

"Everyone go ahead in the dungeon. There's no need to wait for me along the way. We'll meet at the teleport room on the 3rd floor."

Hearing that Zenom and Toris immediately went to their rooms and started preparing their equipment. I need to give all of my

equipment to Giberuti as well. I went to my room.

"What are you..doing?"

After entering my room when I was about to start gathering my equipment Miduchi followed me inside.

"You're going together with everyone as well. Quickly start getting your armor and whatever ready and go. Today we have a lot of luggage to carry after all. We'll be starting late so it's going to be a forced march."

"..kiss~"

"Huh?"

"Have a good trip kiss~"

..Was she envious of Basutorial and Cathy?

How old are you...

18 right now huh.

.....

I finished up the discussion about the cart with the old man of Murowa and started on my way towards the entrance plaza. I wonder if I spent a bit too much time on idle talk? I didn't take into consideration wearing out Zulu by having him wait in the heat.

But, he has the stamina so I'm sure he'll be fine.

I arrived at the entrance plaza and Zulu was waiting in a cool place in the shade. I quickly put on my rubber armor and threw my rucksack stuffed with luggage over my shoulder. Huh? It's not very heavy? I guess they filled mine primarily with the light towels and change of clothes?

"Around when did everyone depart?"

"I guess around half an hour?"

"I see, how about food?"

"I've already eaten."

"Sorry, I still haven't eaten anything. Wait for just a bit, I'll

go and buy some skewers."

I took my bayonet back while holding 5 skewers in my left hand and the two of us went through the entrance of the dungeon. The two of us teleported into the 1st floor and I had Zulu spread out the map I left to him as we got an idea of our current location. I chewed away at my skewers while confirming the number and looking at the map for our current location.

"Nn, it's already fine. Fold it up. I already know after all, it's over here."

I continue chewing on the salty pork roast while walking. Cheap meat is tough.

Through everything it took us about 3 hours to clear through the 1st floor. When I confirmed the time on the clock magic tool inside of a pocket of Zulu's rucksack it was just past 3 pm.

"Let's hurry a bit."

I called out to Zulu and we decided to go to the 2nd floor with just a bathroom break.

We need to quickly get to the 8th floor and start investigating the revival cycle of the Minotaur and such.

.....

After teleporting into the 2nd we spent 1 hour moving at a fast pace. We passed through four monster rooms along the way but there was only a boss in the first two. In the remaining two there was the corpses of an {Owlbear} and a {Gnoll.Silverhead} laying around. It must have been after someone had passed through. Judging from the wounds it wasn't likely that the {Slaughterers} was ahead of us.

However, it's true that it's easy. We can gradually cover the remaining distance at a fast walking speed so it's something that should be welcome. If it's like this then we should be able to clear through the 2nd floor in about 2 hours as Zulu and I continued leisurely walking down the halls of the dungeon. However, in about 20 minutes our pace slowed down.

The sounds of combat.

We can hear the screams and shouts of people as well as the shrieks of what is most likely monsters.

That shriek is probably an {Owlbear}.

"What should we do?"

Zulu asked but the answer is only obvious.

"Nn..Let's go. If they have concluded things then we'll wait and see."

Around one minute after the two of started walking. We arrived at the monster room.

During that time the sounds of combat were still continuing.

It must be a third-rate party that's lacking in a winning move to use in combat against an {Owlbear}.

"How about it..Do you know them?"

"No, I've never seen them before."

There was one {Owlbear} and a six-man party of men and women frantically fighting with their asses facing us. Judging from their expensive looking armor like {Banded-mail} and {Chain-mail} they're a group that neither Zulu nor I know about. Their ages are..it seems they're all wearing uniform helmets with face guards so I can't tell. I guess all of them are Hyumu? Also they have leather boots..Isn't that the rubber soles that our company deals in..They're already wearing them and I can't properly identify them

so I can't tell their levels.

The only one I was able to identify was the one who was commanding from the back who's blonde hair is barely coming out from the helmet, she's a level 8 Hyumu that's one year older than me and from a Baron family that I've never heard of. It seems she can use two types of elemental magic but the levels were the same as her void magic at level 2 and low.

If they're a party capable of making it to the 2nd floor and I don't know their faces then I guess they're the type with true ability that's recently come to Baldukk? Rarely there's times when people from some places knight group like Rodrick and the others come along so I guess it's a bit rude to have called them third-rate.

The {Owlbear} was considerably wounded and already at the stage where unless something quite unexpected happens the adventurer side wouldn't lose. However, they aren't letting their guards down at all and still have the line of battle properly going as they cooperate to defeat it. He~ they can do pretty well?

Of course, comparing them to anyone in the {Slaughterers} they make a lot of pointless movements that stand out but the leader and commander is giving out orders to the woman holding a spear that seems to be a magician in the rear as they skillfully cover for each others weaknesses. Though she hasn't use magic at all. Zulu and I took the corks off our flasks and wet our throats while watching them make sport of the {Owlbear}.

The woman who seemed to be the leader finished off the {Owlbear}.

It was only near the end but just from what I can see there doesn't seem to be any injuries and you could say they were boasting quite the magnificent cooperation. Wouldn't they be able to manage on even the 3rd floor?

In any case, we didn't interfere with their combat so they're unrelated to us. Let's quickly pass through and aim to group up with everyone. After everyone finished the combat they were raising their face guards to catch their breath but I don't particularly have any interest anymore so I decided to pass through just like that.

"Nn, let's go."

"Yes."

I called out to Zulu before stepping foot into the room. Of course, we aren't doing something like taking the shortest route straight through the middle that could unnecessarily provoke them. We slowly started walking along the wall. Obviously it seems they noticed us as well and they've been paying attention to us since we entered the room. I guess they did it out of caution but several of them lowered their face guards again. Ya~ please excuse us~

We have no intention of being any sort of intrusion so just let us pass on the edge.

The two from their party that were fighting on the flanks of the front line were just starting to stab their swords in to gather the magic stone from the {Owlbear}.

"I can't watch."

Zulu whispered. It's probably about how they're gathering the magic stone. It's the usual disassembling form for a beginner filled with excessive movements and I noticed it as well. If Zulu hadn't

mentioned it I might have said the same thing, it's a method of gathering that shows off they're beginners. While they have some pretty decent combat skills they're still too inexperienced as adventurers. After all I guess they're members of some places knight group huh?

"That's right.."

I replied to Zulu while taking the detour following around the wall towards the hall that we were aiming. In order to keep from showing any hostility I don't have my weapon in hand. My bayonet is on my shoulder and Zulu's sword is in it's scabbard. And, it was just then that I finally noticed. In the corner of the room where we were heading there was a rucksack thrown down. It must be the belongings of one of them. After stopping my feet and looking around the room a number of rucksacks matching up to their number was laying around.

Chi..This is why beginners are..It's only obvious there's a boss in the rooms. Unless they were caught off guard there's no reason for their belongings to be thrown all over the place. It seems their rucksacks are all uniform so there's no mistake that this is their belongings as well.

"Ah, please excuse me. We'll be passing through."

It would be unpleasant to be thought of as walking away with their bags so I should at least say something.

"Please excuse me!! I..I'll move it right awayyy"

And then, one woman from the group of adventurers walked forward while calling out to us. It's a different person from the leader. They have an infantry-use short-sword hanging from their waist.

It's one of the attackers who uses a spear as their main arm.

"Ah, No..Sorry about that."

I replied with my feet stopped. She picked up her rucksack and returned to the center around the corpse of the {Owlbear}. It seems that the chain-mail she was wearing was reasonably worn out but at the very least what I could see of the slightly worn-out blue surcoat with what's probably her family's emblem sewn on it is properly maintained and there's no rust on it.

It was after watching her carry off her rucksack just when we were about to advance again. A different man called out to us. It was one of the tanks {Shield.Holders} from the center of the front line.

"Hey~ sorry but could I ask you something for a bit? No, of course I intend to thank you for it."

This guy seems pretty young as well and his age is probably about the same or just a bit above me.

"What is it?"

I stopped my feet and faced the man wearing splint-mail who was approaching us.

"That is..It looks like you're wearing similar plate-mail to the type the members of the first knight group use but is that the case?"

Ho~? Are they customers? Though I say that, I still don't intend to sell to anyone outside of the kingdom's knight groups.

"To be precise they aren't the same though..The maker is the same."

If they already know then there's probably no meaning in trying to cover it up.

"Oh! Well then, is that armor circulating quite a bit around

Baldukk?"

"No, I'm sure you can't purchase it in Baldukk."

"Mumumu. Then in that case, from Greed Company huh...Would you mind telling me how you managed to deal with Greed Company? I've gone and lowered my head countless times but they absolutely won't sell it so I've been a bit troubled..Even if it's just one suit, I definitely want one."

Deal..I'm the president of that Greed Company though. And I guess there's no way he'd know huh?

However, all of them are completely unlike adventurers, they're using expensive equipment so it's not like they'd need any different ones at this point right? Rather~ with this it's become clear. Even after clearly seeing my face they haven't realized that I'm the leader of the {Slaughterers}, Alan.Greed. Along with that unfamiliar method of gathering magic stones, after all these guys are newbies.

However, that still leaves questions remaining.

The fact that the first knight group has started using what appears to be plate-mail dyed black(rubber armor) is something that most people with an interest in knights in the capital would know. If you investigate then you can figure out pretty quickly that the supplier is Greed Company as well. I thought that some upstart rich knight from a different territory retired and started business as an adventurer..but it seems a bit different. The fact that they're interested in the rubber armor means that they already somewhat know about how excellent it is. It seems it's not someone from a regional territory that's come to Baldukk.

However, if a group of people from the elite knight group of the kingdom retired and started as adventurers there's no way that wouldn't enter sister's ears. Even if sister is harsh on me, if she were to find out about that she should at least give me their information. Who in the world..are they?

Jemikku.Nokufyuri level 8, 20 years old, Elf, commoner huh...Eh?

Duke Rombert Knight!? Come to think of it, that leader woman I just identified, what was her info again? I forget. I'll identify her once more..and before I realized it she lowered the face guard of her helmet again. Not to mention she's facing over here so I can't identify her hair either.

"They turned it down right? I think it's probably impossible."

"Certainly, I was turned down. However, weren't you able to get your hands on it. I'll thank you for it. Just like this, wouldn't you introduce me to Greed Company?"

Nokkufyuri lowered his head to me while asking. However, from a tactical management standpoint, it's impossible. If I make one exception then I'll end up having to make exceptions all over the place.

"If it's someone from the first knight group then you can purchase it. Ah, also while it's very few right now they're also selling it to the second knight group."

"..Don't say anything impossible. I already know at least that much. However, it seems it's difficult even for the second knight group. Let alone the first knight group..I'm lowering my head asking because that can't be done."

I already get that but you know.

"James, isn't it already fine? There's no need to worry about me.

Also it seems he's a bit troubled. In the first place something

like armor is unnecessary if you don't take any attacks."

The leader woman joined the conversation. As expected of her being

able to command that well. It seems she can make proper judgements.

Though that matter about not taking any attacks is underestimating

the dungeon, no, monsters too much.

"However, young mistress..it's a long-awaited chance."

Come to think of it she was from some Baron family was it? This

young mistress or whatever.

"It's fine. Also, if it's absolutely necessary then one day I'll

directly request it from Alan-sama. Ah~ right about now that person

must be heroically on the lower floors.."

I can't deal with this shit.

Since around last year this, these sorts of idiots have

occasionally appeared.

"Is it already fine~? Let's go."

I nodded to the bitterly smiling sir Nokkufyuri who was called

James and called out to Zulu before quickly heading towards the

hall and jumping inside.

Of course, I quickly took the short route of passing straight

through the middle of the room.

Chapter 248: Beating the Bridge

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 8

Zulu and I, the two of us continue walking down the halls of the
2nd floor.

"Recently, there's been an increase in people like that
right."

"Yeah, ever since we went to the 8th floor..Right~"

"They probably just want to get close to master for the fame but
there's no need to deal with them all so politely."

"Hn..Well, I guess that's true."

"In the first place, that group from back there were just
pretending to show interest in the armor like that.."

"Yeah, they were saying "young mistress" or whatever."

"Since their equipment was considerably good, I'm sure they have
plenty of money. They were completely transparent."

Though that can be said, even though that sir Nokkufyuri received
investiture as a true knight of one of the kingdom's knight groups,
he was talking considerably politely towards someone with unknown
background(it didn't seem like he realized I was the president of
Greed Company Alan.Greed after all) like myself.

In some meanings it's only obvious for a noble child who was
properly raised from infancy, received plenty of education, and is
aware of common sense but it felt a bit unusual for what could be
considered a commoner that managed to win their rank. Judging from
identify and the conversation it seems he received investiture from
either the third or fourth knight groups. He was too young for the

first knight group and it's unlikely that he wouldn't know about me. He said something like even the second knight group would be difficult so it must have been either the third or fourth knight groups.

Since he's at the level where he's come to the dungeon he might be from the fourth knight group which has a large scale infantry and combat engineer squad. If it's there then it's not very strange for there to be a knight that retires at the age of 20. Ah, No, there are a lot of knights who originated as commoners in the fourth knight group but there's also a lot that originated as slaves as well. It might have actually been the third knight group which is almost like a territory's knight group made even larger scale, a lot of their duties involve in security and patrolling around in territories like police.

Whatever the case, he was a Duke Rombert's Knight. That title is something that only the knights in a knight group of a territory directly ruled by the King, Duke Rombert can receive. In other words, only the first to fourth knight groups with headquarters in the capital Rombertia or the knight group of Baldukk. Obviously the only knights of the Baldukk knight group (there's at most around 100 true knights) that don't know me would be newcomers so this is fine to exclude from the start.

The Royal territories are largely divided into the territory of Duke Rombert which surrounds the Capital, the territory of Duke Ronbarudo in the North, the territory of Duke Baguweru in the Southeast, the territory of Duke Rondoru in the Southwest, and then

there's several other small ones. In essence the King owns of all of those noble Duke titles and while acting as the King just "loans" those titles of Duke to his children or close relatives of the royal family. Well, something like governors. He leaves the governing to those governors to govern(it's a weird way of putting it though).

And in each of the high ranking noble territories it's only obvious but they have their own knight group. Obviously, since they're only being "loaned" the territory and peerage so those knight groups belong to the King as well. The regional knight groups of Duke Rombert's territory are close to a portion of the third and fourth knight groups as well as close to the knight group of Baldukk and the remaining knight groups are closer to a formal permanent army. Putting it simply the territory knight groups are like the National Reserve of the American Army and the four armies of Land, Sea, and Air as well as marines(excluding coastal defense units) are basically the first, second, third, and fourth knight groups.

Though there's nothing but a land army.

The following is digressing a bit but other than the Royalty there's about 5 Duke titles that exist. However, only 2 of those are "true Dukes" with a proper territory of their own and the rest are just nobles who have th qualifications and peerage but not territory, the so-called political nobles. My mother was a part of the branch family, the fourth daughter of the third son of Duke Sandak one of those political nobles.

Just even if I say they "don't have a territory" it's normal for

them to at least have one village or town. The representatives of the Northeastern area of the Royal territory are the territories of Marquis Goruttsu and Marquis Berittsu (obviously these two Marquis rankings are both owned by the King as well and just the same he has various Count and Viscount territories all over the place as well) but around half of the villages and towns under their affiliation are said to have been loaned to political nobles and the political nobles send a governor out to manage their own small territory. They live on the salary paid based on their duties or an annuity from the King as well as the taxes they gain as income from these territories they rule.

There's even people among them who spend their entire lives without stepping foot even once in the territory they rule.

I guess I got a bit off track? Well, putting that aside, we quickly cleared through the 2nd floor and arrived at the teleport room on the 2nd floor.

I tried asking a party I was familiar with there if they had seen Miduchi and the others and it seems they just teleported into the 3rd floor a few minutes prior. According to them they weren't barely even taking any break before proceeding either. We've caught up quite a bit.

We took another bathroom break before Zulu and I had just a simple dinner then we teleported into the 3rd floor.

Since I'm normally such a good person it's only obvious but I have good teleport lucky so we were able to clear through the 3rd floor without taking much time. I'm sure we've already overtaken Miduchi and the others. We couldn't find them among the other adventurers

camping in the teleport room on the 3rd floor.

The time is just past 9 pm and there's several parties resting. The

{Butchers} and {Exterminators} were included among them. It seems they setup camp together and have occupied a corner of the room.

However, it's not the best corner spot of the room but just a spot along the wall they've secured.

"Oh my, that's an amazing amount of luggage."

Kamu pointed to the stuffed rucksack's Zulu and I are carrying.

"Nn, I intend to finish up making the 8th floor into a base this time after all. After that including the investigation we plan to stay on the 8th floor for a short while so there's various things we needed."

I replied in a whisper so no one else in the surroundings could hear while having some soup Rubi handed to me and took a break. Well, even if I say it's a cramped room there's about 30 meters to each side so our conversation wouldn't be overheard that easily. Particularly because it's a place with a large number of people the various sounds of living are a good curtain.

The soup Rubi handed me was on the verge of getting cold but Zulu and I had already consumed the only sandwiches we had other than our emergency use preserved food so we were grateful for it. While we were sipping at the soup Miduchi and the other {Slaughterers} entered the teleport room of the 3rd floor.

"Ah, they're already here. We lost again huh~"

"Al-san, as expected. You're quick."

"Around what time did you enter?"

And they all started saying while coming over here.

"I think it was just past 12:00 pm."

Hearing Zulu's reply everyone said, "Oh what. Then it wasn't even one hour different from us." while putting down their bags.

Including my own the clearing speed of the {Slaughterers} is already completely known among adventurers over a certain level.

Knowing that the members of the {Butchers}, {Exterminators}, and other veteran parties of Baldukk couldn't do anything but make a bitter smile but of the other parties with camps setup right near us there's one party called {Golden.Etowaru} that's recently entered the ranks of second-rate who all opened their eyes in surprise hearing it.

"Ah~ I'm hungry~ Larry, make something that can be eaten right away."

Gwine patted her small stomach while ordering Giberuti around on her whim.

"Yeah, wait just a moment..Rubi, I'll borrow this stove."

Giberuti quickly took the ingredients out from the ice(inside of a large box used for carrying by porters) he was carrying and started preparing the food. It seems to be a meat and vegetable stir-fry.

"Faruergaz-sama, Gekudo-sama. Should I make enough for everyone else as well?"

Giberuti was asking but this is more of just a courtesy. It's obvious that they've already eaten from the soup that was almost gone in the pot on their portable stove.

"Ah, we've already eaten dinner so all that's left is to just sleep."

"That's right. We're fine."

And they were saying that while watching Giberuti skillfully cook up some food. It's not unusual to take along an exclusive cook or a combat slave that takes care of the cooking in the party but the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} don't have an exclusive cook after all.

Of course Rodricks and my combat slaves take care of the cooking but it's not like they're all that skilled at cooking either. On the days they aren't entering the dungeon it seems they're learning from Giberuti but they still aren't all that skilled.

After finishing up our meals it seems the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} had already decided on the lookouts so we left it to them and all went to sleep right away.

.....

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 10

Yesterday we cleared from the 4th floor to the 6th floor, this morning was the 7th floor, and then right now, we've just finished beating down the Minotaur on the 8th floor with everyone. The value of the magic stone was the same 30,000 as usual and with this it should be fine to think that the value of the magic stone from the Minotaur here won't have any greater value than this. The weapon was just a normal battle axe. This one wasn't worth anything much either. It's close to brand new so I'm sure we can sell it for a decent price but they've completely dropped from the wazamono at the start.

Putting that aside, after putting quite a bit of working carrying the materials this far, I wonder if it's fine to say we've almost

completed making the 8th floor into a base? We've installed a kitchen equipped with a stove and have prepared quite a few more buckets than the other floors. Of course, we've already made the benches and foot bath and just in case we decided on a place with beds for up to 14 people as well.

However, in regards to the toilet and shower room we're still currently using the simple versions. It's not a mistake to think in terms making it as comfortable as possible for a living space but thinking about the drainage and bad smell it's only obvious that it's better to have outside of the room.

Now then, from here on out it's a bit of a drawn out battle. Today is already close to 4 pm and we have some amount of fatigue remaining from clearing through the 7th and 8th floors. We should quickly take our showers and eat before properly setting up sentries and then go to sleep.

Ah, the loincloth I gave to Zulu has already been washed but there was still quite a bit of smell remaining to it so it was forcefully confiscated and is in the process of being pickled in a bucket of soap before being washed and dried in the sun right now. While we're here I intend to have it washed everyday. Once we return to the surface I'll buy some perfume or something so just bear with it for now.

.....

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 13

I had Basutorial return to the surface a bit ahead of us. We had plenty of time to discuss things about the factory so we exchanged ideas and in the end after giving him several orders I had him go

to his beloved wife's side. I already told him that once we finish this investigation, I'll be going to Rombertia as well.
"I'll make preparations so we can definitely have some delicious "sausage" ready to be eaten by the time Al-san comes."

Basutorial cheerfully said that before teleporting out towards the surface.

Including the first one and the one we defeated just past noon today we've defeated a total of 5 Minotaur. After all the quality of equipment the Minotaur are using is gradually falling and has reached the point where it's not much different from the standard sold in stores. Also, the fact that all of those are weapons with a long handle hasn't changed either.

.....

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 15

I've started to understand most of it. The signs of revival will appear roughly 17 hours after we defeat the Minotaur. And then, for several minutes up to around 10 minutes the signs of revival that is the whirlpool of fog will continue.

And then, while we're inside of the teleport room as long as we don't take any concrete actions towards attacking it doesn't notice us. It's fine no matter how loud of a noise we make. Just, if we throw a bucket of water on it or throw rocks at it then it obviously notices. However, it still doesn't seem like it can see the passage into the teleport room from it's side or it just looks like a normal dirt wall, so even after it notices it ends up giving up and facing it's back to us again eventually.

If we all charge at it we can definitely manage a surprise attack on it from it's back. I've already reached almost full confidence

of these things.

It's reasonable tough but since it was already not a big problem defeating it when fighting head on so there's almost no struggle when we can just ambush it. In the first place if soon after revives while it's still crouching down like the terminator you take a battle axe to it's neck with all your strength I'm sure even Giberuti could kill it.

Though I say that, it's necessary to spend another couple of days here and confirm if this hypothesis is really correct.

Unfortunately in regards to exploring the 9th floor I've put it off until we can confirm that this area is really safe.

Well, we should be able to reach that stage during this month though.

Ah, No, there's all that trouble with the factory and transferring duties with the company so I wonder if this month is impossible?

Chapter 249: 9th Floor

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 17

We killed the 9th Minotaur in total at almost the exact time we predicted of 9:00 in the morning. After all it was correct that they revive on an average cycle of 17 hours. To be more correct I think it's just a bit longer than 17 hours. Ever since I returned Basutorial to the surface on the 13th about half of our spare time has been spent doing running around this room while also exploring it but we never encountered anything suspicious or any monsters. Just once shortly after defeating the Minotaur we teleported into the 9th floor and hunted some Red Battle Crabs but after that just in case we've always been keeping an eye on things as much as possible.

Also, up until this day we discovered what could be called a place for the second shower room. In a place about 200 meters away from the pillar there was a rock that was nicely shaped like the character for ko and the center of that was close to flat so we were able to confirm that it could be used as a shower room right away after opening a hole there and bringing a bucket. Though it's the second one, since the ventilation of the teleport room is bad, we'll probably be using this one as our main shower.

The reason we didn't completely relocate was nothing more than a result of our experiments. If we move the pillars for the shower around 100 meters away from the teleport room then within one night the ropes we used to tie it start to loosen and come undone all on

their own before collapsing. However, strangely enough for some reason the binding on the buckets doesn't come off. Those will probably come off over a longer period of time. Also, it feels like when it comes to weapons or things with a lot of metal the amount of time until they break feels longer. They probably wouldn't break for at least a few decades up to several hundred years.

Through grasping those sorts of characteristics of the dungeon it could be said that the areas surrounding the pillar of the teleport room on the 8th floor are the ideal place for experimentation. Up until now we've always just relied on our intuition and it's possible we could have assumed things based on the wrong impression. In testing we just tried making a simple rope with a knot it in and leaving outside and in just one night it had loosened quite a bit after all. The Durability of the rope itself through Identify hadn't decreased. I guess that's only obvious huh?

Well, if we just close our eyes to the slight inconvenience of it we can have a shower in a bright and open place so it can't be helped worrying too much about it. It's that sort of thing and I'm sure there's no choice but to accept it. Although, things like that we had established through observations since quite a while back so it was nothing more than reconfirming the results of those observations. However, we can't just keep observing things in the dangerous halls so you could say it's nothing more than being able to more accurately measure the time and change relationship over here.

In any case, it was a big harvest just that we were able to get an almost perfect grasp on the revival cycle of the Minotaur and our base in the teleport room of the 8th floor has turned into something reasonably satisfying. Now then, first we'll return Giberuti ahead of us and then after earning some from hunting ogres on the 7th floor shall we return as well?

We'll get dull from just running and doing the radio exercises that we could only vaguely remember. Training is necessary.

.....

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 18

Now then, we've purchased a large amount of food so for the next week from here on out we'll explore centering around the 9th floor.

We didn't earn much of anything last week (though even then we still made around 30,000,000 Z from the ogre magic stones), and we didn't do much work at all so even if we go without days off this time it was welcome with arms in the air. However just Basutoral won't be accompanying us this time and when we returned last night I had Giberuti follow after him towards the factory in the capital.

We arrived at the 8th floor at our usual pace. We rested for one night and had breakfast, then went for a good two hour run with everyone. In regards to showering we used the second shower room outside of the teleport room as well. And then for raising morale we beat down the Minotaur that revived at around 9:00 in the morning before grabbing the teleport crystal into the 9th floor.

Now then, we're going to start walking around the same as usual

after this aiming to clear through the 9th floor!

.....

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 22

We arrived at our first altar room since we started exploring the 9th floor. Of course, we've found several normal monster rooms without altars. The bosses of the monster rooms were centered around the trolls from the 8th floor with just a slight increase in the number but there were also things like {Cave Troll} and {Troll.Kin} that appeared. Well it's fine if we just burn them all to death. Even if we don't burn them to death if we accumulate damage on them and burn them all together after false-killing them it's fine as well. Ah, I guess in the end it's still burning them to death? It doesn't matter either way.

And in regards to that altar room on the 9th floor but we're all holding our hopes high. That's only obvious. The number of gargoyles was the usual four but their levels had increased by 1-2. Also the monsters that were summoned were a bit unpleasant. One of them was called {Green Poison Lizard} and it's something like a relative of the {Frost Lizard}. That wasn't all. Of all things, a large number of {Kobolds} were summoned together with it. And, those {Kobolds} but all of them had this sort of feel.

【

【Male/22/7/7446.Puppy-People Race.The Sixth Clan】

【Condition: Normal】

【Age: 0 Years Old】

【Level: 5】

【HP: 10(10) MP: 24(24)】

【Strength: 2】

【Speed: 2】

【Dexterity: 1】

【Endurance: 2】

【Special Skill: Earth Magic(Lv. 3)】

【Special Skill: Water Magic(Lv. 3)】

【Special Skill: Fire Magic(Lv. 3)】

【Special Skill: Wind Magic(Lv. 3)】

【Special Skill: Void Magic(Lv. 5)】

Right? Doesn't that give an unpleasant feeling?

Up until now the only enemy that has used any proper magic was the

ogre mages on the 7th floor but only a small fixed number appear

ahead of time in the monster rooms on the 7th floor. Even when

there's a lot of them it's at most five. Also, while there's

generally some variance in their magic special skill levels at

highest they were level 4 and fundamentally they only use attack

spells sending some element of bullet flying at us.

However, these guys were completely different.

The first they they were summoned it was 15 of them at once on top

of every single one of them being able to use all elemental magics

and their magic special skill levels were all the same. And then

making it even more annoying it's only obvious they use attack

spells but among them there's ones that use {Anti-Magic Field} and

{Quagmire} at the same time. Furthermore there's even some that use

basic healing spells like {Cure}.

In other words, my overwhelming and powerful certain kill trump

card's burying and freezing are almost meaningless. Since there

were so many of them before I even tried identifying them I just

froze them all but in just a few short seconds when they opened a

huge hole in the ice I was so surprised I almost fell over. It was

to the point where I only realized they could use all elemental magic after I used Identify on their corpses. It's effective range isn't very wide but {Quagmire} is an unpleasant attack in a simple way. When your feet get stuck in the bog and you can't move around to evade the poison breath from the {Green Poison Lizard} comes flying.

If you inhale this poison it starts bringing a pain like the inside of your chest is inflamed and breathing becomes difficult. Since your breathing gets difficult accompanied by that you fall into a low oxygen state and obviously your physical abilities fall as well. It's not like you end up with some kind of poisoning state under Condition so it helps that you can recover from it using Cure type healing spells but after all the pain still remains and in order to fully heal it all at once it requires pouring a considerable amount of mana into it.

Well, if you fire off something like a {Stone Bolt Missile} with over 5 bullets that exceeds the amount of MP the Kobold's have then it will tear through the {Anti-Magic Field} and even just one remaining bullet will instantly kill it but the only one who can practically use a spell like that is me. It was to the point where I thought of just hitting them with a considerable {Fire Ball}. Though thinking about it afterwards I realized that was the correct answer.

It's fine if I just hit them with a {Fire Ball} using about 200 MP or so forcing the Kobolds to all use {Anti-Magic Field} at once and annihilating them with the explosion(the one that it directly hits

will try to use {Anti-Magic Field} but obviously it'll break through that and completely cook it and then the rocks that fly around in the explosion will tear through the {Anti-Magic Fields} of the other Kobolds exhausting their mana). After that if you just remain careful of the pitiful arrow type attack spells and the {Quagmire} then there's no problem with calmly dealing with them.

However, the first time I couldn't think that far so after the ice was erased I'll just blow them away with consecutive attack spells one after another! and the blood went to my head like that. While cleaning up the Kobolds with my spells and Miduchi and Bel's arrows, Zulu and Gwine were sticking their tongues out and gasping for air from the reduction in oxygen and pain, and that was just as the remaining Zenom, Ralpa, Toris, and Angela all swarmed the {Green Poison Lizard} to kill it off.

In any case after repeating healing spells on Zulu and the others to treat them and cutting off the heads of the gargoyles that I buried alive, the shrine door finally opened and was empty as usual so we had no choice but to keep advancing that day after learning a valuable lesson.

Miduchi had previously said, "It wouldn't be strange for there to be individuals among Goblins and Kobolds that can use magic as well" but at the same time said, "It requires a considerable amount of concentrate and mental training to so it so I don't think they'll be common and even if they do exist their abilities would probably be limited." so including myself we all completely forgot

about it. After all, up until now we've never heard of anything like that other than from Miduchi and something like, "a kobold that can use magic" is something never mentioned by any adventurer in Baldukk other than her.

Honestly even I didn't even dream that Kobolds would be using magic. I guess even among Kobolds there's ones with the willpower to do magic training..I guess it's different huh?

.....

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 23

We arrived at a different altar room than the one from the other day. The same as usual we buried the gargoyles leaving just their heads outside and this time for sure carefully proceeded into the center of the room before the altar. The magic circle was deployed on the floor and the monsters were summoned. This time it was close to 20 goblins but the result of Identifying them showed they weren't much different from the Kobolds. And then, in front of the altar, right in front of us, what appeared to be a goblin with pitch black skin was summoned.

Miduchi tensed up my side as she was surprised and tried hitting it with a {Stone Javelin} equally fast but that black goblin dodged the spell that came flying and started floating in mid-air. It had wings almost like a bat growing from it's back. As a bonus it even had a long and thin tail hanging from it's ass with a sharpened end like an arrowhead.

【

【Male/23/7/7446.Imp Race】

【Condition: Normal】

【Age: 0 Years Old】

【Level: 8】

【HP: 59(59) MP: 38(38)】

【Strength: 9】

【Speed: 15】

【Dexterity: 10】

【Endurance: 9】

【Special Skill: Floating】

【Special Skill: Earth Magic(Lv. 4)】

【Special Skill: Water Magic(Lv. 4)】

【Special Skill: Fire Magic(Lv. 4)】

【Special Skill: Wind Magic(Lv. 4)】

【Special Skill: Void Magic(Lv. 5)】

"It's a demon!"

By the time Miduchi had called out warning us it was just before my

{Fire Ball} with added missile was about to hit the imp. The face of the imp distorted since it couldn't completely dodge it and deployed an {Anti-Magic Field} but it soon changed to surprise I guess seeing it eat through that mana as the {Fire Ball} hit the imp and was engulfed in the explosion as burning stones went flying. Of course it also engulfed the surrounding goblins as their bodies were torn apart. However Miduchi, how did you know? When I tried asking afterwards I was casually told, "If it has wings like a bat and arrow-shaped tail then there's nothing other than a demon right?" I didn't really get it but I guess it's that sort of thing?

All of the remaining goblins would have started using arrow type spells (probably) but before they could finish concentrating Zenom, Ralpa, Toris, Zulu, and Angela jumped into their group and started rampaging around while Gwine stabbed them to death with the spear,

and Bel sniped the further ones with the bow so only a single one of them actually managed to use a spell. That {Stone Arrow} ended up being deflected by Toris's shield and Miduchi threw a knife stabbing into it's neck killing it.

After that we finished off the gargoyles and when the shrine opened up there was a single sword stored inside of it.

While making sure not to touch the handle, Angela picked up just the scabbard part as she respectfully presented the sword to me.

The length of the handle was about 15 cm and it had a flashy hand-guard with delicate ornaments carved into it, the length of the white scabbard that had similar ornaments to the guard was about 80 cm I guess? It's the size of a long sword.

"{Status Open}"

【Flame.Tongue】

Uhyo~

Following that I used the {Cantrip} {Magical Detection}.

There's a reaction.

Hmm.

Just in case I'll use the void magic {Detect Magic}.

There's a lively reaction.

Hmmhmm.

Finally it's only obvious but I used 【Identify】 on it.

【Flame.Tongue】

【Titanium Steel】

【Condition: Normal】

【Manufacture Date:23/7/7446】

【Value: 1】

【Durability: 53256】

【Ability: 135-205】

【Effect: Through generating flames from the blade of the sword it

can deal up to a maximum of {Quadruple.Damage} to targets weak to fire. Also, the brightness of the flame is equal to that of the average {Light} spell.】

Hohou. After reading the sub-window and it seems that if the wielder chants the incantation command word carved into the surface of the blade while holding the handle for just 30 seconds the blade of the sword will generate a magical flame and it's added as extra damage to the normal! It's possible for this flame to be generated a number of times but it will always disappear 30 seconds after it's generated or if it's put back into the scabbard. It makes sense that it's made of Titanium Steel which is strong to high temperatures.

While holding the scabbard in my left hand I grabbed the handle with my right as I pulled it out and was surprised. The blade of the sword has gentle waves to it. On the pitch black ricasso of the sword blade the command word "Emeron" was carved into it.

"Amazing."

"Ah..magic a {Magical}.."

"It's a {Magical.Weapon}."

"It's giving off an amazing mana right."

"Ho~ A flamberge huh? It's unusual for it to be one-handed."

""Congratulations! Master!""

"It's black just like Miduchi-san's sword."

"It had a name right?"

Miduchi said the last part with confidence while looking at my face.

"Yeah, it's amazing. It's supposedly called Sword of Flames

【Flame.Tongue】. Is it this? Emeron!"

The moment I spoke the incantation command word a small amount of

flames burst out from the undulating blades lighting up the area. After that even when I tried waving it around randomly the flames didn't weaken at all and continued to coil around the blade of the sword. The shining flames of the blade left an afterimage beautifully lighting up the area as if putting emphasis on itself.

..For a short while, I just gazed at the flames coming from the blade of the sword.

I think around 30 seconds must have passed, the flames quickly withdrew as if they were drawn back into the blade.

After I returned the sword into its scabbard I handed it to Toris and said, "Toris, you use it. Just like Bel's sword if you chant the command word while holding on to the handle of the blade it seems that for a short period flames come out." before taking my bayonet off my shoulder and holding it in my hand.

"Eh!? Shouldn't Al-san use this sort of powerful

{Magical.Weapon}?"

While taking the sword Toris said unexpectedly.

Idiot, you, because the ornaments on the guard are in the way it won't fit into my bayonet.

Also even if it did fit if the flames were to come out I wouldn't be able to use it right?

"It's fine. You can't use fire magic right Toris, then it's just right. Later on test out how much you can use the flames. Then let's gather the magic stones."

I said that before stabbing my bayonet into the chest of the goblins myself. Just as expected from the Kobolds that were able to use magic the values of their magic stones were on the same level

as a room boss from the 1st floor. I'm sure even these are something similar. It's a waste to ignore them.

A flaming sword is pretty cool right. Honestly I wanted to try using it, but well it's fine. In the first place with emphasis on close combat my techniques are based around bayonet fighting from the SDF and in regards to a {Magical.Weapon} my abundance of mana makes up for it.

However, it's nothing more than a guess of mine but that 【Flame.Tongue】, wouldn't it be a certain kill weapon against Trolls? Also, it should be considerably strong against the insects and crabs as well.

When I tried asking Miduchi she said, "I think that's probably the case. Also, it should be quite effective against undead and such as well." That's great isn't it, Toris.

Chapter 250: Evidence

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 24

After we discovered {Flame.Tongue} we also found {Big.Freezer} and large-size chandelier(it wasn't very luxurious but it was considerably efficient as a lightning tool) magic tools. Putting aside the chandelier I hesitated a bit on what to do with the freezer.

"But you know~ If we encounter another group of {Roze} again couldn't we freeze the meat and store it."

The glutton of the {Slaughterers} said that but

"Did you forget how much the previous freezer sold for?"

And that was said by her adoptive father.

That's right. It wasn't even a large size one, just a normal 100

liter or so freezer sold for 200,000,000 Z. Even after paying the taxes and everyone's bonuses it still left 130,000,000 Z remaining in my hands. It's not like we have anything that we need to preserve for long periods in the months and we already have a large ice storage room in the sausage factory so we don't particularly need it right. It's only obvious we're selling it. You can even buy ice in the tons for about 5,000 Z from any ice dealer after all.

Tomorrow when brother and the others come it would probably be best to take advantage of that opportunity and carry it to the capital and take it into the mainstream company Duke Sandak manages to get rid of it.

That evening we returned from the dungeon and after selling our

magic stones I gave Gwine a two week holiday. The other members pulled lots on who would accompany the {Butchers} and {Exterminators}. Miduchi and Ralpa pulled the winning lots. The other members besides them get a holiday along with Gwine. The combat slaves are coming along with me to the capital around tomorrow when brother's caravan should arrive. Ralpa was complaining about not getting a holiday but it was the fair result of pulling lots and in the first place it's not like the combat slaves or I get a holiday either. After Toris and Bel pointed that out and Zenom smacked her in the head she finally was quiet about it.

.....

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 25

Just as planned brother arrived with three carriages along with Rasseg and the people of the Donneoru family. The current members of the Donneoru family are primarily Rasseg as the head, along with his wife Mili, and their 12 year old son Harris. Along with them the former head of the family, old man Rafitto, the four of them were moving here. Below Harris he had two siblings but his little brother died as a baby several days after birth and his little sister Sara is still 7 years old and young so they left her in care of Rasseg's little brother Bosshu and Myun. That would mean she's living together with her older cousin, their son Ailado. From my impression Sara was a considerably quiet and well-mannered child so while it's just for two years it hurts my heart a bit splitting her apart from her parents.

They arrived in Baldukk just around noon so we had some lunch together and then went to the capital just like that. If they had any space in the carriages I had intended to load various things on it but there was no space so I ended up having to borrow another carriage. It seems Zenom and Gwine intend to ride the carriage together with us to do some shopping in the capital.

After arriving at the capital the Ryogu family were already well prepared and had made reservations at an inn for brother, the Donneoru family, and the others from Bakuddo. We took a short break and after confirming that the Donneoru family had started lowering their furniture I brought along my combat slaves as we went to sell the magic tool we found in the dungeon this time and then on our way back we stopped by the castle and I told a person of the first knight group that we would be making deliveries tomorrow and that I would report the fact that we cleared the 8th floor on that occasion.

I'm sure the King doesn't have that much free time so I doubt he would come out every time for something like this but if he has time to take a walk for a change of pace and I run into him it wouldn't be bad to directly tell him about it. Well, I think he probably already knows though. Personally I just want to avoid the possibility of being questioned later on "Why didn't you say anything".

After that I also came along to show my face and see how things were going with the sausage factory. Since I let Basutorial and Giberuti return from the dungeon early they should be about

finished with trial operations. The sensitivity the slaves have towards the work and what kind of reputation it has from just the trial run and what amount of stock we need up until next month, it's important for Basutorial and Cathy to meet and discuss the details like that. It's also necessary to talk to Rasseg and the others of the Donneoru family about what kind of troubles can be predicted in relation to the factory and the capital that might be necessary for that.

We need to cover everything from getting their faces known, greetings, and handing over work duties in two weeks. I'm sure it'll be a busy two weeks.

.....

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 26

In addition to brother and the escort squires, the Ryogu family, Rasseg, and Mili accompanied us on deliveries to the castle. It was to undergo greetings with the familiar official of the first knight we deal with as well as informing them of the transfer.

Unexpectedly the people of the first knight group gave the Ryogu family a small dresser as a parting gift. I thought they were strangely prepared but it seems that they had already heard about their return to Bakuddo village from sister. I have the feeling this dresser is going to end up becoming a standard gift for the squire families when they return to Bakuddo village from the capital.

It seems the Ryogu family was familiar with them because they often repair the rubber armor so they were sorry to be saying farewell as well. Personally I was pretty satisfied that Greed Company was

becoming a considerably important merchant to the knight groups.

Also, the Ryogu family was praised by the knight leader Baron Logan over their character and careful work, that caused the people of Bakuddo Village to be overcome with emotion. Even I'm proud of it.

Though, it's not really my achievement.

Now then, they've started taking body measurements for the orders

next time so I have some spare time. Since I had the chance I

requested an audience with one of their highness the Queens in

order to deliver the "Saya Condoms". Around the time the body

measurements were going to end a messenger finally came so I pulled

out the box packed with "Saya" and the magic stone we took from the

Minotaur before proceeding towards the designated place in the

second citadel. I also requested that they bring the battle

axe(this is a weapon so in order to bring it in ahead of time I

firmly wrapped it in cloth and sealed it) I left in the care of the

guards at the entrance of the castle up to here.

Sure enough the ones waiting for me in the second citadel were the

King and the first Queen Morin, the two of them. Though it's

informal it's been a while since the King showed his face for just

me. Since then he's only pretended to be nearby by chance when I'm

talking with the commander of his guards or the time when he was

just a bit conscious of me when I was talking together with the

dark elf Tukerin. I guess as expected when it comes to my

declaration of exceeding the achievement of the founding King he

can't afford to ignore me?

"Hey! The 9th floor!? You've cleared the 8th floor!?"

The King said in a bit of a hurry while leaning forward. I'm still

taking the greeting of a retainer with my head lowered as I nodded affirming it. Right after meeting this huh?

"Dear, please be quiet for a bit. Greed came to make a delivery.

First off look, those "Saya'.."

Her highness Molail held back the King from leaning forward while calling out to me.

"Ha..Right here. This time in addition to the normal model I've brought the new model. It's over here."

With my head still facing down I put the box with "Saya" I was holding on my left side on to the red velvet floor and slid it towards the Queen. After a person from the third knight group took it and opened the lid once they brought it to her highness the Queen's side.

"Oh~ certainly. Thanks for your work, Greed. It's a great help to us."

I'm sure it is. The delivery this time included one box of 100 packs of the normal model and one box of 100 packs of the studded model for a total of 2,000 condoms. About half of those will end up as prizes for the dog race and it seems about 80% of the remaining ones will end up as rewards to nobles or something. They're probably using about 10% of the whole. Obviously excluding brothel companies they're the largest individual customer. With just this it comes out to 3,000,000 Z, a price tag of 3 gold coins.

"You're finished right? Now then, let's hear your report."

The moment he saw us finish the delivery of "Saya" the King called out once again. U~he~e. Look and be surprised.

"Ha..This is the magic stone we obtained from defeating the half-cow, half-man monster called a Minotaur that was standing deep

in the 8th floor protecting the teleport crystal to the 9th floor."

After saying that I took off the small velvet bag that was hanging at my waist and placed it in the hand of the third knight group person who came to it, before continuing "Also, we retrieved the weapon that "Minotaur" was using as well."

And saying that with my head lowered as I sent the sign to the person who was holding the battle axe wrapped in cloth. That person respectfully moved forward while taking the cloth off and while holding the contents up in offering carried it to the King.

"{Status Open}"

The voices of the King checking the status of the magic stone and Queen Morin checking the status of the battle axe echoed through the room in the second citadel. It seemed like the breathing of the two of them was a bit disturbed. Hahhawwa. It's not to the level of the giant earthworm of that eyeball bastard but it's still considerably amazing for an individual magic stone.

"{Status Open}"

This time they must have each exchanged items before checking the status. I'm still taking the retainer's bow with my head down so I can't tell for sure but probably.

"...."

The two of them started whispering about something. Their voices are too low so I can't hear.

"You all, everyone take your leave from the room."

Suddenly the King ordered in a strict voice. This, isn't including me right? It's to the knights in the room as guards right? I wonder

what I should do? Rather~ why?

"Ha..No, we are" "It's fine, take your leave. Greed doesn't have any weapons."

The King cut off the words of the guard commander from the third knight group who was about to say something and ordered him once again. Certainly I don't have any weapons but I can use magic you know?

"Ah, that's right. Order Richard to take over as my bodyguard. Call him right away. Hurry."

The King said that to the hesitating commander and chased all of the bodyguard soldiers out of the room. It's not strange that Prince Ronbarudo, Richard.Rombert the Fourth the eldest son of the King and member of the first knight group would be ordered as a bodyguard but..he's the first platoon leader of the first company after all.

After the bodyguard knights left the King threw both of his feet down from the chair and changed to a comfortable posture while sipping some tea from the table on his side then stretched his hand out without even looking at the Queen. The Queen took a cigar out from a small box on the side table before using magic to light it and put it into the King's hand.

"We have a bit of time until he comes. Greed. Give me an honest reply."

"Ha..Ha!!"

What is it?

"You obtained a {Magic.Item} along with it right?"

The King said while exhaling some tobacco smoke.

Eh~!!? Why? Why does he know!?

No matter what the case was we didn't mention that loincloth to the

{Butchers} or {Exterminators}. Let alone I'm definitely sure none of the members of the {Slaughterers} would talk about it..Is it about the {Big.Freezer} or large size chandelier? Those are things we loudly announced when we returned to the surface the other day. They're not a size that can be hidden after all. Nevertheless I feel like it's too fast for him to have that information though.

While my body went stiff honestly hesitating how I should reply for a moment he quickly continued his words.

"I don't intend to say to hand it over. It's nothing more than a confirmation."

Ah, is that so? Though if it's something like that smelly loincloth I'd be willing to hand it over anytime if you give me a decent amount of money. Though Zulu would be just a bit pitiful with how delighted he was over it.

"Ha, that is..Yes. We obtained a {Magic.Item} called the {Loincloth.Of.Daring} at the same time. However, the "Minotaur" directly had it attached to it's body and it was extremely dirty so.."

I didn't bring it along. I was about to say that but was cut off by the King again.

"It's fine. I thought it was something like that...How does it look?"

The last statement must have been towards the Queen.

"Judging from what I confirmed this morning it's certainly something equal to the {Mirror Shield} and {Iron Gauntlet}.."

"Hmm. It's not as if I couldn't think so as well. It's certainly a wazamono but if you didn't know there's no reason you would go to

the trouble of naming it..Also.."

What? What are they talking about?

Certainly that battle axe is a considerable wazamono but it's not

like it's a {Magical.Weapon} or anything. If you just pile up

enough money then there's a high probability could get something

equal or close made by a blacksmith. Hn? Naming?

"sub-Noble Greed. Raise your face."

Queen Morin called out to my in a slightly soft voice.

Relying on her words I gently lifted my face.

The King and Queen were making slightly difficult faces different

from the tone of their voices.

"This magic stone. It's quite something for an individual one. The

shade of the color is considerably first-class as well."

"Ha"

That's only obvious. After all if you sell it then just that one

would be worth around 4,000,000 Z. Though in terms of simple value

since that battle axe is still a wazamono it would be probably be

worth more in value. When it comes to just individual magic stones

there's no way to make them after all. As proof of that the magic

stone from the giant earthworm sold for more than it's normal value

as well.

"Hmph, it seems you don't get it. I'll tell you. This emblem that's

carved into the handle is something that all of the floor guardians

in the dungeon of Baldukk have in common carved into their

equipment. Our Royal Family has handed down two items from the 6th

and 7th floor guardians called the {Mirror Shield} and {Iron

Gauntlet}. Both of them are items his majesty Rombert the First

obtained by defeating the floor guardians in the dungeon of

Baldukk. Even in regards to the magic stones while the sizes are different the color gives off a similar feel."

Huh eh? Is that so? In other words something like that will be on the 9th floor as well? Eh? But there was nothing like a floor guardian on the 6th or 7th floors? Even the guardian on the 8th floor, we've defeated it a total of 12 times?

"Please wait just a moment."

Seeing me make a confused face Queen Morin smiled and after opening a large chest behind the simple throne, she took the contents out.

A round shield, gauntlet, and magic stones.

"Try confirming the names of these."

She said that while handing them to me. I took those and said {Status Open} while using Identify and the value of each was 456789 and 345678 while the names of them were {Magic Stone(Small Cow-People Race)} and {Magic Stone(Low Cow-People Race)}. The sizes were both one size and two sizes smaller than the one I brought in this time but the color was almost exactly the same and a surprising shade of whiteness.

The shield and gauntlets both had the names of {Mirror Shield} and {Iron Gauntlet} and gave off a feel of extremely high class items but the Durability had decreased quite a bit so as expected they also felt a bit worn-out. They must need repairs.

"The magic stone from the Low Cow-People Race, {Lesser Minotaur.Sentinel} and the {Iron Gauntlet} came from the 6th floor and the magic stone from the Small Cow-People Race, {Minor Minotaur.Sentinel} and the {Mirror Shield} supposedly came from the guardian of the 7th floor."

Queen Morin explained for me.

"It seems that in the process of defeating the guardians of the 6th and 7th floors countless times before they realized it they stopped appearing. It's also said that every time they defeated it after the second it didn't leave behind magic stones or items of that quality. And then, it's also said that both of the first guardians were holding {Magic.Items} as well."

The King added on to it.

This time he's blowing smoke out of his nose.

The refined and expensive smelling scent of the cigar is even reaching me.

..So that's how it was huh? On the occasion that Rombert the First cleared the 6th and 7th floors he must have defeated a monster on the same level as that Minotaur on the 8th floor countless times.

Come to think of it the magic stone of the first Minotaur I defeated had a value of 567890 as well. If things continue like that then the value of the 9th floor guardian's magic stone would be 678901 and the value of the 10th floor guardian's would be 789012 I guess, rather~ then is that the case I guess? After all was that eyeball bastard from the 14th floor(?) a guardian?

He~ in that case I wonder if they'll buy it from me at a high price?

You're gathering the magic stones and equipment from guardians right? Hn?

"Well, it seems it's true that you defeated the guardian of the 8th floor. I'll recognize that it's an achievement that has exceeded the exploits of the founder his majesty George. It's quite something."

"Ha..It's an honor to receive your praise."

I can hear the sound of someone running down the hall.

There's no change in her highness Queen Molail who was properly sitting in a chair with good posture but the King fixed his posture.

"..You've been saving up your money right?"

For some reason the King reluctantly pushed his cigar down into the ash tray on the side table and asked while looking at me with strict eyes.

"Ha..Of course I am."

It was then that a single knight wearing full plate armor entered the room. He advanced up to where I was and took the retainer's bow before the King while declaring, "Just as ordered please allow me to take over as bodyguard of your majesty and your highness." and after standing up went over to their side. His breathing is considerably rough so he must have come running in quite the hurry.

It's the first platoon leader of the first company of the first knight group Prince Ronbarudo, Richard.Rombert the Fourth. His armor has been well maintained and shining showing off it's high quality. Excluding the fact that it's reasonably heavy I'm sure the defensive ability of it is higher than the rubbery protectors we deal in and even the look of it is good. But he already said that about three years later he wants to replace it and made reservations with us quite a while back. What a waste.

"Hmph, ..ya..ko..ten..ka.."

It seems the King whispered something just in his mouth before turning around just a bit and calling out, "Hey, Richard"

"Ha"

After being called out by the King you could hear the sound of the eldest son's teeth grinding as he advanced to the side of the King and fell to one knee while waiting for the continuation.

"You know about this person right?"

"Huh? Yes. Obviously I know about him. It should be clear since I just talked to him the other day though..."

"Ah, come to think of it that was the case...Incidentally you're properly continuing with your training right?"

"Ha, of course I am."

"That's only obvious! Richard was able to become a platoon leader younger than you!?"

"I don't mean that...Hn, then I guess it's fine."

What is he saying?

"Well then, Richard, see this fellow out. I'm sure the original bodyguards are still waiting outside right? It's fine if you switch places with them."

After saying that the King handed the battle axe and magic stone from the Minotaur over to his highness Richard without any sort of attachment.

Huh..

So you won't buy them from me...

Well it's fine though.

I guess that most likely means they're just carefully keeping the ones from the 6th and 7th floor guardians as goods that are related to the founding King.

Author's Note: Floor Guardian Magic Stones: (TL Note: remember magic stones sell to stone shops for 70-80% of listed price and when it comes to high value individual stones they're often auctioned for more, below is just the rough listed value.)

1st Floor 78901 (789,010 Z)

2nd Floor 89012

3rd Floor 90123

4th Floor 123456

5th Floor 234567

6th Floor 345678

7th Floor 456789

8th Floor 567890 (5,678,900 Z)

9th Floor 678901

10th Floor 789012

11th Floor 890123

12th Floor 901234

13th Floor 1234567

14th Floor 12345678 (1,234,567,800 Z)

Is how they are in the settings. It was decided because if the 1st

floors wasn't at least over 500,000 Z it wouldn't be a reward. The

14th floor is special (in a punishment game sort of way) so it's

set high. Normally you'd die after all.

Chapter 251: Feeling Rejected

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 26

Accompanied by his highness the Prince of Ronbarudo, Richard I

returned to the room in the third citadel that was being used as a ground for taking body measurements but the inside of my head was busily working. The information I obtained from the King and Queen this time was considerably valuable. First off, that there's(was) a guardian on each floor on the dungeon has been confirmed it seems. Next is the fact that after defeating the guardians a number of times they eventually stop reappearing. Is it with a feel like running out of stock? And then finally, all of the guardians have some sort of {Magic.Item}.

However, this isn't definite. It would be more correct to say that

at least from the 6th to 8th floors the guardians had them. It seems that the 1st to 5th floors were defeated in the era before the founding King so that information is unknown and I can't say anything about it.

After that, it seems that the so-called wazamono equipment from the

first guardian you defeat..is even named. In the case that it's not a living thing, in regards to the temples naming of inorganic objects, first off you have to request an estimate on the cost from the priest or minister or whatever. After that if you accept it then you leave it with the temple for one night and the next day they'll tell you the formal cost of naming it. It seems when it's

cheap it only costs several tens of thousands of Z but when it comes to expensive things they even end up charging tens of millions or several hundreds of millions as well. It seems that the closer the naming of the item gets to only in self-interest the more expensive it gets.

Incidentally, the thresher I made when I was child had the name {Thresher} from the moment it was completed and when I tested out putting in a request for an estimate on the meat mincer which was coming up as {Brass.Craft} in Identify and Status Open to be named to {Mince.Maker} they requested 700,000 Z. I didn't pay the money so it wasn't named. Even if they don't do anything just to get them to return the mincer cost a 5% handling charge of 35,000 Z. During the first stages of the estimation when I stated that I wanted it to be named to {Mince.Maker}, the priest looked at the status with a difficult face while spinning the handle and gave me an estimate of, "I don't think it will cost more than 1,000,000 Z."

Thinking it was worth testing when I tried having them do an estimate for having my handmade(though it's not mine but Arnold's I guess?) sword named to {Greed's Sword}, without even looking at the status they said, "Almost without a doubt I can say it will easily be in the hundreds of millions and depending on the case it wouldn't be strange for it to go over one or two billion." so I just ended up excusing myself with a cold sweat after just listening to the estimate I got for free.

Incidentally when it comes to living creatures there's no difference from the case when getting married and when it comes to

the normal naming ceremony, they're fixed at 150,000 Z. It's a decently large amount of money so that's also a hotbed for nameless people. Occasionally wealthy people name their horses and cattle as well. I did too though. If a time ever comes when I talk about the name of my horse I'll tell you. Ah, Miduchi calls her horse Ball Dragon but she hasn't had it named. Incidentally the horses the King's ride are traditionally named based on their hereditary disposition like, "Segaifa", "Black.Kotezan", and "Ashuri". Putting aside the latter two, isn't the first one mispronounced?

Furthermore, if you steal someones horse or livestock as long as it's not within one year it seems you can get it named without a problem. If it's within one year? Then it's the lightning.

The battle axe we obtained from the Mino was displayed as

{Double-Edge Battle Axe} on the status. It didn't have any proper nouns in the name like the {Blade.Cusinart} that said to be made by the legendary master blacksmith Cusinart so including myself we all ended up overlooking it. Among the things that the so-called master craftsman produce it seems there's rarely items that take on the name of the artisan.

Also, there's times when the name would be attached it before

anyone realizes it. For example, if there's a {Granite} rock used as a landmark in some region that's called the "pointed rock" it seems that one day it would suddenly be named {Pointed.Rock}.

Really though thanks for your trouble.

"It seems you cleared the 8th floor right. Congratulations,

Greed-kun."

His highness Richard who was lined up beside me made a light

smile while congratulating me. Come to think of it they were saying something like I was brought up as a topic between him and the King.

"Thank you very much. However, it's because I was blessed with good luck and had the help of my allies that I was able to do it."

I'll keep my replies admirable.

"Don't be modest. It's something extraordinarily splendid. I think it's an achievement you can be proud of."

Mu, come to think of it I surpassed the achievement of his ancestor. If I say something admirable or show too much modesty then it might be taken as if the achievements of the founding King weren't anything big.

"..Certainly. We struggled a considerable amount and were obstructed by countless powerful monsters. I feel quite proud of it as well. Most likely among the adventurers currently in Baldukk it's impossible for anyone other than us."

"Umu. It's an achievement you should be proud of like that.

Wouldn't Lord Greed be delighted as if it was her own as well? I guess if it's that genius witch then this younger brother is also possible."

..I was the one who raised Al, and I can..t see her boasting like that. My sister wouldn't say something like that. Just in regards to me. In the first place she didn't raise me.

"I would be happy if that's the case. But, I still can't raise my head to my sister."

"Hahhahaha..She's quite the hard worker after all..Though it seems it'll still be quite a while before she gets married."

Eh? Was there something about her getting married!? Her appearance

it somewhat good but she has no chest? Seeing my make a surprised face I guess, his highness said, "It can't be, you didn't know? I thought it was pretty famous though". Yeah, I didn't hear anything about it!

"Nn, since you're family I thought you knew about it as well though. I think it was around the end of last month..Or was it at the start of this month? It seems she proposed to a knight from the knight group."

Yeah, unless it's sister who's the one proposing then..And,

Eeeh~!!?

"To..To who..."

My voice was breaking up from how unexpected it was.

"It was Lord Gulohoretz. I don't know the reason but it seems he turned her down."

Pu..Kyahahahaha, you were rejected! She was rejected, that older sister! Take that...Shit..

If it's Lord Gulohoretz then I know him.

He's a knight from the same third company as sister.

If I remember correctly he's a person who received investiture as a knight the year or two years after sister received investiture.

We sold him armor as well..or not, father gave it to him when he came along as an escort when sister received investiture as a knight.

As a knight he's sister's junior but in terms of age he should have been 7 or 8 years older.

I guess he's just before 30 now?

My impression of him was pretty weak but I can remember his face.

Chi..Is your face one that can be picky with women!

What~an extravagant thing he's done!

He's got a slender face like a horse and messy short brown
hair.

He also had a thick beard right.

It seemed like he was clumsy at shaving and there was some cuts
below his jaw.

Even that sort of frightening face..I guess if they're a party of
the ultra super elite first knight group then they can pick and
choose as they please huh?

But, shit...

Come to think of it today while doing deliveries sister seemed to
be avoiding showing her face to me and just talked with the Rasseg
and Ryogu families...

I think she didn't even talk much with brother.

What is it, this feeling.

It's irritating.

That bastard, he rejected my sister!?

She's beautiful, strong, and her skills with spells are certain
that sort of sister.

Even her age is still 22. She's still well within the marriageable
age on Orth.

What in the world is there to complain..Even I wouldn't want her,
that woman.

There's too many problems with her personality.

Particularly the countless times she's treated her little brother
badly..Though I guess it hasn't gotten bad huh?

This is bad, this is the type of matter where we should be lowering
our heads begging him.

If he'll marry sister before she misses the marriageable age then

we should even pay some consolation money..Though I guess that's fine since sister has a considerable amount.

"..ey..Hey, what is it?"

This is bad, I stopped walking. Additionally it seems the time inside of me stopped as well. It feels like I reflexively turned a bit red.

"Ah, please excuse me. I was just a bit surprised and.."

"Fufu. So you have a cute side to you as well."

"Huh?"

"No, don't mind it."

His highness Richard said that before starting to walk again. The expression he was making was like one facing a young child.

Ah, shit. How uncool~

.....

Taking the body measurements ended and it was just as the people from Bakuddo and the knight group were exchanging bidding each other farewell. Sister is here as well but she's standing in a place a bit of distance away.

"How about going to her side?"

His highness Richard said that being careful for me. I guess I'll depend on his words here. I lightly bowed to his highness before going to sister.

"What is it?"

Don't push yourself. Everyone has times when they want to cry. It's shameful so I won't lend you my chest but I'll at least accompany you for a drink. It's even fine to borrow a private room.

"What, you're creeping me out."

Several days after I was rejected by my girlfriend in high school Yuumi I suddenly burst into tears. There's no problem~ after

drinking for just a bit I'll leave my seat. I won't mind at all even if you become dynamite.

"What is up with that look of pity..Ah.."

Don't tense up so much.

Yeah, that's right. I've found out. I ended up finding out.

But you know, I won't tease you or anything.

In this world we're the only two of a kind, older sister and younger brother.

If there's anything I can do I'll do it for you.

If it's something like making use of my strength to threaten Lord Gulohoretz or on the contrary falling prostrate and begging him then something like that is no problem but I'm sure sister doesn't want for that either.

In the first place if I were to do something like that it would just make sister even more pitiful.

The only thing I can do is indirectly hint that I "know" and prepare a situation where she can be alone.

Sister is still living in the lodging for the knight group and I haven't heard of her having a private room.

Since she's received investiture as a knight I wonder if she already has a private room?

Well, it's fine either way.

"Hey, Mill, Al, what are you doing? Come over here and thank his excellency the knight commander with me."

I can hear the voice of brother calling out to us.

Sister must not want brother to know about it either.

"Shall we go, we're being called."

I let out an unexpectedly gentle voice. And the moment I thought that sister looked at me with a slightly suspicious face. Idiot, even I've grown up..I've been a good adult that can differentiate

sweet and sour since the moment I was born~

"Yeah.."

Though I say that, she nodded surprisingly obediently and followed behind me.

After greeting Baron Logan who was grandly laughing as he shook brother's hand, we thanked him for the orders next time and sister lowered her head beside me while the baron kept hitting me on the back. I couldn't see any particular difference in Baron Logan's attitude. He seems just the same as usual. There's several other women than sister in the first knight group so I'm sure it's not like this is the first time for these sorts of love affairs. Also, it seems it's already a story from a month or so ago and it's nothing for the knight commander to be concerned over.

.....

That night we gathered together for a huge banquet with brother and the others, the Ryogu family, the Donneoru family, in addition to my slaves(Of course it's the combat slaves Zulu and Angela.

Including the children, the Basutorial couple, and Giberuti weren't with us). Sister said she had work for the knight group so she isn't participating.

The topic of discussion was obviously me clearing through the 8th floor. Being praised by everyone, while feeling pretty good for a while I ate and drank myself full. It was unusual that even brother was so pleased he got considerably drunk. I was greatly satisfied that just brother was this pleased. I guess it was worth it. Come to think of it I still haven't been congratulated by sister.

There's also the matter of showing the faces of Rasseg and the

others so we still need to appear in the station of the first knight group at the castle for a while longer, after tomorrow, if I run into her somewhere I'll ask her out to dinner on her day off.

.....

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 27

It took quite a bit of time going to the government office in the morning to finish up registering the employees for my company. In any world government offices are difficult to deal with. It's not like they're even slacking off but the common people all just make complaints about insignificant things. Though I say that, that's something that can't be helped either. It's difficult.

In reality there's not much of a problem even if I don't register them every time but there's also a good portion of things that I can relax over if they are properly registered in the off chance that it's ever pointed out in a strange place. It's troublesome but I guess this is one of the so-called obligations of society.

It was an uneventful day together with the Rasseg, Rafitto, Mili, and Harris, the five of us sipped tea at the tea house next to the government office while I spent it picking my nose. We spent the day taking shifts with one person waiting in the lobby of the government not knowing when we'd be called and if you mention that there's a long waiting time it's already hard to put into words.

Well, I guess it was good for relaxing?

After we finished our business at the government office, I brought them to show our faces in the factory. I need to introduce them to

the slaves and because I want them both to at least remember each others faces and names.

They setup a cart on the side of the factory facing the street and there was a group of several people there. In addition to Cathy calling out, John's energetic voice was echoing around. It seems there's another two people there but it's not Terry. They must be having a different slave child gain experience as a sales clerk.

So they're getting to it right away? I'm relieved that it seems to be having a good start. I've been properly getting reports from them but actually seeing it with my own eyes brings a real sense of feeling it after all. However, I'm amazed they've managed to gather customers even though it's in that bad location unsuitable for a cart.

I was keeping an eye on things from a bit of distance away but I said, "Anything is fine so go and buy something and try eating it." before handing Harris 1 large copper coin(1,000 Z) and sending him off. Rasseg and Mili were lowering their heads for the trouble from start to finish but this is a learning experience for Harris as well. Harris should have never done something like shopping.

Now then, I wonder what will happen?

During breakfast and lunch today I paid for it.

If he watches properly then he should be able to do it right.

Either because he was ordered by me or from the excitement of shopping for the first time Harris ran off but his footsteps slowed down soon after. It seems he's observing from the side of the crowd. You tell the sales clerk what you want and hand over money

in exchange for it. If there's any change then you take that right away. And then you put mustard to your taste on the Baldoggie you buy before biting into it. It's simple but it should be good for learning how to use money. It's not particularly anything difficult.

Harris said something to the slave that was acting as sales clerk.

The slave child said something to John who was cooking a Baldoggie on the frying pan.

John said, "Sure thing" energetically before picking out a cooked Baldoggie from the frying pan and handing it to the sales clerk.

The sales clerk said something to Harris and he properly handed over the coin in his right hand while taking the skewer with the Baldoggie in his left hand then put mustard on it from the bottle with a spoon.

And bit into it.

He's overflowing with smiles.

When the sales clerk handed back the change to Harris and he made a slightly surprised face as he took it.

He forgot about it, that.

I almost burst into laughter.

Rasseg and the others must have noticed as well they started lowering their heads apologetically again.

It's fine.

With this I'm sure he'll never forget about the change again.

After taking the change it seems Harris couldn't stop his mouth as he returned back to where we were while biting into it.

He was a bit embarrassed.

The change Harris handed back to me was 5 copper coins (500 Z).

Huh? Isn't that too few?

The Baldoggie Harris was biting into was the Kazotto(cheese) type.

It should have left a change of 650 Z though...

I wonder why?

Even if Harris doesn't know how to use money I can't imagine that they would deceive him on the change.

Then in that case is it a calculation mistake?

It's only been about a month since I bought that sales clerk slave so I guess these sorts of things happen?

After Harris returned I was thinking it was strange while waiting for him to finish eating the Baldoggie then we all walked to the factory. I identified the reason when we approached the cart. The price tag on the Kazotto(Cheese) type was 500 Z. Isn't that more expensive than ones with chili? I'm amazed they can sell with this price.

When I approached them together with everyone it seems Cathy noticed right away. Following that John.

And then the sales clerk as well.

""Welcome, master.""

The two sales clerks other than John and Cathy greeted me in a hurry. Hearing their voices the customers who were lined up noticed me as well. It's the appearance of the owner after all.

"Nn."

I just lightly nodded to smooth over the situation. While still casually calling out to the customers Cathy and John both made a bit of an expression like, "I screwed up." Wahan~ they forgot that while dealing with customers even if it's me they don't have to greet me. Well, I guess it's fine, since it seems like they noticed

it.

After entering the factory and Basutorial, Giberuti, and Terry were carefully teaching how to use the mincer. Zulu and Angela were sitting in chairs in the corner looking bored. Seeing my face all of the slaves said "Good morning, master" in chorus. Basutorial was making a proud expression. So the one who taught them that Good morning was you? Furthermore, when I tried asking Basutorial about the price of the ones with Kazotto in them and "Yeah, since we weren't able to obtain much of a stock of kazotto. We've labeled them as a high class premium version with a slightly higher price but they're properly selling." said that. This guy, he's good.

Chapter 252: Continuation

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 3

"And, why were you rejected?"

I've repeated the same question to sister a number of times while she's drunk and more likely to talk.

"..I'm grateful for your feelings and I have good feelings towards you as well but I've already decided that Kurea is my only wife, or said something like that..I already know..that sort of thing.."

And then sister answered with the same reply again as well. At first she praised me for clearing the 8th floor like "As expected of someone I trained" but I'm already tired of hearing it. I held a consolation party for sister after I was finally able to invite her to dinner on a day off.

We entered this reasonably high rank restaurant called Maruhasu at about 3 pm. Right now it should already be past 8 pm. Brother is together with Rozural, Wendy, and Dianne supervising the transfer of duties for the various times of rubber products and repairs at the workshop and around now should be finishing up dinner together with everyone.

It's already been over 5 hours since sister and I took up our spots at a table in the back of the restaurant. Before I realized it there's a huge bottle(about 1.8 liters) of wheat vodka emptied out. Though I drank about 80% of it. It seems sister is weak to alcohol. While remembering the Chuhai from my past life I split the wheat

vodka by about 1/10th with juice to make it easier to drink but in no time at all she was drunk. I'll tell Miduchi about it later. If it's alcohol then she can't definitely win against sister.

"Ah, use {Neutralize.Poison} one more time! This is delicious!"

"Yeah~Yeah"

I use the spell {Neutralize.Poison} on sister(since sister is drunk she can't concentrate to use any spells) for who knows how many times it's been while sighing to myself. I ordered some more juice from oranges and honey and additionally had them refill the ice pale with ice as well. Of course I can do it myself as well but it's a restaurant so I should properly order and pay for it. Rather since I'm essentially returning someone to normal every time they get drunk and letting them drink even more alcohol the restaurant should be thanking me.

"Ngu..Ngu!! You sure know a good way to drink it. I give you my praise!"

"Yeah, thank you my lord."

I return a half-assed reply while poking at my sazae cooked in the shell with just salt and no soy sauce. They use fire to take the body from the shell and serve it on the plate where you cut it with a knife and fork but there's no refinement or anything else to it. Since I have the chance I'd like to eat it with chopsticks~ It's unfortunate I forgot to bring along my chopsticks.

"Ah! I want to eat that! Baldoggie!"

"Yeah~yeah. Hey, Zulu."

I turn around and called out to Zulu who was eating and drinking together with Angela and Giberuti at the next table.

"Yes, I'll go and get some and come back."

Sorry about that. But, you don't drink alcohol. Angela and Giberuti seem to be somewhat drunk and having a good time so the only one left that could even be considered a decent bodyguard is Zulu. Even if he goes to the sausage factory right now excluding John and Terry who sleep over there no one else should be remaining. If there's none remaining in stock then I guess John and Terry will be slapped awake by Zulu in the first stages of sleep before being made to make sausages in the middle of the night..Maybe I'll buy them some candy next time I go.

"And you know~ That Yuri you know~ even though he looks like that he's gentle right...Aaa~"

There's no Aaa~ to it. The one who wants to sigh is me. Why did things turn out like this?

In the several days since then we dragged the Donneoru family around to our frequent customers like the brothels and shoemakers, had them remember the faces of my slaves once again, and did a simple introduction of how the sausages are made as time passed by quickly, even when it was just teaching them the necessary office work that needs to be processed and the way to mark the sales in the ledger this many days passed by.

It was on that sort of occasion where I received contact that sister was finally able to have this day off so I adjusted my schedule and invited her out for a meal, then after getting her drunk and having her forget everything to let her feelings out, the result was this. Putting it simply it was sister's illicit love towards lord Yuri.Gurohoretz.

However, obviously the first knight group of Rombert King is the super elite course. By the point they're enlisting almost everyone is already a true knight from some knight group and has a good reputation in their birthplace, so of course~ it's only obvious someone would have already attached their strings to him. It's not unusual for people in it to already be married at all.

He was already married by the time he entered the first knight group as a squire and by the time sister received investiture as a true knight it was around the time he even had children. Obviously that would mean that sister was aiming for the spot of Lord Gurohoretz's second wife.

Honestly speaking, from an Orth way of looking at it when it comes to marrying a person from the first group whether it's the first or second there's nothing to complain about at all. Even sister herself is a knight from the first knight group as well and let alone enough to not be troubled over money for the rest of her life, she's basically already been promised more money than the average income for a Lord of a village in a remote region on Orth. In the off chance that she actually makes some sort of large achievement and gets promoted up to company commander then it would even open her path to becoming a formal Viscount.

There's plenty to cheer about it.

"About Lord Gurohoretz, that just means that he loves his first wife that much right. Doesn't that mean he's not the type of person who would marry a second wife so easily just because she's young right. He's a good person."

"That's right..He entered the first knight group one year before me

and he's an amazingly excellent person, has a lot of experience, and he's reliable as well. He was always paying attention to those around him and he's gentle..Even though I didn't know my right from left he said I was intelligent and cute.."

Yeah~yeah. I wonder how many times we've had this conversation now...Since sister came from a remote village with almost no life experience before she realized it she opened her heart to lord Gurohoretz who was older and reliable. Thanks to her superior magic skills she managed to overtake him in terms of career in the first knight group but I'm sure that sort of thing didn't matter to sister at all. Though if you say that's just like sister then that's also true.

If you were to ask me I'd push the person called Robert.Busshu who had just entered the first knight group around two years ago and in the middle of struggling at the bottom as a squire. In terms of age he's 23, one year older than sister and just the same as sister he's the third son of some Viscount family so I'm sure he has a hungry spirit to him as well. His face was considerably good looking with a wild sort of feel to it and just from what I saw he didn't seem like he had a bad personality either. I don't know as far as his abilities but in the first place there's no one who can enter the first knight group with no real skill.

However, it's not something to talk about right now so for today I'll accompany her until she's satisfied.

.....

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 6

We've almost completely finished transferring over all of the

duties and the day for brother and the Ryogu family to return to Bakuddo has arrived. It's regrettable that I have to part ways with the squire family that's supported me through light and dark over these past two years but Rasseg and the others are taking over that role.

"Al-sama, please take good care of yourself."

"We've been in your care. Please give everyone our regards."

The Ryogu family all said their farewells as the older Rozural and

Wendy sat together in the coachman's seat and the younger Luke and Dianne fortified the carriage as escorts with the other squires.

"I'm the one who's been your care. You all stay healthy as well.

See you again."

After we saw them off early in the morning a bit of time passed as

we slightly shifted the positions of the Donneoru family's

furniture and the Yotlen family lectured them on the store. In

regards to the sausage factory it's proceeding a lot more smoothly than I thought and if it's like this then she should be able to

receive the support of Rasseg and the others so it's probably fine

to just leave it to Cathy already. Accompanied by Basutorial and my combat slaves we decided to return to Baldukk after lunch today as well.

"Then Cathy. Just as originally planned we'll be returning from the dungeon on the 12th so come to Baldukk on the evening of that day.

It's fine for you to close the factory until the 15th while you're gone."

I stopped Basutorial and said that when he was proposing having

Cathy work on the production for another month because of how crucial things are after first starting. That's no good. She and the others have already been working without break(learning the job) since last month when we started doing test operations for the factory.

Certainly that sort of thing is necessary for the start but I had already intended to make a day to close things down for a holiday. It would be better to make it known among the merchants that we deal with in Rombertia early on to avoid trouble later. It's fine to setup a rotation shift for holidays and keep things operating everyday once everyone has gotten more used to the job. It's not like I'm giving the slaves a day off out of kindness.

People you know, if they're forced to keep working without breaks I think the efficiency of their work falls. Though you can't take breaks from something like farm work. I intend to pay the bare minimum wages so they can eat and go on living and I'm sure it would be boring if their only use for that money in their lifetime was just the next days meal. I have no intention of saying something like a mere slave should find a hobby but I'm sure everyone needs time to relax.

Eventually when the slaves working at the sausage factory show that they're very loyal and have the necessary qualities then in order I intend to have them take on different jobs so there is the face that I want them to get used to my way of doing things quickly.

Rather~ my real aim is that I want John and Terry who have already learned simple reading, writing, and math from Basutorial on their

days off to act as teachers and teach them as well.

If it comes to that then the next generation after them will be able to learn to read at an even younger age I'm sure. The meaning in preparing half of each boys and girls of the same age and race should start appear around 10 or 20 years later. It's a method I decided on using Lail Kingdom as an example from what I heard from Miduchi but I'm sure it's effective.

Centering around the roughly 30 members of the {Slaughterers} right now and around 100 young slaves. It's really the bare minimum number of subordinates I'll need when I eventually get my own territory. Of course it's always better to have even more slaves who won't betray me no matter what happens though. Well, it will cost a reasonable amount of money and it's a matter for a bit further into the future so in that regard~

I left driving the carriage we borrowed to Basutorial as I sat down in the coachman's seat next to him and talked until we arrived at Baldukk. I handed Giberuti the money for renting the carriage and the food expense for when we enter the dungeon and sent him to return it before I went back to the inn but no one was around.

Everyone must have gone to play somewhere. I already had conveyed to them that I would return to Baldukk today so the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} matched their schedules up to return to the surface today as well~ but while thinking that, for the time being I sent Zulu and Angela to Kamu and Ginger's inn.

It's necessary to have a meeting them them as well so I wanted to reserve a random restaurant tonight and discuss our plan from here

on out. Shortly after Zulu and Angela came back but both of them had nothing. Since it couldn't be helped I told them to return to their inn once and leave their belongings before coming back while Basutorial and I killed time taking showers.

However, while we were taking our showers everyone who has a room in Boil Manor ended up returning. When I tried asking Miduchi where they went it seems all of the {Slaughterers} went to the outer areas of the outer crater this morning for training. Hmm.

In any case just as planned it's possible to talk to Kamu and Ginger tonight. I felt a bit bad for Zulu and Angela but after they returned I sent them off towards Kamu and Ginger's inn again with a message that I want them to come to Murowa after they take a short break and if Zulu and Angela don't have any plans afterwards I asked them to go to Murowa first and reserve the place.

I laid face down on my bed in Boil Manor for the first time in two weeks while organizing things in my head for a bit. The details were about the organization of all three teams of the {Slaughterers} for the time being. Thanks to rushing into the 9th floor this time I've surpassed the achievement of the founding King and am quickly becoming the person of the moment.

Honestly speaking, something like what floor I've made it to in the dungeon of Baldukk on this corner of the Ollad Continent doesn't matter to me at all. If I could just surpass the achievement of the founding King then it would add a gold lining to my actions but there's almost nothing other than that. Though I say that, as expected things like a gold lining and prestige you can't buy with money so as much as possible I intend to make practical use of

it.

Well, in the first place I came to enter the dungeon seeking treasure just the same as all of the many other adventurers who've gathered, so something like clearing through the floors is nothing more than a bonus. Since it just means that the number of rivals decreases, relative to that our portion should increase, or at least it was my true intention to aim for the lower floors with those sorts of expectations.

I had high hopes when the door opened of the first altar shrine we found on the 9th floor but since it was empty you could say it was greatly beneficial just that we can now predict things aren't as simple as that.

I'm sure not all of the shrines in the altar rooms have something in them from the start.

It's something that was often said in Baldukk, "Since the founding King made the Kingdom of Rombert using treasure he obtained on the 8th floor, even if it's not all of the altar shrines that exist on the 8th floor he should have been able to monopolize a considerable amount of them." and I didn't have any material to deny that either. Or rather I wanted to believe in it. It's because I wanted to believe that if we go to a new floor we'd be able to take all the treasure from the altar rooms there as we please and if that was the case it would have been more convenient for me as well.

However, putting aside the ores you can find digging up the floor or walls(It's great that the pickax we bought in the past didn't end up completely pointless), we confirmed that just the same as in

the past the altar rooms are occasionally empty so there was no choice other than to revise my plan.

It's certainly true that when we entered the 9th floor I was thinking something like, "If we remain adequately careful then just by randomly exploring the 9th floor we can obtain lots of treasure no one has touched. Even in the worst case that we can't obtain enough valuable treasure for me to buy a territory then matching it together with the treasure from the 10th floor beyond that then there's no way we wouldn't find treasure with a high enough overall value to do it, with this we can say goodbye to this moldy dungeon."

It was really counting the chickens before they've hatched but I wanted to say goodbye to the dungeon at the latest in the middle of next year(of course in terms of appearances we'd still continue as adventurers challenging the dungeon) while Miduchi and I spend about half a year searching for the ingredients necessary for the medicine and if we can find them that's great. Even if we can't completely find them we should be able to gather quite a few. Simultaneously in order for Gwine to produce a map of the Dirt Plains I'll have Zenom and Ralpa who are used to traveling act as her escorts along with a couple of my combat slaves join them on exploring. While looking for a good time I'll select one of the treasures with a reasonable value to it and present it to the King..or at least I was dreaming of that.

However, I'm sure things won't go so easily~ and I already thought this would be the case somewhere in my mind. It seems that this

time that way of thinking was correct. Unless we have considerably good luck I'm sure it'll still be necessary to continue exploring the dungeon for a while longer. Miduchi was saying something that sounded pretty random like "Normally the chances of finding treasure should increase on the lower floors and the value of items should be higher as well" but it seems the basis for it is games from our previous life so I can't put any faith in it at all. Just like everyone said even if Miduchi's opinion is correct (Though I do think it's probably correct~), regardless of whether the probability of finding them is higher and the value of the treasures we find increase if you compare it to definitely obtaining treasure from every altar then in the end it's no different from what we've been doing up until now. Just because they've increased the number of winners and prize money for 1st to 3rd place lottery tickets sold by Mizuho Bank, if you were to ask me it's hard to say something like "That's great." about it. Of course it's not something that's bad. Still, it's not as if I've forgotten about the huge specially made altar with no summoned monsters and the door of the shrine open from the start that we saw the first time we entered the 8th floor. Now then, I guess it's about time go. Before I announce things to everyone I need to make the necessary preparations under the guise of a meeting with Kamu and Ginger.

Chapter 253: Respective Approach

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 8

Since there's also the convenience of the {Butchers} and

{Exterminators} days off, with one day in between that starting this morning we {Slaughterers} have stepped foot into the dungeon again. This time when entering the dungeon we've sent Zenom to the {Butchers} and Zulu to the {Exterminators}. Including myself the remaining 9 of us are the unit exploring the 9th floor but up until now I've just had the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} continue training in the dungeon and not let them do anything like exploration.

Starting this time other than the time spent clearing the floors

I've also given them a different mission. Explaining starting with the {Exterminators} that has the simpler one and I have them delivering consumables centered around dried meat to the 4th floor. I have them piston transporting the supplies over the one and a half day one-way trip to the teleport crystal on the 4th floor. The only parties that have arrived at the teleport room on the 4th floor and setup camp there excluding us {Slaughterers} is currently just those that have gone past the 5th floor, {Verdure.Brotherhood}, {Black.Topaz}, {Gehenna.Flare}, just those three.

They leave one person there to watch over it and then after the

remaining 9 of them lower the supplies they teleport back to the surface right away and then enter the dungeon after preparing more

supplies once more.

Next up is the {Butchers}. I have them primarily doing the job of {porters}. They end up transporting the supplies that have gathered in the teleport room on the 4th floor once more to the teleport room on the 6th floor. What you need to be careful of here is that I changed the organization of members in the {Butchers} and {Exterminators}. I moved Ginger and Hisu out from the {Exterminators} to the {Butchers} and in exchange for them I moved my combat slaves Henry and Rubi from the {Butchers} to the {Exterminators}.

Since the {Butchers} ended up organized with almost completely the members of the former {Sun.Ray} I left things there in the care of Zenom who everyone including them look up to. Even from their end Zenom is a leader they can relax with and they don't have any doubts at all about his abilities. As bait I also said, "Zenom will keep an eye on things during the journey down and if he gives his okay then it's fine if you beat down some ogres on the 7th floor to a reasonable extent."

Thanks to that this time the morale of the {Butchers} is strangely high. The members who it took the shape of being left behind in the {Exterminators} were upset but they know the best that their abilities are low from the combined training we do. If I were to speak my real feelings I'd have preferred if even just Rodrick moved over to the {Butchers} since it would be easier for him to earn experience points.

In regards to this I discussed it with Kamu and Ginger the night of the day before yesterday and for the time being they accepted it as

well. Above all else the fact that he can use magic is big. Putting aside healing spells, attack spells are indispensable in combat further in the dungeon.

Particularly Kamu who's previously experienced combat on the 7th floor. Since it's almost right to say attack spells are a requirement to taking on ogres she was actually progressively pushing for it. If Zenom is accompanying them then there's also the expectation that Zenom will almost definitely take down one ogre himself so there was no point in even taking into consideration the death of a member including Rodrick. Even I don't think there would be any problem with taking on the few in number ogres that appear in the areas where you first teleport into the 7th floor as long as they have Zenom.

In addition to that there's also the reason that Rodrick is the eldest son of Count Faruergaz who has both political and financial power. It would result in a gold lining for Rodrick and hearing of his efforts the Faruergaz family might send combat slaves or some kind of aid it seems. If that's true then it's certainly something good and I've also heard of similar stories before so it would be a happy occasion if we could put into practice. If the number of combat slaves increases then it would be possible to rotate the members out as well.

The amount of experience each individual gains would decrease but it would raise the average for the lower level people. It's not like everyone has to reach the realm of a first-rate adventurer after all. Even if they don't make full use of their increased

ability values, if they can just level up and the time is right there's also the benefit of an increase to HP after all.

In any case after I managed to get the two of them to agree I called out Rodrick and tried sounding it out with him but he turned it down. The primary reason was, "Moving itself is appealing but I have combat slaves that I need to take responsibility looking after." Hearing that Kamu and Ginger were enraged.

"If you're going to say that then what about Al who has combat slaves in both the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} and depending on the case even sends over Zulu and Angela? Are you saying that Al isn't taking responsibility for his combat slaves?" was their viewpoint on it. Hearing that while I thought it made sense, I fully intend to be taking responsibility for their lives but I felt like it was a bit different from what Rodrick wanted to say so I approved of his wishes.

And just a bit I empathized with Rodrick's way of thinking. Somewhere I still haven't completely accepted the concept of slaves. I have the feeling as if I'm employing cheap labor. I was born and raised in Bakuddo village which wasn't very wealthy and somewhat carefree so a big part of it is that I was able to grow up without touching the tragic side of slavery almost at all. Adding to that almost all of the slaves I was in contact with were serfs and they were focused around manual labor.

After starting the rubber business there was another source of labor needed centering around the squires and their family. However, just the same as before agriculture was still the largest key industry. We can't treat the laborers who support that

agriculture unreasonably. The slaves who work from morning to night for low wages without any real holidays are important assets but there was never any pitiful situation where we had to tear apart families going against their individual will. Rather, in some meanings my parents used slaves in more of a systematic way. They didn't just give duties out based on what the individual was suited towards but I think they put in work so they wouldn't lose their important assets that easily.

There's various ways of thinking about this but at the very least I think both my father Hegard and mother Shal interacted with the slaves under the thinking that, "Slaves aren't just an important source of labor but they're the important citizens who make up the majority of our population. As the Lord we need to take responsibility for the lives of our citizens." Since I was raised seeing that I think I was also somehow imprinted with the "ideal way of interacting with slaves" based on their impression. Slaves to my parents are "People who they should take full responsibility themselves in protecting." Probably. As a matter of fact it's a bit of a complex of mine that I don't think I can justify it to myself that far.

Of course, it's not like I don't like that either but it's difficult.

In comparison to me in those conditions, while Rodrick wasn't the eldest child of the wealthy Count Faruergaz, he was born as the eldest son. Supposedly ever since his infancy other than serfs there was a lot of different slaves in his house. He even said that there were useless slaves. Slaves like that were easily sold off.

Supposedly excluding a few excellent slaves all the ones that worked at his house would end up being sold off in at longest a few years.

Rodrick always thought they were pitiful in that sort of situation.

It left him with the way of thinking that the first combat slaves he owned individually Denda and Karimu were important and he wanted to take good care of them over many years. If you were to ask I think he ended up naturally being raised with a way of thinking closer to my parents. Though the only differing part is "Always remaining on the side of their master watching over them" or "Wanting them to be able to live their own lives even without their master" and it's not really the type of case of which one is better or correct.

If you were to ask which one was closer to the current Orth then it's the former. They say, "Blessed with a fine master, devote with loyalty, and have a fine life." it's a phrase that's like the ideals of slaves on Orth. Rodrick is probably thinking of becoming the embodiment for that. That itself is something that should be recognized as proper. Even I want to be the embodiment of that phrase in my own way. I just thought that while we're using different methods I'm aiming for the same place as Rodrick as well.

I thought, just as expected from someone raised in the family of a high ranking noble. It's the same for me as well but Toris and Bel were both born in noble families but our way of thinking hasn't adapted to the "Orth way" like Rodrick. I can't remember when it

was but a short while after we met, when I was having dinner together with the three of us including Hirosukol there's something that he said.

"I don't think slavery is something that should be allowed. But, since the system of society is already based around it, it's just futile trying to struggle against it. These past few months I've learned several important things."

When Rodrick said that as he was starting to get drunk Hirosukol said.

"Ho? What kind of things?"

"If I were to purchase a slave from here on out then it means that at least I want to let that slave live a life I think is good."

Hearing that I thought "He~". After all I didn't think it was the type of line someone who found Basutoral's origins pitiful and forcefully saved him from the slave ranking would say. At the same time I thought that he was thinking about a lot of things in his own way as well. It was that sort of him that I gave the advice to try buying some combat slaves. I heard that Rodrick bought two combat slaves several days after that.

After that he's always taken good care of Denda and Karimu the two of them. He's probably not thinking of entering a different party without them. It was to the point where he declared he would change parties together with the three of them after all. In order for all three of them to switch to the {Slaughterers} together they're always continuing their running whenever they have the time. I guess the results of that are showing because the other day he

happily said to me, "All three of us are only 15 minutes away from reaching the goal."

In any case, while everything didn't go exactly as I hoped from the start, the new formation was decided.

Now we just need to keep exploring the 9th floor and I want some kind of results.

.....

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 12

It's the second day since we started exploring the 9th floor this time.

Along the way the room we ran into after teleporting twice had an altar we were already used to seeing. Before charging into the room I created enough dirt in the center of the room to cover 50 meters in every direction burying the gargoyles up their neck.

"Ralpha, Toris, Angela. You three are the {Advance.Guard}. Aim for the powerful one that gets summoned."

The three of them silently nod. Ralpha is licking her lips.

"Gwine and Basutorial are the {Spear.Interceptors}. Don't let the Kobold or Goblins or whatever approach us."

Gwine caresses her beard while holding the {Spear.Of.Piercing} on her side while Basutorial made a tense face as he maintained the stance to charge with both hands properly on his spear.

"It doesn't matter if it's bow or magic but Miduchi and Bel hit the Kobolds and such with that to confuse them."

The two of them probably predicted I would say that. They were already confirming the bowstrings with their left hand and pulling an arrow from the quiver on their back.

"I'll start off by hitting the small fries with a {Fire Ball}.

After that, I'll keep an eye on the state of things and if it's

necessary I'll support appropriate with spells. If I have the leeway then I'll finish off the gargoyles. Alright, let's go!"

The boss that was summoned this time was a {Green Gargantuan Spider}. It's a frightening monster with deadly poison.

However, just the same as when we came up to here, Toris was freely swinging around {Flame.Tongue} in all of it's fury and in no time at all the eerie green hairs tightly packed across the surface of the spider's body were lit on fire slowing the movements of the Gargantuan Spider. Even the strings coming from it's butt (something like a natural {Web} spell) are no threat at all to Toris swinging {Flame.Tongue}.

Simultaneously I sent a {Fire Ball} aimed towards the center of the Kobolds that were summoned and in no time at all after it more than half of them died instantly, then while stunned before they could use spells they were finished off by Gwine and Basutorial's spears and Miduchi and Bel's arrows. The gargoyles were skilled without being able to do anything either.

When the movements of the Giant Spider are slowed from the flames covering it's entire body Angela and Ralpa use their weapons to gradually reduce the number of legs it has.

Finally after being smashed in the head with the tomahawk the spider stopped moving.

At the same time the shrine on the altar opened.

It's just these times that everyone is focused on the shrine.

While basking in eight looks filled with expectation the door of the shrine opened.

The same as usual Angela stuck her hands into the shrine and

grabbed the thing that was enshrined inside of it. It seems it's difficult to grab this time so she put in not just her left hand but right hand as well.

Hohou. I wonder what will come out...Everyone gulps with their throat as they look at the item Angela pulled out of the shrine.

Sure enough what came out was a metal ore just a bit bigger than the size of a softball. Judging from the color I guess it's silver? Since it isn't dark it should be high quality. It's easily over 1,000,000 Z but it's still boring.

"Silver huh...It's extravagant but if it were gold."

"We've gotten quite extravagant as well right..But silver is it.."

Ralpa and Bel both sighed at the same time.

"This, somehow it's extremely heavy.."

Angela said that while holding out the silver ore for me. She's holding it in both hands.

"{Status Open}"

{Tungsten Ore}

"What?!?"

Seeing the status I was so surprised I let out a loud voice and

Angela almost dropped the ore. Everyone who was watching as if it was uninteresting was a bit surprised wondering what in the world it was.

On Earth it's not particularly a precious metal or anything like that but it's reasonably rare. Though I say that the price isn't anything great. It's several thousand yen per 1 kg or so and cheaper than silver. Since it's weight is close to platinum and gold it's famous for being used in plating fraud and shouldn't be

really well known by the average person.

However, something even more characteristic of it is that it's

melting point is over 3,000 degrees and it's not easy to melt. If I

use the spell {Transmute.Rock.To.Mud} to make a pot and mixing rod

then even someone who doesn't know the spell can make any alloy

they please as long as they have the mana. That is if they know the

mixing ratio for it. Even Platinum and Osmium can be melted with

fire magic and around 30 MP.

Even after using Identify it seems to be the tungsten that I know

as well. If I just improvise a bit with the grip of the mixing rod

and pot then it should be possible to create a considerably large

crucible with this amount.

We've found something good.

"Hey, what is that? Isn't it silver?"

"Yeah, listen and be surprised. It's tungsten!"

Hearing that Miduchi's eyes opened wide. And then she started

muttering things like, "If we make a sword with that.." She sure is

knowledgeable. Tungsten is a metal with a considerable hardness to

it as well.

But it's heavy so wouldn't it be impossible as a handheld

weapon?

"Tangu..What's that?"

"It's Tungsten, Ral."

"Gwine, you..Know about it?"

"I feel like I've heard the name before.."

"I don't know about it. Is it more valuable than silver?"

"Ah, the one used in industrial use tools.."

"Toris you know about it?"

"Hmn, I only know about that much."

After everyone started talking Miduchi triumphantly stuck out her

noise as she started explaining.

"It's hard so it's used in drills for the purpose of manufacturing metal on top of that it's heavy so just like "depleted uranium" it's used as the core material in "APFSDS" and "High-Velocity Armor Piercing" rounds for "tanks". Since it doesn't let "radiation" pass through it's also used in the armor for "tanks" as well."

Putting aside the drill, I'm amazed she knows such specialized information like the tanks high-velocity armor piercing rounds or the depleted uranium. It's a bit admirable. When I tried praising her and, "Eh? This is common knowledge in my field?" said that with a strange face.

Didn't you work in the same foodstuff industry as me? Are you really that quiet Shiina? In the first place why do you know something like that? There's probably not a single other person in that company that knows and could casually say that stuff. Rather~ even someone who normally knows about tungsten would probably mention the fraud stuff or the fact that they're used for the filaments in light bulbs first right. I can't understand how she didn't touch on those at all either. Wouldn't she have been better off if she studied other things rather than accumulating all that strange information...

Putting that aside, currently her information has been considerably useful. Also, I don't have enough free time to question her on it that much.

However, I really got my hands on something good. Putting aside the shell case it should be useful in making the bullet and various other things.

Chapter 236: Center of 8th Floor

Year 7446, Month 6, Day 4

This time I'm accompany the {Exterminators}. We entered the dungeon on June 9th and left today but they precisely showed me they could clear the 3rd floor on the first day. Just as I had heard starting from the next day there were some struggles that could be seen on the 4th floor but I think there's largely no problem. Just as was reported excluding Ginger and Hisu since a lot of their members don't have much experience in the dungeon I guess, they were indifferent to the traps in the good meaning and that's believed to have lead to a speed up on their end.

Though in exchange for that, they were considerably careful and cautious with the combat. The reason for that is believed to be that there were no magic users other than Rodrick and Mekku excluding the leader. In other words, the number times they can use healing spells is low, is what it means. Well, when I first split up the teams, I already talked a lot about this point with Kamu. Since it leads to a stronger tendency for the combat to drag out, as a result of that the number of people with injuries increases, so you could say that it's easier for them to spend more time healing is a problem. However it's believed that they've built up a bit more strength than the second-rates of Baldukk and at about the same level as half first-rate.

Even though almost all of the members haven't spent much time in

the dungeon, you could say that these results are considerably ahead. As proof of that when I'm standing at the front leading, this time since the number of injuries in combat was decreased we were able to clear through the 4th floor in four hours and it was one day but we were able to step foot on the 5th floor as well. However, after all individual strength is a big problem. The experienced Ginger and Hisu have few chances to stand at the front bearing the full brunt of the monsters. They have no choice but to center things around Rodrick, Sanno, and Mekku who use shields but because they're lacking in strength there were many close calls with the stronger monsters on the 5th floor. Especially when it comes to the monster rooms, even on the 4th floor if there isn't a leader from the {Slaughterers} it's probably too frightening to just watch. Yeah, for the time being they should accumulate experience on the 4th floor.

.....

Year 7446, Month 6, Day 23

This time it's the {Butchers}. Different from the {Exterminators} last time, I guess since excluding my combat slaves they have comparably more veterans, they have a strong tendency to fear traps. However, in regards to combat I can watch it with some peace of mind. The number of magicians itself is only two people and the same but their experience is different. Even when it comes to magic rather than focusing entirely on healing, they properly get in some attack spells when they see good chances to attack. It's big that Misu can use spells from the rear and above all else the skills of Rokko the tank {Shield.Holder} are extremely high,

you could say that the characteristic of this party is that they're reliable. He's using a shield but in terms of overall defensive techniques it might be better to say he's on the same level as Zenom. That he's not running is his own freedom so it doesn't matter at all but I thought in some meanings this guy might be a prodigy. Though I say that, it might not be all that strange for guys like this to be all over the place in the top teams. If Rodrick or Sanno are able to reach this level then I think I could relax and watch the {Exterminators} a bit more though.

Well, overall between the balance of caution and daring it would be good if it tilted a bit more towards daring. If the whoever comes from the {Slaughterers} isn't Zulu or Angela then I'm sure they can even take on the {Frost Lizard} if they prepare to take some injuries. Probably unless they get considerably full of themselves I doubt it would reach the point of casualties. I want to think that the countless months of experience they've earned on the 1st floor would be useful here. A number of people leveled up as well.

If it's the {Butchers} then at a time in the not so distant future..if they properly gain experience for another year or so then the 6th floor might be good as well. If you were to ask which the objective of this is more for my combat slaves to gain experience. You could say they're weighing them down after all. Though I say that even they're still useful at the front line and as an attacker so at this point in time I have no intention of switching them out with Ginger and Hisu using holding them back as

a reason. If they were to switch place I'm sure they could manage on the 6th floor as well but as expected I can't permit the number of strings I have attached to them to be reduced in number. Even now I'm sure they could make it to the teleport crystal on the 5th floor. As expected clearing through both the 4th and 5th floors in one day is unreasonable but it's plenty possible for them to carry supplies to the 5th floor.

I was able to confirm them and I've already declared it as well.

Now then, shall we start clearing the 8th floor.

.....

Year 7446, Month 6, Day 26

"In regards to entering the dungeon tomorrow but this time we aren't dispatching anyone from the {Slaughterers}. Consequently the number of people in the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} will be decreased. I would like for you to explore without overdoing it this time."

The time for formation training ended and I started giving out directions in front of everyone.

"Yeah, this time, the {Slaughterers} will clear the 8th floor. In that case since we don't know what will happen as expected I want our full members. It'll cause trouble for everyone for one week but please pardon us on that."

I guess the fact that I said we'd clear the 8th floor is working?

Other than the {Slaughterers}, particularly the veteran members of the former {Sun.Ray}'s expressions changed. They all probably think that it's a chance to find treasure on a new floor I'm sure. I think their eyes are giving off a sharp glare. No, before you all can go to the 9th floor you need to build up a bit more strength.

As expected if you're as you are now even the 6th and 7th floors are overdoing it.

After that I took a variety of questions but fundamentally all of the details of the 8th floor I've reported on every time we go. I can't discuss anything new. Since it's believed that there's a powerful monsters making it's nest in what seems to be a large room in the center of the floor, I just said that I wanted the {Slaughterers} to go with full members so we don't lose any fighting power.

Furthermore, even in their case it seems that they do have some complaints they aren't included in the members currently but since we've already offered them the test it seems they were able to endure it. Yeah, if they can really past that test and furthermore gain plenty of results against ogres then I wouldn't mind switching them out. In that case, it would be difficult to continue hiding my massive amount of mana. That's why as preparation for that, recently I've been saying my magic special skill levels have been going up again and using mana in considerably large amounts. But, as expected it seems to be pushing it a bit right.

Well, I can't imagine that they would use that a reason to say something to me though. It's not like any casualties have ever come out as a result of hiding the amount of mana I have after all. In the first place in order to use spells you have to concentrate to the point of barely being able to remain conscious of anything else. That trend is particularly strong for advanced spells. This is something that every adventurer knows. Unless something of significant importance happens, idiots who carelessly use spells

won't survive. That's why there's no one who would criticize me over something like that.

I think it'll be fine for the time being but when it comes to

Ginger, Misu, and Jeru who have the most motivation and the highest possibility of changing out I'll follow up with them somehow, and depending on the case I think it might be fine to explain things about being reincarnated to them the same as Zenom and Zulu. It's not like there's any sort of harm in that information being exposed. Even if they say we reincarnated from a world with an advanced civilization if there's no proof of making something like that then they'll just be called liars.

Right now about the only thing is the mincer I guess? Even that if

you just look at the inside the structure isn't all that complex. A skilled blacksmith or goldsmith can make something similar. The precision is high but from just a glance there's no way of telling that far after all. Even if you check it's status it just says, Brass Industrial Art Object {Brass.Craft}. Normally it would just end with saying, "Yeah, that's amazing, I'm amazed you thought of it. You're intelligent."

In order for the structure to not be leaked so easily we split up

the parts and ordered them separately through various blacksmiths and goldsmiths in the capital and Baldukk. In the worst case, even if interference comes from the royal family or some other place I can't imagine it's at the level where it's no problem to cover it up. Rather, something like the structure of a mincer it's fine if the secret can just be protected for a couple of years. During that

time it's important to create the brand image and put some distance between the copies made afterwards. The reason why Sha*essen still sells well at a comparatively high price even among similar products is largely because of the brand image it made being the first.

After that we quickly dispersed and went to purchase the food we were going to consume in the dungeon as well as producing sausages, then ate dinner. Furthermore, Bel and Toris kneaded some wheat flour to make some appropriate dough and made shuumai and gyoza. It's regrettable that it can't be preserved and we don't have any soy sauce. Also, there's a large room for improvements left that can made to the dough used for wrapping.

Ralpha, Gwine, and Miduchi were all making various things like "Meat Manju!" or "Hamburger!!" as well. They made some minced cutlets as well but just the same as the hamburger, if you don't use beef it's not very good. Ah, come to think of it there were some things close to pork cutlets and chicken cutlets since the past.

.....

Year 7446, Month 6, Day 30

Three days ago, I finished my running the same as usual and then we rushed into the dungeon right away. On just the first day I joined the {Exterminators} and Miduchi the {Butchers} as we all gathered together in the teleport room on the 3rd room, then starting from the second day I did the usual party with just Zulu as we cleared past the 6th floor. On the third day, yesterday we took our time gathering magic stones while killing ogres and escorted Giberuti

through the 7th floor, then finally today, we stepped foot on the 8th floor. As a good sign, we were able to teleport to a location connected to the center room, so we spent four hours making an effort to get there.

We're taking a short break before entering the room.

The circumference of the room is believed to be roughly 6.3 km with a diameter of about 2km. This is something we confirmed by doing a lap around it once together with Gwine, so we can say there's almost no mistake that it's a circle. Miduchi, you'll take the lead about 50 meters ahead and scout things out. If you find anything then stop. If there's any sort of problem then come back right away. In any case we'll know from {Party-ization} after all."

After confirming everyone nodded I continue.

"If there's nothing in particular then we'll take up the formation {Double Trail} in the rear behind Miduchi. I'll take the lead alone. Next up will be Zenom and Ralpa. Third will be Zulu and Angela, Gwine and Basutorial will be after that. Toris and Bel will be at the very rear. Alright? If hostilities are started then I'll dash to the front as we switch over to {Arrowhead.One}. On that occasion we'll take Miduchi into the formation. Whether I'll remain at the front or switch to the rear depends on the opponent. It's fine to take as much time as we need. Let's move carefully."

I think it was when we slowly advanced ahead for about 30 minutes at a speed of less than 1 km/hour?

Suddenly the sensation of {Party-ization} vanished. I can see

Miduchi's back showing signs of bewilderment about 50 meters ahead of us with my Identify vision.

"Shit!!"

""Eh..""

""Madam!""

The sensation of {Party-ization} vanished and several voices were raised in a panic. At the same time Zulu, Angela, and I left the formation as we ran off. There's no doubt that she cut off the {Party-ization} because of some abnormality.

"Miduchi!!"

In response to my shout, I can tell Miduchi was looking around restlessly in doubt as she turned around. Just from a glance there doesn't seem to be any problem. Even if I use Identify on her like that there's no problem. I can tell that everyone is following after us from their presence.

What in the world happened? is what Miduchi asked us when she came over to us as we came running up.

"Ah, what is it!?"

"Huh..suddenly {Party-ization} was cut off. That's strange...Sorry.

I'll try using it once more."

What the, really..And huh? That's strange.

"It isn't a monster?"

Zenom said as he caught up.

"Nn, I'm sorry. It seems different. I'll use {Party-ization} once mo.."

Huh?"
It was when Miduchi had said that and was about to touch Zenom to start. After confirming Miduchi was safe as Angela moved a bit ahead in order to confirm the surroundings and raised her voice in doubt. She's sniffing with her nose. Her expression was a bit off for the mood but everyone spread out with their weapons in hand.

We thought something was picked up by Angela's {Super Sense of Smell}.

"Huh? It's strange..My nose doesn't work."

Yes?

"It isn't a monster right?"

Bel confirmed with Angela.

"Yeah, it feels like I can't use my {Super Sense of Smell}."

I reflexively Identified Angela.

There's nothing abnormal.

"Nn, there's no problem. I was properly able to use {Party-ization} on Zenom-san."

"Hmm. It seems things are fine."

It seems Miduchi and Zenom used {Party-ization} once more.

Just as I saw from Identify there doesn't seem to be any problem

with Miduchi. However, it somehow doesn't make sense. Miduchi's

{Party-ization} isn't released that easily. Whether she's in the

middle of combat or sleeping if the user Miduchi doesn't will to

turn it from On to Off or will for the unit to be disbanded then

it's no good. That was released? Angela said she wasn't able to use

her {Super Sense of Smell} anymore either..Something is

strange.

"It can't be..Gwine, come over here for a bit."

I pulled Gwine's arm and moved her to stand next to Angela.

However, along the way Gwine raised her voice.

"Huh.."

It seems Gwine's {Mapping} was cut off as well. I wonder if from

around there over to here is a location where you can no longer use

Special Skills or Unique Abilities? To test it I tried using

Identify but just as I thought I couldn't use it. I told Gwine to

try using {Infrared Vision} as well but obviously she couldn't use that either.

"Let's go back a bit."

I urged everyone as we went back out of the area a bit. After

returning it seems I was able to use Identify once again.

"Just now, I understood from pulling Gwine. It seems that around

that area you can't use Skills anymore."

"Eh..Please wait just a moment. Then magic as well!?"

Toris said with a surprised face.

That's right. Magic should be a type of Special Skill as well. I

guess I'll try it.

I returned back into again and tried to use the spell {Light}.

Obviously it was no good. I can't control my mana.

While everyone was looking in a daze with worried expressions and I

just shrugged my shoulders and shook my head.

This is, bad. It's way beyond our fighting power just being

halved.

..Hn? Just now I used Identify on Angela even though she couldn't

use {Super Sense of Smell}.

For argument's sake. If everything in the interior past that area

is an {Anti-Skill Area}, I guess that means that magic or other

things used from outside of there are fine?

I returned to the side of everyone looking anxiously and fired off

the spell {Flame Bullet} so they could easily see it.

..No problem..or at least that's how it appears.

I picked up a rock from near my feet and used {Light} on it before

throwing that.

It clearly flew further than the area where Angela just was, and

it's still shining.

"Change of plans. Let's stop with heading towards the center just

like this with everyone."

I said that while looking around at everyone.

Chapter 254: Results

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 12

Originally we had intended to spend another day for a total of one week in the dungeon but I told Cathy to return to Baldukk this evening. The {Exterminators} should have carried the supplies to the 4th floor twice and since the {Butchers} have Zenom with them they should have carried all of that to the 6th floor as well. And I guess we'll know on our way back.

When we teleported back to the 6th floor the {Butchers} were all chatting around Zenom in the teleport room. It seems they were waiting and intended on returning with us.

"Greed-kun! Zenom-san is amazing!"

"Yeah! The skill with which he cleaned up that ogre in no time at all, that was~ magnificent!"

Kevin and Jeru were both talking on and on in their excitement. Eh?

Zenom cleaned things up in no time at all?

"Firefreed-san, after all he's reliable."

"That's right, thanks to that we were able to concentrate on the remaining ogre with all of us.."

"It was easy to use magic as well."

It seems Misu, Kamu, and Binsu were helped quite a bit.

"Yeah, he's on a different level~"

"Yeah, as expected.."

"After all, when it comes to the sharpness, accuracy, power, and timing of his attacks they're all splendid!"

Ginger, Kimu, and Hisu commented in admiration as well. Including myself all of the members of the {Slaughterers} were making faces like it's only obvious but Ralpha was grinning. It feels just a bit

charming.

Up until now Zenom has taken lead over over the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} a number of times. However, he's never fought a opponent on the level of an ogre together with them. They've only seen just a small fraction of the time when I was rampaging. It's not like it's anything to hide but I guess he made perfect use of that axe? Thinking that I tried asking but it doesn't seem like he completely showed off the ability of his magic axe either. Well, even if you just normally use that {Cold Axe.Of.Returning} it's abilities were considerably high though.

Hn? Come to think of it Rokko is quiet and just hanging his head down.

Judging from the state of things it seems they took down a number of ogres so shouldn't he have profited big time? He's the one who it usually feels like is making the most noise...

"Rokko. The only one who was injured was you. Isn't it that you're lacking in training? How about you running as well?"

Misu started preaching to Rokko with his head down. He was injured?

"Just stop already, Misu. Rokko did his best. The timing of his first step in had all of his strength behind it and was better than everyone including myself. Certainly he ended up taking a hit in passing but if it hadn't been an ogre then Rokko would have been able to endure it just fine. It's true that ogres are idiots but their skill with using the club is that of a first-rate veteran. They're extremely strong as well. Rokko was quite something just

being able to take that head on and only suffer a broken armor from the shield he was holding."

Zenom quietly stopped that Misu and lifted up Rokko. I see, Rokko must have messed up somewhere and in order to cover for that Zenom probably had to instantly kill off an ogre. Zenom normally would never push himself and doesn't fight in a flashy way but if the party falls into a crisis he completely changes going super offensive with his blows.

According to Zenom they defeated groups of two ogres twice. Rokko ended up being seriously injured near the latter part of that combat. It seems it was just a bit more than two hours ago. On the basis that we should be teleporting through pretty soon Zenom ordered Misu and Binsu to use the spell {Cure} once each pouring their low remaining mana into it taking them lower than the amount required for recovering it naturally.

This is something that I normally say. In the worst case even if it's the spell {Cure} which only uses 4 MP, in most cases, even if a magician who's acting normal can't naturally recover their MP after that they should have enough leeway use it one more time. There's a lot of food here and in the worst case there's even a rope for tying people up in the survival kit on Zenom's waist.

Fortunately it seems that both of them were fine without exhausting their mana. Also, Zenom said it was precisely because of Rokko stepping in with such good momentum that they were able to stop the charging ogres in the wasteland with good footing as well. It seems that if Rokko was just a bit later they would have ended

up having to fight in the bushes where the footing was a bit bad.

Just, Zenom said, "Even if the footing is a bit bad if it's just that level of situation there's anything that can be done. I don't really get him." and laughed. Even if he has the power to make decisions, he doesn't have the power to make judgements..I guess? I use the spell {Cure All} on Rokko and just in case had Miduchi use {Cure All} as well before whispering, "Actions are things someone is always watching." into Rokko's ear and leaving it at that.

There was over 70 kg in supplies gathered in the teleport room on this 6th floor focused around soap, extra arrows, wheat and soba flour, hen's eggs, olives, and other preserved foods and consumables that last for a while, and it'll largely come in handy on the next time we explore the dungeon I'm sure.

We returned to the surface and after heading towards the Baldoggie cart that Murowa took over from us, the {Exterminators} were already there biting into Baldoggie. Zulu was pleasantly talking with the Laios sis that was acting as the sales clerk about something in a corner of the plaza. Well, it's fine though.

I bit into one of the spicy gems that is the type with chili in it as I contributed to Murowa's sales. Different from the {Slaughterers} cart which only had children Murowa's cart was serving beer as well. After all you've gotta have some beer with sausage right. Though it's not chilled. It might just be my imagination but I feel like the Murowa cart has a lot of customers. Ah, I guess it's because there's 30 of us?

.....

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 16

After taking a three day break, we're entering the dungeon once again.

Since we have the support of an abundance of supplies this time and we can get a replenishment of fresh food if we just return to the 6th floor so we've planned to stay inside for two and a half weeks(half a month). We won't come out until the end of the month.

It means we'll be spending two consecutive weeks on the 9th floor.

Furthermore, on just the final day August 30th, we'll finish things up in the morning and during the break after that I've already said that Miduchi and I would be going to the company in the capital.

Miduchi reluctantly accompanied the {Butchers} while Angela obediently accompanied the {Exterminators} as they support the exploration of the {Slaughterers}.

I told Cathy to properly take a three day break one week later(Of course she doesn't need to go to the trouble of returning to Baldukk), and tore her and Basutorial apart who were clinging all over each other to the end.

"Then, everyone, let's go."

.....

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 17

We've arrived at the teleport room on the 6th floor.

I was just a bit worried about it but all of our precious supplies were fine without any abnormalities.

Tomorrow we'll go up to the teleport crystal on the 8th floor and after beating the Mino and leaving our bags we'll return back to

here again.

And then after carrying some more bags again it's necessary to take them to the 8th floor.

If possible I'd like to catch the Mino off guard so we need to return within 17 hours.

For that sake, we'll move under the assumption that we're going to arrive deep in the 8th floor before tomorrow evening and return right away.

And then, without resting we'll clear through the 7th floor in the middle of the night and then get some rest in the teleport room on the 7th floor.

If it's possible then I ideally intend on moving to the teleport room on the 8th floor without resting and then taking a slow break after that.

Even if we end up losing some time in the worst case I don't even mind if we waste one day though.

.....

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 18

We departed for the 7th floor at 5 in the morning.

Because we had good teleport luck, we managed to arrive at the teleport room on the 7th floor at 8 in the morning.

After taking a one hour break we proceeded onward to the 8th floor.

It was just past 1 pm or so when we arrived in the teleport room on the 8th floor and defeated the Mino in good time.

17 hours later is 6 am tomorrow morning.

While taking a break I discussed it with everyone but we ended up deciding to push ourselves a bit today and do one more round trip.

...

In one day we did both the 7th and 8th floors twice.

I guess if you try it can be done.

Just before the date was about to change I wrapped myself up in the

blankets on my bed in the teleport room of the 8th floor and

relaxed thinking, "Even thinking about the change of shifts

everyone can sleep for four and a half hours."

It's fine if I just stick Zulu and Giberuti who can't use magic

into the middle.

Zenom and I both sleep for six hours.

I was tired so I quickly dozed off.

.....

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 19

Now then, it's the 9th floor.

Starting today for the two weeks until the end of the month, we'll

have to return to the 6th floor once midway through to get some

more provisions, but we can explore the 9th floor in full.

I raised my fighting spirit while taking the magic stone from the

Mino and dragging it's corpse into the distance.

The only harvest for today was filling in some blanks on the

map.

We didn't run into altar rooms either.

We ate a bento for lunch but in the evening we brought back a crab

Gwine finished off and had crab shabu.

If Toris kills the crabs using {Flame.Tongue} somehow they don't

feel like they're fresh.

Though I'm sure it's just my imagination that the ones Gwine

finishes off with a single blow destroying their brain with the

{Spear.Of.Piercing} are the freshest.

We end up finishing off a considerable number of them so the ones

that are as cleanly killed as possible are best right.
If you keep eating them consecutively for every meal it ends up
feeling complicated but if you just keep it at crab cooking about
once a week then it feels tremendously delicious.
Though the trash stinks so we end up having to take it quite a bit
of distance to throw away.

.....

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 20

The exploration is proceeding with a good feel to it.
We didn't run into an altar room today either but there was a gold
ore sticking out from the wall in a room with a boss.
I'm glad we brought the pickax along with us.
It was a splendid gold ore that was close to 100 kg.
As expected we couldn't carry it around so I ended up having a
nosebleed again as I took the time to change it into gold
bars.
8 of them at the 10 kg size.
It's of a considerably higher purity than the gold ores we've
previously obtained on the 6th floor.
I was getting full of myself as I even carved the characters "K24"
in English and Arabic numerals but Toris and Bel retorted on it so
I returned it to normal.
They sure are fellows who can't take a joke.
Even though the idiot Ralph said, "It's pure gold!" and was
greatly pleased.
We split them up and returned to the 8th floor once carrying
them.
After piling up the sparkling and shining gold bars in a corner of
the room, everyone ate a bento before we returned to the 9th floor
again.

Spellbound,

"It's a radiance I want to look at forever."

as Gwine said that we struggled to tear her apart from them.

The afternoon ended with just exploring.

.....

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 21

We obtained another tungsten ore.

It was from an altar again this time. The size seems to be just a

bit bigger than last time.

It was just one so we continued exploring.

...

Hmn.

This area is probably that.

Just like the center of the 8th floor it's probably the center of

the 9th floor.

We came out into an awfully spacious place.

We tried moving along the wall for a short while but we didn't run

any the crabs that are usually wandering around in the halls at

all.

I wonder if there's a boss?

After all there probably is one~

It's fine to fight it but either way I feel like we'll end up not

being able to use our skills again.

I'm not so optimistic that I would bet on being able to use

them.

In that case it would be best to do it at a time when Miduchi is

together with us.

It's still just past 10 am.

We should explore a different passage from here.

We started moving down a different passage connected to the

room.

Along the way it was connected to a point we previously stopped

short at after running out of time exploring.

I see.

.....

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 22

We returned to the teleport room on the 6th floor.

There's some new food that's been left there.

It's meat.

And vegetables.

Oh~ isn't there even some dried meineiji!

Angela sure is thoughtful.

As expected of my slave.

..Hn?

Huh?

Chi..So even {Black.Topaz} has cleared through the 6th floor and

started showing their face here huh?

There was a new set of camping tools installed in one of the open

corners.

Inside of the shower bucket there was money just like with

{Verdure.Brotherhood}.

Also, there was a small new bucket inside of the shower room which

had "Let's get along" written in charcoal or something.

I made a bitter smile.

We took our time on the 7th floor finishing off about 40

ogres.

We didn't encounter {Black.Topaz}.

Of course, we didn't encounter {Verdure.Brotherhood} either.

.....

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 23

Exploring the 9th floor is proceeding smoothly.

It's a good feeling.

Toris's {Flame.Tongue} is thirsty for the blood of trolls once

again tonight~

We didn't run into an altar room but we've explored quite a bit.

I suppressed everyone's opinion that pot cooking would be good and decided on dried meineiji.

No matter when I eat dried fish it's delicious.

.....

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 24

We obtained a {Magical.Weapon}.

It's an arrow.

There's a total of two dozen, 24 of them.

【Arrow.Of.Blindness】

According to my 【Identify】 any living creature that this arrow

stabs into regardless of the size or where the wound is located, if the entire arrowhead stabs in deep enough to be hidden then it seems the target will fall into a completely blind state for at least 5 minutes.

However, once the effects have been used once the arrow loses the potency of the magic and changes to no different from normal arrow.

A consumable huh?

Shall we use them?

No, when it comes to swords, axes, and other {Magic.Items} I think it's fine even if we sell them.

But, I feel like these are no good.

"Judging from the name it seems like they crush the eyes of the target they hit."

"It's hard to imagine them having any other ability than that right."

Basutorial and Bel were talking.

It would be a surprise if they had any other ability than that with

this sort of name.

"Hmn, depending on how you think about it they seem pretty good against opponents that use magic like ogre mages."

"Oh, I see. That's a good idea."

Certainly Ralpa's viewpoint was good.

If your eyes can't see you can't use most magic after all.

Particularly attack spells which almost all of them require setting a target.

It's not like it's completely impossible if you touch something and fire it off at almost zero distance from that but opposite to that when you try to send an attack spell bullet flying from a close distance unless you have a considerably strong image it won't manifest.

If they have a skill level like mine and don't do anything else at all(not even breathing) while concentrating even then wouldn't it take several seconds to several tens of seconds?

Though when it comes to {Cure} and {Light} even if you can't see with your eyes(even if you don't have visibility of the target) as long as you're touching them you can use it just like status open.

I'll hand these over to Bel. Since there's a lot of them including the spares it should be plenty if she mixes two of them in.

But, it's going to be troublesome trying to explain how they lose their effect after being used once.

.....

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 25

Through another different course we discovered a path that leads to what seems to be the center plaza of the 9th floor.

There was an altar room but it was empty.

How boring.

It's boring but we're still properly filling in the map so it's fine.

.....

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 26

Once again today we ran into an altar room and it was empty as well.

Hmm, bad luck!

.....

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 27

Nothing at all.

Hey~?

Aren't you getting bored of it pretty soon as well?

Eh?

Is that so?

Then that's fine though.

.....

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 28

We went to the 6th floor in order to replenish our food.

There was no one in the teleport room but there's clearly some signs that the camp of {Black.Topaz} is evolving.

It's even developed up to the same level as

{Verdure.Brotherhoods}.

Of course, it's not to the same level as ours but even then they've carried in plenty of equipment.

In the evening we returned to the teleport room of the 8th floor and proceeded to explore the 9th floor.

.....

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 29

Ah.

This is.

Is this that!?

Is it the extravagant version of the altar room!?

And just as I thought that it was different.

It was just two monster rooms stuck together consecutively.

Shit.

That's misleading.

Not to mention there wasn't even a normal altar in them.

Since we haven't found anything since obtaining the

【Arrow.Of.Blindness】 it seems I'm a bit irritated.

Calmly thinking about it and you could say we've already gotten

actual results above the amount of time we've spent exploring this

time.

Two ores and the {Magical.Weapon} 【Arrow.Of.Blindness】.

We've never found this much treasure in such a short period of time

up until now.

Though I say that, the only thing we can sell is just the gold

bars.

Even those have that much quantity.

It's a total of 80 kg.

Previously when we refined it just 20 kg or so ended up being sold

at a price of over 30,000,000 Z.

This time it's four times that amount.

It'll easily exceed 100,000,000!

We've made plenty of actual results.

Though I say that, according to Ralpha this is still insufficient

for the gold zombie that I am.

And just as we were saying things like that we found a {Magic.Item}

from a new altar.

【Refrigerator】

【Beech Wood.Iron】

【Condition: Normal】

【Manufacture Date: 29/8/7446】

【Value: 13500000】

【Durability: 678】

【Ability: Internal temperature 4 degrees;1490 value/1 day】

【Effect: Capable of refrigeration of goods stored inside. No
function for adjusting the humidity.】

Since the Durability is a bit higher than the previous one we found

it's value is a bit higher.

It's a huge burden so I guess we'll return right away huh?

Uhihi~

.....

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 30

Now then, today is the final day.

We're finishing up in the morning.

Mu.

We started off by teleporting into a place we've been to

previously.

That's a bad omen.

We teleported back in once more.

This time it was a place we haven't been to before.

Let's get into the mood and go!

It's {Let's go}.

Ralpa and Gwine didn't react at all but I was told "That's old" by

Basutorial.

Is..Is that so?

Soon after the area we teleported into there was a forked

path.

For the time being I guess left?

Though there's no basis for it.

Mu.

There's a teleport crystal.

I guess this was the right answer?

...

.....

Again soon after there was a teleport crystal.

...

.....

Ho.

A room with an altar.

Shall we end things here for today?

We made the {Green Poison Lizard} that was summoned into namasu,
burnt away the Kobolds, and then cut off the heads of the
gargoyles.

Well now then, it's the last try.

I wonder what will come out?

Or maybe nothing will?

"Ah!!"

Since we don't have Angela like usual this time I have Zulu
searching the shrine but it seems something was there.

"Master! Congratulations! It seems to be a ring!"

""Oh~!""

I spontaneously let my voice out as well.

Magical rings are famous after all.

If it's that much then even I know about it.

Rather~ I'm getting flashbacks of the time I was bullied by teacher
Mila.

After descending from the altar Zulu held out the ring in the palms
of both of his hands to me.

Seeing a tall Laios hunch over while preciousy holding a small
ring was a bit humorous.

Hohou.

Just from a glance it looks to have a width of 5 mm and is a dull
gold ring covered in scratches.

It has a gem embedded in it.

It's not standing off but embedded directly into it.

On the opposite side of where the gem is embedded it's small but
there's a gap opened up in it.

I see, I guess it's free size?

It's a ring after all, just in case.

I use the void magic {Detect.Magic}.

There's a reaction.

I take off the glove on my right hand pick it up with two fingers.

Zulu already touched it without his gloves on so it should be fine.

"{Status Open}"

【Ring.Of.Protection】

"Ooh!!"

I spontaneously let out my voice again.

This is a name with a good feel to it.

"What?"

"What is it?"

"What kind of name did it have?"

Everyone seems to be greatly interested.

Though that's only obvious.

Wait just a moment.

【Ring.Of.Protection】

【Gold.Sapphire】

【Condition: Normal】

【Manufacture Date: 30/8/7446】

【Value: 1】

【Durability: 50】

【Ability: Damage Reducing;1 HP】

【Effect: In the case that the target who equips this ring undergoes

something where they receive damage to their HP, through the mana

in the ring it will reduce the damage taken by just 1 HP. The

amount of damage it's possible to reduce is up to 1 HP per

day.】

That's pretty dull.

"The name is amazing. It's supposedly the

【Ring.Of.Protection】."

""Ho~!""

Bel was nearby so I dropped the ring onto the palm of her

hand.

Everyone is looking at the name of it while saying Kya~kya~

Isn't this the ideal thing to try selling?

Chapter 255: Fairy Village A While

Year 7446, Month 8, Day 30

A bit sooner than planned, we were climbing the stairs to the surface just before 11:00 am. Zulu is the one with the most bulk and furthermore he's carrying the refrigerator so I'm sure it's difficult but we can't let an important {Magic.Item} be carried by just a simple {porter} and cook like Giberuti right. It might be possible it's the most valuable item we found this time after all. Well, there's also 5 gold bars in the bag Giberuti is carrying though.

Though it's late summer since it's close to midday we can feel the heated air from the strong sunlight and a different kind of sweat starts to gather on our foreheads from up until now. It's always that feeling you get when you come up the stairs from the cool underground dungeon to the hot entrance plaza. In this shitty heat it's only obvious but we cut through the quiet entrance plaza and quickly moved into the magic tool shop managed by the usual dwarf old man to finish selling off our magic stones.

And then the same as usual we went to the cart run by Murowa with just a few customers to buy some Baldoggie and beer for lunch. Maybe we should throw a magic stone into the refrigerator to chill them?

Zulu was going to the shade together with the sales clerk sister who was unloading bags near the cart. How about just getting married already?

It's fine to let her work at the sausage factory like Cathy.

If that'll raise your morale then it's fine.

While we were doing that the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} came back. It gives an impression like the number of people suddenly increased.

"How was it?"

Miduchi asked about the results of battle but there's no way of hiding the refrigerator so she's smiling.

"Yeah, we made quite a bit."

I smile from feeling pretty good as well.

"We found a gold ore on the 6th floor as well!"

Ho! That's good news.

""It's an ore with a good feel to it.""

"Won't it cost about half a month to refine?"

"It won't take that long right."

The members of the {Butchers} are making a racket as they boast about it. I guess it's in that bag Jeru is carrying? Judging from the size it's probably not much different from the one we previously found on the 6th floor. It looks considerably big. If the purity is about the same then after refining it should come out to around 20 kg. It seems the young Kimu and Hisu split up Jeru's belongings to carry.

"What about on the {Slaughterers} end..{Status Open}..a refrigerator! That's amazing. Isn't it a high class magic tool!"

Kevin got excited seeing the name of the refrigerator.

"We've seen one once when we were in {Sun.Ray} right."

Kamu said enviously. Well, it's worth more than that gold ore after all. But, because they found a gold ore Kamu's face was satisfied.

"Master, I've returned just now."

The {Exterminators} came out of the dungeon just a bit later before

Angela approached and knelt down before me. Henry, Mekku, Rubi, and

Jesu the four of them all knelt behind her.

"Yeah, good work. How were things for you? Did anyone get

injured?"

"No. There wasn't any particularly large problems..However, that

is..We didn't find anything significant.."

Oh my, just because the {Slaughterers} and {Butchers} found

treasure doesn't mean you have to shrink back that far. It's normal

not to find anything. Rather it's luck after all.

"Hn, I see. Then, you go and eat together with everyone. After a

short rest help carry the bags together with Zulu and everyone

else."

I ordered not just Angela but all of the kneeling slaves behind

her. The ground is hot after all.

""Yes, master.""

.....

While I was slowly drinking some beer and talking to everyone, the

{Butchers} finished eating their Baldoggie in no time at all. I was

talking together with Miduchi, Rodrick, and the reincarnated people

but it seems they're waiting for Miduchi.

Ah, I see. They want to take the gold ore to the goldsmith right

away. Also, they probably have to cash in the magic stones and such

as well. Starting this month since it was the former {Sun.Ray} +

someone, the portion for my combat slave not being included

increases the amount the {Butchers} get.

However, while it was only a few they defeated ogres on the 7th

floor and have their magic stones so as a matter of fact their income has increased and even I'm earning a bit more. I said to Miduchi, "Everyone's waiting. Go ahead." and send off to the {Butchers} before throwing the last bit of Baldoggie I had remaining into my mouth and washing it down with beer. "Then, it's about time for me to start getting ready as well. Ah, Zulu..is really still in the middle of talking...Angela, or notm Henry sorry but go and borrow a carriage and have it sent around to Boil Manor. Here."

I said that before handing Henry 2 Gold Shu a bit more than the fee for renting the carriage(The market price for renting a carriage with two horses is 200,000 Z for one night. This time it will be for two nights so it costs about 400,000 Z). Angela who I almost called on by mistake has to go and cash in the magic stones with the {Exterminators} after this.

After all the amount of magic stones the three parties of us {Slaughterers} carry in is quite high so it takes a bit of time to cash them in. Putting aside the {Slaughterers}, the remaining two parties almost never combine their magic stones into one after all. They have a bulk of small magic stones from the 1st to the 5th floors.

It's really hard for me to understand but it seems that's the adventurer way of doing it. They aren't all that heavy but they end up bulky so I think it's just a waste though. Supposedly it's cool to pass through the entrance plaza displaying a bag full of magic stones. Most likely those sorts of values were adopted because everyone was against the MP consumed with void magic in order to

combine magic stones into one. When we first came to Baldukk I was too afraid to waste any mana on doing that as well. In about 20 minutes Henry borrowed the carriage. The change I said to use for meals for the combat slaves until I return and the remainder is for "Use it to add to tonight's dinner. I'm sure you're all going to have a feast right?" and pushed it on to Toris who was holding back. The {Butchers} still haven't come out of the magic stone shop. We packed the refrigerator into the load of the carriage and while we were at it took the gold bars out from the bag Giberuti was carrying and loaded them on as well. Of course the other stuff that didn't fit in his bags and we were carrying has already been loaded as well.

"Master, what's this?"

Angela asked strangely while helping out loading the carriage with our bags.

"Nn, these are some of the goods we found this time" Ehheeee, it's heavy right?"

When I tried to reply Ralpa interrupted me as she bragged with heavy breathing.

"Hn? Yeah, it's a bit heavy even though it's not very big."

"Well, Ralpa you can take your time bragging all you want later. I need to go to the capital right away today. I can't sell these if it's not the capital either."

After saying that I got on to the coachman's seat. Ah, I need to say it before I forget.

"In regards to that ore. Sorry but put it in the temple. Later on we'll move it over to my locker. Also in regards to that ring I'll discuss it with Miduchi before deciding whether to get rid of it or

not. I think we'll return just as planned on the day after tomorrow."

And I whispered to Zenom. Zenom replied with, "Nn, as expected I'm tired so I'm not going to the capital this time but I'm relying on you." He requested from smoked Neisun(a fish that resembles the Pacific herring). It's not as if you can't buy it in Baldukk but Zenom prefers ones hand-made by a famous smoker in the capital. I've participated in eating some of it a number of times as well but it's certainly delicious. It's quality goods.

While we were doing that the {Butchers} came out of the magic stone shop. Jeru is still carrying the gold ore as usual. Just like that they entered the goldsmith three buildings down. Even from here I can tell everyone's quite excited.

Angela said, "Faruergaz-sama. Well then, shall we go to cash in as well?" and called out to Rodrick before leaving my other combat slaves and going with the {Exterminators} into the magic stone shop. Even they had Ginger and Hisu switch out of the party so their profits have increased from the number of heads.

The {Butchers} came out of the goldsmith shop in several minutes.

The value is unknown until it's refined after all. Miduchi said farewell to everyone in front of the shop and after splitting ways came over to the carriage.

"Sorry for the wait."

"Ah~ it seems you made quite a bit. Everyone looked pretty pleased right?"

After I replied the corners of Miduchi's mouth raised a bit as she stretched out her hand.

I was handed 1 gold coin and over 10 silver coins from her.

Amazing~!

"We killed a total of 8 ogres after all. Last week it was 7 of them. It's a huge profit. I've already taken the expenses out for the two times."

Even then it's this amount! That's quite~ something. Including my share even with 11 people getting a cut it's a considerable amount of money. Obviously they were defeating monsters other than the ogres as well so even subtracting the 300,000 Z expense from these two and a half weeks I made a profit of over 1,000,000 Z.

"Eh? That much!? Things must have been difficult for Miduchi-san right?"

Back when the {Butchers} were still {Sun.Ray}, Gwine participated with them just once so she joined the conversation.

"N~ I don't think it was to the point of being called difficult?

It's been one year since then right? I think everyone's levels have probably gone up after all. Since Zenom was the one who brought them out before me it seems they got a bit used to it."

Hmm. It seems it was worth sending over Zenom and Miduch one after another.

"..I can't be slacking off either.."

I heard Basutorial whisper to himself. Come to think of it this guy was watching how they fight along with Gwine at the time as well.

That's right, give it your best.

.....

Miduchi and I the two of us went to the capital right away and planned on bringing the {Refrigerator}, gold bars, and {Ring.Of.Protection} into the company connected to Duke Sandak, Sandak Company.

On the trip to the capital when I discussed things in regards to the ring with Miduchi, after thinking about it for just a bit she said "We should sell it." Even though it's only a mere 1 HP, once per day, she evaluated the ability of damage reduction as being "something important" though...
"Certainly that might end up being the line between life and death.

Even then we should try selling it this time."
And said decisively. The reason was, "The only one who accurately knows it's abilities is just your right? Honestly speaking, it's not a {Magic.Item} that you could say is very powerful, so it's not all that regrettable right. Rather than that, I think it would be better to learn how they investigate the abilities and what kind of price tag it might be given." was what she said.

Certainly it's just as Miduchi said. I was a bit relieved because it was the same as my thoughts on it. If it ends up with a price that's far too low then it's just a matter of not selling it after all. At that time since they still haven't been given a {Magic.Item} as a charm I'll give it to either Ralph or Angela..or not. I guess it's fine if I just give it to either Henry or Mekku. Of course it's fine if Miduchi or I use it as well but neither of us takes damage very often after all~

After confirming the quality of the gold bars we brought into Sandak Company(most likely they'll end up melting them down at a goldsmith) I had them pay the money to Greed Company. I asked them to contact me when the {Refrigerator} sells and if a potential buyer makes an offer on the {Ring.Of.Protection}.
However, I included that "after" selling it at a price I've

accepted they tell me how they investigated what kind of abilities it has as a condition. Of course even if the degree of the ability is uncertain as long as I accept it I'll sell it. According to Miduchi it seems there's collectors with unique taste out there. Collectors indeed..Of course the world is a big place so I'm sure there are though. I wonder about that?

Furthermore, in regards to the {Big.Freezer} and large chandelier we brought in previously but it seems some buyers are still competing over the {Freezer} at over 300,000,000 Z. I wanted to try asking for the information of the buyers but it would be unpleasant if Sandak Company thought I was going to invade their field of business so I endured it. Unexpectedly it seems the head house of Duke Sandak is buying the large chandelier. It's just huge and bright with no ornaments to it so when they offered 40,000,000 Z for a chandelier in just name I was ready to raise my arms and cheer as I sold it.

After showing my face in my company and glancing over the account books for a moment, we quickly went to the smoker and obtained the smoked Neisun Zenom requested while also buying as much dried fish as Miduchi and I could carry from this shop.

After that we took a bit of a detour around to the East side of Baldukk and after entering the town got a room at a random inn before leaving all of our bags. I paid an extra amount of money to put a tag on the smoked gift and store it together in the refrigerator of the inn. It's together with other stuff but the ones managing it are the inn employees so there's almost no need to

worry about it being stolen.

After that Miduchi and I, the two of us wore hooded robes that hide down to our feet and separately entered the dungeon through the entrance plaza in the heat. We grouped up again in the teleport room on the 1st floor. I arrived at the teleport room on the 1st floor in about two and a half hours and when I was drinking water while waiting Miduchi arrived soon after.

The two of us teleported into the 2nd floor. As expected I guess we can't make it that one place..Since it couldn't be helped we decided to return from the 3rd floor as usual. After clearing through the 2nd floor we lowered our hoods again before entering the teleport room where second-rate parties are likely to be camping. After quickly teleporting into the 3rd floor the two of us raised our hoods and after checking if the incantation appeared in the teleport crystal again we held on to it while singing the "Japanese Anthem".

It's the same as usual.

And then right now we've just stepped foot into the Fairy Village.

Now then, putting aside teacher Mila, I wonder if Karl still remembered us?

Well, I'm sure he'll remember.

After all he can remember things about George.Rombert from over 500 years ago.

Look, the fairies all remember us.

They're saying pirupiru while staying on top of Miduchi and my heads and shoulders and pulling open our nostrils.

Among them there's also some pleasantly trying to smell the scent

of the dried fish as they fly around.

Even though they completely ignored me the first time.

Miduchi's walking with a fairy that's still a small child on top of

her palm with a smile.

Now then, we've arrived.

"Karl, it's me! Al!"

Chapter 256: Request 1

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 1

"Oh? Al~ I thought you died together with Miduchi."

When I called out for Karl under the large tree in the center of the island the one who reacted was Karl's older sister, teacher Mila.

"Ah, if it isn't teacher Mila. I'm very sorry we weren't able to come for one year."

It's unusual for teacher Mila to come out first.

"We brought along a lot of dried fish again today."

Miduchi threw was showing courtesy towards teacher Mila as well.

"Ooh, that's~ quite appreciated. We can't resist fish from the ocean after all~"

Teacher Mila replied as her expression softened.

I pulled out the stove magic tool that was put away in a hole in the tree and then put one of the magic stones was picked up on the way inside before trying to turn on the flame. The stove magic tool spit out a blue flame without a problem. After turning off the flame I took the dried fish out of my rucksack and the fairies flying around started cheering, there was even fairies that started somersaulting in the air from how pleased they were.

Alright, wait just a minute. I'll quickly grill them up for you.

I took out a dried Meineiji and after setting the grill on top of the stove first heated the grill up.

After it was plenty hot I placed the the dried fish on top. By

doing this it's more difficult for the body or skin of the dried

fish to stick to the grill.

The self-interested fairies are all sitting around the grill or

staying on Miduchi and My head and shoulders as usual. Teacher Mila

was standing in front of the stove with her hands on her hips not

taking her eyes off the dried fish being grilled from the flames

either.

"By the way teacher, where's Karl?"

"Ah? Karl? I think that it's about time for Karl to wake up though.

Since just the other day Karl's been saying he's tired all the

time."

He~ Come to think of it the I think the first time I came here

teacher sister was asleep was it?

Piru! Piru! Pirurururu!!

Teacher Mila looked up to the top of the tree while shouting

something. She must be shouting towards Karl.

"Fufun. It seems he jumped up in surprise. He'll be out soon, just

wait."

What is it, did Karl oversleep? Rather~ did Karl reply to that?

There's fairies saying pirupiru all around us so I couldn't

tell.

"And then teacher Mila, this time" After we eat some fish."

"..Yes."

Is she angry that we ended up not coming for a whole year..though

that doesn't seem to be the case. Thinking back on it every time we

come here I feel like we always treat them to the fish first. A

thin smoke started rising from the Meineiji and the good scent of

dried fish spread around the surroundings.

As the scent spread around the fairies gradually got quiet and just

silently stared at the dried fish grilling on top of the stove.

And, one fairy came flying towards from on top of the tree. I'm sure it's Karl.

Yeah, after all it's Karl.

Uwa, this guy, isn't he soaking wet?

I wonder if got into a bath or something.

"Ya~ Al. It's been a while right. It's great that both you and Miduchi are still alive."

Hmm. I guess he was able to remember us.

"Ya~ Karl. You seem well yourself."

"It's been a while, Karl. I'm glad to you're well."

After hearing our greetings Karl sent the water on him flying by shaking like a dog and then stopped on Miduchi's shoulder. In order not to fall he grabbed on to her hair and made a face like he was going to say something to me but soon after closed his eyes and started sniffing the scent.

"Ah~ It's a good smell. You said it was Meineiji right. This fish?"

"Yeah, it's Meineiji."

He's as self-interested as usual. I made a bitter smile while flipping over the dried fish. There's some light burns on the skin and eyes which look appetizing. However..Hmm. Karl is actually holding a proper conversation. Growth sure is important right.

After a short while the dried fish were finished grilling and after taking out another dried fish I held up the one that was grilled.

"Alright, it's grilled. Now take it as you please."

As fast as I could say it starting with teacher Mila all of the

fairies raised another cheer of pirupiru voices and swarmed the dried fish I was holding. In the blink of an eye the dried fish turned into just bones. The still small fairy sitting on top of Miduchi's lap took a portion of meat from the dried fish from a bigger fairy before biting into it with a smiling face.

Well, it's great that the fairies are all pleased. It was a bit heart-warming as I watched the fairies eat. I guess Miduchi feels the same as me, she's lightly smiling.

"Waha!! It sure looks delicious right!"

Karl who was still stopping on Miduchi's shoulder like usual seems to have finally swallowed down the dried fish and laughed while saying that to me with his mouth covered in grease. Chi..don't grab Miduchi's hair with your hands covered in grease from fish, this winged insect. Rather~ what's that about it sure looks delicious. Didn't you just finish eating your own portion. It was delicious, right. Stop looking at someones dried fish so enviously. Karl was looking at the next dried fish being grilled on the stove fully intending to eat some more.

.....

"Now then, I've made you wait. Were you just about to say something before?"

After the third fish turned to nothing but bones teacher Mila finally focused her attention on us.

"Yeah. This time before you teach us spells, if it's something you know I'd like for you to teach us some things about this dungeon."

Hearing my words teacher Mila made a slightly strange face before opening her mouth.

"Hn? What do you mean?"

"Right now we're challenging the 9th floor of this dungeon. As matter of fact when we went to the center area of the 8th floor there was a Minotaur guard blocking the way so.."

"Ah.."

Teacher Mila made a strange expression..like she knew or didn't know.

"Well, in regards to that one it seems that after defeating it a number of times it will stop coming out so it's fine though.."

"He~"

Karl joined the conversation but judging on the look of things I'm sure he doesn't know.

"Do you know anything about the guard on the 9th or 10th floors or that's believed to be beyond that as well?"

As if taking over my words Miduchi tried asking teacher Mila as well.

"I knew that there was a guardian. But, I don't know much of anything about it."

Hn? She said there "was" a guardian huh? Not a guard but a guardian. Though they mean the same thing I wonder if it's just a different in the way of phrasing it. Come to think of it the King and Queen both called it a guardian as well. Something like the way it's called doesn't matter at all so I completely forgot.

"Is that so..Would you mind telling us just up to whatever you know about it?"

Since I wanted even just a bit more information I couldn't do anything but lower my head.

Chapter 257: Request 2

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 1

"There's no whatever or anything else, I really don't know much of anything at all."

Teacher Mila made a troubled face as she said it. It seems it's not like she's trying to hide it but she really doesn't know much of anything about it.

"..It's not like I'm hiding anything though. What I know is..I guess..Only about the origins of how the dungeon was made."

Wh..What was that!?

"Oh! Would you please tell me about that!?"

Origins huh? That's something I'd absolutely like to hear about.

"And, even if I say that. The one who made this dungeon was the Demi-God Besshu-sama. But, I don't know what the reason for making it was, though I don't have any interest in that either so it doesn't matter at all."

I see Besshu-sama...Demi-God huh? It seems there's the influence of a considerable number of Gods on Orth. However, things like Gods I don't really have much interest in for right now. Miki, no Lilus, if her name came out then it would be different though.

"I see. So, a Demi-God was the one who made it. Come to think of it, previously you said there was a condition to come to this area from the 3rd floor right. Right now, when we use the teleport crystal on the 3rd floor we aren't chanting the incantation that floats on the surface of it. We're teleporting using the method we

heard from Lilus but what was the method that teacher mentioned at that time?"

"That time..Ah, the second or third time you two came here..What kind of method did you hear about from Lilus-sama? Well, it's probably the same though."

Teacher Mila already knows about Unique Abilities. I guess it's already fine. It seems there's nothing good that will come from hiding it from the fairies. I explained that we got here by singing song from the world Miduchi and I previously lived in and were born to this one from and that phrases in it were the key to the teleport from the 3rd floor.

Since I felt it was necessary to explain it at the same time, I gave a simple explanation that most likely George.Rombert the First may have been from a different time period, he was a "human" from the same country, and then, also said that Lilus was born in the same world as well.

Additionally I was about to say that Lilus was my wife as well but before I could say that, hearing everything up to there teacher Mila wasn't surprised at all as she casually replied.

"Yeah, I thought it something along those lines. I've heard that originally we lived on the surface in a land called Gwirumu. We were supposedly in a corner of wetlands that was at the side of a lake far bigger than the one here. But you know, just as you can see, we're too weak to live on the surface. Putting aside Miduchi, since Al has Identify I'm sure you can imagine. During the time we lived on the surface even those who lived the longest was at greatest several decades. A lot of our allies passed away being

eaten by something."

"No way.."

Miduchi was shocked.

"If we can live for hundreds of years then both our mana and our magic special skill levels increase so it's more difficult to die though. However, our grandparents from that time couldn't stay alive that long so easily."

Ho!? It seems it's turning into quite the story...

"Quietly and as if hiding, though I say that it was in a world that's so wide it's not even worth comparing to here we tried to live leisurely. But, at one point, a rumor started to spread around that the scales from fairy wings are a miracle cure for any disease. A lot of human races came along and tore off our wings. Fairies are weak after all. If our wings are torn off we die in a few days. Ah, I'll just say this but that it's a miracle cure is a lie. That's not the case."

For just a moment I thought about requesting sharing a bit of those scales for the sake of Miduchi's older brother. I wonder what Miduchi was thinking. I was about to look to my side but stopped.

"Lilus-sama found out about us on her travels and must have pitied us. She said that she would prepare a place we can live peacefully. Ah, at that time it was still before she had become a Demi-God. After that countless tens and hundreds of years passed, around the time our numbers cut 100, Lilus-sama appeared at Gwirumu once more and guided our few remaining grandparents that had survived to this land."

"Your majesty.."

Lilus traveled from the East to the West. It's a story from when she was still just a simple Elf {Immortal} before she had become a {Demi-God} and obviously a Dark Elf.

It might be possible it's a story from 1,000 years ago.

"She taught it to us at that time. If we ever have to go outside for some kind of task so we can always return back to here."

Hm~n.

"Back then, it seems this dungeon was still only just made. I've heard that there was a guardian on the 1st floor as well. Also, it's said that when Lilus-sama teleported through the floors she was able to teleport along with all of the remaining survivors."

Yeah, the hands of the fairies are small after all. If Lilus grabs on to that crystal rod, I'm sure all of the small palms of their hands could fit on the remaining portion. The fairies which are almost like small winged insects swarming to the crystal rod, I'm sure it was a chilling sight.

"Although, no~one is willing to go outside~ though. We have berries here and there's fish in the pond as well. There's honeybees in that corner too. It's rare for anyone to ever make it here and the first time someone came here was before we were born but it seems they were well-mannered and apologized for intruding and didn't hurt anyone. Of course there's occasionally those who harbor ill intentions towards us as well but we kill all of those. It's a comfortable place for us. I guess we've come to truly feel that, now we don't really increase our numbers much at all. It's more fun to play than increase after all. If there's few deaths then there's

no reason to hurry and give birth to children."

After that, I heard several stories but it was fundamentally just information that isn't very useful to me. I guess since we got engrossed in our conversation, before I realized it the fairies had left because there was nothing more to eat and they were having fun flying around the waterside. Among them there was also some that seemed to be doing something like magic training as well but I guess originally they get bored easily like Karl, they seem to get invited by their allies and go off to play right away.

"Now then, I'm sure once again this time, it's that right? You came to have me to teach you some spells you don't know right?"

"Wa ha..That's right."

"It's written on your face."

I guess it was obvious.

"Well that's fine. You brought along a lot of fish for us after all. Just, I wonder what's good? I think I've already taught you quite a few though"

Mu, anything is fine as long as it's a spell I don't know, or at least that's what I'd like to say but if it's possible then..I guess so. After all, the number one thing would some kind of spell that would be useful in helping explore the dungeon for the time being. The runner-up would be something that might not be useful for the dungeon but still convenient to know.

"Is there any kind of spell that lets you talk with a target that you can't see?"

Miduchi said that, but a spell like that, it's one of the first things I asked when I came here, and that, didn't you say it before as well?

"I don't know of any."

See.

"Ah, I'm sorry. It's fine even if you don't talk. It's fine if you can just convey ideas or something to a person that's far away though.."

I've tried asking that as well. I was wondering if it wasn't possible to do something like {Facsimile}. The reply was obviously "I don't know of any."

"I said it last time but the "communication" type are impossible. Since it's become possible for me to make small parts using {Transmute.Rock.To.Mud} as long as we can secure a stable "power source" then eventually I think we'll somehow be able to do something about "wireless telegraphy" but I'm sure it's no good for a while longer. I think it would be best to give up on things in that area."

As a matter of fact the real reason why I learned

{Transmute.Rock.To.Mud} was so that I could efficiently extract and process Germanium as well. I found tungsten(I don't know if it exists in the natural world but it probably does), so if I can just find germanium then there's no reason I wouldn't be able to make a point-contact type diode.

I don't know if high purity ores themselves of things like Chrome, Nickel, and Molybdenum can be discovered(not mined) in the dungeon but I've confirmed their existence and used a couple of them as well. I'm sure there's not that just Germanium doesn't exist.

In regards to the power source and a storage battery {condenser} as well something like a Leiden jar I can make with the ingredients

bought from any general store in Baldukk. After that it's just a matter of accumulating electricity from {Shocking.Grasp} or {Lightning Bolt} after all. If I made a tiny Leiden jar into a {condenser} then I can make an {amplifier} as well and I don't think there's any harm in hoping for something on the same level of ability as a small vacuum tube at the size of a little finger either.

I'm sure the abilities would be tremendously low compared to those on Earth and even if I could make the device itself it would be questionable if even Zulu could carry it around but even then I've already got the prospects for making a wireless transceiver device. If it's on flatland and we make use of rods standing up antennas then it should be possible transmit around 10 km. If we made a relay station at the top of a high mountain then it should be just a bit better. Even that is more than plenty to bring about a revolution I'm sure.

After all there's a high chance that we can't make dispatch orders on the battlefield. No matter how much they surpass us in strategy if we can just secure a wireless communication network then I'm sure we can win against a force with similar numbers. Even Morse if you get used to it you can send several characters if you have 5 seconds and if it's things like advance, withdraw, right, or left then I'm sure even an idiot can understand it.

Even when it comes to clashing head on in a wide plain the merits of being able to quickly give out orders to each unit are immeasurable after all.

Eh? If it ends up being stolen? Isn't it fine to just use a code at

that time? If it's established for sure that there's no reincarnated people among the enemy then even Japanese is fine and if there is then we could just make a simple list of orders and change it periodically. It's fine even as just open up number X order document as well.

Regardless of the case if it's in a range that we can clearly see then I'm sure a huge antenna would be unnecessary and even in the worst case there's the possibility of communication by wire as well. After all right now if it's just at the level of making wire, I can do it in a few hours of bleeding from my nose. If I really felt like it then I could take the ingredients of copper ores and rubber and make them both into mud together and create a rubber coating around the copper line even making an electric cable..a nosebleed dripping down without eating or drinking for half a day? I don't want to do that~

I need to get even more used to it.

"The last time you taught us about the resist type spells, so once again this time could you teach us some kind of spell for protecting our bodies?"

After I said that teacher Mila said, "You said you know about {Bark Skin} right. Do you know about {Stone Skin} and {Iron Skin}?"

Miduchi and I exchanged glasses before we had her start teaching us those two spells..though I'm sure the duration will just disappear right away. Judging from the name it seems to be the same type of spell as {Bark Skin} after all...

"That, I can somehow understand that it's more powerful in comparison to {Bark Skin} but is the duration of the effect the

same as well?"

"Hn? I guess so. The duration of it is the same I'm sure. The only difference is the defensive power."

Hmn, I wonder about that. Only about 30 seconds for even me huh? It seems difficult to find a place to use it but I'm sure it's useful.

Miduchi was taught {Stone Skin} and I was taught {Iron Skin}.

In the first place if both of us take the time casting it it's not

as if we can't use the spell {Bark Skin}, or at least at that

level, and I guess the trick to it was different we struggled a bit

to learn it.

If I can deploy a defensive field in one or two seconds then it

might be useful one day.

With just that as hope we started engaging in practice to learn the spells.

Also, as a bonus Miduchi was taught the spell {Flame Strike} and I

was taught the spell {Water Breathing}.

{Flame Strike} is a spell that sends three small {Fire Balls}

radiating outwards and while each of the individual {Fire Balls}

don't reach the level of the spell {Fire Ball} and obviously it's

impossible to control them individual, it's a spell that makes it

possible to burn away a somewhat wide range of area. Obviously if

you pour more mana into it then it's possible to increase the

number of fire balls as well.

The spell {Water Breathing} is just as the name sounds it makes it

possible for you to breathe underwater. However, it was

unexpectedly difficult to get a grasp on the trick for it, I ended

up struggling quite a bit. I mean you know, you have to let water

enter your lungs and then take the oxygen from there. At the very least that's how I understood it as working. In other words, it's necessary to drown. Of course, if the spell displays it's effects then you won't drown but the moment water enters your trachea you can't help but instinctively refuse it.

As expected even I was at my limits with this. In the end I was able to learn the spell itself but it end up taking quite a bit of time up until then and since Miduchi got interested in it she just kept struggling with learning it as well and because of the problem with her mana amount she wasn't able to learn it during the time we were in the Fairy Village.

Well, putting that aside, it's big that we were able to learn some defense type spells that seem reasonably useful. {Bark Skin} isn't anything great for the effects it offers and it's a spell that's pretty well-known as well. However, what could be called the advanced versions of that {Stone Skin} and {Iron Skin}, Miduchi and I had never even heard of them before.

There's also the problem of magic special level and MP needed in order to use them but if we can just make use of these then I think it would also be reassuring as well. Particularly Ralpha who stands at the front line. After all it differs from {Bark Skin} in that it doesn't require water magic.

"{Stone SKin}" Alteration

(Earth Magic Lv 4, Void Magic Lv 6, Consumed MP 18 Earth Magic Double Void Magic Combination)

Raises the defensive power of the targets skin to be like stone.

It's not as if it actually becomes stone so it doesn't obstruct the movements of the target. Either until the duration of the effect wears off or the {Stone Skin} receives damage of over double the level of the caster in HP the effect will continue. The duration of the effect is a number of seconds equal to the level of the caster.

"{Iron SKin}" Alteration

(Earth Magic Lv 6, Void Magic Lv 7, Consumed MP 29 Earth Magic Triple Void Magic Combination)

Raises the defensive power of the targets skin to be like iron.

It's not as if it actually becomes iron so it doesn't obstruct the movements of the target. Either until the duration of the effect wears off or the {Iron Skin} receives damage of over four times the level of the caster in HP the effect will continue. The duration of the effect is a number of seconds equal to the level of the caster.

"{Flame Strike}" Evocation

(All Elements Lv 2, Void Magic Lv 7, Consumed MP 29)

Fire off three small fire balls radiating outwards. Only the one in the center is possible to guide. For that reason, the greater the distance is to the target the greater distance the fire balls will continue to spread out. The angle of the radiation spreads out roughly 10 degrees apart using the center as 0 degrees. Increasing the number of fire balls fired off starts from in front of the center, then the next one after that would be left back from the center, then after that would be to the right as they increase in that order filling the gaps between.

"{Water Breathing}" Alteration.Reverse

(Water Magic Lv 2, Fire Magic Lv 1, Wind Magic Lv 3, Void Magic Lv 6, Consumes MP 12)

Makes it possible to breathe under water. The duration of the effect is the level of the caster multiplied by 5 minutes.

Chapter 258: Troublesome Matter 1

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 1

Around the time we returned to the surface it was just before the date was about to change. Both of us were exhausted(Though in degrees of exhaustion I was beyond Miduchi) from trying to learn {Water Breathing}, and from the overwhelming fatigue I just wanted to fall over into bed a moment sooner.

However, I also felt a strong hunger at the same time so for the time being we decided to eat something and then sleep. Though I say that there's almost no restaurants open at this time. It's not as if there's none at all but they're all taverns and if we just casually showed our faces and by chance we encounter someone from the {Slaughterers} I'm sure they would let us go for a while. It couldn't be helped so we returned to the inn we left the carriage as Miduchi and I ended up eating the emergency use preserved foods which aren't tasty at all. Of course, I could have told the guy standing at the front reception to take out the smoked Neisun that's a gift for Zenom from the refrigerator but as expected I would feel bad doing that.

We put the dried meat into hot water soaking it and then at the same time put the biscuit or cookie-like hard baked crackers into the hot water to soak before slowly biting into them along with the water. Thinking it was better than nothing I had everyone hold on to some but it's really just barely better than nothing and you can't even compliment it as being okay or easy to eat. Since it's a

waste I'm having it consumed once every two months before they go back but because I don't want to eat it I've always forced it on to the combat slaves to eat. But, obviously it's reputation isn't very good.

Since it couldn't be helped, it's still better than throwing it away so I started selling it to a restaurant in the back slum areas for a price that's close to free. That restaurant sells dried meat and biscuits boiled in water along with the husks of oats {oatmeal}, as {Premium.Porridge} for a cheap price to those with a low income.

"So Cal*rie.Mate really was good tasting.."

"Wait, it's still too soon to eat right.."

"I'm in the hard noddle eating faction, you know that right?"

"It's not ramen."

"I mean, because I'm hungry~"

"Ah, really, I'll eat it too!"

".."

".."

"Hard..."

"Ha~ I feel like my teeth are going to break."

"Yeah, it's no good if we don't soak it for longer."

"It was too soon."

"Right."

".."

".."

"..Ah, the meat is already almost.."

"Oh, it works!"

"Yeah, it's good. It's properly become soup."

"Yeah, if it's just this much then you can bite through it."

"Though it's a bit hard I'm sure this is about right."

"After all it's meat right, meat. Meat and fish. Proteins from

animals are important."

"You actually feel like you're eating right."

".."

".."

"I ate~ I ate~"

"We ate quite a bit right.."

In the end in just this one meal we ate over one full day of

preserved food. Well, preserved food is limited to just being non-daily use and one meals worth of amount of preserved food is really only the bare minimum amount of calories so putting that aside(Even that isn't anything great. It's not like it's highly nutritious food. It's just that it fills your stomach well in comparisons to it's volume and since it's hard and you have to slowly eat it you feel like you've eaten a reasonable amount), the amount itself for 4 meals worth is only about 1.5 normal meals I'm sure.

Ah~ eating something like this I remember the past.

What you say? Hard biscuits, candy, orange spread, and sausage

cans. When doing practice exercises for the JGSDF* it's one of the menus we eat combat provision type I. The fundamentals that are the hard biscuits and candy haven't changed since the Meiji era and are historically correct with the menu number I. Compared to these biscuits that aren't good at all and feel like your teeth are going to crack it was almost as delicious as a full course French meal. Particularly the orange spread and canned sausage that were added since it became the SDF are superb and even the hard biscuits and candy weren't bad to eat while outside.

Among the veteran members there were even some who liked the hard

biscuits more than canned meals because you can eat them while moving or during short breaks and they're not just easy to eat but taste good, there was even some who ate them out of interest and said they never get tired of them. The main ingredient for the hard biscuits was wheat flour and then after that is salt, sugar, and sesame seeds and the rest is the same as bread, the candy could be replaced with rock candy as well.

Also..Mu. Canned sausage huh?

That, the water from the sausages though, if you open up the can and heat it up before eating it was considerably good. We have no cans but there's already sausage. Though when it comes to just the orange spread since we don't have rice, I don't know the method to make starch syrup and even if I substitute it with malt sugar I'm sure it would lead to that flavor. It's disappointing from the bottom of my heart but well~ I guess it's fine. It's plenty with jam.

Umu. Because I remembered the hard biscuits in an unexpected place the menu(a portion) that I'll be feeding to my future army for meals was decided. We should make hard biscuits into a standard right. I'll have Giberuti make them later.

"Fu~ After eating a lot of I'm starting to get tired."

"Nn..Yeah~"

Certainly I've started to get tired after eating.

"It's fine to sleep but let's review one last time..Alright. Shall we try performing {Water Breathing}?"

I put the face washing tub on top of the table and filled it with water before moving Miduchi in front of it.

"Eeeh~ Nn..Well..I guess it can't be helped. Well

then..Hmph!!"

I use Identify on Miduchi as she's started controlling her mana for the sake of using the spell {Water Breathing}.

Her MP is 24. It takes 30 minutes or so for her to control the mana so three times would be difficult but I'm sure she can manage it twice. I guess I'll start getting used to {Iron Skin}.

".."

".."

..I did it. My body is surrounded in a faint blue spell light. It

succeeded. Well, I've already succeeded a number of times so you could say it's only obvious though.

"Vohe!! Goho!! Gehwo! Wwa~!! Wwa~!! Wa~ha~"

I guess Miduchi failed huh? Her MP decreased by 12 but she's recovered 6 so it's currently at 18. She can still do it.

"Now, one more time."

"..Eh...Yeah, got it..Hmph!!"

Now then, I'll start once more as well...

".."

".."

"Go~he!! Gehwo! Wwa~!! Wa~ha~"

Miduchi failed again huh? But it seems she's gotten quite a bit

used to it. Her MP decreased by 12 but increased by 6 and it's now at 12. She can still do it. By the way, opposite to my will there's one part in the center of my body that still hasn't gotten tired.

It's a healthy 18 year old body after all. It's the so-called sleep

demon something or other. The reason I went to the trouble of

saying something that sounded appropriate to have Miduchi use her MP is also this though.

"Now, one more time."

"Eh? Pretty soon.."

"One more time."

"Yeah..Hmph!!"

Alright. With this Miduchi's MP has hit 0. Whether this spell

succeeds or fails I'm sure the symptoms of mana exhaustion will show up soon. Right now she's just somehow managing because she's in a state of extreme concentration.

Now then, I will once more as well...

".."

".."

I guess I've reasonably started to get used to the spell {Iron

Skill} as well, I've started to be able to activate it in just 25 minutes of concentration. Miduchi has both of her hands on the washing tub and is looking at the surface of the water without moving an inch. Even when it comes to concentrating for using a spell, the fact that she's able to continue it for this long of a period even excluding how familiar she is with spells can't be done with an ordinary mental strength.

Back when we first met on the 14th floor of the dungeon we were both still 16 but even then we had a considerable amount of resistance towards mana exhaustion. The reason she got disheveled like an idiot was because she identified that I was the one there and because her memories has returned.

I guess I'll start making preparations while I can now.

Using my mana to pretty close to the limit pouring it into an

{Anti-Magic Field}..takes a bit of time so I start using the usual 700 MP or so version several times to reduce my MP. Miduchi's already sweating quite a bit from how hard she's concentrating. Though it's the same for me. Something like a shower is fine

later.

I touch the clock magic tool and the date changed long ago as it's about 2 am now.

I take off my shirt and take a rubber pack out from my wallet

before preparations are complete. After Identifying and my MP has cut past 50 as well. Just in case I check that the hinge is set on the door and then take off my pants and underwear.

I bit open the edge of the rubber pack and take one out, before equipping it right away...

"..Gobo..."

Huh? Did she, succeed? Hurry~hurry~ I need to use up my MP as well.

Identify Identify.

"..Gobo...Nn, I did it."

It seems she succeeded at using the spell {Water Breathing}. With this now as long as she has time she can use it anytime. But, it's great she succeeded at the very end.

"..What's with that appearance.."

Because she succeeded with the spell {Water Breathing}, Miduchi said with an amazed tone of voice as water was coming out of her nose but she quickly noticed her own abnormality and licked her lips with a smile that gave me shivers. Her forked tongue lewdly crawls along her lips.

He~ what do you mean Condition: Normal.

Exactly what about this is Normal.

Though I'm Normal as well..I already can't Identify anymore.

Almost simultaneously one of the primal desires rises from the depths of my body and goes through the center of my head. I'm still tired but even more than that my brain is ruled by a thick and burning desire.

Ku..

Kufu..

Even the woman in front of me Miduchi has already started to impatiently take off her shirt without trying to resist her

desires.

Uhheee.

I'll help you out.

"Nn..Really..Ah.."

Ah, I forgot to take off my socks. Somehow..it's uncool.

.....

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 2

We slept until close to noon.

Before going to eat lunch we returned the carriage and after taking

back the smokes we left with them we left the inn. By the time we

returned to Boil Manor it was just barely before they were about to

go to lunch and since we had the chance I had them wait for a bit

so we could all go and eat together.

Since we're entering the dungeon again starting the day after

tomorrow, in order to order Giberuti to purchase the necessary

consumables I left without drinking tea and went to the restaurant

Giberuti is often eating lunch.

He wasn't there.

Chi..Even though he's just a slave, not being around when I need

him is a subject for point reduction. And while I was imagining

completely unreasonable things, my imagination itself started to

seem idiotic so I decided to go and buy it myself since it couldn't

be helped.

It's been a while since I last went shopping for the food and such

we use in the dungeon. Around the time we started going to the 2nd

floor we had meals in the dungeon so I ended up going to buy it. I still didn't trust Zulu or Angela completely at that time. I couldn't bring myself to do something like leaving money in the hands of slaves. Come to think of it, I left money to Giberuti right from the start...

Somehow he has a face that makes it easy to trust him, that guy.

It was when I was thinking that and walking down the street with shops that deal in food.

"It's fine if you just convey it to Greed-sama."

"That's right, it's simple right? We just want to request that he have a meal together with the mistress matching up with his schedule. Why are refusing it to that extent?"

"I'm very sorry, I'm not a person who understands social standing so.."

"I've said it countless times right. We're squires that serve Baron Refaisu's family. It's fine if you confirm our status."

"That's not the problem. I've been firmly instructed by Greed not to convey things like that so.."

"Isn't that why we're here lowering our heads asking right. Can't you do something there!"

When I was passing by a certain store, I heard the voices of several people arguing from inside. It's a store we often use but since it seemed crowded I was going to put it off and pass by to go to a different store. One of the voices from inside was Giberuti. I feel like I've heard the other voices somewhere as well...

"Hey~ you. I'm certain you said the words {Slaughterers} right?"

You're someone closely related to them right? Could it be you're

adventuring together with the {Slaughterers}? Though that doesn't seem to be the case with that body."

"Well, if we can just get Greed-dono to meet our mistress then.."

"That's right. It's not like we have any intention of harming Greed-dono. We just want to become acquaintances."

"I'm truly very sorry."

Ah, I remembered. Two months or so ago, it's the group Zulu and I passed by when we were clearing through the dungeon. If I remember correctly, it was Sir Nokkufyuri, right. I can remember that voice as well. The remaining three people are honestly not in my memory. It seems that mistress or whatever isn't around either and I feel like they're missing one more woman as well.

"Hmm, Ran, hold him down. {Status Open}."

"Ah..What are you doing!"

"Hey, stop!"

"..I thought something was strange and after all aren't you one of the slaves owned by Viscount Greed's family. Just a mere slave shouldn't be talking back to us. It's the wish of our mistress."

"He's a slave? You scum, our mistress is a sub-Noble you know? Even though you're just a slave do you intend on opposing Baron Refaisu's family!?"

"Certainly I'm a slave. Putting aside if that noble mistress or whatever were to directly order me.."

Ku..These bastards, they forcefully looked at Giberuti's status huh?

I can't believe them.

Well, whatever.

If I feel it's necessary I use Identify after all.

Come to think of it the voice the woman called Ran matches up with the idiot woman who was wearing chain-mail.

"Umm, did my slave make any kind of mistake?"

"Ah..Master!"

While standing in the doorway of the food store I called out and right after noticing me Giberuti knelt down.

"Did he do some kind of wrongdoing that required forcefully looking at his status? How about it? Giberuti."

"No, I haven't done anything."

I said it with strong tone of voice that wouldn't allow excuses.

"The person them self is saying this but...If my slave has made any kind of mistake then I'll apologize for it."

"Are you sub-Noble Greed-dono? Hn?"

It seems that Sir Nokkufyuri remembered my face but didn't have any confidence in it. He's looking at me somewhat suspiciously.

"Yeah, I'm Alan.Greed. And, what in the world is this?"

I said while looking head on at the face of Sir Nokkufyuri who seems to be the highest rank and leader of their group. It's considerably bad manners to forcefully look at someone's status even though they weren't doing anything wrong at all. Though I say that this Sir Nokkufyuri tried to stop it but. Since he wasn't able to stop it he's equally guilty. No, it's not a crime though.

"Ah, finally..However, I feel like somewhere..Ah!"

If I'm certain this Elf is 20 years old right. This brat. Answer my question.

""Ah!""

It seems the other members recognized me as well. Some of them even went from a face of realization to a bitter expression like they

had eaten a bug.

"I'll ask once more. Did my slave do something wrong?"

"..!! That is, I'm very sorry for our rudeness. Your excellency's

slave did nothing wrong at all."

"James!"

"Your excellency sub-Noble Greed! We are.."

"Please meet with our mistress!"

On the side of Sir Nokkufyuri who apologized and politely lowered

his head, the remaining three were all about to say something. Sir

Nokkufyuri raised his right hand a bit cutting them all off partway

with his head still lowered though.

"Is that so? I understand. If there's no problem then we'll take

our leave here. Giberuti, stand. We're going."

"Yes."

I said that before trying to turned around and leave.

It's not like eating a meal with that mistress or whatever is

anything much at all, but I'm sure, it's that right? Sell us some

armor or that sort of thing right? I won't sell it. It's no good.

If you want it then wait in line after you've made it into the

first or second knight groups. Well~ the entire first knight group

should be complete pretty soon. It's not like all of them are

buying it after all.

"Please wait just a moment, your excellency! Please listen to what

we have to say."

If it's listening, didn't I already do it the last time right? It

can't be helped, it seems they won't back off if I don't properly

listen once more and then turn them down.

"What is it?"

"I'm a knight of the Kingdom's third knight group,

Jemikku.Nokkufyuri. At the same time I'm also a retainer that serves Baron Refaisu's family as well. Just a moment ago our retainers were very rude to you. Please forgive us."

Sir Nokkufyuri politely lowered his head once again. Ah, a retainer is vassal that serves some noble and they're the so-called "Daimyo's retainer" is the meaning of the word but it also has the same meaning as a apprentice knight{squire} in the knight group as well. Since both of them had the exact same "Esuto" pronunciation in the Ragudarios Language{Common.Language} so it's complicating. Ah, putting aside the pronunciation, you already know the meanings are overlapping right?

"Yes, I've already received an apology for that matter so it's fine."

"Umm, that is, tonight or tomorrow night, if it's convenient for your schedule, would you please have a meal with, Yorire-sama, the eldest daughter of our master Baron Refaisu's family? Yorire-sama is a member of the third knight group as well although she's still just a squire but.."

Ah, really~ Well, I guess it's fine to properly turn things down there huh?

"Is it fine if I inquire as to the business?"

"Umm, that is..How do I put this..I can't say it myself."

Sir Nokkufyuri acted like it was extremely difficulty to say, also, he apologized with a vague reply. Of course he did just request to sell him armor the other day and I turned it down after all. If I remember correctly the mistress Yorire from that time said something about directly requesting it from me. Yes~yes. I'll

directly listen to it and properly turn it down.

"..When and where should I go?"

I was told the time and place. I thought the place would be a restaurant but it was different. It seems they're going to have catering in a room at the Elm Tree Manor they're staying. I guess they're considerably rich.

Chapter 259: Troublesome Matter 2

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 2

On the evening and time designated I showed up at the Elm Tree Manor. With plenty of sarcasm I had Giberuti accompany me. It's only obvious right? Even I'm considerably angry. Even though they aren't a noble they forcefully held down Giberuti and checked his status.

If it's a noble then Giberuti has the obligation to obey them so even without holding him down if they were to just say the words "Confirm his status" then he can't refuse it and it's one of the natural rights of a noble so I wouldn't think anything of it at all either but even if it's someone related to a knight group just a mere commoner forcefully looked at Giberuti's status. No matter how you look at it my slave that looks harmless to man and beast alike was treated like a suspect for a crime.

Unforgivable.

I won't feel any better until that owner something or other lady of theirs apologizes. Certainly I'm from a remote region but even I have pride as a noble and my self-confidence from leading the {Slaughterers} the top adventurers in Baldukk. Like I'd accept being underestimated by a mere sub-Noble from a Baron family from some place. Let alone when they're supposedly still a squire in the knight group. Putting aside if they were in the first knight group, it's the same for the third knight group. The third and fourth knight groups are no different from any regional knight group just

on a bigger scale and if it's someone from a Baron family then if they just trained normally anyone can get into them. That's right. I'm angry over it. It's certainly irritating in regards to things relating to Giberuti's status as well but this time the other party called out to Giberuti with their aims set on me. Knowing that I was behind Giberuti they still forcefully looked at his status. In other words, it's the same as if they were picking a fight with me.

There were plenty of things I wanted to like training the magic I just learned or lecturing the reincarnated people that I often do. However, I canceled all of it and the reason I complied with this sudden and impolite invitation is because I want an apology for them underestimating me. After all there was what seemed like an active third knight group knight there and there was also those who seemed like his followers as well. If I don't resolve this right away then you never know what kind of rumors they might start spreading around about me in the knight groups of the capital. It would be troublesome if they start calling me someone with no pride as a noble.

It's on a completely different scale from last year when I intentionally showed off that I was lacking in the ability to manage my members as preparation to absorb {Sun.Ray}. That time there was countless ways I could make up for it after(in actual fact, we found out about the suspicious fraud like behavior of the {Sun.Ray}'s leadership and started making movements to trap them, so the fact that we completely took in a large force as our own was

a good rumor for adventurers), and it wasn't related to the nobility at all.

Certainly Sir Nokkufyuri apologized right away but while he's a true knight there's almost no value to a commoner lowering their head. In terms of Japan it'd be like a police officer(though it might be closer to calling it a police officer from a foreign country) that holds the position of responsibility but is in a completely different jurisdiction or the leadership of some places SDF.

In this top unless it's an adventurer with a considerable reputation(there's a lot of the so-called hoodlums and it's only obvious that they're rude but in the first place this town is one that profits from the treasures adventurers come to find so they're often looked at in a lenient light in that regard), or a Baldukk Knight who is investigating a crime then it would be a different matter but of course that's not the case either. Something like an underling is worthless. Bring out someone higher up.

I wore my highest class clothes with my sword still worn on my waist and so I wouldn't be looked down on, they're pre-made but I had Giberuti wearing decent looking clothes as well, and I slapped both of my cheeks putting some spirit into it before coming along to Elm Tree Manor. Of course, it depends on the actions of the other party but while I was invited I don't want to be treated(depending on the case I intend on throwing gold coins at them to embarrass them) so I didn't forget to bring along my wallet with gold coins in it.

Sure enough starting with Sir Nokkufyuri the others were waiting

for my arrival in front of the Elm Tree Manor.

"Your excellency sub-Noble Greed, even though today was a sudden invitation, thank you very much for coming."

The first thing he said was that and he had everyone from this afternoon apologize. I've already received an apology from you all long ago, it's not like I want you to lower your heads countless times.

I just lightly nodded and waited for them to lead me inside.

For a short while the silence continued.

"That is..It's very difficult to say but Yorire-sama wishes to have a one-on-one meeting with your excellency and..a slave, that is.."

The man from this afternoon said that.

It's my first time hearing, something like that.

"Is that so? Well then please excuse me. I thought I would be receiving an apology from that lady or whatever of Baryon Refaisu in regards to the incident this afternoon but..How disappointing. Well then, I'll take my leave here."

I said that and accompanied by Giberuti started to return back down to the street North.

Obviously they tried to keep me from going in a panic as one of them ran into the inn.

They went to ask the lady of theirs or whatever about it.

Hurry up and go, slow-ass.

It seems they finally noticed that I'm considerably angry from my expression and appearance, they lowered their head again. However, something like that doesn't matter at all.

The one who went into the inn isn't coming back out for a while, so getting impatient I started talking about suspending the meeting.

Of course I'm not serious though.

"It seems that Baron Refaisu's family doesn't think anything of forcefully checking the status of slave that hasn't commit a crime or anything else. Normally I think it would be proper for your side to come to me to make the apology but it seems that our values differ on that end. If it's like then even if were to discuss things"Your excellency! Please wait! That is..the fault is all with us, the lady is.."

And said something like that.

Are you an idiot? The mistakes of a dog are the responsibility of it's owner.

While we were doing that the one who ran into the inn came back out.

It seems they approved of the slave accompanying me.

Being guided by that person Giberuti and I walked through the door of the Elm Tree Manor.

And, almost as if switching places with us as we went into a person I didn't want to meet came out. The leader of {Verdure.Brotherhood}, the old man elf with a pointless cool voice, Viruheima.

"Yo~ well~well, if it isn't the man of the moment, sub-Noble Greed over there is it?"

Shut~up. I tried to just lightly nod and pass him by and he started saying that sarcastically.

"Oh my~ that sure is lonely. I guess his excellency the sub-Noble who's at the top and overtook the records of the founding King doesn't have any time to spare for a commoner like myself."

Chi..This old man is annoying.

"Do you have some business with me? I'm very sorry but I have a

meeting so.."

"Meeting..With who?"

"Sub-Noble her excellency Refaisu."

Nobles are meeting each other. So don't interfere right now.

"Hmph...Hey, just the other day we went to the 7th floor as well.

Just watch. We'll overtake you soon."

After acting like he has no interest Viruhaima declared that he was

going to overtake us. I know. It seems like {Black.Topaz} has made it to the 7th floor as well after all.

"Please give it your best."

I just said that and passed by him. Old man Virhuaima seemed like

he still wanted to say something but it seems he was originally going outside for dinner or something. His face just twisted a bit as he disappeared out the door.

"Umm, I'm very sorry but your weapon is.."

In front of the room that seems to be our destination the woman

named Ran who was guiding us started saying apologetically, with a voice like it was about to disappear she demanded the sword I had on my waist.

"Huh? Why? She's a sub-Noble of the same rank, why would just I have to hand over my sword?"

I glared at her while asking.

"Ah, that is..No..However.."

What is it, she isn't responding clearly. It's because you're like

this that you throw your rucksack down in the middle of a room. I guess that's unrelated huh?

"You know. I don't really want to have to say this every time but

you're the ones who called me out without telling me anything on what this was about. Furthermore you forcefully checked the status

of my slave right? I have no intention of letting go of my sword

for the sake of caution."

"Ha..However.."

She sure is indecisive. I'll leave. Seriously.

"Ran. It's fine. Let him through."

The voice of that Lady Yorire or whatever woman came from inside of the room.

.....

Now then, after being let into that lady Yorire or whatever's room

we exchanged greetings without checking each other status and just

as was offered I sat down on the sofa across from her. I thought

about reclining back into it in a haughty way but that will be

after I see how the other side acts.

"First off it seems that I need to apologize. It seems that those

who servant our Baron Refaisu family were very rude to you and I

humbly offer you my apology. I'm very for that."

The carefully brushed long blue hair hid her face. She lowered her

appropriate young and healthy looking face for her age as she

politely apologized.

I watched her silently.

"I need to apologize to you as well. I'm sure it must have been

unpleasant. I'm very sorry."

She said that while lowering her head to Giberuti who was behind me

as well. Hmm.

"..I understand. If you apologize that courteously then I can't

always remain angry either. I'll accept your apology."

I said that and then she made an openly relieved expression as she

thanked me for accepting her apology.

"And then, Greed-sama. I'm very sorry but I'd like to speak to your

privately. If possible I'd like to talk with just the two of us
but.."

The woman named Ran who guided us up to this room isn't here
anymore. It's just the three of us. Remembering back on it
carefully and unusually for a noble there's no slaves around
either. Although, in the Kingdom's knight group if you're not a
true knight then regardless of whether you're a noble or commoner
you can't bring along slaves so that's why there's never any
squires going around with slaves either. I could have sworn she
would be using a slave of the knight Sir Nokkufyuri or something
though.

"He's a loyal slave of mine though.."

"I'm very sorry."

Hmph.

"Excuse me. It's something that's difficult to say in a very loud
voice."

Well, I guess it's fine huh? Just in case I'll try identify her. I
feel like I did it before as well but I've already forgotten
it.

【Yorire.Refaisu/3/4/7428】

【Female/1/3/7427 ▪ Human ▪ Baron Refaisu Family Eldest
Daughter】

【Status: Normal】

【Age: 19 Years Old】

【Level: 6】

【HP: 85(85) MP: 10(10)】

【Strength: 11】

【Speed: 16】

【Dexterity: 10】

【Endurance: 11】

【Special Ability: Earth Magic (Lv.1)】

【Special Ability: Water Magic (Lv.2)】

【Special Ability: Void Magic (Lv.2)】

【Experience: 41625(43000)】

After all she still hasn't received investiture as a knight and

she's nothing worth mentioning. Considering the fact that she's a member of the knight group her level is low for her age. Obviously her magic special skill levels are low as well so I shouldn't need the Giberuti shield.

"Giberuti, wait outside."

"I understand, master."

Giberuti left the room.

"Thank you very much. Greed-sama. After all, you're a kind person indeed."

Huh?

"... said you're that sort of person. Very proud and you act kindly towards those below you."

Yes? Who in this world is this Saint she's speaking of?

"I'm the grandchild of Baron Refaisu Vizonsu. My mother went to the Royal Palace when she was young and received his majesty's affection. The one who was born from receiving his majesty's seed was me. Do you know things up to here?"

I have no clue. Something like that. However, judging from her age then I guess she was conceived 20 years ago or so huh? That would be from when his majesty the King was 32 years old. If I remember correctly before he bought the water bed he had 8 official children and 6 illegitimate children.

"About two years ago, I received orders from his majesty and was permitted to enter the third knight group of the Kingdom. In the

third knight group other than myself, my two sisters entered at the same time."

Sisters indeed~ Aren't those girls illegitimate children as well?

"However..It's the same for me but all three of us struggled learning to use the weapons we weren't familiar with."

Ha~ Well, I'm sure that's only obvious.

"But, fortunately our Refaisu family had the squire James who was already in the third knight group. I was instructed directly by him and my abilities increased quite a bit. A few years ago, he received the honor of investiture as a knight."

"That is..great I guess. Congratulations."

I was finally able to say something.

"No..It's all for the sake of Greed-sama after all."

"Huh?"

"This spring, I was permitted to have an audience with his majesty for the first time."

Well, just because they're parent and child, for the time being they've already become people from different families so I'm sure they can't meet directly that easily. However, this story, I wonder where it will jump to?

"I met his majesty together with my three sisters all at once.

There we heard about Greed-sama from his majesty."

Ah, is that so. And? However, it can't be right?

"That night, the three of us sisters talked about it. Exactly what kind of person is the Greed-sama his majesty was talking about.."

Ah, so he didn't say something like get married to me or something like that? Someone attached by strings to that King would suck~ and

I was thinking that but it seems to be different I guess?

"Older sister didn't seem to have much interest in Greed-sama who is an adventurer but I'm sure that was just her pretending otherwise. On the contrary my little sister was interested just the same as myself."

I see~ It sure is difficult being a popular guy.

"After that I investigated as much as I could about Greed-sama. In just the two years since appearing in Baldukk you've risen up to the top of the adventurers and furthermore you've made great success running the company that deals in rubber. There's also various rumors as well but highly skilled for such a young age, a young man with courage, resourcefulness, and vast future prospects. And it's also said you're highly ambitious. It could also be said you're a superior personality who can make decisions objective while looking at things calmly."

He~ Everything isn't exactly as she says but it doesn't feel bad being praised.

"And then the other day, I heard the rumors that you surpassed the achievements of his majesty the founding King George.Rombert the First. We all doubted our ears. I mean, we couldn't even imagine there was a person like that."

Well, I'm sure that's normally the case.

"No, I appreciate your praise but it's not something that I could have managed all on my own.."

For the time being I'll act humbly. But putting aside the combat, if Zenom wasn't around there would have been a lot I panicked over. Ralpha and Gwine are indispensable for making the map. If Bel wasn't around the first time I was called out by the King I might

have been stunned and made some kind of major mistake as well. If Toris wasn't around then in the first place even if I had thought about increasing my forces I probably would have taken a different method. If it wasn't for Miduchi's knowledge then I think we would have probably been troubled with the trolls and might have easily died on the 14th floor as well. Basutoral..I might not have ever been able to eat sausages. Rodrick..whatever.

Well, at the very least it isn't a lie. Rather it's closer to my real feelings. If it was just me alone then I might have been able to do something up to the 9th or 10th floors but I'm sure it would have taken a much much longer amount of time and there's a high chance I would have died along the way.

"How modest of you..Your older sister is ultimate sorcerer that the first knight group has great hopes for, the Black Witch. Your older brother is a knight who had such high abilities and talent that even on his first campaign he was called the Black Eagle of Webdos."

Is she just a fan?

"No matter what I wanted to meet with you talk once. It was worth saying something unreasonable and taking the days off. However, with the matter this time I'm confident about it. Greed-sama is.."

"Umm, I'm honored to be seen so highly though. Would you mind getting to the point.."

"My objective was just to directly meet and talk to you so.."

Huh? It wasn't a discussion about selling armor? And just meeting and talking directly was the purpose, what in the world is

that?

"Just to have you remember me for today and retain it in your heart was the purpose. I won't hand it over to anyone else."

"Eh?"

"How many heirs would you like?"

Ah, this woman, she's that. Probably, she was told by the King at the start.

"What kind of strange things are you saying..If you've investigated me then you should already know right? I already have" You mustn't say anymore than that. Isn't that one Dark Elf fine as a second wife? In the end she's just a different race that can't give birth to an heir. She's no rival for me. If you marry me then in the future when you're granted a territory, it will be an advantage you know?"

I don't hate these sorts of values. But, you, just now said my woman is a different race that can't give birth to an heir right?

That itself is the same as just a mere adventurer. She herself is a noble that has the blood of the King on top of the fact that Miduchi is still young so it might be obvious for her to be seen as below. However, think about the person you're talking to. You just made a fool of me for choosing that sort of woman.

If you wanted to get along with me, with us, then you wouldn't pick that sort of wording to say it.

I reclined back into the sofa and crossed my legs.

Chapter 260: Troublesome Matter 3

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 2

This bastard(she's a woman though), I'm amazed she can say that so shamelessly...

【Refaisu Family: Baron of Rombert Kingdom. Investiture date was Year 7314, Month 5, Day 24.】

【Rise to power: William.Rombert the Third went independent and founded it.】

【The current head of the family is Vizonsu.Refaisu, the sixth generation.】

Hmph.

I'm not rejecting the aspect of nobles forming relationships through marriage itself. It's somewhat effective after all.

However, just those who are related to the King of Rombert are no good. If it comes to that then it will really just end up as a vassal Kingdom and if things go badly based on the blood relationship background it can be thought they might try to take control of politics or the internal details of my Kingdom.

No, it's not particularly like I'm against being a vassal Kingdom.

Of course I don't want that to be the case though. But, starting a country that can maintain its independence in this state of affairs is putting it frankly impossible.

If I can make a portion of the Dirt Plains into my territory then in regards to food(just the staples wheat and meat though) I think we'll be fine with self-sufficiency. That's if we can cultivate a bit of it though. In regards to an army I have confidence I can do

something about it as well. If I'm there, and I make things like guns or gunpowder then putting aside a foreign campaign, I think there will most likely be no problem with defense. If I just have enough time to make several tens of guns, anti-personnel mines, and pseudo claymores(though it's just planned but I plan to have a certain amount ready before hand) then even if an army of several thousand lead by the first knight group with sister included were to attack five or ten times, I think it'll be possible to deal hard blows to them every time and still drive them into retreat. Though I'm sure the cleanup would be difficult.

The problem is if in secret something like a commando unit of a small number of super elites invade and perform combat sporadically almost like a guerilla warfare and perform things like terrorism towards non-combatants but whether it's Rombert Kingdom or Guranan Empire , I'm sure any place would be troubled by that so it's the same.

Rather than the problem is the various types of manufactured goods other than food and an army. Even if it's not perfect if we can at least produce all of it inside of my territory then we should be able to manage anything. Whether it's the founder of the Nosebleed Arts or whatever else it's fine if I just make the machines for producing it. However, the problem is in regards to mineral and plant resources. No matter what it's necessary to import them.

There's few mountains in the area around the Dirt Plains so I'm sure it'll be necessary to rely on imports for most of those sorts

of things. Certainly there's also territories that have mountains included in them as well but those areas have few forests along the border of Devas Kingdom and there's a lot of combat. There's merits and demerits right.

It's because of reasons like that in regards to a vassal Kingdom, particularly for the first assistance period where it's necessary I think it can't be helped. However, I personally am hoping to form those sorts of relationships through marriage with a noble that has a territory in the surrounding areas. If it's possible then ideally a territory that's right next to mine in contact with it. Even when it comes to receiving aid, going back and forth to the next territory over is easy. Additionally if it ever comes down to it, it makes it easier to conquer as well. No, I don't think I will though. Yeah. Probably.

In any case, I want to form blood relatives with some place which won't make any sort of unreasonable demands. In this case, the demands towards my country wouldn't be the delivery of money or resources but I can guess it would be offering military strength. Even if you just look at me individually it would be a large force and in regards to guns even if we desperately try to hide them the moment they're used in live combat of a reasonable scale once there's no way left to hide them anymore. It's necessary to find a different route than offering them military strength until then. If we can skillfully cultivate the land in the Dirt Plains and defend it then it's possible that eventually we could deliver food in exchange. This would be better.

It can also be thought that something might be demanded using sister as a hostage but as long as sister is in the first knight group of the Kingdom, that's something we already knew could happen. Since my brother and parents are citizens of Marquis Webdos's territory as long as I don't let my relationship with Marquis Webdos deteriorate then even if it's the King he shouldn't be able to do anything unreasonable. To be more precise it's possible for him to request things of the Marquis but I can't imagine that the Marquis would accept it.

In those sorts of meanings Miduchi's Lail Kingdom has considerably good conditions. It's a moderate distance away and a small country that's maintained complete independence. It seems they perform some foreign trade but their population is extremely small and they rely on imports for a considerable portion of their daily necessities.

The primary things they export are drugs and the various types of mushrooms that are the ingredients for those and secondary they also sell magic stones. After that is..they have something that can't even be called a military but is quite literally a commando unit of a very small number of assassins.

Though it's thanks to Miduchi as well but just in case I have the pipe with the healer Baidu~nsu.Tukerin in the capital and I'm also making use of it to purchase some industrial waste from their country. In between operation time of the sausage factory I have two of each flavor being deliveries to his healing office everyday. Baldoggie are a favorite of his and he's supposedly extremely pleased over them. I think it might be good to sell Baldoggie and

wheat to Lail Kingdom through him as well.

Adding to that as well and if I just return Miduchi to Lail Kingdom

once, the fact that it seems we can simply form an alliance is the greatest. Although, in this case there's not very many short-term merits other than preventing me from becoming the target of assassination and making obtaining the various types of drugs easier.

However, in the future on the occasion I start trying to increase

my territory it's possible I could have some powerful reinforcements. After all I can make a unit of close to 100 all with mana on the level of Miduchi and depending on the case I might even be able to get my hands on their systematic education and upbringing method as well.

Putting aside Lail Kingdom, this lady Yorire is almost definitely a

forerunner pawn for that middle-aged King. I don't know if he intentionally ordered this, guided her into doing it, or convinced her into believing this was her own thinking though. In that case there's only one way of dealing with it that matches up with my goals. The objective is of course, making sure even just she doesn't keep dragging this on any longer. It can't be helped if someone else is sent in instead. After that, it's also let him understand the message, "I've noticed, don't underestimate me so much."

Of course, if he doesn't do things like underestimate me and hopes

for a relation of an equal alliance then I'll raise my hands in the air and welcome it. I'm sure something like that is impossible though.

"I see. So you have the intention of coming to my place? Just now, you said that if I marry you then I'll have an advantage in the future but..What are you saying is the collateral for that to be the case?"

It's quite something that she didn't even bat an eyelid seeing my attitude suddenly change to arrogance.

"I stated it just now right? I was born from the seed of his majesty the King."

"Well then, if a blood relation with his majesty is important then you yourself have no value other than giving birth to an heir? Ah, you were still just a squire was it. One from the third knight group even."

I made a face as if I was completely looking down on her as I said it. Someone like you other than your blood relation, whether it be as a soldier or as the commander of a unit(at the very least for now) are useless, also, I tried saying it as if she was at best a tool for giving birth to children.

"What other value do you wish for than that?"

Oh, she's got quite a bit..of resolve behind it I see. I guess it's proof that she knows her own position?

"If you don't know that then you're lacking to become my partner."

"Of course I know that much. In place of your excellency, it's to provide relief for places your excellency's hands don't reach in the territory."

She sure says it easily. Certainly if she could do that then it's a high point as a partner. However, for her to answer with this sort of reply means she isn't an idiot. But, this reply is still no

good. If she's going to highlight the blood relation then she should lay out all of the merits of it thoroughly. That's right, regardless of what I tell her. On the contrary if she said something like she would get all of my wishes to pass with Rombert Kingdom using her blood relation as a shield then even if it was boasting I'd have give her a second look.

Although, she's not an official child so I'm sure something like that is impossible. She should be showing guts. If it's just this degree of reply then it lacks in tangibility and it just feels like she's trying to cleverly match it up to me. There's no different from saying "I'll give my best".

"How are you going to prove that?"

"I can't prove it until things from here on out."

Of course that's the case. Since you have no achievements after all. Well, since nothing concrete came out here, I'm sure it's impossible. If she doesn't at least say something like, "Since your excellency sub-Noble Greed is an adventurer from a remote area I'm sure taxes, human resources, and law are a weak point so I'll support you there" or "I have connections to a good candidate for tax collection official or governor". You, for what reason are you in the third knight group? Doesn't the knight group raise those sorts of talents?

"Even though you don't have any achievements at all just blood relation isn't enough of a reason to accept you. I think I have some considerably talented people in my place after all."

Additionally I guess I'll say this as well.

"By the way, why is the color of your hair different from last

time?"

It's a beautiful blue color but it's hard to say it suits her very well. It's in bad taste.

"Oh my? Isn't it the color you prefer? I heard that you preferred blue or green so I dyed it though.."

Eh? Something like that...

The only ones I thought things like they're beautiful or cute the moment I saw them, based on just appearances were Bel and sister-in-law Shani-san. Of course, the elf Miduchi is beautiful and even Ralpa has reasonably cute facial features. However, since Miduchi has the blood of an elf it's just that she's beautiful in comparison to humans but looking in the framework of elves there's many more beautiful people. Ralpa is in the cute category looking from a Japanese person standpoint, but somehow she smells of piss*. Looking in the case of a dwarf Gwine is an overwhelming beauty but she's far off from my preference.

If I were to observe my own glances towards women then I might notice that the way I looked at Bel's hair dyed deep blue and sister-in-law Shani's light green hair is different. Of course I have no self-awareness of doing it.

However, things like red, black, blonde, and depending on the case light red, white, were all hair colors on Earth. Blue, green, and pink are hair colors that weren't on Earth so at first I was considerably surprised over them. I guess that means they realize, no, realized that? I'm sure it's just overthinking it though.

"It seems that wasn't the case."

She must have noticed that I had raised my eyebrows and was making a doubtful expression. She continued with a slightly

disappointed voice.

"..I don't know if it was dyed or not but your previous hair color suited you better."

"..I'll take that to heart."

"Well, putting aside the matter of hair, I intend on choosing my partner myself. Things like ability and appearance are important but if things like sensitivity and values can't be shared then I'm sure it would be painful for both of us through a long life."

It's something extremely ordinary but it's also important as well.

I'm sure this Yorire isn't the only daughter or relative of the King and other nobles trying to make blood relations and in that case even I want to choose.

"Also, it's strange saying this but your excellency sub-Noble Refaisu is still a squire right? You should have important duties in the knight group."

"If Greed-sama would be willing to take me as a wife I would resign even tomorrow."

I'm sure that's the case but you know. Well, I guess when it comes to something like squires of the third knight group there's about 1,000 or so of them so even if she quits there's plenty of replacements. However, putting aside a full-fledged knight, doing something like that at the stage when she's still a half-assed squire is something I don't like~ I actually was left with a pretty good impression from Kuro and Mary.

It was then that there was a knock on the door of the room. Lady Yorire waited for me to troublesomely fix my posture before giving permission and the one who appeared in the room was Ran. It seems the catering has arrived. I guess because of that trouble before I

entered the room, they had already finished preparations and they were just waiting for good timing. It still hasn't even been 10 minutes since I sat down on the sofa.

"Now then, I guess we'll end things here for today. Ran, please call James."

She told that to Ran and at the same time declared an end to the fishy discussion. I asked for Giberuti to be let into the room as well. Of course as someone to wipe my face for me. After that I ate reasonably first-class catering while(Ah, I wiped my mouth myself. Giberuti is just enduring as he stands behind me. Sorry about that), I was asked freely about my activities as an adventurer.

We finished up the meal and after drinking tea, I said before standing from my seat.

"It was an honor being invited by you today. Also, it was a very delicious meal. I apologize for being unable to give you a favorable reply but just this has various circumstances involved with it. Please give up thinking it was something not meant to be."

On our way back I let Giberuti eat at a slightly good restaurant.

.....

"..Is how things went."

I invited Miduchi, Zenom, Ralpa, Bel, Toris, Gwine, Basutoral, also Rodrick into my room and reported things from today. They were considerably surprised from the details no one had predicted.

"In other words~ there's strings attached, to that. Not to mention it was just a mere illegitimate child. It didn't seem like I could

pull any money out of it, even if I accept something like that unless they're considerably superior there's not much really..Additionally you know her face was, "Bata-kusai~". She was reasonably beautiful but didn't match my preference~"

I said that while drinking some tea.

"..So you turned her down."

Miduchi said somehow relieved but she's already accepted the fact that eventually somewhere down the line there's a high chance of needing to form a blood relation through marriage with someone with strings attached. Well, if it's someone around the area of Marquis Webdos then it seems they have some leeway financially so I'd have nothing to say but a daughter of the direct bloodline has already married my brother. I'm sure it would be difficult. But if it's after the Marquis's eldest son, the knight commander Baron Sendohel.Webdos becomes the Marquis and I'm the Lord of my own territory then he might think about sending one of his daughters over as a bride to me. Of course I'm sure there's things like timing and whatnot though. That would mean a sister of sister-in-law Shani-san.

It's fine even if it's Duke Berutasu who rules a vast territory Royal Territory in the Northeast. Or if we were to follow along the connection from Rodrick there's the possibility of Count Faruergaz as well. Duke Zamu who has a territory to the East of the Royal Territory and North of Count Faruergaz's territory is fine as well. If it's not the King and they're a moderate distance away then there's no other choice than for them to be rich. In reverse if their territory is in contact with mine or really close-by then

even a place that's just a bit poor would be fine. Like Viscount Yoraizu or something. If things go well then the possibility remains where I could get them to listen to what I say as well.

"However, just listening to the words and you know, Al is quite the brute right."

Ralpa said that finding it amusing. Again with that?

"Why?"

Zenom replied to that.

"I mean you know, just thinking about the marriage partner in terms of money and such, somehow that's a bit."

"Do you intend to say that it's not the same for us? Al says he's going to raise a country. What is there more important than loss and gain? If you were going to get married then I think it would be best for the other party to be rich. Nothing good will come from getting married to some poor person."

"Eh~ what about feelings? What will you do about Miduchi?"

"Something like feelings are secondary. Also even Al is thinking about Miduchi right. Of course Miduchi as well. It's nothing for you to worry about. In the first place you're the only one to inherit the Firefreed family. There's a high probability that by the time you get married you'll be in a position where you can't get a divorce anymore. Think carefully about that. A husband who just lets the money flow back to their family isn't worth shit right."

When the details of what doesn't sound like a conversation between parent and child progressed that far, Bel interrupted them.

"I think what Ral says is fine in the case of a normal person

that's not a noble. But, you can't afford to keep saying such childish things as that right?"

I wonder what it is. This separating of things is just like Bel if you put it that way though.

"I understand the feelings and what Ral wants to say though. I'm the same. But if you don't form a blood relationship through marriage then the collateral for assistance ends up having an enormous amount of interest I'm sure."

Gwine commented on it.

"That's right. Even if you have a blood relationship through marriage it's not like they'll provide support without interest or compensation. For example, my family was still arguing with Marquis Rodairu over a loan problem from far in the past up until just recently. It seems that we gave a loan of over 10,000,000,000 Z so they could start a mining operation at a mine but they just wouldn't return it. In the end we resolved it through handing over a portion of the rights to the mines and cession of some of their territory though."

Rodrick nodded with his arms crossed while saying that. Ah, I've heard about that before. The one who adjusted the estimation of the territory and the mining rights was the King right? It seems it was considerably difficult to make adjustments because the value of Z{Zeni} was different back then.

"Of course this is an example of it failing. There's also a lot of cases where it succeeded. For example Viscount Bison or Count Suroiaru, they were grateful that the financing circulated around well for them and we ended up profiting as well. We have blood

relations with all of them. If there's no blood relation then after all the interest ends up a bit high. But, Al-san. In reverse I think that might be better even if you have to pay a bit more interest. If you just properly pay back the amount you've borrowed then there's everything after that is unrelated after all."

Right. That's the ideal though you know. If we were going to accept support then I'm sure it would be a considerable amount and how high the interest gets wouldn't be something you could make light of. If you can get a reduction of 10% or 20% in interest from just taking on one bride or an adopted child then you could say that's a cheap price to pay as well. I'm sure that even just the interest moves in the hundreds of millions.

Incidentally, previously I discussed with Rodrick what would happen if I discussed financing with his family. However, Rodrick said, "I can't suggest that unless Al-san is at a point where he absolutely needs a lot of money all at once and has no other options. Since it seems that our ancestor is the one who invited compound interest." and also said, "We're rich but we don't have a very good reputation." with a complicated face.

Well I can't ignore the possibility that we would run out of money for a period of time but we're always discussing industries which could make some reasonable profits with everyone so as a matter of fact I'm not all that worried about money.

Rather than that the part that's been bothering me is the portion, "If you marry me then in the future when you're granted a territory it will be an advantage." Of course, I think there's a high possibility of it being lip service and the chances of it being

something other than that are minuscule though.

It might be possible that Yorire is a super favorite illegitimate

child of the King right?

It requires investigating.

Though I'm sure I'll find out right away.

Chapter 237: With This Blow

Year 7446, Month 6, Day 30

First off is investigation. The range of this {Anti-Skill Area} and whether it be magic or Unique Abilities the conditions for it's activation and effects. The result of that, we were able to identify the below points.

1. It has a range of around 500 meters from the center of this room (Probably. We just wandered around about 100 meters in the surroundings).
2. Only when you're inside of it do your Unique Abilities including Skills not activate(cannot).
3. It works shooting spells inside from outside.
4. Spells with an effect duration are okay until the time runs out as well(Tested with Light).
5. However, {Summon.Insect} and the various missiles or other spells that require maintaining concentration were no good.
6. It seems the effects of {Magic.Items} work fine(Bel's {Bark Skin} was effective and Zenom's axe returned as well. Of course we tried throwing it all three ways from inside to inside, inside to outside, and outside to inside).
7. {Status Open} was possible but it was painted out with ■■■■■ characters.

Now then, next is?

Obviously, it's reconnaissance.

Since it's said that there's a possibility of some kind of monster

being there, if possible I want to avoid reconnaissance with force.

And, in that case it will be scouting reconnaissance. It's crucial that we can scout things and observe the enemy without being detected.

Going from how she carries her body Miduchi is ideal. However, we don't know what kind of enemy will be there. The job of a scout is to make it back alive to the main group with the information. Even if they take independent action if they can't make it back alive it's no good. Here is the all powerful my turn since I have over 200 HP.

"Wai..Wait, why are you suddenly getting naked!"

Since I suddenly started taking my armor off starting with Ralpa, everyone was flustered.

Is it because I'm amazing when naked? Hn?

I guess not.

"Shut up~ idiot. Listen quietly."

I yelled at Ralpa and said while taking off my protectors.

"I'm going to scout things out. Depending on the case I might come back pulling monsters. I want everyone to setup a battle formation around 40~50 meters from that boundary and wait."

"Master, if it's scouting then please order myself or Maruso."

Zulu proposed but that's rejected.

"That's no good. It will take a lot of time to take off and put on Zulu's {Banded-mail} and putting it frankly Angela might die in a single hit. There would be no meaning in scouting like that. I'm going."

In no time at all I was down to just my under armor and boots.

If it was other armor then I'm sure it wouldn't have been this

easy.

"Thinking about overall abilities then I'm the best choice. Also, it's not decided that there's going to be a monster. In the first place, the one who can run the fastest here is me. Momentarily then Zulu might be faster but depending on the case you could end up having to run several hundred meters. There's also the chance that it would turn into combat after that. You're no good."

I took off my boots and socks as well. I put my socks into my boots and handed them to Miduchi. Ah, after all they stink? But, don't make such an unpleasant face.

I took off my under armor and was left in just my underwear. After handing my under armor to Miduchi I said, "Leave it around there" while pointing at an appropriate rock.

I turned around to everyone and gave instructions for everyone hide in different positions. Since there's rocks laying around all over the place, there's no lack in places to hide.

"Remain hidden until I return. In the worst case if I come back pulling a monster don't carelessly jump out. If you come out further than that boundary you can't use magic after all. Well, if it comes to that then I'll say something in a loud voice so I'm depending on you..Then, I'm off~"

There's no instructions in the case I don't come back. Anything that comes after that I don't care..Not really though, I have no intention of dying at all.

I put my bayonet over my shoulder and took several rocks in my hand. I used up 9x the MP to cast the spell {Light} on each of them. With this they'll give off light for 15 minutes. I handed

them to Toris.

Finally I consumed 100x the MP to extend the effect duration by 10x and used the spell {Invisibility} on myself. It ate up close to 2,400 MP but this is a necessary expense. My body suddenly turned transparent and then invisible. In mid-air there's just the bayonet over my shoulder, also, my underwear floating there. Other than Miduchi who knew about it, seeing everyone's surprised faces gave me just a bit of satisfaction. Ah, I haven't used it for peeking.

"I intend to return within 500 seconds. See ya~"

I said that while taking off my boxer-like underwear and after putting them on top of my under armor that Miduchi was holding, I took one of the rocks back out of Toris's hand.

I run off.

I can't worry about the thing dangling between my legs.

I ran about 200 meters as quietly as I could run.

I placed two of the rocks on the ground and stabbed my bayonet into the ground between them standing it upright.

After running for another short while I placed the last rock on the ground.

There's no change in the surroundings at all. It's just the same wasteland like ground with rocks all over the place.

I advance forward while trying not to make as much sound as possible. I've already used up around 90 seconds. Another 210 seconds remaining. If I think about the time it takes to get back then I guess about 3 minutes.

I continue advancing forward while hiding behind the rocks.

The same as usual I barely have 50 meters or so of sight.

After continuing for about 100 meters, I looked back once and in

the distance, about 100 meters back there's an area with some light. A bit beyond that I can see a bit more light as well. It should be both of the areas I left the rocks. It's vague whether that light would be noticed. It's pitch black and while there's only around 40~50 meters of vision, the ground being stepped on gives off light. This interferes and makes it difficult to notice light in the distance.

Hn?

The distance between the rocks laying around is increasing.

Huh?

After advancing further the rocks completely disappeared.

Having nothing to hide behind, causes a bit of anxiety.

Though I'm invisible, I'm completely naked on top of unarmed.

Thanks to that it's somehow cold.

I guess it's good that I won't break a sweat?

I can't see so I can't tell but I'm sure it's shrunken.

Well, putting that aside let's quickly finish the job up.

Since I came to for reconnaissance I need to obtain some kind of information.

If there's no monsters then it's not problem that there aren't any.

I walk with bare feet making sure not to give off any sound.

It would probably be best not to run anymore.

I slowly walk ahead.

This, is it a wall?

I'm getting a bad feeling.

A wall appeared in front of me. No, a pillar?

It's thinner than the pillow I saw on the 14th floor in the past.

Additionally, somehow it seems a bit rectangular.

Each side seems to be about 50 meters or so, I guess?

Looking from the direction I was approaching from there's an

entrance on the left.

And then, there's a monster standing in front of that like a statue.

That is a monster right?

Yeah, it's a monster.

It's looking over here.

The distance between us is about 50 meters.

Normally it's a distance which can barely be seen from.

Normally that is.

Right, normally.

If you're asking why I'm repeating it and it's because the moment I

entered the sight of the monster a light suddenly appeared from the ceiling shining down on us.

It feels almost like it went from midnight to midday during a high speed film.

Simultaneously I heard a loud banging sound like the atmosphere was being torn from a considerable distance.

Obviously I had stopped moving and put my hands over my eyes because of the brightness.

However, it's a bit sad, I guess because I was invisible even if I

put my hands over my face the light that comes through just got even brighter and it didn't block it out at all.

It felt tremendously bright at first but it seems it was at most

the same level as the 7th floor and my eyes adjusted to it right away.

I started observing the monster once again.

Of course I still can't use Identify as usual.

It feels like the monster can somehow feel my presence and it's looking restlessly over in this direction.

Though it doesn't seem it has completely discovered me yet.

However, the current situation is bad. I've already confirmed the

monster, I guess I'll return?

I'll return and join up with everyone, then I thought it would be

best to attack it again with everyone.

But, I quickly noticed something important.

I'm surrounded.

Not by monsters.

I think it's probably around several hundred meters from the pillar

but there's a 20 meter or so wall made of {Lightning Bolt}-like

lightning connecting the floor and ceiling.

So the sound from just now was this?

No matter what I do if I don't have a weapon then.

If it's around there then I should be able to pick up my

bayonet.

I was relieved from the bottom of my heart.

At the same time I was glad I didn't send Miduchi to do

reconnaissance.

Though I feel that if it's Miduchi with that sword even completely

naked she might be able to manage.

I quietly turned around while making sure not to make any sound

from my footsteps and returned the direction I came.

After returning a couple tens of meters, when I hid behind a rock,

I quietly picked up a rock from the ground.

There's some distance and I should be hidden so as expected I don't

think it can tell.

Eh? I won't throw it right now.

I was just preparing a rock to throw in the worst case.

I'll quietly return without being noticed.

...

.....

.....

Huh? Wasn't my bayonet around he..There it is.

Thank goodness.

That I would feel just having a weapon is this reassuring.

They must have felt something was wrong.

I could see everyone about 100 meters ahead on the other side of

the {Lightning Bolt} wall like cage.

After looking closely rather than a wall it's more like a cage of

{Lightning Bolts} and in the gaps between that there's a

transparent purple colored wall.

This, looks like an Anti-Magic Field.

..Seriously?

I wonder if they can at least pass my underwear through this

gap?

I'm sure it's impossible.

The gaps, are narrow.

Probably only an arrow or so would pass through. Even whether that

would pass through the space in this electricity is up for

question.

Zenom's axe is probably no good either.

I have the feeling that metal-based items wouldn't be any good

against this electricity.

There's no basis for it though.

If it's a magic weapon then it might be fine but it would suck if

it breaks.

What about the rubber protectors?

Would it work?

However, it seems they left behind my rubber protectors when they

came over.

What a useless dark elf.

I think there's not much meaning to it but I lowered my posture and

returned back again from a different direction.

The effect duration of the spell {Invisibility} will probably end pretty soon.

It would be best to get in one blow as a surprise attack before it ends.

If I can decide the match with that then it's fine if I slowly think about things after.

Faster.

Faster.

I returned back to the side of the pillar just now.

The monster is still looking around the area restlessly.

It seems it's not moving from protecting the entrance to the pillar.

I wonder how many more seconds the {Invisibility} will last?

It's a waste of time just thinking.

I threw the rock I still had in my hand. In order to avert the attention of the monster.

In that chance I charged at it with my bayonet.

Let's go.

The monster is one even I knew about.

It's a giant Minotaur.

It's holding a double-edged {Battle axe} in it's hands.

It's upper body is naked and it has a loincloth made of some kind of beast's leather, and is barefoot.

The color of it's skin is deep brown and it's got thick body hair.

It's chest hair is extremely thick and going down it's stomach it's even connected inside of it's loincloth.

Happy trail.

I endured letting out a war cry while charging at it and just ran as fast as I could.

Of course I'm not mortified at all or anything.

Author's Note:

"Invisibility" {Illusion}.{Phantasm}

(Earth magic Lv.6, Water magic Lv.4, Fire magic Lv.6, Wind magic

Lv.7, Void magic Lv.7, Consumed MP 30)

Turn a single living creature that's being touched invisible for 50 seconds. It's possible to use it on yourself as well. Unable to use it on non-living objects. The target can still see the same as normal and it's possible for them to take actions. It's also possible to talk and eat something. In the case of eating if the mouth is closed then the food will no longer be seen. However, if the moment the target attempts to use a spell during the duration of the effect the effect will be released. Also, if they take any sort of action towards attacking that moment the effect will be cut off as well. Such actions are swinging a weapon, pulling bow strings, the immediate action before attacking and approaching the target from behind while holding the handle of a sword is fine (obviously unless the sword is a magic item just it will be visible).

Chapter 238: Full Monty

Year 7446, Month 6, Day 30

With my right hand still on the grip, trying not to make as much sound as possible, even then maintaining a reasonable speed I was sneaking up to the Minotaur. First off I should try to get into a position where it wouldn't be able to see me and I'm an advantage but there's already nowhere left to hide in this plaza that's as bright as day.

In terms of positions there's the dirt walls of the 50 meter or so pillar and at the entrance to what is most likely the center teleport crystal, then what is probably a Minotaur monster should have it's back to that entrance guarding it from about 3 meters away.

I looked for a chance when it was looking around holding it's battle axe and faced the other direction to throw the rock as far away from the entrance as possible. Hearing something hit the ground a bit of distance away the mino quickly turned back to the front and took a few steps that direction.

As expected it was impossible to get it's back completely facing over here but I can sneak up from it's left back side.

It's stature is easily a head above 2 meters and it's physique resembles the Hollywood action star from years back, Arnold.Schwarzenegger, with it's bulging and brawny muscles that show off it's strength. If it's head was the same as Schwarzenegger like this, then it would be a double of his successful work, King

of Barbarians.

Still, even I can boast a reasonable body right now. Though in

terms of height I'm barely at 180 cm.

However, normally I think it's intended to be surrounded with an

entire party and beaten but unfortunately right now I've been split

up from my party so I have to do something about this alone.

My spell {Invisibility} already shouldn't last that much longer.

Right now about the only advantage I have is that up until just

before I attack my body can't be seen. In order to make the best

use of that I'd like to ambush it from behind.

I hurry as fast as I can using stealthy footsteps.

If possible I'd like to get directly behind it and deal one stab

through it's heart(since it's a humanoid I'm assuming it's around

the left chest but goblins and hobgoblins have hearts in the right

side of their chest you know).

Even if that's not where it's heart is I should be able to

seriously injure it.

If getting directly behind it is impossible then it's fine as long

as the first attack hits a blood vessel.

Especially one that's as thick as possible. It'd be ideal if I

could slit it's neck, groin, or sides but that's a bit

unreasonable.

Another 10 meters.

The mino is still observing the area where the rock fell.

That's good.

Just like that don't move.

I'll stab you in the left flank and gouge it out.

If I have good luck it'll be the kidney.

Another 5 meters.

The mino that was holding it's battle axe on guard with both hands,

let go with it's left hand and stood straight up.
So it intends to return to it's original position?
This is bad.
If you're going to turn around and return then face the direction
with your back to me!
But there's another 3 meters.
I line up the bayonet on my waist and enter the stance for a thrust
before taking the last step forward.
With a snap my body returned to normal from the invisibility.
My hand that was holding the bayonet and feet that I couldn't see
until now entered my sight.
Ei! To hell with it!
Eat this!!
Unfortunately the mino seems to be turning this direction to return
to it's original position.
It ended up taking the shape of me charging into it from the
front.
However, the blade of my bayonet is already right in front of the
mino's stomach.
I stabbed the blade into the base, twisted and gouged it before
pulling it out.
The mino's eyes went wide at the sudden and unexpected
attack.
But, it's face quickly twisted in rage as it let out a battle cry
like "Vumooo~!!!" and lifted the battle axe with one hand before
compactly swinging it.
I jumped back with all of my power and avoided that attack.
If I was even a moment late the axe probably would have wedged into
my body straight through my left arm.
My left arm would have been detached from the upper arm and my

heart would have been destroyed I'm sure.
I can feel a cold sweat run down my back.
Alright, it's time to run.
I'll run and throw rocks at it when I see openings.
At the very least I got in a large first blow using the blade of
the bayonet.
It should have suffered a serious injury.
It should be bleeding and suffering from some intense pain.
If I maintain the distance and continue hitting it with rocks then
eventually it should run out of stamina and stop moving.
Something like close combat isn't too late even after that.
Rather~ I don't want to injure this body I received from my
parents.
Though I say that, I can't show it my back either.
I'll do it with a feel like glaring at the Mino while slowly
retreating.
The mino itself was giving off a feel like "Voge?" as if it was
cursing at and trying to provoke me but on this occasion time is my
ally.
It's hunched over with it's right hand on it's battle axe and the
left hand is holding the wound to it's stomach.
If you don't intend to charge at me just like that then that's
better for me.
"Ba~dee~!!!"
Ah, after all it won't go that easily huh?
The mino grabbed the battle axe with both of it's hands again and
suddenly came charging at me.
Uo!!?
Th..That was dangerous...
It can still step in with that much speed?
It was way beyond my expectation, it was a rush at an extreme

speed.

But, ouch.

In order to avoid the charge just now I dodged by rolling to the

left but rolling on the ground naked isn't a good idea.

I'm covered in scrapes.

Father, mother, I'm sorry.

Even though just running on the ground barefoot isn't easy..my feet

have completely gotten weak from wearing boots for a number of

years and if I were to step on a sharp rock it would be pretty

bad.

But, I saw it.

The place where I stabbed it on the side of it's navel with my

bayonet did some serious damage.

Even while I'm doing this the bleeding is continuing and it's not

just dying it's loincloth red but it's even started to drip down

it's left leg.

It might just be my imagination but the mino's breathing seems to

be getting rougher as well.

If it's not a mistake in my judgement that is.

I swing the bayonet while standing up and after breaking the stance

of the mino that had turned back around here once more, I started

taking my distance again.

The mino quickly fixed it's stance and seemed to be looking for

another chance to charge at me again.

Scary~

Don't stare at me so much.

I'll get embarrassed.

Hmph, if I still have the leeway to think things like that then I

can still remain calm.

That's only obvious.

The other day I just hit level 28 but thanks to the increase in age

my Speed is at 54.

Though in reality I don't know what it's really around.

Even if I look at it as $1/2$ then that's 27 and $1/3$ rd is 18.

As long as I don't let my guard down there's no way I'd take the

opponent's attacks that easily~

But, if I were to take even a single hit from that battle axe I'd

probably be able to see death.

It seems the mino is going to charge at me again.

I remain cautious while slowly putting some distance between us and

observe the mino.

It's eyes are bloodshot, it's breathing is rough, and it's color is

white.

It even has some drool oozing down.

It's definitely getting weaker.

However, if I even take one hit then it's clear I'll be in a

similar condition or even worse state.

I've put about 3 meters in distance between us but something like

this, I'm sure the mino can cover it in an instant.

I lowered my stance a bit and lifted my foot, taking up a stance

with my bayonet so I can deal with any movement.

The next time it charges at me I'll magnificently evade that and

make use of that momentum to run away at my fastest speed.

The moment I thought that, it came charging at me!

Chi..it's holding it's battle axe with just it's right hand again

and swinging it from the left side from my point of view.

I wanted to dodge to the right and run in the direction I

originally came from though.

Judging from that compact form it'll probably thrust it

afterwards.

It seems there's a spear tip at the end between the two blades of the axe after all.

Since it couldn't be helped I lowered my body and jumped evading to the left.

On my left side is the surface of the pillar and the original direction I came from is on the other side of it's body.

This is troublesome.

After the mino made a mortifying expression and then it started grinning like it thought of something.

Thinking about it again but it seems it doesn't just have emotions but it's capable of thinking somewhat as well.

That's precisely why it's getting impatient I'm sure.

You're afraid of the blood that's gushing out right?

You're afraid of the source of life that is gradually decreasing, right?

You want to quickly treat it right?

I get it~

And then it charged at me again.

Heee.

It's using the same form as just now so it must think that I can't escape to the left anymore.

Things won't go that easily for you.

I use my bayonet for defense for the first time.

Of course, there's no way it could take on that sort of battle axe.

I just knocked it up a bit and slightly shifted the vector.

It seems the mino intended to body slam me, pinning me to the wall if I had evaded to the left(the right looking from it's end).

If I had gone to the right then it probably thought it could thrust with the end of it's battle axe or it could attack me again.

In reality, just before I was afraid of that and ran to the left

after all.

However, I jumped back largely to the life side again.

Beyond that is the wall of the pillar.

I can definitely do it!

"Nuoo~!!!"

I spontaneously let out a shout to get into the spirit.

I kicked off the wall with my left leg and brought my right leg

down into the nape of it's neck that it was trying to close the gap

to the wall with.

I thrust the gun stock of my bayonet into the wall to avoid

crashing into it.

Just like that I landed behind the Mino and then dashed off at full

speed.

The moment the wall of the pillar towering on my left side

disappeared I shifted the direction I was going to hide in the

shadow of the wall.

I was taking into consideration that it might throw it's axe at my

back or something but it seems it wasn't that much of an

idiot.

Well, it's stance should have largely crumbled when I used it as a

stepladder so even if it were to try throwing it's axe it would

have been after I hid in the shadow of the pillar.

Calling it an idiot was rude.

While still hiding in the shadow of the pillar I jumped behind the

rock closest to where I was standing.

The presence of the mino running after me still hasn't

stopped.

It probably saw me as I hid behind this rock.

I quickly rolled along the ground and after grabbing a rock the

same of a child's fist and I threw it at the mino that jumped out

from the other side of the rock.
The distance is around 10 meters or so.
Even after it saw me about to throw a rock the mino didn't stop
charging at me.
I threw it aimed straight at the center of it's chest.
Obviously it splendidly hit it.
Like it could evade a rock thrown by me at this distance.
It would be impossible for even me.
It raises it's voice with a "Vumooo~!!" in agony.
Really it's head would have been the best but the head can be
shaken so it's possible to evade it.
After it gets even weaker.
I quickly jumped into the shadow of a different rock and picked up
a rock before throwing it.
I can do this all day.
It's a game of tag for any number of hours until the mino's spirit
breaks.
Just like that I think close to 10 minutes or so passed?
I was able to lead the mino to around the area everyone else
was.
"Al!!"
"Al-san!!"
"Master!!"
Seeing the mino and I racing each other everyone raises their
voices in delight over the fact that I was safe and also worried
about the Minotaur chasing me.
On the ground of this side, there's burnt rocks and arrows that
seem like charcoal on the side of the {Lightning Bolt} cage.
Shit, so backup is hopeless huh?
"Nahhahha! Look at that look!"
I heard a voice breaking out into laughter.
You bastard, I'll kill you after this.

I pick up a rock and throw it.

"Miduchi brought Toris and the others along as they started looking for a place to get inside! Using magic is no good the same as usual!!"

I heard Zenom's voice. Over there is Bel, Zulu, and just the idiot huh?

"Even the bow can't pass through!"

Bel shouts as well.

"Master!!"

Zulu came running over but stopped just a few meters before the {Lightning Bolt}.

I guess that means any closer than that is dangerous.

"I'm alright!!"

Aaa~ I thought of having Bel shoot it to death but I guess it's no good.

I guess I need to brace myself and start the game of tag again.

"Which direction is Miduchi and the others~"

If I can't hope for support from the outside then it's best go in the opposite direction.

Just from a glance it doesn't feel like there would be any gaps in the {Lightning Bolt} where you could get inside after all.

"That way!!"

I move to the opposite side from where Zulu was pointing and pull the mino while throwing rocks.

"Everyone wait over there!! I'll finish up soon!"

Though I say that, Mino, even though it's taken dozens of rocks hitting various parts of it's body injuring it, it's quite tough~

It seems it's movements have gotten quite dull but even then it's

still properly moving.
It seems it will still take some time.
"Al! Stop throwing something like rocks at it and just finish it
off all at once!"
Shut up~ idiot.
It's scary since I'm naked!!
I didn't intend on fighting it in the first place.
I intended to put my armor back on again after scouting things
out.
I thought it would be fine to fight after that.
"Ralpha, you need to shut your mouth for a bit!"
"Aouch!!"
I can hear the voice of Zenom scolding Ralpha.
It seems he dropped his fist on her head.
Take that~
"I mean, if it's Al then he'll be fine right! There's no way he
would lose against something like that!"
Mu, I'll pardon killing you.
I hear the voice of Ralpha talking back to Zenom from behind me as
I run and when I see appropriate rocks I quickly pick those up and
throw them while turning around.
I aim at it's forehead, it splendidly hits!
How's that!
"Buhi~hya! It's swinging! It went Pita~n!"
After all I'll kill her.
"Stop that already!!"
"Stop it."
She was told off by both Bel and Zulu as well.
Take that~
Another 10 minutes later, noticing it's movements finally starting
to weaken, I start throwing even more rocks.
And then, it seems it finally started to feel it's limit, the mino

stopped chasing after me.
It didn't just stop chasing me but turned around to the right and
started trying to run away.
Like I'll let you escape~
Ora~!!
I magnificently hit in the back of the head with a rock.
"Gyu~!!"
It raises a pitiful voice but even then it's trying to get away
from me.
Hmm.
Shall I try to aim at the back of it's knees with a slightly larger
one?
The pitcher goes for a wide throw~~the 100th(random)~ and throws
it!
"Ttorayi!!"
The rock hit the back of it's right knee.
"Goo~doo~!!"
It's face is swollen all over and including it's limbs there's
bruises and cuts all over it's body as the Mino let out a scream
and finally fell to it's knees.
What the, don't you still seem to have quite a bit of vitality
remaining?
It's still dangerous to get close.
Here.
Here~here.
You sure are solid.
Even then after hitting it with another couple dozen rocks I
finally stabbed it in the head and neck with my bayonet.
This bastard, this bastard.
..Making me work so hard.
It wasn't cool at all and while unrefined a victory is a

victory.

It's plenty to win in a cool way just when I have my equipment on.

When I noticed the cage of {Lightning Bolts} had disappeared and I

could hear the voices of everyone looking for me.

The light coming from the ceiling was just the same.

"{Status Open}"

【Corpse (Minotaur)】

Oh my~ it seems I went too far before taking the magic stone.

Before I realized I was drenched in sweat as well.

It feels disgusting but I can't use magic right...

Wait!! I was only able to confirm just this one but there's no

guarantee there aren't more!

I went on guard with my bayonet again and raised my voice.

"I'm over here!! Don't let your guard down!!"

I yelled as loud as I could with the voice coming from my

stomach.

I need to go in the direction I can hear Miduchi's voice

first.

She'll at least bring along my underwear right?

Chapter 239: The Battle Has Ended

Year 7446, Month 6, Day 30

Even when completely naked I was acting cool as I warned everyone

but the reply that came back was unexpected.

"He was over here! Madam, over here!"

I heard Angela's voice from behind me.

No~

I reflexively crouched down.

"I'm already!! Rather than that don't let your guard down!!"

Don't come over here.

While thinking that I cautiously scanned the surroundings. This

area is a reasonable distance away from the pillar in the center

and there's a considerable number of rocks around so it's difficult

to see very far but even then since plenty of light is shining down

you can see several tens of meters.

After remaining on guard for a short while checking the

surroundings I couldn't feel the presence of any new monsters. When

I turned just my head around Angela was a bit of distance away

checking the surroundings.

"Angela, where's Miduchi?"

"Over here. Madam, master is calling for you."

"Is everything fine!?"

Urged on by Angela, Miduchi came running over.

"! Pe..Person..is it?"

"It's not a person, I think it's a Minotaur. It says it's a

Calf-Person Race. Rather than, do you have my underwear?"

"Eh? You were able to check it's status?"

The head of the Mino's corpse at my feet has been completely messed

up so from just a glance it's not as if it can't be seen as just a large person. Though the color of it's skin is brown, it's not that it can't be seen as a well tanned light brown.

However, after being told it I noticed. Come to think of it status, I was able to see it right. I tried using Identify while putting on the underwear Miduchi handed me. It's fine.

"It seems we can use our Unique Abilities...Magic as well."

Hearing that Miduchi shouted in a loud voice to everyone that we can use magic again. Since there was no contact for now that anyone encountered a new monster we hit the ceiling a bit of distance away with a {Fire Ball} and used that as a sign to gather everyone here.

After all no one had seen any monsters.

"Look, he didn't even suffer any major injuries."

"That's not the problem!"

Ralpa came along while being scolded by Zenom. Since I was so desperate I forgot about it. This bastard, she was laughing seeing me fight naked with no armor or anything else.

"Hey, Ralpa, you, just now laughed right?"

"Look, isn't Al-san angry! Apologize!"

"That's right, in the first place laughing seeing master fight, what in the world were you thinking!"

After I glared at Ralpa while saying some complaints and Bel and Zulu started hitting Ralpa in the back of the head along with Zenom. Zulu brought along my boots, under armor, and rubber protectors. I took those and started putting on my under armor while waiting to hear how Ralpa was planning to reply.

"I mean, it's because he was completely naked and that place was dangling all over..In the first place, that sort of Minotaur which

is just big~ there's no way Al would lose right. Everyone worries too much."

Putting aside the second half, are you really saying that? You're saying that in front of everyone? Even Gwine is acting like she couldn't hear it while facing the other way. Toris and Bausotral have started looking at me with a strange expression.

"Hey!!"

"We were telling you to apologize right!"

Zenom and Bel poked the back of Ralpa's head again. Zulu who was lining up my protectors so they're easy to wear almost turned around as well. It seems a bit difficult for those who didn't actually see the fight to participate in the conversation.

"I'm sorry for laughing."

Ralpa gave in to the attacks from all sides and lowered her head while apologizing with a surprisingly honest feel. I'm putting my socks on. After putting my socks on, I started talking while putting my boots on my feet.

"In the first place you thought since I wouldn't be done in by this sort of thing there was no need to worry right? It was funny because I was completely naked so you couldn't help but laugh right?"

My voice came out with an unexpectedly gentle voice.

"Eh? Yeah, right. There's no way you could be done in by this sort of thing. Also, it's because everyone was so worried while waiting so.."

Ralpa said with her head still lowered.

I finished tying the laces on my boots before standing up and approached Ralpa while smiling.

"So you had faith in me I see."

Hearing me gently talk to her Ralpa raised her lowered head.

And then, seeing my face Ralpa's face stiffened up.

"Like hell I could accept that you idiot?! Let me hit you once as

well!"

I dropped my fist on her head and then put on the rest of the parts

of my protectors that Zulu was holding.

Everyone was watching as if it was only obvious.

"Putting that aside, Maruso, please go and get the magic

stone."

Miduchi requested for Angela to gather the magic stone but somehow

her voice is stiff. It feels like she's pushing herself not to

touch on the topic Ralpa brought up. While Angela was cutting open

the Mino's chest in order to get the magic stone, I equipped my

protectors but soon after some cheers were raised. Bel and Miduchi

were saying, "It's a {Magic Item}!". Everyone who didn't have

anything to do in the surroundings gathered at the corpse of the

Mino. I even heard Ralpa's voice. There's some enjoyable laughs as

well.

"Oh~ come to think of it that Mino, it had a battle axe didn't it.

That, so it was a {Magical.Weapon}!

"Congratulations, master!"

Zulu seemed happy as well as he handed me each part of the

protectors one after another. I could tell I was happy enough that

my face was grinning as well. I struggled quite a bit when I first

stabbed it with my bayonet but after that I just ran around while

throwing rocks so it wasn't all that difficult at all. No, I really

hit it with close to 100 rocks so you could say it was somewhat

difficult though.

I tightened the string on my helmet while approaching and said,

"Here, that axe, show it to me".

Huh? The axe is still laying on the side of the Mino and no one is

even glancing at it. Why?

"The {Magic Item} is this, it says it's the

【Loincloth.Of.Daring】!"

Miduchi made an amused smile as she turned around.

What in the world is that?

After approaching Angela already had her hand stuck into it's chest

and was struggling to tear out the magic stone and Bel was looking

away with a red face while Zenom, Toris, and Basutorial were happily

laughing.

Ralph was grinning while moving her hand to flip up the underwear

the Mino's corpse had on.

Gwine was saying "Stop that~" while still not looking away.

That leather loincloth was the {Magic Item}!?

I stop the idiot's unrefined behavior before she can put her hands

on it while tearing off the loincloth from the Mino's waist.

【Loincloth.Of.Daring】

【Guramu Manticore's Leather】

【Condition: Normal】

【Manufacture Date: 30/6/7446】

【Value: 1】

【Durability: 9999】

【Ability: Through an increase in defensive power to the equipped

location damage to the affects parts is reduced by 1 point. Also

Strength and Endurance are increased by 3 points but Speed and

Dexterity are locked at 2 points.】

【Effect: Equipping this increases Strength and Endurance to

increase by 3 points. Simultaneously, the proficiency levels of

each are increased by 3 points. However, the upper limit of Speed and Dexterity is locked to 2 points. In the case that Speed and Dexterity haven't reached that level of proficiency level then until the proficiency levels of Speed or Dexterity increase through some factor they won't grow any more. Also, through the benefit of a magic-based defense, the user will have their sense of fear dulled and no longer fall into panic. Furthermore, there is no effect on HP.】

Hn?

St..Stinksss~!

It's certainly true that it's amazing but like we could use something like this!

It's soaked with the sweat from the Minotaur.

"{Status Open}..It stinks!"

I was holding it with the tips of my fingers but since I felt a bad odor I moved my face near it to confirm and quickly threw it away.

"Judging from the name it seems like a relative of the

【Bracer.Of.Might】I'm sure but this, is there anyone who wants to use it?"

Toris and Basutorial were both checking the status of the loincloth

I threw away but it seems they were wincing from the smell the same as me.

"If we properly wash it and let it dry in the sun a number of times then I think most of the smell will fade though..I was already lent this a while back after all. I'll hold back this time."

Zenom was saying admirably while putting his hand on the axe but you too, just don't want to put on something like a monster's

underwear right?

"Come to think of it Toris, what about you?"

Zenom casually said.

"Eh?"

"No!!"

Toris raised his voice in surprise and at the same time Bel

rejected it. Right~

Toris was looking unpleasantly at the loincloth as well.

"I feel it's a bit off from my interests?"

While somehow showing a bit of discretion for Bel, Toris said that.

It's completely unrelated to interests right. It's just simply unpleasant right. I'm the same though. Although, while the upper limit of Speed and Dexterity fall, since the proficiency level is most like how much of your ability values you can make use of, so I think overall it wouldn't actually lead to something like a decrease in abilities I think? Rather, I think as a result it would only lead to an increase in abilities. Other than that, there were some plain but effective things as well. However, the Mino was using it, simply put it's underwear. Basutorial is making a frown after smelling it and the women are just looking from a distance not even thinking of touching it.

"Zulu, do you want to use it? Of course, it's no good until we wash and clean it first though."

Just in case I tried asking Zulu. Up until now he's just been

saying words of delight and congratulations and not really participated in the conversation, he didn't even try to touch the loincloth. If even he's against it then we'll quickly wash and sell it. Wouldn't it go for a considerable price? But as expected

selling it right now is..Oh~ how about I try getting Rodrick to use it?

"No way..It's a {Magic Item}!? I've already been given splendid equipment to use after all.."

After all it seems he doesn't like it either. Even if it's a precious {Magic Item}...

"How about master using it? Up until now master has always loaned out the {Magic Items} to other people to use and isn't using any of them yourself right?"

Eh? He's telling me to use this? Is he saying it seriously?

I couldn't believe it hearing that Zulu who was totally loyal to me say something that borders on harassment, so I reflexively went into a daze with my mouth wide open.

"No, you, I don't want to.."

"However, it's a {Magic Item} you know!? Doesn't it sound amazing from the name we heard just now! Something like Daring, isn't it perfect for master!"

Huh? This guy, is he saying that seriously?

"That's right. It certainly stinks but isn't it fine to just wash it? Then.."

Zenom said strangely as well.

Ah, the concepts of hygiene are different between them and us reincarnated people. The fact that I couldn't completely become an Orth person was a complex of mine as well but it makes sense now they weren't even the slightest bit disappointed or depressed about it.

"In the first place, it's a waste for a slave like myself to use a {Magic Item}. This is something that master should use."

I timidly looked at Miduchi's face but she was looking pretty

disgusted as well. Right.

I pushed Zulu on the back and said, "You use it. Become the number one daring man in the {Slaughterers}. I'm fine. It still hasn't even been a couple months since I got my new armor after all." and while pushing the effective but unpleasant thing on him.

"No way! It's something that's too great for me! I've never heard of something like letting a slave use a {Magic Item}!"

And he said something like that trying to show restraint. It can't be helped.

"What are you saying. Even though you're a slave you're a splendid part of our fighting power. Also, you're my head slave right? Something like a {Magic Item} you should boldly use it. In the first place think carefully about it. I'm sure this is too big for me. If it's you then wouldn't it be just a bit big? I'm sure fixing the size of a {Magic Item} is impossible right. If we carelessly try modifying it and break it then that would be a waste."

As expected hearing me say the same thing a number of times he wouldn't refuse it anymore. Zulu grabbed the smelly loincloth and was about to put it on while looking so moved he might shed tears at any moment. Seeing that in a hurry I said "Do it after washing it" and got him to give up on wearing it on the spot.

Zulu folded it up like it was the raiment of a heavenly nymph and put it into his rucksack.

After that, I took the magic stone Angela had pulled out and we all decided to investigate the room.

The magic stone was 【Magic Stone(Calf-Person Race)】 and the value with identify was easily over 500,000.

If we sell it then it's just 4,000,000 Z huh? Yeah, let's hold on

to this without selling it. I think it would be best to sell it as a set together with the loincloth someday. There's no basis for it though.

After that, the battle axe the Mino used was in good condition as well and it was of a considerably high quality. I guess you could call it the so-called wazamono. Obviously we retrieved it as well. It should be fine to let Kevin or Karimu use it. Judging from the size having the Laios Karimu use it would probably match better. Though I say that it's not like it's a {Magical.Weapon} so it might be fine to sell as well. It's fine either way.

We spent a considerable amount of time searching around in hopes of finding the device that created the {Lightning Bolt} and Anti-Magic Field. I thought there might be a hole opened in the ground or ceiling but there wasn't a single like that like and we weren't able to find a single clue.

Just as expected the teleport crystal was enshrined in the room in the center of the pillar and the inside of it wasn't as bright as day but the same type of room as usual in the dungeon. We weren't able to find anything different from a normal teleport crystal room. For the time being we decided to take a break in a corner further in the room.

Chapter 240: Special?

Year 7446, Month 6, Day 30

"I guess that the Minotaur was the guard that protects the teleport crystal room for the 8th floor. It seems that normally it would have been best to charge in and defeat it with everyone but...After defeating the guard the cage disappeared and the effect of the Anti-Skill Area was released I guess?"

And Miduchi said, so I thought, I see now. Incidentally, right now we're in the teleport crystal room and excluding the fact that there's only one entrance it's no different from the other floors. From a glance it's a room of about 30 meters and in the center is the pedestal with the teleport crystal.

"But will that Minotaur? Was it? but there's no guarantee it won't revive and a different monster might revive as well right?"

Bel said nervously but Miduchi gently denied it.

"We were able to use magic and Special Skills after defeating the Minotaur and the places other than here are still bright. Also, no monsters will approach the area of about 100 meters around the teleport crystal right? Probably but I think that the Minotaur is a special monster and after all I think it's natural to think it was a mid boss. There's no basis for it but it probably won't revive I think?"

No one Could clearly object to Miduchi's opinion. However, in that case wouldn't that fellow from the 14th floor not revive either? I don't really get it. I never want to go back again to check.

"Even if it were to revive, the problem is whether or not it will enter into this teleport crystal room right."

Toris said. Certainly that's true.

"Right. If it were to come into this room then it would be difficult to make it into a base."

Basutoral said as well. I'm of the same opinion.

In the past, I saw a {Scavenger Crawler} revive right in front of me in a room on the 1st floor. That time if I remember correctly something like a white fog appeared after about 10 hours and started whirling, then after giving off a single small flash of light it appeared. It might not be bad to spend half a day or so here keeping an eye on things to confirm whether or not it revives.

Conveniently it's still before noon right now.

"It can't be helped. Shall we wait on standby here for almost the whole day and confirm whether it revives..Let's patrol around outside until lunch."

While taking a break in the teleport crystal room we decided on the plan for today.

.....

We patrolled around this circular room together with everyone but as expected of it having a diameter of 2 km, we were only able to look around at just a bit of it until lunch. We returned to the teleport crystal room once and had lunch, then started looking around the room again in the afternoon. The time changed to evening and even by 7 pm the room was still as bright as the 7th floor. We didn't encounter any monsters either.

"I guess we've seen most of it right...Gwine, how was it?"

"..I saw almost all of it. Another seven areas, there's spots I wasn't able to see though..from here it would take a bit of walking but what should we do?"

After spending a bit of time searching her brain Gwine replied.

"Hn~ I'll think while eating. Shall we return?"

Just in case but before the 10 hours passed since I defeated the Minotaur I wanted us to return to the teleport crystal room. It should have been just past 10 am when I defeated it. I want to return by 8 pm or so.

We returned to the teleport room and ate the bento that Giberuti made for us this morning as dinner. We decided to do the remaining exploration tomorrow morning before we take a look in the 9th floor. This morning, when we went to leave the teleport room on the 7th floor I told Giberuti, "I intend to clear past the 8th floor so depending on the case we might not return for 2 days or so but don't worry too much." but the bento we received from him at that time was only enough until tomorrow morning. We intended on pulling through with preserved food after that.

I said that because it would be a pain to come here again but if that Minotaur revives again then in regards to the supplies from here on out, I'll need to think even more seriously about them.

Everyone's worries were focused on that point. Also, if the Minotaur revives then whether or not that Anti-Skill Area revives is also a problem.

If the Anti-Skill Area doesn't revive as well then it's not much of a problem. Putting aside Unique Abilities, if we can use magic then

as long as we don't let our guards down considerably then it's safe to say there's no problem. However, it could be thought that the Minotaur might use magic as well so there's a good and a bad to it.

Let alone, if a different type of monster were revive then letting it use some kind of Special Skill might be even more troublesome. Even when it comes to that {Gazer}, if it couldn't use Special Skills then it wouldn't be able to float or fire off beams as it rolls around on the ground, so all we'd have to do is surround and beat it to death that sort of easy win.

After eating our bentos and even when the time passed 8 pm there was no sign of a monster reviving and the outside was still bright. After all it seems it's just as Miduchi said and that Minotaur might be the type that doesn't revive.

I was just a bit relieved. No, we still can't let our guards down.

Ah, come to think of it since we couldn't use Abilities I guess that means my 【Gift of Natural Talent】 was no good either huh? It seems my experience points have increased but it's probably not three times more, I'm sure. I felt like it was just a bit of a waste but normally there's nothing like the amount of experience points gained increasing. Quite literally unless you have something like my 【Gift of Natural Talent】 or Miduchi's 【Party-ization】 then the chance of gaining increased experience points wouldn't happen so I guess it's hard to call it a waste or anything else.

This day after deciding on the order for keeping lookout we decided to rest as far from the entrance as possible. Among the lookout

team I told them to always have at least one person looking around inside of the room. Normally I'd like to have it two person per team and have them patrol around outside of the pillar but in the worst case on the occasion the monster revives I want to observe the point on whether it will enter the room so this time I just had them keeping watch of the entrance. Also, even for those resting I have us still wearing our armor and our weapons in an easy to grab location, a stance of vigilance unseen recently.

.....

Around 2 am I was woken up by Miduchi to switch out keeping lookout. Since I was just laying on a bed of dirt made with magic with my armor still on, honestly speaking I don't feel rested at all. This sort of thing can't even be considered a proper rest. It seems going too far in for long periods might be difficult. I wonder if around the 9th floor will be the limit?

Toris, Bel, Gwine, and Zulu were sitting in a circle a bit of distance from the entrance. It looks like no one was able to get much rest and are making rough faces not much different than myself. In order to wake from the sleep I created some hot water and made tea, then sipped it while making a sullen face with them.

I think it was a bit over the full 2 hours since we switched lookouts? The light shining in from the entrance rapidly faded.

In a hurry I called out to everyone and tried using Identify at the same time.

I can't use it!

"Gwine! Wake everyone up! Zulu and Toris watch the entrance! Bel prepare your bow!"

Ordered by me Zulu immediately took his sword and shield and fortified the entrance together with Toris on both sides. Gwine was yelling "Wake up!!" in a loud voice as she tried to shake them awake, Bel retreated back to around the teleport crystal and pulled out an arrow from her quiver.

"Magic..It's no good!"

"I can't either."

It seems Toris and Bel tried to use it right away. I went on guard with my bayonet as well while standing a bit away from the front passage leading to the entrance. The passage which has a height and width of about 2 meters and length of 10 meters to the room has already gotten quite dark. I noticed after approaching it but I could tell that whirlpool of fog that appears when monsters revive was there. The fog which appeared in an area centered about 4-5 meters from the entrance was slowly whirling.

Miduchi, Zenom, Ralpa, Basutoral, and Angela all ran over in full equipment after being woken up by Gwine.

"Miduchi. Unfortunately it seems your prediction was off. That fog is the sign of a monster reviving...And also we can't use skills or magic again."

I explained to Miduchi while also explaining to everyone else on guard and raised the level of caution.

"What should we do? Should we all charge at it the moment it revives? In that case while we still can now we should all go outside.."

Ralpa commented.

"Nn..That might not be bad either but I want to check the state of things. Until either it makes a move towards us or I say something no one move. Also Angela you keep an eye on things in the room. I can't imagine a monster appearing in this room but being careful just in case."

Previously, when we fell down to the 14th floor, it's regrettable that we returned right away. It would have been good if I paid a little bit more attention to what was outside of the rooms..and regretting it now is too late. That time, we had just escaped a huge crisis, riding on the momentum I made Miduchi my own, and we even talked to Lilus, so by the way I split ways with Miduchi and returned to being alone I didn't have enough leeway to think about things like that. That was just two years and a bit ago huh...

I lick my lips and try to relieve even just a bit of the tension.

Toris was licking his lips with his longer forked tongue as well.

It seems the whirl of fog is gradually increasing in force but it's still not very big. However, I feel like the time with the {Scavenger Crawler} it increased in force in a slightly shorter amount of time. That time if I remember correctly, after I defeated a different monster what revive was the {Scavenger Crawler}. I wonder what will happen this time?

Just like Miduchi said it's not like I don't feel like the room

outside of here is different from a normal monster room.

If I think about how it appears this close to the teleport crystal right from the start then it's probably true that it's special.

Also, in the case that the Minotaur really does revive again it might be possible that we'll get hands on another {Magic.Item} as well.

If that's really the case then who would seriously explore something like the 9th floor? I'd just check it out and after obtaining the magic stone from an unusual monster it's good-bye.

Not yet huh...

There's tension in everyone's faces.

Still not yet, not yet huh?

Gulp. Someone swallowed their saliva.

I guess it's about time?

Now!

Along with a short flash of light the fog dispersed. And then, almost like the {Terminator} that time slipped from the future, I can see a back rising up from the ground. The deep brown-bronze skin of what you could call it a big man. What's different from the {Terminator} is only the point that it's wearing a crude loincloth.

Seeing that Zulu and Toris both flinched and reacted but I guess they quickly remembered my order and started carefully observing things.

On both of my sides I could tell Miduchi and Ralpa stiffened up recognizing the monster.

Zenom fixed his grip on his magic axe.

Just like that several tens of seconds passed.

The man with a crude loincloth on slowly stood up with his back to us. I can't see anything but the back of it's head but it's got shaggy hair and I can confirm two cow horns growing from above it's

head. In it's right hand it's holding a one-handed axe with a long handle, a {bardiche} huh?

It's a Minotaur.

After the Minotaur stood up it stopped moving with it's back still facing us almost like a statue.

I guess he couldn't endure the tension, I could feel the presence of Basutoral shifting positions behind me.

"Don't move yet."

I said it in a whisper.

I guess around a few minutes passed?

No one moved or talked and there was no change in the Minotaur that could be seen.

Ah, come to think of it there's no sign of the {Lightning Bolt} cage appearing either.

I quietly turned around to Bel and gave her a sign with my eyes.

Following that I moved my left hand around to the front pointing to my right shoulder.

And then pointed at the Minotaur.

After nodding Bel fixed an arrow on her bow, pulled back the strings, and fired it.

The fired arrow splendidly stabbed into the collar bone of the Minotaur's right shoulder a bit closer to the spine.

"Gwidy!!"

The Minotaur let out a dull scream as it jumped in surprise and turned around here.

However, it quickly started restlessly looking around the area.

It still has it's posture lowered and axe at the ready.

It feels almost like it can't see into the passage that continues

into the teleport crystal room.

Just like that we waited for a short while and after watching the Minotaur struggle to pull the arrow out, I gave the sign to Bel again.

"Vioo~!!"

Once again the Minotaur screamed in agony from the pain and quickly turned around over here with it's axe ready.

There was a strange light in it's eyes as it slowly took it's left hand from it's axe and stretched it out towards the entrance.

"Hick! Ah.."

It seems Gwine hiccuped from the tension but the only ones who reacted to that was just us.

The Minotaur was just trying to stroke the space around the entrance and didn't show any sort of reaction.

Hmm.

I guess it can't see over here from there?

"Everyone, don't move..WA!!"

I shouted in a slightly loud voice to check but it didn't react at all.

"..It seems like it can't hear us."

Toris turned around towards me and said.

"Also, it seems like it can't tell the entrance right."

Miduchi narrowed her eyes and observed the Minotaur while saying.

"That thing, is it an idiot?"

You are too. Though I say that, it's certainly true that the Minotaur that looks like it's just touching an invisible wall investigating doesn't look like anything but an idiot.

"What should we do? Shall we all charge in at once?"

Basutorial said in a tense voice.

"Somehow, I feel like I could just shoot it to death like this.

Should I crush it's eyes?"

It's eyes aren't as huge as the {Ice Monster}? Can you do it?

Bel.

"Wait just a moment. Let's test things out a bit more. Zulu, stick

your leg just one step out from the passage."

Miduchi said that to Zulu and he took one step out from the

passage.

There's no change in the Minotaur.

It should be fine already.

"Return."

I called Zulu back in.

"Somehow it seems it can't come inside. Also, it seems it's fine

even taking one step or so out from the passage. It seems like our

voices aren't reaching it either.."

Toris said after keeping an eye on things.

"Then, it seems there's merit in making this place into a

base."

"That's true.."

I replied to Gwine while thinking for a bit. Most likely it's

probably not all that difficult to defeat that Minotaur. If Bel

just keeps shooting it with arrows I'm sure it'll die eventually

and if that's a waste of arrows then we could just have her crush

it's eyes then after standing Zulu and Toris at the front have

Gwine and Basutorial stab it with their spears all at once just that

would probably put it on the verge of death.

"Bel, crush it's eyes. After that Zulu and Toris make a wall with

your shields while charging it. Gwine and Basutorial use your spears

to stab it to death. However don't go too far. I want to see it's

status after all."

"I'll start from it's right eye."

The moment I finished saying it Bel immediately fired off an arrow.

Along with a dull thud the arrow stabbed into the Minotaur's right eye.

"Gimo~o~~!!!"

The Minotaur let out a scream in surprise and unable to endure the pain dropped it's axe holding both of it's hands to it's face.

In that moment Zulu and Toris lined up with their shields and ran off, after that Gwine and Basutorial followed behind them with their spears ready.

Soon after we could hear the muttering voice of the Minotaur and the scene of Toris and Zulu cutting down the Minotaur as it crouched over entered our sight.

And just as I thought that the two of them went on guard with their shields as they put distance between it.

Gwine and Basutorial aren't attacking anymore either.

Did it die?

【Identify】...I guess it's still no good.

I go on guard with my bayonet while approaching but I'm sure it's already on the verge of death.

Ah, I need to try this as well.

I carefully passed by the side of the Minotaur on it's last breath and went outside of the pillar.

And then, I heard the loud sound of the air being torn in the distance again.

The {Lightning Bolt} cage was created surrounding the pillar at a radius of around 200-300 meters.

I see now.

I quietly crouched down to the side of the Minotaur and checked
it's status.

【

【Male/1/7/7446】

【Calf-Person Race】

【Special Skill: Greater Instantaneous】

【Special Skill: Greater Strength】

Hmph.

Here.

Die.

【

【Male/1/7/7446.Minor Minotaur.Sentinel】

【Condition: Normal】

【Age: 0 Years Old】

【Level: 9】

【HP: -60(200) MP: 10(10)】

【Strength: 30】

【Speed: 20】

【Dexterity: 10】

【Endurance: 60】

【Special Skill: Greater Instantaneous】

【Special Skill: Greater Strength】

I see now.

Now then...

Both the loincloth and the {bardiche} it was holding it from the

start were completely normal items...I guess that means things

won't go that easily?

Chapter 241: Unexplored Territory 1

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 1

I look down at the corpse of the Minotaur with my arms crossed while thinking. The moment I walked outside at the same time as the cage of {Lightning Bolt}s revived the light appeared from the ceiling again. Obviously the moment the Minotaur was believed to have died with the same timing the cage of {Lightning Bolts} disappeared as well. Certainly this could be called a {Sentinel}.

Oh~ guess I should have them gather the magic stone?

"Zulu, take out the magic stone."

After ordering Zulu to gather the magic stone, I immersed myself in thinking even more.

It's necessary to properly investigate things in regarding to the revival of the Minotaur. I'm thinking of leaving the dungeon once, then coming back after making proper preparations to do that including making this room on the 8th floor into a base.

If we can't eat proper meals and get some good rest then it can't be called a base and if we're going to call it a base then we need an environment where we can relax and get some proper rest. Should I station someone here in shifts? No, no matter what the case that is..I guess it can be done. But, even if I were to pull some random members out from the {Butchers} even they're still adventurers. There's no guarantee they wouldn't get charmed and try to explore the 8th or 9th floors outside of this teleport room.

Even on the 8th floor there's still a considerable number of areas that you could say we haven't explored yet. I'm sure there will definitely be members who want to go and explore. Even if a dispatch leader from the {Slaughterers} holds them back, they should end up accumulating dissatisfaction. However, hm..since they'd be able to kill the Minotaur everyday if I think about the income from magic stones it should be profitable so I guess it's fine?

If we stay here for 5 days then you can obtain over 5 magic stones worth 4,000,000 Z each, depending on how things go it's possible you could even get 6 or 7. Even assessing it on the low end that's income of 20,000,000 Z. 2,000,000 Z per person. No, since I already said my combat slaves don't need to be counted I guess it's even more? If they stay here three times a month then they could earn 6,000,000 Z a month.

Whether or not there's someone who would even give up on that situation just to do something like dangerous exploration...

There isn't right~ There's no way there would be.

In that case I guess I should leave it to them huh? Even if I think about the expenses it should be a plus for me.

If the moment it appears, they all run out and beat it to death while it's still crouching over then I'm sure even a newbie or third-rate adventurer could kill it. Probably. In that case I guess even my four combat slaves would be plenty? Or I could buy a couple more for shift members...That might be good as well.

"Master, here's the magic stone..But.."

Hn? The magic stone Zulu handed me had a considerably bad color.

And it's a bit light. Using Identify to check and the value was

30,000. This is way beyond just 1/10th the value!?

Seeing my face surprised looking at the magic stone, Zulu gravely nodded and said, "It seems to be low in value.." with a very disappointed tone of voice. Uwa~ this, there's no way to make much. Ah, No, there's still the {bardiche}. Since it doesn't look to be used if we return with it then it should be possible to sell it for around 500,000 or so. It's huge that we can sell the weapons. Since it pretty much hasn't been used at all it could become a huge source of income. It's to the point where it's the first time I've seen a weapon in this good of a condition in the dungeon. This time we obtained two of those. Making 1,000,000 from just this is big.

I guess I'll try asking for opinions a bit?

"If this Minotaur were to revive again, what would happen if we fight head on from outside?"

"Putting aside the case of one on one like Al the first time, if we all do it together then wouldn't it be fine?"

Ralpa who had come outside before I noticed said. Yeah. I think that's the case as well but you know.

"If we were to do it with everyone here, Bel and Miduchi use the bow and {Blast.Back}..It might be good to include Zenom as well...And then there's Toris and Zulu as the tanks

{Shield.Holder}..Yeah. There's probably no problem I'm sure."

Alright, shall we return once? It's necessary to gather materials and whatnot for making it into a proper base. However, before that,

"Then everyone, leave behind any unnecessary belongings in the room. We're going to look into the 9th floor. After looking in just

a bit, we'll return once. After that I think we'll spend the time being carrying stuff in to make this into a base though.

Alright?"

And after saying that confirmed that everyone nodded. Things like the battle axes of the Minotaur that aren't necessary for checking the state of the 9th floor we put together in a corner of the teleport room. Of course, I ordered Angela and Zulu to throw the corpses of the Minotaur away in the distance. They're in the way just sitting in front of the entrance after all.

.....

Thanks to the unexpected Minotaur we ended up not being able to rush into the 9th floor during June but it's just a short couple of hours, if we had wanted to we could have stepped foot into the 9th floor yesterday after that, so I think it's plenty to consider this fine.

"Alright, let's go. Bonukorin"

We teleported into the end of a passage and immediately scattered while going on guard for attacks from monsters. After I confirmed that there were no monsters nearby I started using Identify vision to look down the passage but at around 70-80 meters it seems to loosely bend to the right so I wasn't able to see any further than that. However, it's a relief that there weren't any monsters in the range I could see. I lower my weapon and after everyone who scattered gathers back near the teleport crystal we relaxed a bit from preparing for an ambush.

Now then, in regards to the 9th floor, but we had already predicted it. That most likely it wouldn't be all that different from the 8th

floor. However, in terms of just the appearance it looks so similar that we really can't determine whether it's the 8th floor or the 9th floor.

"Just from looking it feels the same as the 8th floor right."

"..I guess so. Ah, I wonder if the monsters are the same?"

"If they're the same then we already know, so it would be quite easy. By the way master, congratulations on arriving at an unexplored floor."

"Master, congratulations. Let's say that master is the number one hero in the Kingdom!"

"Al-san, it's fine as #1 right?"

"Yeah, Bel, go with that."

"..It seems that the field of vision isn't any different so there's no problem with remembering the terrain."

"In other words I wonder if that means there's another Minotaur as the guard?"

"Yeah, I see. Saji, that's a good warning. Father what do you think?"

"There is, it would be best to think that's the case. Also we still don't know anything about the monsters on this floor. There's no guarantee that the monsters are the same as the 8th floor. Don't let your guard down until we confirm the status of a corpse."

"..!! Everyone, please be careful! I can smell something!"

Everyone went quiet hearing Angela's warning. Bel's ears stood on end and started twitching as she closed her eyes trying to concentrate on even the smallest sound.

Including myself we all continued looking down the passage while trying not to interfere with that, fixing our grips on our weapons.

"..What? Insect? No..I can't really tell but..Something is approaching us!"

After Bel said that Toris picked up a rock at his feet and after using the spell {Light} on it, threw it down the passage. The rock flew about 30 meters before rolling on the ground. We can vaguely tell that the passage curves further down.

"We'll attack it head on. Miduchi, Bel, shoot arrows the moment you can see the monster. We'll check it out for a bit and if it seems dangerous we'll retreat once and come back again. If there's a large number of enemies then Toris, Ralpa, Gwine, and Basutorial all look for the timing to use magic and attack keeping them in check. Since it's possible we might retreat, Zenom don't throw your axe."

And while I was saying that the monster appeared further down the passage.

"Cr..Crab?"

Ralpa let out a carefree voice but everyone quickly held their breath. Several giant crabs which just the width of their shells is over 2 meters appeared and they are coming our direction while walking to the side. Judging from just the shape of their shells the crabs look to be watarigani. However, they don't have webbed 9th and 10th legs and including their 1st and 2nd legs having pincers attached to them their legs are almost like the isogani that are on banks.

【

【Male/9/5/7434.Red Battle Crab】

【Condition: Normal】

【Age: 12 Years Old】

【Level: 5】

【HP: 212(212) MP: 1(1)】

【Strength: 25】

【Speed: 27】

【Dexterity: 8】

【Endurance: 35】

【Special Skill: Super Sense of Smell】

Miduchi and Bel start shooting arrows at the crabs. The arrows are stabbing into the joints between their legs and bodies but it's not doing much damage. Even in regards to magic depending on the angle it hits the shell some of it seems to be getting deflected. The only effective magic that hit it was the {Flame Bolt Missile} I was using.

There's no helping it if it can't be controlled~

"The bow and arrow are no good. Limit the magic to {Fire Wall} or {Flame Thrower}. Miduchi you aim for the stomach or eyes using missile together with me!"

And I while I was saying that they already approached quite a bit.

They move at a considerable speed.

It seems Bel and Ralpa used {Fire Wall} but at Ralpa's skill level she can only make a small wall. Gwine is using {Flame Thrower} to cover for her there. The Red Battle Crabs that make it through the gaps of those walls were shot through by Miduchi and my {Stone Arbalest Missile}. If possible I'd like to aim for the base joints of their legs and do damage while also breaking them. Toris and Zulu will stop the advance of the weakened crabs while Angela acts as a decoy moving around, then while they're caught up with that Zenom and Basutorial will damage them, that sort of

strategy.

Zenom closed in on them and used his magic axe to smash open the shells while breaking their legs. Of course the crabs were using their huge pincers to attack but since Angela is acting as a decoy they aren't approaching a close enough distance to get caught in the pincers. They're just luring them. Zenom made skilled use of controlling his axe, knocking down all of the attacks, and accurately smashing the shells splitting them. Basutoral is making good use of his long reach as she stabs the stomachs of them like crazy.

If we calm down and it then they're nothing at all. If we use attack spells normally then if it's just this number we can crush them from head on.

In the end there was a total of 8 Red Battle Crabs.

"This, I wonder if it can be eaten?"

And, the gluttonous one lifted up one of the huge claws hanging from her axe while saying but her adoptive father said, "If you think that you should try it first. I don't really care for crab or shrimp."

The appetizing scent of shellfish types being cooked spread around the surroundings and even if I tried using Identify to check it, it just said **【Red Battle Crab's First Leg】**, since it doesn't seem like there's any poison in abandon I took it along with the axe and tried cracking open the shell of the claw.

Since it's raw meat it feels like there's a bit of thickness to it.

I need to properly pass it over fire.

I carefully approached the flame of {Flame Thrower} to it and after the half-transparent meat turned white I erased the flame and used

a knife to cut off some of the white portion before putting it in my mouth.

The reincarnated people around me were watching over me closely.

In the worst case if I end up hurting my stomach it should be fine if I just use the spell {Neutralize.Poison}. Ah, I guess I should use it on it first. After using the spell {Neutralize.Poison} on the crab meat in my hand just in case I carried it to my mouth once again.

Ah, it works. This.

After just one bite I thought. I want some Kanisu.

"Want some?"

I said that and took another bite. All of the reincarnated people surrounding me nodded. It seems it's fine so there's probably no problem. After holding the claw of the crab and exposing it to the base I used magic to cook the meat again before holding it out to everyone.

"Try eating it. I think it's probably fine."

Several of them stretched out their hands so I handed over the claw to someone and then watched over for a short while. It seems that no one is showing any strange reaction so there's probably no "allergies". Though Baldukk and Rombertia are close to the ocean and there's already various crab dishes so I wasn't that worried about it. Hmm, it seems Miduchi is skillfully using {Flame Thrower} as well. That's a delicious smelling scent.

I went to where Zenom and my two loyal servants were standing on guard at the end of the passage. Along the way I picked up one of the legs. I had Zulu hold up the leg so it doesn't fall over and

used a knife to quickly cut through to the meat. I cut it down into three places from the base of the shell. This, doing it while it's still raw takes quite a bit of getting used to it. I'm glad my body still remembers it.

I ordered Angela to bring over one of the huge shells and took the sword out of my bayonet before cutting the remaining legs off at the base. Following that I stuck my sword into the center and caught from the stomach to back tearing off the shell all at once. After pouring some water into the shell and cleaning it out, I filled it with boiling water and used it like a container. After taking the leg meat from Zulu I immersed the meat into the boiling water. The leg meat quickly swelled up almost like a blooming flower. I then handed that to Zenom who's eyes went wide seeing that.

"There's no seasonings but well try eating it. It's fine to put some salt on it though. If this isn't delicious then crab really might not suit your tastes."

"It seems it hasn't been cooked very much but it's fine right?"

"I think that eating them like this is the most delicious way. Personally though."

"..Nn..Oh! It's delicious."

"It's one of the best things you can have together with alcohol.

Here, you two pick up a leg and eat as well. I'll take over keeping watch."

It seems Zulu and Angela couldn't skillfully take off the shell and were struggling with it. Seeing that when I helped them they smiled. Here, make sure you immerse it before the water cools

down.

The Red Battle Crab's were different from the boars on the 6th floor in that they have the special skill Super Sense of Smell. I wonder how it compares to the skill with the same name that Angela has? I think it might be the same as hers and increase in detection range based on body level. In that case since their body levels are low that would mean their detection range is that much more limited.

If we cook these things here creating the scent and then look for a good chance to use wind magic and send the scent circulate down the hall it should reach quite a bit into the distance. After all, the ones that were closest by these fellows are already rolling around right here now.

Next maybe I'll try using a Cloud or Web-type spell to defeat them.

After doing it a number of times and we establish the most efficient method to defeat them then I guess we can advance a bit further inside.

Chapter 242: Unexplored Territory 2

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 1

Lured by the scent of their allies corpses being cooked around 30

Red Battle Crabs in total appeared. After using various spells to overcome the three wave attacks we all let out sighs in front of the mountain of stupidly huge crabs piled on top of each other.

"We can't bring them all back with us right.."

Ralpa said as if she was disappointed from the bottom of her heart.

Honestly speaking, I feel completely the same. It's my first time

eating a crab so huge that even one claw or leg was beyond what just one person could handle. It's not so often that you can enjoy the luxury of eating your stomach full of genuine crab meat.

Incidentally, the spell that was the most efficient at clearing

through them was {Acid Cloud} but since the meat corrodes along with the shell our long awaited pray ends up becoming inedible so we rejected using it. The other Cloud type spells weren't very effective and in the end didn't even work for slowing them down.

And then, even freezing them wasn't very effective. It's big that

we can stop their movements but even if they're completely frozen they stay alive for a considerably long time afterwards. Aren't they not even barely breathing? Since it seemed like it would just take time we gave up on it. Even when we just froze their legs they

started cutting off their legs partway through. Thinking it was fine I tried approaching one and was surprised when it suddenly cut it's own legs and started moving. It's dangerous right.

The spell that showed it's power among those was {Web}. After being caught up in a highly adhesive string when their movements dull Gwine and Basutorial would stab with their spears destroying their brains. In my past life, I made good use of my experience fishing for black porgy using small shore crabs like tank crabs or aburakani. The position of their brains was almost the same. The sole problem that could be called a problem is that the same as Cloud types the only ones who can currently use it are Miduchi and I but eventually Toris should be able to use it.

The Red Battle Crabs we defeated using {Web} weren't cooked or had their shells cracked or damages, so other than the hole in between their eyes where the spear stabs in they're clean. If we carefully disassemble them then we should be able to get about three buckets worth of kani miso and everything in the world is great. If we cut off the claws or legs from the body and tie them all together then one person should be able to carry about one crabs worth of them. The body is too big so there's no way to bring it along just like that. We decided to boil the kani miso before carefully taking out the contents and filling it into the shell of a claw that we took the insides out of before bringing it back with us. If we put some salt on it later and heat it up then we can deliciously eat it. It might be good to boil it a bit and reduce the water content by half before putting it into a bottle as well. If we leave it be for a

few days then it'll be ready to eat. It's kani miso shiokara. I

want some squid to go with it.

Toris who was blinded by the kani miso forcefully took everyone's

flasks and packed those full of kani miso as well. I just wanted

that while rolling the magic stones from the crabs in my hands

while combining them into just one. After all, the value isn't

anything great.

They're only around 3,000 each. It's still better than Gnolls or

Goblin Zombies but it's less than Orks or Hobgoblins.

Now then, Toris should already be satisfied.

"Alright, then let's head back. Be careful since we have a lot of

baggage."

When I said that calling out to everyone, unusually Gwine raised

her voice with an opposite opinion.

"Since we've gone through the trouble of coming to the 9th floor,

how about returning after taking a quick look inside of a monster

room.."

Oh? This beard-san sure is proactive today. In regards to our bags

for the time being we could leave them in the surroundings of the

teleport crystal and grab them when we return so there's no problem

on that end though.

"Yeah, it wouldn't hurt to just do that much right!"

Ralpa jumped on that idea. With this I've made my decision. Let's

go back.

"No, that's no good. First off we need to properly make the

teleport room on the 8th floor into a base. We'll make that into an

easy to relax place. It's also necessary to carefully investigate

the Minotaur as well. Seriously exploring the 9th floor will come

after that."

"I already get that but you know, let's at least take a look at the boss of the monster room. Since we lured over that many crabs there might not even be any monsters up to a monster room."

"Since there were crabs there might be a prawn!"

..So that's what it was. No, prawns are a favorite food of mine as well. If there was something like a meter class prawn then I might quite literally jump up in delight. However, hearing that it's even more of a reason not to go. Prawn hunting (temporary name) is something we should do after we can properly rest our bodies on the 8th floor. Rather~ there's no guarantee that there's prawns right. Also, there's a considerable number of crabs that can live in places with almost no water but I've never heard of prawn like that.

Even if there was then I'm sure it'd be a monster so I feel like they'd have huge claws again. If it comes to that then it's already no longer a prawn. It's a Crayfish-Lobster right. In terms of prawns I'm in the faction that believes tiger prawns are the greatest. Tiger prawns are delicious no matter how you eat them whether it be boiling, baking, frying, steaming, or in sashimi. There's not many variations on how you can eat prawns other than tiger prawns. Even when it comes to Ise-ebi if you heat them up they're a great delicacy but in sashimi they just have a consistency when being chewed and the flavor isn't all that great. In reverse the botan prawns and budou prawns are extremely delicious as sashimi but other than that they're not the greatest, and it's just about those three in all.

"No~pe. We're going back."

I didn't say as far as that there's a high probability there aren't any prawns. It's because I've already tasted enough of the fact that you never know what will happen in the dungeon that I'm sick of it. I have the responsibility of making some earnings for the {Butchers}, {Exterminators}, and {Slaughterers} in this dungeon without permitting any casualties and paying everyone a reasonable amount in compensation. It's not a matter of whether I can do it or not. At the very least since I'm having them accompany me on my dream, whether or not they agree with that, at the bare minimum just I have the obligation to think like that I'm sure.

Something like going deep into a new floor before we've made proper preparations is absurd. Particularly the 9th floor and beyond which are said to be unexplored territory, leaving it to the momentum and charging ahead is something we must not do. Recently we haven't seen them at all so they're easy to forget but including pitfalls we need to properly use spells to investigate the traps that are in the passageways.

This time we should just be satisfied with taking a look in the 9th floor.

.....

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 1

We returned to the 8th floor and were barely able to move holding all of the bags we needed, it was that level of overloaded bags.

Each of our bags ended up getting in the way of each other so we started teleporting back to the 7th floor in order.

Since we didn't return last night, it seems Giberuti was worried

but when going to a new floor it was common for us to return later than expected and since I hinted that we might be late this time, he waited while preparing some food that can be preserved reasonably well and required slowly cooking over time.

There we returned carrying a large amount of crab legs and claws so it seems he was surprised by that appearance.

We discussed the circumstances lightly and after saying we'd be returning to make the teleport room on the 8th floor into a base in a few days he requested a large amount of ice. Even if it can't be helped that the ice will eventually melt, it seems he wanted to freeze store the soup that he went to the trouble of preparing for a bit longer.

Of course, there's no way to turn that offer down. I made as much ice as Giberuti wanted and additionally shaped it so it was convenient for him and then we all left the dungeon together. Just tonight we'll get some good rest in the inn but after preparing the necessary materials we'll be building the base again starting tomorrow.

Ah, that's right. For the time being I guess it's fine not to sell the battle axe. If Kevin and Karimu say they want to use the battle axe and bardiche from the Mino then it might be fine to give or lend it to them for cheap..Maybe? It's also possible to sell it as a set with the magic stone..Chi..I wonder if it won't look good if I don't throw the old man some bait occasionally? Though I say that there's no need to hurry either. It should be fine to do additionally when I go to make deliveries this month. If I think that the 3,500,000 Z is regrettable that's true but it might be

best to think of it as a necessary expense.

However, we're selling the crab magic stones. I left just one of them without combining it to keep. Since the Red Battle Crab is the magic stone of a monster I've never heard of before, if we use that as evidence of reaching the 9th floor then our reputation will increase again I'm sure. Additionally we can pull apart from {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz}.

Uhihi~ I can already see old man Viruhaima's mortified face now. If sis Anderson were to just abandon that old man already and come serve under me then I wouldn't treat her badly.

"Alright, today let's go to Murowa and eat ourselves full on crab.

Zulu, Angela. For the time being it doesn't matter where so go and borrow a large two-wheeled wagon by tomorrow with this. It can't be helped if it's a bit heavy."

I gave the two slaves money and had them prepare a two-wheeled wagon. During that time we gathered the crab legs and claws together in several pairs each and froze them. Eh? On this occasion we should at least go to Dorureon? That place isn't bad either but it's a bit too high class so even if we bring in these huge crabs it'll just be a bother. It doesn't take much work to peel the shells either so the more casual Murowa is fine. Zulu's woman is there as well. In the first place John and Terry are still young so unless it's a year-end party as expected Dorureon is..Right?

We gathered quite a bit of attention seeing the {Slaughterers} leave the dungeon carrying giant crab legs the likes of never seen before. We can't leave our bags alone until the wagon comes so just Toris, Zenom, and I went to cash in the magic stones. While doing

that some time passed and by the time we returned Catherine brought along John and Terry to start setting up the Baldoggie cart.

Everyone else was helping that out as well but it was obvious their aim wasn't Baldoggie.

"Hey, we can't eat the crab here. After Zulu and Angela finish up negotiations and come we're leaving right away. After returning to the inn and changing there's also buying materials and such as well so there's no time to be snacking in between. Leave this place to Cathy. Also Cathy. Tonight as at Murowa. John and Terry you two look forward to it too. You can eat to your heart's content of something delicious."

Around the time I said that Zulu and Angela returned with a two-wheeled wagon. We split up and started loading the frozen crab on to it before returning to Boil Manor.

After that just as planned we split up and bought a stove, blankets, cooking utensils and had a party at Murowa. I was worried about the fact that we didn't have any seaweed or bonito flakes but Miduchi brought out some dried shiitake to make the stock and we enjoyed some shabu-shabu as well as some grilled it until everyone ate their fill. Ah, of course we put plenty of kani miso in it to eat with it. It seems Zenom acknowledged it's affinity with vodka as well. A good~ trend.

.....

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 2

The next day, carrying along a lot of bags we {Slaughterers} stepped foot into the dungeon again. If there's no problem then tonight the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} were scheduled to return

from the dungeon but right now turning the 8th floor into a base and investigating the Minotaur is urgent business. I'll have them take their three day break starting tomorrow just as planned. On the second day of the break, the night of the day after tomorrow we'll return so I left a message for them not to worry about us. That day, I intend to report that we cleared the 8th floor and entered the 9th floor.

Now then, on the evening of the day after tomorrow we should defeat the Minotaur again and have finished carrying the bare minimum materials into the teleport room on the 8th floor. Since this time the objective is carrying materials, we left behind Basutorial and his wife along with the message to the other members of the {Slaughterers} and he isn't accompanying us. That's why we don't have to split up the party either. If things go as planned then after that we'll immediately return once and after reporting things to everyone, depending on the case we'll prepare for a long-term battle and head back to the 8th floor again. We plan to continue staying in the dungeon at that time until we can get some kind of proof on the cycles of how the Minotaur revives.

"Alright, let's go, Rorufamu!"

.....

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 3

Just as planned yesterday we cleared through the 3rd floor and on the second day, today we plan to clear through to the 6th floor.

That morning, at 5 am we all finished up breakfast and put on our equipment before teleporting into the 4th floor.

Just past noon we cleared through the 5th floor and arrived at the teleport room on the 5th floor at around 1 pm. We had a simple lunch and decided to take our first long rest break for today. Since we need to take a shower and get rid of the scent here after all.

In a corner of the room, whether it be {Verdure.Brotherhood} or {Black.Topaz} is unknown, but that the camp preparations there showed signs of being used gave us peace of mind. It's because judging from the state of things it's obvious that they're struggling quite a bit with the 6th floor. If they intend on aiming for the 7th floor then I'm sure camping in the teleport room on the 6th floor would be the main after all.

Since there's a considerable amount of raw vegetables and quickly prepared ingredients left here then that means this 5th floor is still their main camp.

"Those guys, it seems they're struggling quite a bit."

"That's true. It did take us a considerable amount of time on the 6th floor even when we had Gwine after all.."

"Wouldn't it be fine for another one or two years?"

"I'm sure it'll take about that long."

Zenom, Toris, Bel, and Zulu were amusing themselves discussing recent events while taking off their armor. Miduchi was enjoying the convenience of how easy it is take off the rubber protectors as she was about to take a light shower while Gwine, Angela, and I were explaining things about the new model of protectors to Ralpha. Buy a suit. After cleaning up things from dinner Giberuti went around the camp confirming the stock of supplies and such here and

there just in case.

"Master, there's nothing out of place."

"I see, thanks for your work."

I didn't think that old man Viruhaima or sis Anderson would do

something stingy like messing with our supplies or belongings so my

reply ended up carefree but I'm sure even for Giberuti it was just

confirming things just in case.

"I'm done."

It seems Miduchi finished her shower. Gwine who had already

finished taking off her protectors jumped into the shower

room.

"Mu~ after all that's nice~ Just a moment Maruso, take off the band

in back."

"I'll take it off from the right."

"Yeah."

Leather armor is one of the easier types of armor to equip and

remove but since it's still got various leather bands and strings

tied up here and there it's reasonably troublesome. Also, in the

case that you're equipping or removing it alone it takes quite a

bit of time. It's no comparison for the rubber bands which you can

adjust the length of on top of expanding and contracting.

And then across our 2 hour or so rest break we all finished taking

our showers.

"Alright, let's go. Zarihamu!"

.....

After advancing for a bit relying on the map in Gwine's head of the

6th floor we discovered an abnormality.

Along the way in the passage there were corpses of two {Cave Boars}

laying around. The magic stones had already been removed.

"Traces of those guys huh? I wonder if we can have it easy for a short while?"

Zenom said while investigating the wounds on the {Cave Boar}.

"There's no traces of magic..I can't tell what it was but as expected of them."

I said while looking at the wounds on the {Cave Boar} as well.

"Well even we can take on the {Cave Boars} without magic as well but.."

"Though that's the case, excluding Al-san, Zenom-san, Miduchi, and Ral, we would need a {Magical.Weapon} right."

Oh? On my side Miduchi was acting a bit embarrassed. Recently Bel stopped calling Miduchi's name using san. Occasionally she ends up using it but that's just because she still hasn't stopped the habit. (Compared to Miduchi) it seems that being called out intimately by her nickname from the young Bel makes her happy feeling like she's really the same age...I wonder if it's that sort of thing?

Putting that aside, Bel is quite harsh as well. If that's how it is then doesn't Toris who isn't holding a {Magical.Weapon} come off as quite pitiful? The next time something appears let's hand it to Toris.

After that we walked for quite a bit but I guess because the monsters were already cleaned up for us things proceeded quite smoothly. Since then, while we didn't actually run into any corpses of monsters along the way but there were corpses laying around in the boss rooms. Though as expected the traces of magic attacks stood on these ones.

And then I think it was after we advanced for around four hours or so?

It seems we caught up to them.

..That voice is, {Verdure.Brotherhood} huh?

Old man Viruhaima's pointlessly cool sounding voice was echoing around.

Chapter 243: Unexplored Territory 3

Year 7446, Month 7, Day 3

Next to me Bel's ears stood on end.

"Uwa!!"

"Roo~kku!"

"It's a monster!!"

It seems that the {Verdure.Brotherhood} is in the middle of combat.

Judging from the echoing of their voices they're probably around 100 meters or so ahead? Since the ceiling of the 6th floor is considerably high if you don't yell with quite a loud voice it wouldn't reach 100 meters or so away. In reality the voice from just now felt pretty fragmented.

"Gwine, there's still quite a bit of distance to the monster room ahead of here right?"

"Yeah..Probably..It's about 500 meters or so ahead.."

Gwine replied quickly. That's right isn't it, just a short while

ago Gwine said we had just cut past 1 km left. And, in that case then that combat isn't a monster room but a hallway huh? Most likely a boar teleported in and they were ambushed or something.

"..There's two boars..or maybe three?"

Bel said while straining her ears.

"There weren't any traps right?"

I asked Gwine who was still facing ahead.

"Yes."

Alright.

"..Hmn. We're doing a formation change. Ralpa, Zulu. You two watch the rear as the {Tail Watchdogs}. It's unsightly being caught from

behind after all. It's fine to take it slowly so follow along while remaining careful. In front of them is Miduchi and Bel. Adapt to the situation using projectile weapons. In the center is Gwine and Giberuti. Gwine don't separate from Giberuti's side. Everyone else will face the front with me."

After lowering my bayonet from my shoulder I briskly started walking. Behind me on the left is Angela and to my right Toris lined up, behind him on the right is Zenom.

"Shitttt~!!"

"Renba! Do it now!!"

"Oooooo~!!"

It seems they're quite busy.

After glancing behind the only one making an impatient expression was Gwine. Opposite from that everyone else was making severely calm expressions as they walk. Even then their speed has increased. Judging from the volume of that voice, most likely we'll arrive at the place in another ten seconds or so. I guess around 20 meters beyond that right curve?

"Benno, to the right!!"

"Ah!"

"Shit, let's go with 4433! Front line hold out for 5 seconds!!"

"Attack with spells!"

Oh~ we can't miss that!

I hurry up and run while deploying an {Anti-Magic Field} just in case.

It would suck if a spell attack comes flying the moment we turn that corner after all.

I guess it's because I suddenly started running. I could feel the

presence of everyone else start running after me in a hurry.

After turning the corner and it was just perfect timing.

"As expected!"

"Now's the chance!"

"Basu, endure for just a bit longer!!"

"Oraaa~!!"

Partway through a passage with a width of about 10 meters, looking from my left the {Verdure.Brotherhood} had their backs to the wall as they were frantically fighting against 3 {Cave Boars}. And then, I was conveniently able to see the moment the leader Viruhaima fired off an attack spell towards the boar that had it's ass facing me.

The spell Viruhaima used with his left hand facing a boar that was around the center of the party was {Flame Arbalest}. Since he was at a distance close enough that it could be called close combat, the Arbalest splendidly hit and the boar suffered heavy injuries. The boar let out a cry of pugyu~ but it was still alive and moving around. The front line tank {shield.holder} woman hit it with her shield.

Following that the female dwarf magician {Impact.Guard} used the spell {Flame Arbalest} as well and seemed to have aimed for the {Cave Boar} in the center but unfortunately she missed. The spell attack hit the wall on the right and dispersed. Furthermore the female Wolf-person magician {Impact.Guard} sent a {Stone Arbalest} flying and while that hit the wild boar, this one was shallow and didn't do much damage. The boar still seems to have plenty of energy and won't fall over. The male tank at the front line {Shield.Holder} was skillfully using his shield and long sword to

parry the tusks that were being waved around.
After being hit with a {Flame Javelin} from the Bunny-people man who acts as {Spear.Interceptor} the center boar finally fell over. Without a delay the Bunny-person went to support the {Shield.Holder} and thrust with his spear from its blind spot stabbing into the boar's head.

With this there's just one boar remaining. Judging from the corpses laying around along the way it already shouldn't be a threat for {Verdure.Brotherhood}. That one was taken care of by the combination of the sub-leader and elf Basu and the dwarf Renbaru.

It should already be safe from spell attacks coming flying over here. I stop maintaining the {Anti-Magic Field} that ended up pointless and decided to watch but the boar was just one-sidedly killed without anything particularly interesting happening.

"Chi..So it was you?"

That's quite a greeting. I wonder if he thought that {Black.Topaz} has running up or something?

"Well hello there.."

I replied like that while observing the state of {Verdure.Brotherhood}.

The one fallen at Viruhaima's feet is mostly like the bow using elf man who was hit in the initial ambush, if I remember correctly his name was Rokkuweru.Marosutaron? He's a magician that survived when the half first-rate party {Blazers} was destroyed 2-3 years ago. It seems he's seriously injured. What are you going to do?

Viruhaima-san~

Including Viruhaima there's 5 magician in the

{Verdure.Brotherhood}. Among those only two of them can use all elemental magics including Viruhaima but they shouldn't all have reached level 5. {Cure All} is impossible right? Well, even if they use regular {Cure} at least twice then he shouldn't die but as expected if it's just that. I wonder if they'll use their precious medicine that uses magic stones as ingredients? Well, even if they're expensive since one of top teams has plenty of assets there's no worry on that end, I'm sure it's something that's meant to be used at times like these. It can't be helped hesitating to use them.

"Hey~ Greed-kun. It's some kind of fate that we met each other in this sort of place. If you have any spare {healing potions} could you sell them to us? The number we have on hand has gotten a bit lonely.."

Viruhaima made an unpleasant face as if his moment of weakness was seen while the sub-leader elf warrior Basu put his hand on his shoulder pulling him back and then called out to me like that.

"Ya~ if it isn't Basu-san...If you're fine with the sale price of Misshizu then we can sell a couple of them to you. But, that is, do you have that much cash on hand?"

Misshizu is the name of a company that deals exclusively in medicine and along with the similar businesses of Bari and Rubenno they're the mainstream companies in Baldukk dealing with adventurers. Of course, there's plenty of non-adventurers who are in their care as well. Like the nobles and rich people of the capital..and the army.

And, {healing potions} can display effects around the midway point between {Cure} and {Cure Light}, just one potion will cost you around 250,000 Z at market price and they're considerably expensive. Of course, excluding the army the one buying the most of them is me. Normal adventurers will usually at most buy numbing potions or monster-based antidotes and paralysis removal potions for around several thousand to several tens of thousands of Z. Not to mention in most cases it's normal for them to be sold by the weight of the contents. It's said if they're properly sealed then the effects won't fall even over several years.

The {potion bottle} is a bottle almost like a test tube with a small ork the size of an adult's little finger and you can properly stop it up with the cork. Even just these shock-proof bottles are around 5,000 Z each.

Whether it be an external wound or bone fracture if you don't drink it the effects won't work. It is a magical medicine after all. It's said that the recipe is forbidden from ever being taken outside and it seems they mix magic stone powder, leaves, and such with a secret ratio. By the way the flavor is kind of like the hangover medicine sold in drug stores of Japan, Somarukku and putting it frankly it's disgusting.

Ever since two years ago, reflecting on when I fell down to the 14th floor I've made sure all of the members of the {Slaughterers} are always carrying at least four of these in the so-called survival kit pouch we're all carrying on the back of our waists. Obviously, I told them that if they end up separated from a member

who can use magic and get injured to use those without hesitation.

Also, I always have a certain amount in stock at the foremost base.

While buying that one paralysis poison for use against ogres I've been buying them here and there and that added up to a decent amount of stock.

Including myself other than the initial training when I first

introduced the potions no one has been in the care of them though.

It's a waste after all.

"Idiot~ don't mistake me. Do you have four of them?"

Basu said that while grinning and handed over some gold coins. He~

four of them is quite the spirit. I took out the four {healing potions} from the survival kit on my waist and handed them over while talking.

"If you're going to use them right away then please do. Please return the bottles."

"Chi..You're as steady as usual."

Basu made a bitter smile while even then making a happy expression as he took the healing potions from me and returned to his allies.

It seems he's using them right away. I can hear him take the cork off and use {Status Open} to confirm the contents.

"Since you're taking money, I won't offer any thanks."

Viruhaima was saying with a sullen expression but there was a somewhat soft feel to his tone of voice.

"I did take the money after all. There's no reason to thank me."

Though I say that, as a matter of fact I am profiting just a bit.

Since we're often bringing in materials like the {Scavenger Crawler} feelers and purchasing paralysis poison and expensive

healing potions, we're honored customers of Misshizu. They sell to us just a bit cheaper than normal.

After letting Rokku drink the medicine, Basu returned the bottle to me while saying, "We're saved. Thanks. We want to keep our mana as much as possible just in case we really need to use it after all."

"Hey, Greed. Just watch. After this time if we find one more new route then next up is the 7th floor. With this we'll get our hands on the treasure of the 7th floor as well and quickly overtake you. If you get full of yourself just defeating ogres and trolls then we'll surpass you before you even notice us."

And Viruhaima was saying things like a poor loser before walking off right away. I waved my hand as well while saying, "Well, please give it your best. I was just feeling there was no competition like this after all.."

"Ah, that's right, I forgot to mention it. There's still a considerable distance from here to the teleport crystal."

Now then, I wonder how he'll respond?

"Hmph, I'm sure there is. Since we're making a map as well after all. We've already gone this way several times. We'll arrive by this evening."

"Pu"

Ralpa couldn't hold back anymore hearing Viruhaima's boast and suddenly burst into laughter.

As a matter of fact I was about to as well.

After all we had planned to arrive in another hour and a half.

"Ho!? What time did you enter the 6th floor?"

Following up for Ralpa's outbreak I raised my voice loudly as if I

was surprised.

"Fu..I think it was just past 10 am."

Today we stepped foot on this floor at around 3 pm I think it was?

A 5 hour difference huh?

Thinking about {Sun.Ray}'s speed and it's quite, no it's a

tremendously fast pace I'm sure. There's enough reason just for him

to boast about it. As expected even I was a bit surprised. My

eyebrows must have moved.

"That is quite..As expected of trying to reserve your mana for

healing.."

While they're considerably slower than us, they must have had

combat and such, so I'm honestly surprised.

"What is it? Does it surprise you?"

That's an irritating face.

..Ah. I guess that's what it is?

"Well~ of course..I was surprised."

Well, it's fine. Seeing the faces of Basu and the other members I

already figured out that 10 am was a lie.

"Fu~ when did the {Slaughterers} enter? I'm sure it was after us

but we did clean things up quite a bit along the way. It was easy

right?"

Annoying~ Certainly all four of the monster rooms we passed through

were filled with corpses. However, there were only boar corpses in

two passages along the way for a total of 3 of them. Also, from

looking at the members of the {Verdure.Brotherhood}, I'm sure they

departed considerably early in the morning. Their expressions are

those with a reasonable amount of fatigue built up.

"Yeah. Thanks to you. I'm grateful for that. Well then"

I replied while walking off, this time I waved over my

shoulder.

Ahead of here, there's a three-forked passage but I decided to go out of our way to choose the slightly roundabout course. Well~ if it's us I'm sure even just taking the roundabout route will only add about 30 minutes. It's not a big problem at all.

Putting that aside, I'm sure it's about time for

{Verdure.Brotherhood} to have established multiple routes through the 6th floor. In regards to that it's quite admirable. As expected of them being greater veterans. In that regard we're still completely amateurs.

Even this time the reason they bought healing potions from us was probably proof of their caution. They never know when monsters might teleport in right besides them on the 6th floor so they shouldn't be able to let their guards down at all. I'm sure they can't even let their guards down on breaks so they must want to reserve their mana for as long as possible. If when they really need they can't use attack spells because they're lacking in mana then a desperate fight is guaranteed and if they're careless it might lead to a number of serious injuries.

However, fortunately I was able to see something good. With this I was roughly able to get a grasp on the intervals between attack spells of {Verdure.Brotherhood}'s magicians. In the worst case..I guess that won't happen huh?

Author's note: List of {Verdure.Brotherhood} members:

Roberuto.Viruhaimā Elf Spear.Sword.Magic

Bāsuraio.Kerutein Elf Long Sword.Shield

Renbāru.Kōrumain Banīman Spear.Magic
Sara.Pachīku Hyūmu Long Sword.Shield
Bennoko.Hyūrunī Hyūmu Long Sword.Shield
Jurietta.Kamushu Urufuwā Bow.Magic
Rizāra.Reddofurea Dowāfu Glaive.Magic
Renbaru.Fureimushafuto Dowāfu Battle Axe
Rokkuweru.Marosutaron Elf Bow.Magic

Chapter 261: Plans are Undecided

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 4

Now then, various things happened during the days off but let's get back into the spirit starting today we're entering the dungeon again. Let's switch and go.

However, thanks to that young lady we were given a good amount to think about yesterday as well. But in the end we weren't able to settle on anything. We ended up largely splitting into two plans for the near future.

Plan 1 was in any case for everyone to work together and reach the farthest depths of the 13th floor(probably) and bring an end to things in regards to the dungeon of Baldukk.

In comparison plan 2 was that there's no doubt reaching the 9th floor we're at now is an unprecedented achievement so we'll hurry and finish up the map of the 9th floor and after that earn time. After the 9th floor map is somewhat completed Gwine, along with a noble like Toris or Rodrick and if necessary Ralpa and the {Butchers} or {Exterminators}, otherwise I would buy new combat slaves to act as guards, and have them go to start producing a map of the neighboring areas around the Dirt Plains. Depending on the case it's fine to have Miduchi go as well.

Plan 1 itself is simple. If we give it our best to reach the depths of the dungeon then the plan is that we'll naturally gather treasure as well and in the end make the capital needed by selling those off. Honestly it's not any different from up until now.

The merit is the point that it's simple and clear so anyone can understand it. Also if we can obtain something that acts as proof of reaching the depths of the 13th floor then it will add a certain amount of gold lining to my actions. This is something worth taking into consideration because there's a high probability of obtaining it regardless of the treasure which has a strong luck factor. Also, it can't be overlooked that it makes it possible from start to finish for all of us to continue to act together. And then, the thing that needs to be taken into

consideration the most but through engaging in combat against monsters in the dungeon we can hope for physically leveling up of all of the {Slaughterers} as well.

The demerit is that reaching the 13th floor is the same as challenging an unknown danger and depending on the case it's possible we could have some casualties. And then we can't even imagine how much time it will take but just in regards to this point it's at most two or three years, no matter how long it's expected not take more than four years.

The reason is because we were able to clear through the 8th floor and step foot on the 9th floor in the four years since I came to Baldukk. From here on out, it's fine to take into consideration an increase in the difficulty of clearing as well but we think even at best it would take about double the amount of time.

Well, even if it takes four years the age of us reincarnated people would be 22 years old. We're still plenty young. If you ask me I was originally thinking that I wanted to find a means to earn the capital before I turned 30 so it's true that our current pace is largely exceeding that. If we continue like this then it might not necessarily be a bad choice.

And then plan 2. You could say that this is in some meanings a change of plans. Rather than a change of plans though it's more of just accelerating a portion of the actions I had planned. It's not like I didn't have the plans at all up until now.

This time, we weren't able to accurately identify if the objective was a political maneuver but an illegitimate child of the King came to my place asking me to marry them. It's an plan that surfaced thinking about people like that young lady increasing from here on out.

Putting aside an illegitimate child who to the end just came to meet me on their own will, if a formal princess or some noble's daughter(whether they're illegitimate or otherwise) comes seeking a meeting properly through their parents then it's not so easy to turn down. Even when it comes to dragging out the meeting and earning time it probably wouldn't even last half a month.

In other words, on the spot in the meeting, whether it be strange conditions including asking me about what area of the Dirt Plains would be good as a

future territory, (the chances are low though) but if they're seeking an immediate reply then it's the difference between Heaven and Earth if I've already gathered information ahead of time or not. This isn't a matter of letting my hopes pass or not but the important point is, "Whether or not I can respond with the optimum answer in that situation".

I'm sure there's a large meaning in going around the border and directly seeing the conditions of the conflict with your own eyes as well. Rodrick has actually entered in live combat before so he knew the situation to some extent but it seems he was in an excited state during his first campaign as well so it was lacking in accuracy and he could only remember the things right in front of his eyes.

I had intended on getting a grasp of the general outline through the details I've heard from sister as well but in the end, "If it's you then I'm sure you can manage anything.", she settled it with that sort of reply that makes no sense at all. I can't shake off the possibility she was intentionally hiding it as well.

In regards to that it's something that can't be helped. Even if I were to have touched on defense secrets when I was in the SDF I wouldn't have talked about them even if it was my parents or siblings. Though I never touched any significant secrets. Though there were a considerably number of small secrets that can't be called secrets like the management of weapons and ammunition and such. Things like the effective range or the shooting intervals of close range guns in the same company are things you can't mention even if your mouth is split. It seems that those who work on military vessels in the ocean aren't even allowed to talk about where they went on duty, among them when it comes to those with duty on submarines putting aside the primary abilities, arrangement of crew, or the conditions of the duty which are only obvious but they're not even informed of the planned departure and return dates.

Putting aside the digression, there's a large merit to gathering information on the territory candidates and their surroundings in the early stages.

However, we would only be able to make an accurate map of the dungeon partway though. This demerit is also something big enough that we can't ignore it. Though I say that, if we change the viewpoint then if we stop advancing any deeper, then it's also possible just explore focusing on the altar rooms of the

9th floor which we have a good grasp on.

While using an almost perfect map of the 9th floor, it's fine if we just keep fighting the monsters we can somewhat safely win against. Of course I'm sure there's still monsters we haven't found yet on the 9th floor as well but even then I think it's far safer than the chances of encountering more on a new floor.

Also, as a further demerit it contradicts Miduchi's theory that "The value of treasures increases the deeper inside you go." Though I say that, the price on the treasure we've found on the 9th floor is pretty high either way.

Looking at things overall you could say plan 2 pushes forward certain parts of plan 1. It would mean taking action separately for a somewhat long period(one year or so I guess?) of time but there's a high possibility that we'll obtain something worth that time. However at the same time that we'll end up needing more time to earn money which makes the information a bit stale as well. I'm sure there wouldn't be any major changes to the population, industries, and area of arable land in each town and village that exceeds our expectations but it's very possible to think that there would be changes in the borderlines and is a problem that needs to be taken into consideration.

In either case it's not something we need to worry about right away. Even if we went with plan 2 it would take at least half a year for some level of information to make it's way back to me. Taking into consideration the risk that letters could be lost on the way then we would need an exclusive contact agent included as Gwine's escort as well. It's easy to guess that it would take a considerable amount of time to prepare.

In any case, I'll decide things in regards to that by the time we finish up exploring the dungeon this time. Plan 2 is certainly the one that would expand my ability to deal with things but it's difficult to give up on continuing like this with plan 1 as well. Something like tungsten we've only found for the first time since going to the 9th floor. If Miduchi's theory is correct then if we explore even deeper even Orichalcum...Also we might end up obtaining even more valuable {Magic.Items} as well.

I was thinking about these things while briskly proceeding towards the 3rd floor with jsut Angela and I.

.....

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 5

We arrived at the teleport crystal room on the 6th floor. And then, it was just as {Black.Topaz} started setting up a camp as well. They're giving off an atmosphere like they've already spent several days here. Since we ended up spending yesterday night in the same room with other parties on the 3rd floor, we thought today we could finally relax with no one else around so it was a bit disappointing but just this can't be helped.

Also, there was signs of a new camp in the teleport room on the 5th floor as well.

I guess that's probably {Gehenna.Flare}.

"We appreciate you letting us use the shower."

Sis Anderson came over to where we were preparing to camp to thank us.

I just finished taking my shower so I was in the comfortable appearance of just by under armor.

My under armor has black dirt stains all over the place from chafing of the rubber belts so it's not very good looking.

Up until now I had used a white kilt but starting next time let's go with a darker color.

"Please feel free to use it without restraint. It's fine as long as you don't break it and recognize that we have priority to it."

"Of course. By the way, is the 7th floor always bright like that? Does it not turn into like a cave at some point? Roberto(Roberto.Viruhaima) was saying there's no cave areas though."

".."

Just the end is a cave.

Anderson looked at me with just a bit of an unpleasant face but sighed after that and continued her words.

"Really~ isn't it fine to at least tell me that much."

Well, I guess it's fine huh? She did warn us about the {Ice Monster} after all.

"Just the last part ends up as a cave but it's only a small portion."

"What about monster rooms?"

"They exist. Probably, if you find one you'll recognize it right away."

Though there's only four. Also they're way too huge to be called rooms.

"Is that so, thanks."

"You're welcome."

It's the same for us but {Black.Topaz} pays a reasonable amount of attention to their meals as well. I can hear the sound of vegetables being cooked.

.....

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 6

It seems that {Black.Topaz} is working more vigorously than us. When I woke up at 5:00 in the morning it was after they had all already finished breakfast and teleported into the 7th floor.

"Now then, once again today is a round trip between the 7th and 8th floors. Everyone, make sure you eat properly."

With parched eggs and a meat and vegetable stir-fry as a side dish, we put grilled bacon on white bread smeared with mayonnaise and filled our stomachs with soup.

And then after confirming our equipment we teleported into the 7th floor before 6:00 leaving behind Giberuti as well.

Again this time we were smoothly able to cut through the 7th and 8th floors. We even ended up obtaining a bonus when we found a refined wristwatch magic tool in the last altar monster room on the 8th floor.

【Clock】

【Gold.Silver.Sapphire.Ruby.Emerald】

【Condition: Normal】

【Manufacture Date: 6/9/7446】

【Value: 1100000】

【Durability: 45】

【Ability: No measurement error;0.1 value/1 day;1 value/use】

【Effect: A clock that runs on a minimum size magic stone, even if the mana runs out of the magic stone if you replace it with a new magic stone that has mana it will show the correct time again. Also, it's necessary for over one day to have passed after putting in a magic stone to use it.】

Excluding the value and design the things written down are same as a completely common clock magic tool. It's one of the more popular items you can find inside of the dungeon. Of course there's nothing like a character grid and it's extremely valuable as an accessory so nobles all swarm to purchase them. They still can't produce magic tools of this small a size at the clock workshop. The best they can do is something just a bit larger than alarm clock.

Yeah of course, it's certainly magnificent as an accessory but looking from my viewpoint it's still unrefined. A while in the past, it's half the size of the cellphones from the 90s. Something of that size is just attached to an adequate belt and you put that on your arm. It might be possible it's not even intended to be used as a wristwatch. Maybe it's something like a brooch or pocket watch?

Also I just mentioned the clock workshop but their techniques are forbidden from leaving the workshop. But, it's not particularly anything difficult. The main body of it is a magic stone and some metal parts that surround that and just some circuit-like design you carve into there and if you just have the materials anyone can make it. Just, it seems that the know-how is that based on the properties of the metal parts and the way the circuit is carved into it decides the overall size and the magic stone consumption rate.

Incidentally, the alarm clock size clock that we use consumes 4 magic stone value a day and every individual use consumes 30 value. That's 40 times the running and 30 times the usage cost. This value is the Identify value so if you convert that into Z then it ends up pretty high. There's a huge difference between it and the magic tool mentioned above in terms of consumption rates. That consumption rate is on the same level as the wall clock size we had back at my family's house. Assuming you check the time 4-5 times per day then that

would mean 6-7 goblin magic stones(the value is roughly 1,000) combined into one minimum size magic stone could be used for about half a year at that rate.

We ended up earning some unexpected pocket money so we returned to the 6th floor again with pleased faces. We can't always keep going easy on Basutorial so this time I decided to let Zenom have a nice break. The meal ends up as a bento but take your time and relax.

We returned to the 6th floor and after having a lunch of sandwiches prepared by Giberuti we stepped foot on the 7th floor again.

"N~ we're here."

Gwine quickly pointed to a spot on the map. It's a location that leads to the monster room on the North side.

"Oh, it's a considerably good spot right. It's just right since this morning was the South side."

"I guess so. Wouldn't it not even take three hours to clear through from here?"

Seeing that Bel and Toris both cheerfully said. We can suppress the group of ogre mages on the North side and make some good earnings on the way, so that's exactly right.

"Then, let's hurry up and get going!"

Ralpha said energetically. Alright.

"Then let's go. {Wedge.Two} We'll shift every 30 minutes. First off Miduchi is at the lead."

We all went to our positions leaving just Giberuti at the center of the umbrella.

.....

"Shit. Is it {Black.Topaz}?"

"I'm sure it is.."

"Hmm.. It seems they aren't used to taking the magic stones out yet."

Toris who was walking at the lead discovered the corpse of one ogre.

Miduchi nodded while pulling out a broken arrow that was stabbed into it and observing it.

It seems if you ask Zulu the way the magic stone was taken out was rough.

"This place isn't even 1 km from the monster room, here."

Gwine said while tilting her head slightly.

"The ogre mage monster room huh~ I wonder if they'll be alright?"

Ralpa said while grinning but like I know.

"It's said that {Black.Topaz} is more powerful than {Sun.Ray} after all.."

Bel said that but even then I'm sure seeing ogre mages for the first time is quite something.

"Well, other people are other people and we have our own way of doing things. Let's keep proceeding while remaining cautious as usual. If {Black.Topaz} is ahead of here then I'm sure they're cleaning up the ogres for us so we might catch up to them."

I said that urging everyone and then we started walking again.

...

.....

And then about 20 minutes or so.

Excluding the first ogre, we've caught sight of about two ogre's corpses twice now.

Thanks to that we were able to proceed without taking any time.

And then we encountered {Black.Topaz} resting in front of the monster room on the northern side.

After seeing us approach they could be seen confirming their equipment in a hurry.

Well, the first one in the monster room is the winner after all.

They probably don't want to let us who came afterwards go ahead of them.

If they just let one person from their party take one step into the room then

they can claim the right to it.

"Sorry about that. We're about to go in from here now."

Anderson said that but it's their obvious right.

"Of course, please do. During that time we'll be taking a short break here."

Baru(Baruteinesu.Zomu) the Laios battle axe user of {Black.Topaz} was looking over here with a slightly nervous face as he was the first one to step foot in the room ahead of them.

I won't have someone enter and say we're going ahead or anything like that. Like I'd do something as petty as that.

"Be careful."

"Thanks."

Let's hand it over to them with a good feel here.

After seeing off the backs of {Black.Topaz} as they go into the room and I started making bean tea.

"The forest is in the way so we can't watch right."

"I wanted to watch a bit."

Gwine and Ralpha started leisurely talking after sitting on some rocks.

"Previously..Was it the 5th floor? We saw them fighting against the {Frost Lizard} but after all their abilities were high."

"That's right, that Laios who's the same as Zulu-sama, Baru I think it was. He was doing quite the good work as well."

Zulu and Angela were discussing something as well. If I remember right then Giberuti was with us at that time too. But it seems Giberuti doesn't know much about combat so he's just quietly sitting. Well he's carrying a huge amount of luggage so I'm sure he's reasonably tired.

"I've never seen it before so I wanted to watch."

"Ah, Miduchi-san. It's the same for me as well. I wanted to see it~"

Miduchi and Basutorial weren't around was it?

"After all their coordination and such was good."

"Anderson-san's skill with the crossbow was pretty good as well."

The monster room of the 7th floor has a diameter of 500 meters and is wide. Since it's their first time they should end up spending a considerable amount of time being cautious until hostilities open.

I also feel like I'd like to see the {Black.Topaz}'s combat versus spells as well but I guess we'll take a good rest here huh?

Chapter 262: Black Topaz 2

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 6

All of us who had started taking a break in the rocky area just before the room the ogre mages nest on the 7th floor continued to watch the backs of {Black.Topaz} as they disappeared into the forest.

At longest I guess it was about 15 minutes or so?

What was? Of course before {Black.Topaz} entered combat.

The presence detection abilities of ogre mages reach 100 meters even in a dense forest with bad visibility. The diameter of the room is roughly 500 meters so if anyone from the outside intrudes into the room they'll notice from the center where the ogre mage group usually is when they reach about 150 meters inside.

The speed of advancing in this sort of forest for the first time I guess would be around 10 meters per minute or so.

They'll advance just a bit while hiding themselves behind bushes to check if it's safe in the surroundings. Obviously, I doubt they'll aim straight towards the center from the start. It seems they scattered soon after entering the room as well. That's why they're heading towards the center at a speed of 10 meters/minute.

That's about it.

For those progressing deep into the dungeon of Baldukk this ogre mage room is certainly a large wall. But recently even we've been able to claim victory with some leeway without even using paralysis poison or freezing them so if they can make it to the 7th floor on their own abilities then I'm sure they won't be wiped out. Or maybe they will?

If things get severe or if Anderson thinks things will get severe then I'm absolutely sure she'd call out to us. In that area, I think she's the type who would always choose her allies over her own pride in the end. However, just like

an adventurer she also knows full well when to show some backbone as well. Previously, like the combat we saw between them with the {Frost Lizard} on the 5th floor, that was completely her showing her backbone. Well it seemed like they knew the general outline of the {Frost Lizard}'s abilities so in the end I'm sure she guessed they could have won though.

I think it would have been different for old man Viruhaima. That old man, he's amazing at seeing through the places where he can push things and where he can't after all. All their members are completely veterans and just like that one time we encountered them on the 6th floor in the end they would manage without backup. The reason why they bought healing potions from me was nothing more than insurance.

That old man if it was a situation like this, I guarantee he'd urge us go ahead first. After that, he'd investigate the corpses of the monsters we defeated. I think he might even investigate the footprints on the ground and the directions they're facing. First he would check what kind of formation they're in the room, whether the intervals between steps are the same as the ogres you encounter in the halls, what things are different with the corpses, and whether anyone notices anything, he'd thoroughly investigate it.

And then, after returning to the surface he'd make assumptions as much as he can on the various variations of attacks and start training to deal with those. I used to steal glances at the training of {Verdure.Brotherhood} a number of times in the past but those details were definitely this. From a glance it just looks pointless so the first time I saw it I didn't notice.

However, after realizing it a considerable portion of it was good reference so I incorporated a lot of it into the {Slaughterers} training as well.

Honestly, my only basis is the sight of them training but for some reason I'm confident on it.

.....

It's almost been about 10 minutes.

I wonder if {Black.Topaz} has progressed about 100 meters yet?

I tried using the spell {Detect.Life} to confirm it.

Yeah, after all it's about that.

The group of ogre mages that are believed to be in the center are too far so I can't detect them.

It seems that {Black.Topaz} is moving in the formation {Double.Echelon}.

Everyone's long since finished drinking their tea.

They're all glancing at the forest here and there and are somewhat fidgety.

Putting aside Miduchi, they're about to leave the range that Ralpa and Bel can detect with {Detect.Life}. after all.

Well, it's certainly true that sis Anderson has some part of her that makes her liked by people.

She looks after people well after all.

Also, whether it's Basu of {Verdure.Brotherhood} or Kaku of this {Black.Topaz}, their sub-leaders all feel like worldly-wise men so I can't come to hate them.

It can't be helped~

"Hey, start getting ready for combat."

I said that while confirming the condition of my bayonet.

Giberuti quickly picked up the bags and then went towards the usual rock shadow a bit of distance away.

Zulu and Angela stood up expressionlessly and took out their swords.

Toris and Bel start making preparations as they stand up and just the same Ralpa stood up and is swinging her axe around in circles.

Basutorial and Gwine have the ends of their spears to the ground almost like walking sticks.

And then Miduchi stood up and smiled at me.

Everyone is paying attention to me.

Stop expecting it. We aren't going yet.

"{Half.Siege.Two}. On Miduchi's sign we switch to {Weapons.All.Free}.

Miduchi, Bel, Toris, Ralpa, Gwine, Basutorial. If you see an ogre then it's fine not to ask questions so use the bow or magic or whatever you want to blow them away. Ah, {Fire Ball} is dangerous so it's no good. Make it so you only hit one of them at a time. Zulu and Angela will come with me around to the right flank. {Spread}."

Miduchi dived into the forest at an amazing speed without making a single sound.

With that as the start Ralpa, Toris, and Bel went to the left from the entrance.

Gwine and Basutorial held their spears low as they followed after Miducho to the front.

Zulu and Angela are following me to the right from the entrance.

The ogre mage room on the northern side is the same as the room on the southern side and is covered in a deep forest but in exchange for having almost no bushes or shrubs there's undergrowth from the trees that's about 50 cm ~ 1 meter or so growing everywhere.

It's just right for hiding yourself and even if you climb over it the sound you make is less than that of shrubs or bushes.

Zulu and Angela accompany me from behind and we ran about 100 meters along the wall of the room as quietly as possible.

If I just focus my awareness on it a bit then in my head the information of everyone's location flows through from Miduchi's {Party-ization}.

Angela is wearing rubber protectors as well so she's following about 20 meters behind not making much sound just like me.

Zulu is much further and should be approaching close to 40 meters behind around now.

He's wearing banded-mail after all.

It seems like everyone else has spread out as well.

Miduchi is the farthest one out but even then she's about 60 meters from the wall.

I wonder what was with that first momentum?

On both sides about 20 meters behind her is Gwine and Basutorial.

Ralpha, Toris, and Bel are all scattering along the walls at different speeds.

They're still moving.

I guess they intend on moving along the wall until there's a sign from Miduchi.

It's more convenient for us to be as spread out as possible for the siege after all.

.....

After a short while I could tell everyone had spread out.

""Advance forward.""

An order appeared in my head from Miduchi.

It's not anything like ""Charge forward"" so I'm sure she means to just close the distance.

It seems everyone else understands as well and I can tell they've started slowly moving towards the center.

There's no guarantee that {Black.Topaz} will be brought to the verge of annihilation.

If they don't particularly seem to be fighting in a dangerous way then there's no need to help out.

If we can watch their combat versus magic then that's fine.

I hold my bayonet at the ready as I slowly advance forward.

That undergrowth looks pretty deep.

It would be boring to make a sound so I guess we should detour around.

It's about time and we can proceed as everyone was about 100 meters from the wall.

It should be about time for {Black.Topaz} to get caught in the ogre mage's network of vigilance pretty soon.

We slow down our moving pace.

I try peeking through the trees and for a moment it felt like I saw the back of an ogre or ogre mage as I stopped my movements and slowly lowered my body.

It seems that the trees and overgrowth are in the way so neither {Black.Topaz} nor the other {Slaughterers} can see them.

They're slowly approaching the center.

Ralpa's already 120 meters away from the wall.

No, I don't know if there's measurement error in {Party-ization} though.

What about {Black.Topaz}?

It was just when I thought that.

"Gebyo!! Gugyabo!!"

I can hear the faint voice of what seemed to be an ogre mage sending out warning.

It's going to start.

"..!"

It seems {Black.Topaz} is saying something as well but the distance is too far so I can't hear the details.

They must have noticed they were noticed.

For the time being I wanted to casually watch from safety but the location is bad.

I can't see anything from here.

I quietly approached.

.....

Suddenly I noticed that I could see Angela a bit of distance away.

Her distance from me is about 30 meters or so.

It seems she has visibility of me as well as our eyes meet.

I nodded to her once and we were about to advance forward again.

""Charge forward.""

Ho~ it seems there was some kind of movement.

Furthermore something that requires us helping out.

I'm aware of the fact that I'm grinning as I dash off at full speed.

Simultaneously I try using the spell {Detect.Life}.

One, two, three..A total of 12 ogres huh?

That's a large serving.

It would be best to think that at least 5 of them are ogre mages mixed in as well.

Depending on the case it wouldn't be strange for there to be 7 of them.

"Shittt~~!!"

"Revenge for Rotto~!!"

Oh my~ so there's already someone who's died?

That sure was fast.

I can see them.

They're about 40-50 meters ahead.

I run while sticking out my left hand and send a {Flame Arbalest Missile} flying.

The target was what seems to be an ogre mage in the back of the group concentrating to use magic.

My {Flame Arbalest} smashes into the side of it's head and it magnificently killed it instantly.

Almost simultaneously {Flame Arrows}, {Javelins}, {Stone Bolts}, and such came flying from every direction hitting the ogre mages in the rear breaking their concentration.

Everyone's properly doing their job.

However, if we can either kill or break the concentration of all 6 that seemed

like ogre mages then it's a fact that the front line ogres won't be able to do anything at all.

And then, before our attack spells arrived at the ogre mages they ended up firing off several spell bullets.

This can't be helped.

The ogre mages fired off a total of 4 spell bullets.

Of those two of them were deflected by Kaku(Kaku.Dankel)'s shield and flew off in a different direction.

Everyone, I'm sure they're on guard but don't get by a stray bullet.

One more attack penetrated through the shield Vikkusu(Vikkensu.Barukemi) was holding but it didn't go all the way through so it's just stabbed into his shield.

It'll probably disappear soon. It seemed like an {Ice Bolt} after all.

The last one seemed to be aimed at the head of Gary(Gary.Bagumaia) who was holding a spear but he tilted his head just before and managed to avoid it.

Even though they're in combat with the front line ogres they aren't half bad~

It's not unexpected or anything else but {Black.Topaz} was putting up a good fight.

They're covering for what seems to be the fallen Rotto(Rosutoru.Mirusutoron) as they put up a reasonable resistance against the 6 front line ogres.

It seems they've wounded them a good bit.

There's two ogres with crossbow bolts stabbed into their faces.

Two of them that seem to have been stabbed in the legs with a spear by one of the spear attackers.

And then one that seems to have suffered serious injuries from an axe but none of the ogres have reached the point of falling.

Kaku and Vikkusu have their shields ready as they spread out with some distance to the sides in front and they're focused on defense as

{Shield.Holders}.

The battle axe user Baru(Baruteinesu.Zomu) is bracing himself in the center of that as he swings around a huge battle axe.

Behind them Roru(Roreiru.Naruzomerin), Gary, and Marin(Marin.Rukkima) the spear using attackers have formed a wall of spears and are covering the front line while maintaining an intense check looking for gaps to attack the ogres.

The leader Reddo.Anderson has thrown her crossbow she probably already fired to her feat as she aimed a {Flame.Javelin} towards the face of an ogre and landed the hit. She's got some good skills.

It's correct to say they're above {Sun.Ray}.

"We're going to step on Rotto!! Move more to the left! Marin and Roru attack with magic in order! From the right!"

She gives out orders to the members of {Black.Topaz} while I'm sure she's noticed our support, Anderson glances around the surroundings while shouting "I'm grateful!!", before starting to concentrate to use an attack spell again.

Now then..

Oh.

"Urya~!!"

In a position close to the opposite side from me Ralpa let out a battle cry while swinging her tomahawk and charged into the group of ogre mages that are wounded and in agony.

That's soon, too soon.

It couldn't be helped so I fired off one more shot of {Flame Arbalest Missile} towards one of the ones that seemed to have some vitality to finish it off. There's 4 ogre mages remaining.

Angela ran of.

The large silhouette on the other side is Zulu I guess?

They're both running towards the ogre mages.

An arrow came flying and stabbed into the face of one of the ogres {Black.Topaz} was against.

Again a {Stone Javelin} came flying and hit the shoulder of the ogre next to that.

The ogre that faltered from that was stabbed through the chest by Gary's spear as he was waiting in Kaku's shadow.

Marin fired off a {Flame Bolt} and hit a different one, and I guess after confirming that, Roru sliced the neck of a different ogre with {Wind Cutter}.

There's 4 remaining front line ogres huh?

There something like a swaying white ball went flying from behind Anderson and passed over even the ogres reaching and hitting one of the ogre mage group. Suddenly the white ball ruptured and covered the entire body of the ogre mage restricting it. It seems it dragged in the one next to it as well.

This is a chance.

I use the spell {Grow Spike} around the area where the two ogre mages restricted by spider web fell over.

Having their bodies pierced by 10 cm in diameter 1 meter high stone spikes that suddenly grew from the ground the two ogre mages died in no time at all. There's 2 ogre mages remaining.

Gwine and Basutorial ran past Anderson's both sides and joined in keeping the ogres in check.

Ralpha, Zulu, and Angela all arrived at the group of wounded ogre mages as they start finishing things off there.

It should already be fine.

Now then, I wonder what I should say?

Author's note: {Black.Topaz} Member list:

Reddo.Andāsen Woman Hyūmu Infantry-use sword.Crossbow.Magic
Kāku.Dankeru Male Hyūmu Long Sword.Shield.Magic

Rōreiru.Naruzomerin Woman Elf Spear.Magic

Geirī.Bagumaia Male Hyūmu Spear

Marin.Rukkīma Woman Urufuwā Spear.Magic

Baruteinesu.Zomu Male Laiosu Battle Axe

Vikkensu.Barukemī Male Dogguwā Battle Mace.Shield

Rosutōru.Mirusutoron Male Elf Long Sword.Shield.Magic

Chapter 263: Flames

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 6

The remaining monsters were wounded so they were already no opponent for us.

Half of the monsters the 6 ogre mages were all defeated by the hands of the {Slaughterers} and of the remaining half of 6 ogres, just the same half of those 3 of them we {Slaughterers} helped to defeat. In terms of battle results we did 75%. 3/4th. Well, of the ogres a considerable number of them were wounded by {Black.Topaz} so I don't intend to brag about it being 3/4th.

It was just a mere 3 of them that {Black.Topaz} was able to defeat with there own power.

And then, there's one casualty. Of course, it's not from the {Slaughterers}.

It's the {Shield.Holder} from {Black.Topaz} Rotto(Rosutoru.Mirusutoron). It seems he died instantly after taking a blow from an ogres club to his head crushing his helmet along with his head inside of it.

"{Status Open}..Shit!!"

""Rotto..""

""This many ogres are..""

Everyone from the {Slaughterers} is wiping off their weapons while keep an eye on the state of {Black.Topaz} checking Rotto's status. I'm the only one who didn't use my weapon.

"Ah..That's right..The support, we're grateful for it..Thank you. We were saved."

Anderson recovered ahead of the rest before saying that and politely lower her head to us.

I guess they were dragged back to reality from their leader thanking us but the other members of {Black.Topaz} started thanking us as well.

"You're welcome. We'll be taking the magic stones of the ogres we finished off. Zulu, Angela. Gather up our portion. Gwine and Basutorial for the ones around there, put a mark on this area. Ah, I don't mind if you gather it from them either. Miduchi, sorry but go and call over Giberuti."

I intentionally said it in a business-like way and then looked at Anderson. You have no complaints right?

Obviously there were no complaints.

It seems there's members of {Black.Topaz} who suffered light injuries but it seems they still have mana so it's, wipe your~ ass yourself~ right.

As expected I'm sure losing a member who was both from the front line and could use magic is a hard blow to them as well. It seems they're giving up exploring anymore than this and heading back.

"Should we go with you back to your original teleport crystal location?"

I suggested it trying not to sound very disagreeable. However, it was refused with, "It's just returning back down the route we came so it's alright. Sorry for the trouble."

Honestly speaking if it's from here the teleport crystal to the 8th floor in the center of the floor isn't all that far away so that's better for us. We've also left Zenom waiting on the 8th floor as well. Even with 6 ogres rampaging in front of them {Black.Topaz} has the ability to finish off 3 of them. The maximum number of ogres you can encounter in the halls is 5. Unless they have considerably bad luck they should be fine.

It seems Baru is going to carry Rotto's corpse. The splint-mail he was wearing was split up and is being carried by all of them.

"We ended up in your debt again...I'll definitely thank you for this.."

Anderson said that before leading {Black.Topaz} on their way back.

However, it's that right.

I thought at least one of them would complain about stealing their game but I wonder if they realized there's a large gap seeing our strength? Honestly speaking, even looking from my own viewpoint our skill in killing the ogres off

was splendid.

There was even some of them that were making faces of both admiration and shock.

Just as expected of them being called a top team.

Things that should be recognized should be honestly recognized and there's no point in making a meaningless bluff.

Though as a matter of fact it's just that we're used to it and there's not really all that big of a gap between our abilities.

Although, getting used to something also has a frightening face to is that invites negligence, if you get into a pattern and can do it almost like a machine, there's a large advantage above all else to continuing to take the initiative no matter what move the opponent makes. If you just don't do anything foolish like getting negligent then it will definitely let you display strength beyond your own abilities.

If you were to ask me, I think {Black.Topaz} is the one who got too "used to the dungeon" and let their guard down. Something like entering a room just a few weeks after going to a new floor, there's limits to even recklessness. I'm sure they must have cleared through the 6th floor as a considerable speed as well. I'm sure it's because they were able to boast of such high abilities that they could take on the ogres of the 7th floor with a good pace. I'm sure they made up to here without a single injury.

That's precisely why they got into a hurry I'm sure. They probably thought, "That we were always afraid of just these level of monsters and didn't come to the 7th floor" or "If we just calmly fight then even if it's ogres there's a small number of them, so they're no opponent for us", or even more so this is just my imagination but (but I think it's probably correct) "It was big that we were able to share maps of the 6th and 7th floors with {Verdure.Brotherhood}. Thanks to that we made it to the 7th floor in an unexpectedly short period of time" is what they might have been thinking.

I'm sure there must have been a fight for the right to leadership below the surface between {Black.Topaz} and {Verdure.Brotherhood}. Whichever can bring back even more information or which ones information is more useful,

and then, whichever can surpass the 7th floor faster.

In the first place it can't be helped that they were overtaken by some brats(us) who are supposedly outrageously skilled. However, even {Sun.Ray} got full of themselves and went to the 6th floor. It was without a doubt by their own abilities. It's unknown if they thought of them as an obstruction or not but the brats skillfully ended up playing with {Sun.Ray} and didn't just make them into a stepping stone but managed to insert them into their own forces.

They thought the brats ended up being slowed down for quite a bit on the 7th floor from making a huge profit on ogre magic stones but through absorbing {Sun.Ray} they once again stepped foot on even lower floors. So that's it, they just felt a limit on an individual party. Since the brats felt like a threat we somehow or other got closer to {Verdure.Brotherhood} but we should use this opportunity to formally cooperate with each other.

Thanks that we were smoothly able to go through the 6th and 7th floors. We still haven't arrived at a monster room on the 7th floor but according to what the brats say we'll know it when we see it so it's got that sort of construction. Waha~n, so this is a monster room on the 7th floor huh? The {Verdure.Brotherhood} says they still haven't arrived at a room so the ones who are ahead are us.

She's a good teacher to reflect on for me. Impatience. Negligence. Both of them powerful enemies.

.....

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 8

It's the second day since we started exploring the 9th floor.

In one monster room we ended up facing off against an unexpected monster.

Just the same as usual when we had gotten into formation and started heading towards the monster room, suddenly Miduchi shouted.

"Everyone use {Flame Thrower} with maximum power!"

There was still a good 20 meters between Miduchi who was standing at the lead and the entrance of the monster room.

There's no fools in my group that would ask the reason why at a time like this.

Zulu and Angela who were behind Miduchi on both sides immediately retreated as Toris and Zenom moved close to the walls of the hall.

Bel and I ran ahead from the very rear but before that Miduchi along with Ralpa and Gwine on both her sides held their hands up towards the room and started concentrating. Basutorial's void magic level still hasn't reached 4 so he can't use {Flame Thrower}. I hesitated for a bit but after that held my hand up just the same.

A grand flame started spewing out from Miduchi's hand stretching towards the room.

Bel and I lined up with them, raised our hands up, and started using the spell {Flame Thrower} as well.

The flame coming from my hand stretches out and combines with the one coming from Miduchi's hand..!

What the!?

Something black and sharp pierced through Miduchi's flame and came flying over here..No, is it stretching over!?

It was just scorched by my flame as the sharp thing burnt and felt but it's still gradually increasing in number.

After about one minute Bel and after that Ralpa, Gwine, and Basutorial started spewing flames from the palms of their hands completely burying the hall in front of us in flames. Ah, it seems Basutorial since hasn't done anything since he needs to see the target.

In the first place, since I use the strong image of a portable torch when I use the spell {Flame Thrower} I often converge the flames together with using it out habit but everyone else seems to have the wrong impression that flame thrower's flames spread out like a funnel so their flames end up spreading out in a flashy way. I tried imitating them and spreading it out like a funnel as well.

After confirming that Miduchi stopped using the spell {Flame Thrower} and started giving out instructions.

She touched my back and said, "You keep moving forward like that. Don't weaken the force of the flames and if possible make it stronger."

Is that so.

That's an easy order.

After I started walking and this time

"Stop. Everyone behind me! Zulu and Toris prepare your shields. Magic is~!"

It was then, an ice arrow pierced through my {Flame Thrower} that was spread out and came flying!

That, it's not an {Ice Bolt} or {Ice Javelin}!

At the very least it's an {Arbalest}!

The bullet has just gradually gotten smaller from piercing through my flames.

"Yo!!"

I think Toris probably deflected it with his shield.

"Saji! If you can see then fire!"

I guess Toris covered Basutorial?

And shortly after I thought that a {Flame Javelin} was fired from my side.

I've already started to understand as well. I can see a portion from the sides of the flames. They're illuminated after all.

It's a tree.

Not to mention it moves.

It has hands.

It hand legs.

It's height is probably to the point you'd have to look up while standing beside it.

It's most likely around 5-6 meters.

The hands have a feel like thick branches have transformed.

The portions that would be it's fingers are stretching out with a tremendous

force and being burnt by me.

New fingers are stretching out from the burnt ends.

The legs seem to be a thick trunk split into two and while it doesn't seem to be able to move very fast it's still splendidly moving.

It's speed is probably about as fast as an adult can walk I guess.

I guess because Basutorial's {Flame Javelin} hit it?

It seems to be preparing to flee as if it hates flames but even then it's not retreating to the back but trying to move to the sides to avoid my flames.

And then, about 4 meters from the ground there's the unsightly distorted face like that of an old person.

It's either distorted because of the agony or out of hatred because we've come to lay waste to this place.

Above it's face there's branches spreading out almost like broccoli or cauliflower and it even has leaves on them.

Just from a glance it seems to be a broad-leaf tree.

Though I have no clue.

"It's coming!!"

I already get it.

This thing uses magic.

However, not any different from usual when it uses spells it still seems to need to concentrate and during that time it's movements completely stop.

It doesn't stretch out it's fingers nor does it swing it's arms.

However, what's frightening is that the amount of time it needs to concentrate to use magic is surprisingly short.

Whether it even takes 1 second or so.

The only person I knew that could use {Arbalest} level attack spells at this speed was about myself but after all the world is a big place.

"Mun!!"

It seems Zulu deflected it this time. It would be good if it was thanks to my warning.

"It's fine if it's {Flame} type or {Fire} type or whatever so focus on it! After I fire off the next {Fire Ball} use that as the sign to shoot it all at once! Toris, Zulu. Stand further in the front! Protect everyone until we're finished concentrating!"

Several seconds after that Miduchi fired off a {Fire Ball}.

Following that was a {Fire Ball} that was probably from Bel and then two {Flame Javelins} that probably belonged to Ralpa and Gwine.

Basutorial added another {Flame Javelin} about two attacks later than them.

Being hit with flame attack spells consecutively clearly dulled the monsters movements and it seems it's weakened.

"Don't let your guard down! People who can shoot it do it one more time!"
Miduchi's shout echoes around.

.....

【】

【Asexual/7/25/6444.Mad Treant】

【Condition: Death】

【Age: 1002 Years Old】

【Level: 18】

【HP: -36(1439) MP: 2(65)】

【Strength: 35】

【Speed: 19】

【Dexterity: 39】

【Endurance: 36】

【Special Skill: Control of Brethren{Contingent.Control}】

【Special Skill: Water Magic(Lv.5)】

【Special Skill: Fire Magic(Lv.5)】

【Special Skill: Void Magic(Lv.5)】

【Special Skill: Half-Damage.From.Piercer】

【Special Skill: Half-Damage.From.Slicer】

【Special Skill: Lower Spell Invalidation{Minor.Globe.Of.Invulnerability}
(Excluding Fire Magic)】

It's quite the frightening opponent.

I understood it from checking it's racial sub-window but it's weak to changes in the temperature so if it wasn't particularly weak to flames which do triple the damage I'm sure it would have taken us a lot longer to defeat it. Also, it wasn't very related to this time but it seems that if it takes slashing attacks from heavy weapons like halberds then it deals double damage. Additionally it had this completely absurd special skill that even if you attack it with spells that are below level 3 and there's elements other than fire magic mixed into them then it will invalidate them.

Additionally it uses attack spells.

If I hadn't continued using {Flame Thrower} then there would have been no choice but to use {Anti-Magic Field} to block them(as expected if a shield tries to deflect {Abralest} level attack spells it will break and about the only one who could endure it is barely Zulu, I'd say. Probably even I couldn't do it) but if I were to do that then it would be impossible to restrain those branch-like arms and fingers.

I see now.

Miduchi, she sure knows everything.

Showing admiration I tried to praise her and it seems she didn't know it could invalidate magic. But, she did know it was extremely weak to fire like Trolls.

"Trees burn from fire that's why they're weak."

And said something like that but even I can imagine that much.

Ev..Even I, when I thought it's a tree, I thought for sure it's weakness was fire..Though that wasn't the case.

"Why didn't you have Zenom throw his axe?"

"Eh? I mean, the handle of Zenom-san's axe isn't all metal as well right. It might be fine even inside of the flames but wouldn't it be hot when it returns?"

I see. Though I already knew.

However, it's not an altar or anything else just a normal monster room huh?

Even though we defeated powerful enemy something like no reward, that's boring~

Chapter 264: Black Topaz 3

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 8

Hn?

Zulu and Angela seem to be having trouble with the fallen Mad Treant.

It's only obvious. It's a tree after all. That's right isn't it?

That was thoughtless of me.

It's impossible to cut through it with a knife or sword I'm sure.

"Zenom, Ralpa. Would you help them with taking out the magic stone?"

"Hn? Ah, I guess so."

"Got it."

During that time Miduchi-sensei's lecture continued.

"It's mentioned in a variety of games but Treant are largely split into three categories. The ones that were originally just simple spirits or something close to that. Like the spirit of the tree, speaking in terms of Japan it would be something like Kodama or Tsukumogami and they're often beings that have a good feeling as they try to help you. Next is the type that comes out in Tolkien's famous books and it's a race called the Ent and obviously they're divided based on gender as well. It might have been created based on legends from around the world about the tree spirits I just mentioned. The next one is fine to say it's the same but for some reason that ended up becoming ferocious and in most cases whether it be games or otherwise they come out as opponents and monsters like this."

Ho~ho~ Toris, Bel, Gwine, and Basutorial were all nodding to themselves as they listened.

"This time was the worst third type of them. It was in an underground labyrinth, a dungeon after all. It should be fine to conclude that. But, it's considerably lucky. The lumber material you can get from Treants often have

magical properties and if you produce bows or shields from them and..we ended up burning it quite a bit.."

Ah..Do..Don't look at me with those eyes.

I didn't know about it.

Look, everyone other you is making faces like it couldn't be helped right?

In the first place putting aside the equipment of a monster, you wouldn't normally think of making a part of their body into materials right?

If it was fur or a huge fang then it's not as if I wouldn't understand though.

Eh? You've mentioned it before?

Did I hear about something like that?

Ah, I heard about the ingredients and such for the medicine.

Ah, but you know, don't things taste better when burnt?

That's unrelated?

Ah, I see.

Sorry.

Suddenly when we noticed Zenom and the others were all whispering about something in a low voice by the side of the fallen Treant. It seems they noticed we've finished up our discussion.

"Umm..Madam, where in the world is this monster's magic stone..."

"Miduchi, around where is this things magic stone?"

Zulu and Zenom asked Miduchi.

Miduchi made a difficult face after being asked. I'm sure she doesn't know.

I guess that's only obvious.

It's a tree after all.

In the end we tried smashing the axe into the area seemed like the chest.

Since it was hard and the blade wasn't passing through so easily everyone wanted a saw.

As a test I had Zenom cut off the branches right arm(?) with his axe and checked the status and it came up as Treant Wood and after all just as Miduchi said with Identify it was coming up as something considerably valuable.

Since it couldn't be helped we decided to cut off and threw the thin branches that were largely grown from it's head and didn't seem like we could use before carrying the entire corpse that is the lumber together with us to the teleport room on the 8th floor and then we'd slowly take the magic stone out from it there. However, carrying this ended up being extremely difficult.

After tying a rope around it and dragging it along as we returned the way we originally came back to the teleport crystal the time (we most likely dragged it a distance of around 6-7 km) was already past midnight and regardless of the fact that we took some breaks while moving, we were all exhausted.

However, it was a huge help when Toris said, "Please tie the rope around this area. It's center of gravity is here." and instructed us on the various places to tie the rope. It seems that the Treant wood has different density based on the place so it was a completely different spot from the center of gravity everyone had guessed.

In the first place even if I say it's lumber it's in the tree stage before it's properly been processed so it's not a clean geometric shape. Even if the density wasn't all that different I don't think it would have been much different with how unreliable we are at measuring by eye.

It's plainly useful, **【Scale】**. It was when I was thinking that and wondering if it could be used in any other words as I tried Identifying Toris's Scale once more and,

【Unique Ability: Scale; After using this ability, for the level of the ability multiplied by one minute....the division can be maintained perpetually so long as concentration is maintained and no other intrusions enter the operation. The MAX level expansion ability is that it becomes possible to use the ability on living things but bear in mind that clothes and equipment are processed as different targets.】

And it's there.

I wonder since when it was added to the display?

Rather than something like that, this is, if you use it on a person or monster wouldn't you be able to figure out the center of their gravity?

I guess that means he can see the center of Bel's gravity huh?

If they're using heavy metal armor then the center of gravity might be off but if it's leather armor then I'm sure it wouldn't be all that different.

If I have do something like Judo or Aikido I have no idea if he could do something like the air throw?

Maybe I'll have him try doing some hand-to-hand fighting the next time we're training?

Incidentally, while Zulu, Bel, Gwine, and I were dragging it along the way, Ralpa got tired and tried to sit down on the tree triggering Zenom's fury as he kicked her ass off. Take that~

.....

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 9

The Kafu(A stew-like cooking using pork and vegetables like potage. Of course it has Baldoggie in it) Giberuti made had just the right amount of salt as it tasted delicious to our exhausted bodies and since we're young we ended up unintentionally eating a large portion of it. I'm sure we'll just end up spending all of today trying to take out that huge Treant's magic stone without returning to the surface after all. We had him cook seconds of bacon and eggs and we cleanly devoured that as well.

It was troublesome so I just wanted to ignore the Minotaur but after all I'd like to take care of the toilet outside.

I also wanted to have a shower in a bright and liberating place.

Miduchi and Bel fired off arrows into the back of it's head until it was like a bee's nest and finished it up in no time at all.

Recently the Minotaur has only appeared with nothing but it's loincloth.

It's gradually deteriorated since the magnificent axe it had the first time and since around the 10th one the axes have been crude almost like it was from the stone age.

Somehow it's not as if it hasn't started to feel a bit pitiful.

Zulu and Angela take the magic stone out from the Minotaur's corpse without a word of complaint before dragging it off to the corpse pile in the back of the pillar. I don't know if it's because the atmospheric temperature feels like 15 degree C or so but in about five days the flesh started to rot and in less than one month it will turn to just bones. It seems that once it turns to bones it remains for a matter of years. Behind the pillar there's already over 30 Minotaur corpses and skeletons laying around.

I quickly took a shower and then fell asleep soon after.

I wanted to take things a bit easy the next morning but even then we all woke up around 7:00 am and gathered around the Treant we left in a corner of the room.

While Giberuti was making a sad face I used the spell {Transmute.Rock.To.Mud} on his favorite iron pot to change it into a mud form inside of a container I made from ice and started bleeding from my nose while making a saw. I was able to make a saw(I just hammered out some cast iron that was adequately molded and made blades on it) that's considerably more efficient than those circulating around Orth but looking at Giberuti's face and I somehow it feels a bit complicated.

Since there's a handle attached to it as iron material crushing Zulu's bastard sword would have had a higher purity on top of being high quality so we should have been able to get more materials from it and maybe even been able to make a chisel and hammer. It would have been fine to do that as well but swords are expensive. I couldn't bring myself to crush an item worth over 1,000,000 Z just to make a saw.

While I made the saw because it would be bad to damage the magic stone we couldn't bring ourselves to use it with a lot of momentum behind it. We couldn't do anything but use Zenom's axe to get to the inner layers and then carefully disassemble it.

It was already past noon when we finally somehow managed to get the magic stone out.

Ah, in the end it was behind the forehead of the face.

Thanks to that a considerable amount of the wood ended up becoming nothing more than valuable trash.

The value of the magic stone was 2,500,000 and actually felt a bit lacking. If we sell it for a proper price then it would be around 17,000,000 Z or so but I don't think we would be punished for hoping for a bit higher of estimate. The size is one size bigger than an ogres but the color is different. It's considerably close to white.

We were exhausted so we decided to deal with the lumber again next time and returned to the surface.

While climbing the stairs towards the surface I took out the magic stone we obtained from the Treant and held it in my hand. I don't know if he's there or not but I was thinking of bragging to Church-san.

Unfortunately Church-san wasn't there but I endured by bragging through reporting our battle results to a young man from the Baldukk Knight Group. Seeing the magnificent magic stone the eyes of the knight group member went wide in envy but he politely congratulated us and gave me information.

"This morning when {Gehenna.Flare} returned they were carrying a splendid magic stone as well. It was smaller than that but it was a color that didn't fall behind it. Supposedly they obtained from defeating a monster called the {Flesh Golem} in a room on the 3rd floor. It seems there was a member who was seriously injured as well but whether it's the {Slaughterers} or {Gehenna.Flare}, as expected of the top teams."

Oh! So those guys encountered the {Flesh Golem} as well!?

Well, they have a number of veterans with them so I'm sure they were able to win.

How much did it end up going for when we got it again?

I think it was around 4,000,000 ~ 5,000,000 or so.

Since I cashed it in after I was beaten down to the 14th floor my impression of it was pretty weak.

"Ah, come to think of it, it seems there's a party that still hasn't returned yet

as well."

He~ But something like that happens every month so it's not really unusual. Well, just in case I guess I'll try asking who it was huh? Thinking that it was just when I was about to ask what fools ended up screwing up.

There was a single silhouette that approached us. It's the dwarf from {Verdure.Brotherhood}, Renbaru(Renbaru.Flameshaft).

"Do you know about {Black.Topaz}?"

There's no way I wouldn't know about them right.

..I can tell he didn't mean in that way just from looking at his face.

"What is it? The day before yesterday? Ah, I guess it would be three days ago or so we met them on the 7th floor but.."

Hearing that Renbaru squinted his eyes as if glaring at me and, "They still haven't returned from the dungeon. According to schedule they should have returned at latest yesterday. I can't believe it's the case but.." started saying something like that.

Those guys, they still haven't returned? On top of one dying there were some injured as well, if they were making the map while confirming things as they moved then I'm sure their movements would be slow. If they encounter any ogres and take breaks then wouldn't it take a considerable amount of time? It's common for the top teams to not return for 2-3 days and such. It seems that other teams even camp inside of the dungeon after all.

"Please don't say such bad jokes that could hurt someone's reputation. We just went to their aid when they fell into a dilemma and saved them you know?"

I said with a slightly angry tone of voice. It's only obvious right.

"Ah, is that so..Sorry. I was feeling a bit on the edge..Sorry about that. However, I see. If you don't know then that's fine. I apologize for intruding when you're exhausted."

Renbaru said that before turning and heading away from us walking towards a corner of the entrance plaza. There's a chair in the shade where he was going

and it seems that's where he's waiting. After he mentioned something to Zofi, the slave of Viruhaima's that I saw once upon a time she quickly ran off somewhere. I guess her destination is Elm Tree Manor?

After quickly cashing in our magic stones other than the big game one from the Treant we returned to our inn and after relaxing for a short while a messenger came from {Verdure.Brotherhood}. I thought that would probably be the case so I didn't go outside.

"Greed-kun. I'm sorry but our leader Roberuto wants to talk to you. If you have time tonight would you come to Dorureon? We don't mind however many others come along as well. Also, if it's troublesome for you to go there then if you just designate a time and place we'll go there."

Oh Basu-san~(Basuraito.Kerutein) it seems you have it hard as usual.

The food of Dorureon is extremely appealing but I'm a bit tired so pardon me from anything heavy.

I'd really like to eat some Somen right around now.

It's hot after all.

"Is 6:00 pm at Murowa fine?"

"Got it. I think it will be myself and two others from our side that go."

"I understand."

While watching Basu's back as he left I thought for a moment. It's fine that {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} are in a cooperative relationship. It probably also has the meaning of rivaling us included in it as well. However, what about that level of concern?

I can't imagine that {Black.Topaz} would end up the prey of some monsters just like that. Of course ogres are strong but even they ended up spending some amount of days I don't know after teleporting into the 7th floor reaching that monster room without suffering any real damage at all. I don't think they would be done in so easily.

Let alone, if it was right after they had just lost one of their members. Wouldn't they just be more cautious than ever as they carefully proceed? If you

calmly think about it then hasn't {Black.Topaz} only gone to the 7th floor two or three times right? I don't know if the reason they charged into the monster room was because they were letting their guards down or out of a sense of rivalry or whatever but I think they're just trying to return to their initial resolution as they slowly move ahead.

If it's sis Anderson then I'm sure she can do it and if she can't do it then I think she would have been by a monster long in the past and become excretions leaving just her magic stone.

Honestly speaking I think that after all they have plenty high enough of a skill level for them to reign over the town of Baldukk as a top party. Don't be making such an uproar over a party like that just returning from the dungeon 2~3 days late. If I use some extreme logic then even this time if the {Slaughterers} didn't have enough rope from the survival kits I have everyone carrying then when we defeated the Treant I would have ended up having to change Zulu's bastard sword into a saw on the spot for us to disassemble it there.

Even though you could say we don't have to worry about it for a short while after defeating the boss of a monster room, we would have ended up needing to select members to remain cautious of the surroundings and such, and we should have been considerably late in returning. If the day we had defeated the Treant was today then after all I think our schedule would have taken an extra 2~3 days.

We would have had to disassemble the Treant down to lumber that could be carried by one person and then slowly made several round trips carrying the heavy load back and forth to the teleport crystal.

In the evening the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} came back from the dungeon as well. It was just right so I instructed them to eat at Murowa today as well and sent Rodrick's combat slave Denda off to the restaurant to reserve it.

Eee~ old man Viruhaima.

I'll surround you with close to 30 people tonight.

I'll have you confess everything you know.

Well, I'm sure it's nothing significant though.

Occasionally I just want to enjoy old man Viruhaima's frightened face as the snack to go with my alcohol.

Chapter 265: Black Topaz 4

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 9

"And, what kind of business do you have?"

I completely reserved Murowa. I took a bit of a nap so my head feels refreshed as well.

There's several tables in the restaurant but we placed a four-person table in the center and had Viruhaima and Basu sit there, while Kamu(Kamain.Mishausu) and I sit across from them. Surrounding all of the members of the {Slaughterers} have assembled including the combat slaves.

Obviously I want everyone to put some psychological pressure on them but I harshly told them not to speak badly or move around a lot. Since I'm a noble who doesn't prefer unrefined behavior I didn't forget to tell everyone to give them a good glare on either Kamu or my sign.

Disrupting that chance partway through would be absurd.

In the first place these two would even quiet a crying child just seeing them, they're {Verdure.Brotherhoods} leader and sub-leader. Just like cheap threats don't have any effect on me it won't have any effect on them either. I'm sure what would be most effective is just completely ignoring them. Particularly, since they're aiming to catch up and overtake us {Slaughterers} if we just act like "we don't particularly care" and remain uninterested.

That's why I said to everyone, "Talk about some random stupid stories at a volume that we can just barely hear. It's no problem even if you laugh just a bit. However, don't take an attitude like you're openly making fun of them. Don't focus your interest over here. Just think we're air." Also, just in case I have Miduchi sitting in the corner while trying not to stand out as I asked her to use {Detect.Lie}. Her surroundings are fortified with Angela and the two former knight slaves.

"Gwine, why are you drinking tea? Eh? Hisu too?"

"Nn~ somehow or other. Ral why don't you stick with tea as well? Miduchisan, please put in some ice."

"Ice tea with ice in it is delicious too right."

"Denda, Karimu. You did a good job once again this time. It's fine if you eat something with Chire in it."

""Thank you very much. Master.""

"..It's about {Black.Topaz}."

Viruhaima said.

"Could you please tell us the date and situation of the last time you met them?"

Basu supplemented him.

It's not like it's anything to hide so I honestly explained it without covering up anything. In the afternoon three days ago, that we encountered them in front of a monster room on the 7th floor. And then, soon after the combat started, because Rotto(Rosutoru.Mirusutoron) suddenly collapsed they fell into a crisis so we decided to go to their aid as we were keeping an eye on things, and I carefully explained that.

"And, what is that {Mad Treant}..What in the world is that. It even was using magic?"

"If Al-san didn't continue restraining it with {Flame Thrower} then I think it would have been difficult."

"I, hit it with a {Flame Javelin}."

"The northern monster room on the 7th floor huh..Shit, if we can't clear the 7th floor once and then go back from reverse then..Shit!!"

"So Rotto had died.."

Basu made a sad expression as he said it. Viruhaima started cursing while making a bitter expression. By the way aren't you going to eat anything?

And then, I talked about how they turned down our offer to accompany them to the teleport crystal they used to get into the 7th floor. That's right, if they

had just let us accompany them then I could have taken the express guide fee right. 7th floor*7 people*100,000Z(Guide fee)*5(Express charge). Roughly 25,000,000 Z is the bare minimum line. It's equivalent to 1~2 days of our earnings on the 7th floor. It's not particularly expensive. I'm sure they can afford it.

Mu, thinking about it like this and I feel like that fee setting is considerably balanced for things around the 7th floor as well.

"Jeru, do you want to go to Rukuso later?"

"No, I'd rather not..Also, a cheap place liek Rukuso, it's almost like going to get a disease."

"Ah, after all that's the case? Last month I requested a long sword from Fuggusu Sword Merchant so I'm a bit low on funds."

"Then honestly just don't go..Ah, Misu, after this, want to go drinking for a bit?"

"Was there anyone else injured?"

Basu made a concerned expression again.

"Kaku-san and Baru-san had some light injuries, Roru-san(Roreiru.Naruzomerin) seemed to have some light bruises. It wasn't anything significant."

While I was talking, Kamu was biting into a Baldoggie with an unconcerned face and washing it down with some bean tea. I bit into a Kazotto with lots of msutard on it and drank some bean tea as well. Delicious.

"Come to think of it where did Ruttsu go?"

"Isn't it to the toilet?"

"He sure has to piss a lot right. Even today on the 4th floor~"

"Really, stop with that during a meal."

"What about Rotto's corpse? N..Nn!!!..Did they just take out the magic stone?"

Viruhaima said. It seems he's a bit irritated. He started obviously coughing out loud as well.

"No, Baru-san was carrying the corpse. It seems they split up his equipment and were carrying it."

"Hey, what are you doing tomorrow?"

"Hmn, I feel a bit bad for Cathy but I want to show my face in the factory for a bit right. After hearing Miduchi-san's opinion we thought up something new together with Larry."

"Something delicious!?"

"Of course it is."

"Eh? What? A new menu? Larry, have you already eaten it?"

"No, the two of us are still in the stage of thinking about it, Ginger-san."

"Leader, wouldn't it be best to just honestly proceed with things here?"

Basu whispered into Viruhaima's ear with a slightly worried face. Since the surroundings have gotten a bit noisy it seems he raised the volume of his voice a bit. I can somehow hear what they're saying.

"Oh, haven't you already gotten pretty good at using the fork and knife?"

"Fu..I can't embarrass master as the head slave, Koloil-sama."

"..Sh..Shit, to this guy..I can't accept this.."

"But leader."

"I know.."

Ihihi~ I don't really get it but watching as Viruhaima makes that mortified face and I feel pretty happy.

Well, I guess I'll leave the amusement at around here huh? Kamu was making a face as if to say not to corner them too much as well.

I used my left hand to scratch my left cheek and (the sign to be quiet) and slowly opened my mouth.

"Please relax. I haven't had any alcohol to drink, the maintenance of my equipment is perfect as well."

My voice seemed to echo strangely loud inside of Murowa that had suddenly

gone deadly silent.

This time, since I thought it was necessary I forbid a few people from drinking alcohol. The ones who I felt were absolutely necessary were Miduchi and Gwine, Zulu, Giberuti, also Kamu. It doesn't even need to be mentioned for Miduchi on the end of combat strength and mana. Gwine is necessary to getting a grasp on our location in the dungeon. Zulu is my head slave after all and he has power as well. In the first place he doesn't drink. Giberuti is just a complement to Zulu taking into consideration the chance we need more manual labor so it's just better to have him though. Kamu was the leader of the former {Sun.Ray} and while it's temporary when there's no members of the {Slaughterers} joining them she acts as the leader of the {Butchers}. Also, she acts as proof that the {Slaughterers} have completely absorbed the former {Sun.Ray} and have them under our control.

"Nu..kuku, this guy..How far..Ah~ really! That's right, I'm requesting for you to save {Black.Topaz}!"

Viruhaima's face twisted as he spit out with a mortified expression.

"..Ho? Why are you requesting that from me? Is the {Verdure.Brotherhood} not planning to move? You're in a cooperative relationship with {Black.Topaz} right?"

I had predicted that it would be a request to rescue {Black.Topaz} at about a 50/50 probability but it's simply that I'm interested and I wanted to hear what kind of reason they had behind it. It's mean but the {Slaughterers} are above the {Verdure.Brotherhood} so I also felt like I wanted to have him say it as well.

".."

"Of course we intend to move as well. Greed-kun. Our preparations have already been finished. The last person who's whereabouts we didn't know Renba(Renbaru.Korumain), we just received contact that he was found in a private room at Honey Collection. After this is over we're going to the dungeon as well."

After he looked at Viruhaima who was sitting next to him with a disappointed looking face, Basu shrugged his shoulders and said. Incidentally Honey Collection is the name of a brothel that contends for the number one or two

spot in Baldukk. He continued, "We've been entering the dungeon in shifts with {Black.Topaz}. After one of us returns we always set a time to spend one day getting together to exchange information. Of course, it was accepted if there's a bit of leeway before or after the scheduled day but as expected three days is..the limit. If we were to go running now then it would end up taking another three days to reach the 7th floor. If it's you then you can do it a bit faster right?"

And said before looking at Viruhaima's face once more.

..Rescue huh...

That time {Black.Topaz} should have merged on that route. It should limit the search range quite a bit. There's roughly 200 locations you can teleport into from the 6th to the 7th floors. Among those over half of them don't lead to a monster room. There's only about 20 that lead to the northern monster room.

The location we started our route from ended up merging along the way as well so taking into consideration the time they haven't returned it should have been a location with a reasonable amount of distance. If we use our precise map then we can narrow down the teleport crystal they used to a number that can be counted one on hand and still have fingers remaining.

Certainly it's just as Basu says, if it's us then even at our normal pace we can rush into the 7th floor on the evening of the second day. If I shave off our resting periods to the limit then assuming we depart tomorrow morning I think it's possible for us to rush into the 7th floor sometime in the middle of the night. If it's just me then it would be much faster.

If we rush to clear the 7th floor(if possible then it would be more efficient to teleport into a location connected ot the northern monster room), then if we follow after the route {Black.Topaz} used from the 6th floor to clear up to the northern monster room then...

"Don't you have something to say?"

I already know the fact that you and {Black.Topaz} are allies. Though there's some words you need to say right. It's "{Please}". Also, the guide fee. We'll be moving our members as well so we won't move for free.

"Leader, it seems that Greed-kun has already seen through it. If you remain

quiet for too long it'll leave a bad impression."

"Chi...If you already know about it then there's no point in hiding it any longer than this. That's right. I'm the one who sold your information to his majesty the King. Together with Reddo(Reddo.Anderson) that is."

Wh..What?!? I thought it was a bit admirable how fast that old man King picked up on information so quickly but he was even sucking the information out of the top teams, these guys! The members of the {Slaughterers} almost "unintentionally" ended up saying something.

It required a tremendous amount of willpower for me to keep my expression from moving as well. Thanks to that things in regards to the {Please} and money went flying off somewhere.

Putting that aside, I haven't done anything I would be particularly troubled by having it leaked to the King. I haven't thought about becoming enemies with him or discussed any strategies or anything with them either. It's at best what floor we've gone to or that we're earning quite a bit, or our combat strength is considerably high, it shouldn't be anymore information that. It's nothing to get angry over but it's certainly not amusing.

Kamu put her elbows on the table and stuck one of her feet out from under the table. Starting with the members who noticed that the {Slaughterers} all started glaring at Viruhaima.

Being glared at all at once Viruhaima flinched just a bit but soon after collected himself.

"Anymore than this I can't discuss until you clear out the people, it's something that can't be helped talking about it now. We'll pay 30,000,000 Z as compensation for rescuing {Black.Topaz}. However, the survival of the leader Reddo is an absolute condition and if you can't achieve that it's a reduction."

Ah, that's right. The money. Money. Well, a reduction can't be helped. The express guide fee is done under the principle that you can bring the target out of the dungeon alive after all. Viruhaima said, "This is the advance payment if you'll accept" and placed 15 gold coins in a pile on the table. How hearty.

However, I thought the distance between these two teams was close since

long ago but..they were doing the same sort of things huh? Recently they've putting appeal on the fact that they're cooperating and such but in reality weren't they allies since quite a while back? Even then I feel it's a bit strange that he would suddenly throw down a large sum of money, but well I guess it's fine.

"That's fine. Miduchi, Gwine, Zulu, Giberuti, Kamu..Hmn, it seems you haven't had any alcohol so Ginger, Misu, Jeru, Rodrick. Return to your inn right away and start making preparations to enter the dungeon. I'll pay 5% of the compensation for the rescue. Gather at the entrance in one hour. Ah, Miduchi you remain together with me just like this. Sorry but Angela, Henry, Mekku, you go with Gwine to Boil Manor and pick up Miduchi and my equipment. Go ahead"

Giberuti's started scrutinizing the meal placed on his plate. There's about one days portion of food left remaining in Giberuti's room so he must be intending on bringing it along. If that wasn't the case then we'd end up having to make use of the non-daily use food in our survival kits. I still haven't made the hard biscuits.

Bel is together with Toris as they've started negotiations with the old man of Murowa to take over their remaining stock of Baldoggie.

Everyone who's name I called out other than Giberuti has long since ran off outside.

"Well then, shall we hear what you have to say? It's fine even at Elm Tree Manor."

Leaving behind the remaining members who had been drinking alcohol with slightly mortified faces we left Murowa.

.....

After being let through into Vurihaima's room in the Elm Tree Manor, Miduchi and I heard a bit of an unexpected story.

"It's not known by very many but Reddo is an illegitimate child of the King. When the King was even younger than you are now..or around the same age I guess, she's the first child he ended up making while he was still a squire in the

knight group. Since it was before he was married it would look bad for their reputation so it was never made public."

"Even though it's an illegitimate child that wasn't made public, just as expected from her being his first daughter at the same time as she became an adult it seems she was allowed to enter the second knight group but supposedly she didn't know about it until she was one step away from receiving investiture as a true knight."

"She was young at the time and I'm sure she had a rebellious spirit as well. She must have felt like she was given preferential treatment from the influence of her parents. Thanks to that she retired from the knight group right before receiving investiture and brought along the children of squires who used to serve her family since the past as they became adventurers. Such a waste~"

"For a period of time she was entering the dungeon together with me as well. During the time until she called out the squires she was familiar with she was a member of the {Verdure.Brotherhood}. Though it was only for about one year or so."

"I can't really say anything too great though because it's thanks to that the great I was able to joyously be remembered by the King and ended up becoming his dog."

"It's not particularly like we got into a fight. She just wanted to get independent all on her own."

"After she retired from the knight group it seems she was on bad terms with both the King and her family for a short while but they must have reconciled. It seems they've had a connection again since several years back."

"No matter what don't reveal this conversation. Only a small number of people know about it. I'm sure even you don't want to buy the displeasure of the King right? I don't want to end up buying his displeasure just leaving her to die either. I somehow want to save her. For that sake I'll do anything. I can lower my head as much as it's needed. I'm begging you. Please save her. It's fine even if you can't make it in time just retrieve the magic stone."

After just listening to what we could, since we're lacking in time we ended up leaving soon after. It seems that they're going to the dungeon as well. I

confirmed with Miduchi afterwards that it doesn't seem to have been a lie. Furthermore, in regards to my information it seems there was a request from the King two years or so ago and he was reporting on it every time I made some sort of movement but just as expected the details weren't anything significant.

Together with Miduchi, the two of us spent a bit of time talking on the way towards the entrance plaza from Elm Tree Manor.

"Hey~ why do you like that fellow?"

"Eh? It looks like I like her?"

"Yeah. Three days ago when {Black.Topaz} entered the monster room you seemed really happy to go to their aid didn't you?"

"..Well, it's true I don't hate her."

I think there's a distance between Heaven and Earth between, "don't hate" and "pleased with" or "like" though.

That time, weren't you smiling?

"I just felt like she seemed a bit like myself in the past..She's past 30 and single after all."

What's that? The so-called sharing each other's misery? I seem to have been making a slightly strange expression. It seems Miduchi saw her overlapped with herself in the past. However, there's a mountain of people among nobles that are single past their 30s. It's because if they don't start up their own household as a new noble and remain as a sub-Noble then they can live a comfortable life without having to pay any taxes. Though it looks bad for their reputation.

Even if I were to marry someone other than the head of some noble family(otherwise a person who was given an unofficial promise to be the head in the future) right now then I would end up as a member of the commoner social standing(If I end up the head then it would just normally be Head of the Greed Family in name and if the other person is the head then it would be the equivalent standing) and other than the luxury tax I would end up having to pay another 10% in taxes as well. Even sister now that she's failed to get married should be aiming to become a company command of the first knight group. Since the point that she became a true knight she's a vassal of the Head of the

Duke Rombert Family that is the King in both name and essence so she's guaranteed to be a commoner but if she could become a company commander then she could become a Viscount after all.

"Hey, don't make fun of her too much. It's fine if you think whatever you want if you want to pity her all on your own though."

"No way! I haven't done something like make fun of her."

"Then that's fine though."

"Princess Knight Reddo huh..She's a bit past that age though I guess..Fuhi"

"Huh? What is it? Are you envious?"

Did she admire being a princess? Though she's already at a good age, right now she's young after all~ I guess that might be the case for women.

"Hmph..I see a princess. Do you admire her? A princess is impossible but something a bit better than that is.."

"No..No that's wrong! I don't particularly admire her!"

What the, turning so red.

Wanting to be a princess, isn't that a bit cute.

It wasn't just the {Slaughterers} in the entrance plaza but the {Verdure.Brotherhood} as well. Miduchi and I started putting on our rubber protectors again since this afternoon.

"Listen well, we're doing a forced march. We'll repeat teleporting until we reach a location that's less than 10 km. Also, we aren't walking. Fundamentally you can leave all of the monsters that appear to Miduchi, Zulu, and I. Everyone else focus on protecting Giberuti and yourselves. After that, including the room bosses we won't be gathering magic stones. It's a waste of time after all. It depends on the teleport luck but we're aiming to clear each floor in one hour. We'll have a 30 minute break in the teleport room on each floor. We're making it to the 7th floor by tomorrow morning!"

Everyone other than Miduchi and Zulu was speechless. Gwine and Giberuti as well.

"Hey, what's with those faces? For what reason are you running? We said the courses on each floor are at longest 10 km right? When we doing running aren't you going a whole 20 km."

I put my hand on my hip while looking around. Putting aside Gwine, I'm sure it'll be hard for Giberuti.

"Alright, let's go!"

""""Yes!!!""""

That's a good reply.

The 3rd floor, No, I'll drag you down to the 4th floor.

When we get to around there I guess I'll reconsider it huh?

Leaving Miduchi as Zulu and I carry Gwine along ahead is also one hand we can play.

.....

"Alright, 51 minutes. Take a 30 minute break."

There were parties taking a break in the teleport crystal room of the 1st floor but knowing full well it's shameful everyone fell over in a corner breathing heavily. The distance we covered was roughly 8 km and the current time is 9:20 pm or so.

We quite literally either completely ignored or blew away all the monsters as we forcefully broke through coming here. The moment I discovered any monsters further down the hall with Identify vision, Miduchi and I would dash(Of course, in the case when there's no traps between) to finish them off. Even if I don't use something like ice we can manage through the 1st and 2nd floors.

Around the 3rd floor putting aside the monsters in the halls, in order to deal with the room bosses I need to freeze them as well..I guess we can somehow manage with attack spells huh?

.....

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 10

The time is 12:30 am. The date has already changed.

Everyone doesn't seem like they can hide their excitement over clearing through to the teleport room on the 3rd floor in about four hours.

Furthermore, Giberuti ended up going down so Zulu and I took turns carrying him. Thanks to that Giberuti seems to have recovered quite a bit.

However...

"Misu, can you keep going? If it's impossible then here" I can keep going! I'm alright."

I see.

Then, I guess we'll go after a break.

I guess seeing her condition, Jeru and Rodrick gathered up their energy as well.

...

.....

And then 5:30 am after daybreak.

We arrived at the teleport room on the 5th floor.

As expected when it comes to the 4th and 5th floors it's gotten difficult to run through.

We ran through the places where zombies and such are behind the hidden doors all at once but normally it's at most walking quickly.

"That ice, it's outrageous right."

Kamu said while sighing.

"What in the world was that! It's amaz~ing!"

Jeru seemed to be tired as well but he can't hide his excitement. That's not unreasonable. In one of the altar rooms in order to confine the 8 {Silvan Wolves} that were the summoned monster I ended up creating two times the amount of ice on a level equivalent to 5.

"If you can use {Cure All} then that level.."

I made a bitter smile while saying it. As expected I've started to get pretty tired as well. There's no need to act like I've used a tremendous amount of mana.

"You should start being careful with your mana pretty soon. Isn't it getting sever already?"

Misu looks to be having a difficult time. Without even taking off her leather armor she said it while falling over into the bed.

However, one more push, those sorts of feelings are showing on her face.

"Fu..Just that much, didn't I say it was easy? It's fine."

I took off my helmet and said while removing my protectors.

Next is the 6th floor so we took turns taking showers and then had a rest for about three hours.

First we had Gwine who was severely fatigued take a shower and then had her sleep as long as she could.

Next was Jeru, Kamu, Zulu, Miduchi, me, Ginger, Giberuti, Rodrick, and Misu in that order.

"However..he's quite something.."

"Yeah, for him to have to this extent..We were almost completely useless."

"Me too..In the end I could count the number of times I used my spear.."

"The battle is already over by the time we catch up after all.."

Ginger and Kamu are grumbling.

If you ask what Rodrick is up to and I guess because of the fatigue he's been silent from start to end and up until a moment ago he was gulping down water and now he's snoring.

That's right, the {Slaughterers} first party is still impossible if you can't keep up.

Give it your best.

Author's note: (TL: Long background on Anderson not half-assed translation)

Viscount Anderson Family is a not very wealthy small territory in the North of the Kingdom but the Lord is an Elf.

Reddo.Anderson's mother was a member of the supply unit of the first knight group in those days.

The King managed to convince her into doing it by saying they wouldn't have a child because their races are different.

The mother as well thought, well whatever, and just decided to play with fire.

They were both young.

However, of all things!

Whether it be a twist of fate, or the love(desire) of the two it bore fruit!

Since she ended up inheriting the blood of her father the King she was born as a human.

She even properly inherited the shape of the ears(?) so it was impossible to talk out of it.

However, it's not permitted for the next King of Rombert Kingdom to marry a woman of a different race which is hard to give birth.

Anything can be done if it was the second or third wife but at the time he was still just a squire of the first knight group and before he had received investiture so it was said to be too soon.

It's not like the King himself did it out of love either.

It's the same for the mother.

There they solved all of their problems with money.

Her family Viscount Anderson's Family was greatly pleased with this as well.

Every year they were given a considerable amount of child support.

For the time being the child that was born was named as the child of the head of the family then.

She ended up as a sisters with her mother.

Obviously, it's not very comfortable in the household.

Though that's the case, she inherited the blood of the prince(at the time) so she was given a reasonable education and thrown into the second knight group.

Of course, to the King she's his original eldest child.

By that point he had already inherited the throne so he made use of the power of the state.

He probably felt bad for treating her too badly.

After that Reddo gave it her best to reach close to a true knight.

Entering itself was something like backdoor entrance but after that was done with her own abilities.

But, before receiving investiture the King himself said, "No~ as expected of my daughter".

And with that sort of feel after asking even further...Uwa~n so it wasn't my own abilities(though it really was)! Even though my family are elves only I was a Hyumu! I thought it was strange! I heard I was adopted but I wasn't even adopted! The one I thought was just a much older sister was actually my mother(the mother ended up marrying some random Baron family's XXth son and is living carefree)! Whatever happened to the story about my parents being greatly loyal squires who passed away in the war(what her family told her)!

I'll quit! Yeah, I'll quit!! It's worst being show favoritism by that irresponsible old man!

I'll rebel and become an adventurer!

Chapter 266: Black Topaz 5

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 10

However you know, all said and done we were able to make it to here at favorable pace.

I think it's quite the good pace considering Giberuti ended up going down along the way and we had to carry him while moving.

It's big that Zulu is wearing the leather armor he used to use in the past as well.

As expected if it was the banded-mail we took from {Bright.Blade} this speed would have been impossible.

And then, just before 9:00 am we arrived at the 6th floor.

This time we managed to teleport into a location that's roughly 7 km from the teleport crystal.

It's considerably good luck to pull this spot on the first try.

If it's here then it's very possible for us to enter the 7th floor this morning.

Zenom and Miduch lead the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} as they just cleared through this 6th floor a number of times the other day. I thought they would already have been over some of their aversion to the teleport traps but it seems the previously psychological burden isn't going to disappear so easily. Certainly if I were to see my allies disappear right in front of my eyes to some unknown location then I might end up with a trauma similar to them as well.

Teleport traps are frightening but if you were to ask me I'm more afraid of the monsters that make use of those suddenly attack almost like an ambush. We have no choice but to remain on guard. Consequently on this floor rather than "running through" we just proceeded by speed walking.

Though Miduchi said, "It's certainly a bit slow but we're still clearing through at a considerably high speed."... I can't even remember when it was anymore

when we would pass through slowly one at a time and spend a total of several minutes just to get by. I'll accept that we've make tremendous progress compared to them though.

Normally we move slower as they nervously stick to the wall and follow behind but this time we weren't lowering our speed for that Ginger, Jeru, and the others at all. Gwine just acts like she's looking at the map for a bit and says, "The part sticking out of the wall over there has a teleport trap about 3 meters ahead of it" and then we all walk casually past it along the wall without lowering our pace.

For the sake of caution I wanted to turn around but (Particularly on the side of a trap in the worst case a boar appears there and someone gets knocked into the trap it would be difficult) I even endured that. If I don't do this then they'll eternally maintain the trauma and every time they have to pass a teleport trap they'll turn pale while barely unable to advance.

I thought if they could conquer it here then it might have some influence on the other members with the same type of trauma.

While Ginger and Jeru are probably pale and barely advancing, without even turning around I faced forward with my pace the same while saying, "Anyone who's slow will be left behind. If it's impossible then return. If it's from here then you can quickly return back to the 5th floor and there's no monsters. If you run it won't even take 5 minutes." before walking off. Kamu, Misu, and Rodrick were trying to say something but I didn't pay it any mind.

And then, the Ginger and Jeru they were worried about followed after us just a bit late. We're walking as well and they know that if you walk along the edge of the hall you can pass by without getting caught in the trap so it's only obvious though. However, compared to the time when I had entered {Sun.Ray} it's tremendous progress. It's quite something.

Well that's great.

Starting next time I can properly remain cautious after all.

However, we were only able to advance smoothly for the first 30 minutes or so and after that along the way we suddenly were attacked by {Cave Boars}. The first time the {Cave Boar} appeared from the front so Zulu and I finished it

off with Miduchi's magic as support. However, the second time was from the rear. That time the ones who were in the back was Jeru and Misu but it seems they had just a bit of good luck as well. The moment the {Cave Boar} appeared it was just as Giberuti had turned around to hand them some Baldoggie as a snack.

He was surprised but thanks to Giberuti calmly sticking the wall while shouting "Behind!!" and Jeru dealing with the charge of the boar covering for Misu we were able to make it this far without anyone suffering any injuries.

Without any large trouble, and the power enemy {Quad-handed Apes} never appearing as the boss of a room, we arrived at the teleport crystal in the center room at about 11:00 am. The {Cave Great Boar} in the room along the way Miduchi and I used {Detect.Life} to figure out the number and their location before using attack spells the moment we had visibility to injure their legs and deal with them all.

It seems Kamu and the others think that Miduchi and I have frighteningly sharp intuition.

Adding to that, it seems the fact that were overlooking boss class magic stones(they can be sold for roughly 150,000~250,00 Z each) from the 6th floor is a regret as well. Obviously I regrets over it as well. I want to gather them all. They would all add up to over 1,000,000 Z I'm sure...

"Take a 30 minute break. It's the last break so properly rest. Giberuti prepare just the Baldoggie. Ah, it's fine to just line them up in the frying pan."

Everyone's quietly resting their bodies. Giberuti's taking his wooden rack that he left to Zulu back and started adjusting the belt on it as well. This time we're expecting several injured people so he's coming along to the 7th floor as well. Though it's not limited to just injured people that we'll have to carry.

Of course I guess you could say, the camp site of {Black.Topaz} was left in the same condition as that morning.

It seems we haven't just missed them.

.....

"It's here. We're finally in the correct location."

On our 17th time teleporting in we finally managed to get to a location that leads to the northern monster room.

There's roughly 6 km to the northern monster room.

In order to get to the place where we came from the other day we have to clear through the northern monster room once but it's possible to pass through the ogre mage room without fighting by just moving along the wall.

It took another 30 minutes to get up to here. It hurts that we ended up wasting some time but if the teleport luck is bad we would have had to clear through one of the other monster rooms and then pass through the 7th floor teleport room before going back over to the monster room on the northern side. As a result it's certainly the fastest method but I feel like we would be hurrying a bit too much.

"Alright, with me at the lead, Zulu is behind on the right, Rodrick on the left, behind Zulu on the right is Jeru, behind Rodrick is Ginger, behind me is Gwine and then behind her is Giberuti. Behind Giberuti is Kamu and Misu. Miduchi follow after at the very rear. The interval is 5 meters. We'll use this as the base. Let's go."

Several minutes after I started running.

There's something I suddenly thought of.

If a bit after we pass through the northern monster room what would happen if I make a large noise using the spell {Audible Clamor}?

I feel like the ogres in the halls would approach wondering what the noise is. If {Black.Topaz} is camping somewhere or injured and unable to move as they standby somewhere then they might notice the reinforcements. Even if that isn't the case I think it's worthwhile just by pulling the attention of the ogres away from {Black.Topaz}.

In order to not surprise everyone from suddenly using it, I stopped moving for a moment and after conveying that, Jeru and Misu were against it. They were saying not to use my mana for something like that. They were hoping for me to reserve it for the combat with ogres. In reverse Kamu, Ginger, and Rodrick supported it.

"Jeru, Misu. Well just watch. If Greed-kun is saying it himself then I'm sure it's fine."

"Look at everyone else from the {Slaughterers}. They're making calm faces."

"..."

Ginger and Kamu both said that while Rodrick isn't saying anything in particular.

"You all, what were you listening to in our meetings up until now? If you heard the reports from the {Slaughterers} then it should have been plenty for you to realize it?"

"That's right. Didn't Ral say it as well? That even she's never seen Greed-kun being serious."

Wha!? Huh? Don't screw with me, what in the world has she been watching up until now, that shitty brat!

Did I look like I was slacking and not serious!?

I've fought seriously countless times. Even that time when I was in {Sun.Ray} I was seriously when I fought against those last ogre mages. That time there were people injured in the {Slaughterers} so I couldn't afford to be acting composed. I've always been serious and greatly diligent.

Does she seriously think that firing off powerful spells no one has ever seen before in rapid succession or recklessly charging into things is being serious, that idiot? Don't be mistaking seriousness with desperation. If you have that sort of brats way of thinking you won't have any success. If you think that being serious is giving all have as if your life depends on it and fighting with complete devotion then you'll end up a soldier for the rest of your life.

Of course even I've gotten desperate when fighting before. The time when I changed the {Vampire} into dust I was as desperate as desperate can be, I was giving it all I had as if my life depended on it, the amount of mana I used in the spell was way beyond a lavish feast. If you don't call that desperation without thinking anything about what comes next, then what would you?

Though I say that, it's probably just talk again...

I'm sure Ralpa is that much of an idiot.

Or maybe she's mixing up seriousness and using up all of one's strength.

After all it seems she's from "Hatsudai Academy High School"~ Not that I know about it though.

In order to not have to get desperate and use all of your strength fighting as if your life depends upon it that's the reason why you have a brain right. The {Horned Bear} when I was a brat and then the {Vampire} and {The.Gazer} since coming to Baldukk. I never want to have to enter that sort of combat to the limit again...Even if I say that as long as we continue exploring this dungeon I'm sure it's possible we'll fall into similar circumstances after this as well.

I'm sure there's plenty of situations where a party gets ambushed by monsters in the dungeon and falls into an unfavorable situation. That itself I'm sure would be a situation like being attacked by an unpredictably strong monster or an attack by a huge swarm. Whether it's Jeru or Miduchi if someone from my party falls into a crisis that's the time for me to get frantic and get it my all once more, I'm sure I'll fight mustering all of my strength.

"What is it?"

I guess I must have been making a strange expression. Miduchi called out to me.

"No, it's nothing.."

"In any case, Jeru and Misu I won't forgive any objections. Obey the leader."

I don't know whether or not she noticed my face(I think it's probably unrelated) but Kamu said that to Jeru and Misu. Yeah, I overlooked it because we're not in combat but normally this place is the middle of the 7th floor where it wouldn't be strange no matter how tense we get.

"On the 7th floor here it's bright so we have good visibility, if we properly maintain vigilant then I'm sure we won't be ambushed so easily. Miduchi don't let your guard down from any direction. Let's go."

And I just said that to them before hurrying ahead.

.....

We passed through the northern monster room by following along the outer wall and arrived at the entrance we previously encountered {Black.Topaz}.

Just from what I can tell nothing has changed.

With the exception of when we passed through the monster room, since we hurried up to here the time was just a bit past noon.

"We'll have lunch later. Let's go."

We advanced down the wilderness like hall from the monster room and about 100 meters ahead entered the forest.

The forest should last for about 150 meters.

There's probably an ogre somewhere in this forest.

If it gets caught in my {Detect.Life} then there's no way for it to run.

The moment I detect it I'll dash towards the ogre at full speed and before anyone other than Zulu can catch up finish it off instantly just like up until now.

If there's more than three of them then I'll use magic but if it's two then I can finish them off with my bayonet.

After passing through the forest some shrubs continue for about 100 meters.

Ahead of that is a forest again.

I targeted the top of a tree as far as I could see and used the spell {Audible Clamor}.

Even though the halls of the 7th floor are considerably wide and the ceiling is high, in the end it's shaped like a tunnel.

Wouldn't the magic sound reach pretty far?

A large rupturing sound echoes through the hall on the 7th floor.

It should be plenty if we use {Audible Clamor} every 500 meters to 1 km apart.

Though it's just my intuition.

In less than another 1 km we should reach the fork-path that {Black.Topaz} came down from the teleport location they started on the 7th floor.

In about 10 minutes we arrived at the forked-path.

There was nothing particularly different up to here.

We beat down all of the ogres we encountered.

As expected since they're ogre magic stones the amount is what it is so it's a waste but it's fine if we take our time returning to gather them after saving {Black.Topaz}.

Most likely but after {Black.Topaz} split up with us they were carrying their allies corpse so along with being careful of monsters they were probably advancing a lot slower than normally.

Wouldn't it take about 2 hours from the monster room up to here I guess?

I called out to Gwine and she confirmed that there's a high possibility that this connects to the teleport crystal {Black.Topaz} used to get to here.

That time, on our way the corpses of the ogres that seemed to have been defeated by {Black.Topaz} were discovered a bit closer to the monster room.

There's three places where we've confirmed teleport crystals ahead of this forked-path.

{Black.Topaz} should have teleported in using one of those and they should have been progressing towards that teleport crystal.

.....

When we proceeded about 2 km from the starting fork we discovered traces of a camp.

It was in a location along the wall of the hall where some rocks were.

They must have spent the night here that day.

If their numbers were decreased and carrying a corpse as they remained on guard I guess this is about it.

There was several traces of combat on the way up to here but the magic stones were taken out of the ogre's corpses so it's definitely not a conflict between ogres.

No, it's not like I've seen ogres fighting among themselves before so I don't know though.

I've only ever seen them beating up on goblins.

Whether it's traces of {Black.Topaz}'s combat on the outward journey and trip back isn't clear though.

After that roughly 1 km.

About 2 km ahead of here is the forked-path to the closest teleport crystal to the monster room what we {Slaughterers} call the super lucky "win".

As expected it was too close so we thought, "it's most likely not here" but if {Black.Topaz} was wiped out on their way back then it's possible.

We need to confirm it.

We carefully investigated up to where the teleport crystal should be(it's not like we used that one this time so we can't see or touch it) but it ended with just killing off an ogre and goblins.

Ahead of this there's only a few places with dead ends.

We ran back to the forked-path from just now and then started down a different path.

Along the way there's several forked-paths but they're all dead ends.

In the middle of despair while carrying a corpse to the surface it's unlikely to think they would try to do mapping of all the split paths.

We ignored all of those forked-paths and then ran another 2 km or so.

Of course I'm still periodically using {Audible Clamor} and having Miduchi and Gwine use it as well.

We're using the time they spend concentrating for the spells as a rest break.

And then we're coming up on another forked-path leading to a teleport crystal.

That teleport crystal is about 1.5 km from here.

This one is close to a "win" as well.

We couldn't find anything out of place on the way down from the forked-path.

After returning and advancing about 100 meters ahead we found traces of a camp again.

Unexpectedly there was also traces of someone spitting up blood.

I thought they hadn't progressed very far but I guess someone else was injured.

I guess they were injured in combat with one of the ogres that respawned?

I don't know who it is but it seems to be a serious injury that even Anderson, Kaku, Roru, or Marin can't heal with spells.

If they fought then they must have been using attack spells and it should take some time to recover as well.

If they're still carrying them then I'm sure like this their pace would have gotten considerably slow.

In the traces of combat along the way there were newer corpses of ogres that started appearing.

It seems they're giving it their best.

And then after advancing another 3 km we found traces of a camp.

With this it's become definite that they were still alive in the night of the day before yesterday.

I guess they somehow managed to make up to here while remaining on guard and carrying the heavy burden of Rotto's corpse.

They might have been taking a break to recover mana every time after they finished combat.

We decided to have sobagaki and Baldoggies for a bit late lunch here.

They were moving a lot slower than I had imagined.

They didn't just struggle with the monster room but it seems struggling with all the ogres that started respawning on their way back raised their caution quite a bit.

According to Gwine there's another 7 km to the last teleport crystal candidate we have.

They departed for the 7th floor before 5:00 am that day.

We passed through the 7th and 8th floors and ended up encountering them in the evening on our second trip through.

If they smoothly entered combat on their way in and didn't get caught up in investigating the forked-paths on the way to the monster room then after all their teleport crystal would be the last candidate.

Their movement speed is slow so they might need another night.

"If it's like this then they're probably worn-out but alive."

"If that isn't the case then we'll be troubled. The request fee is depending on it."

Misu and Jeru were saying something like that but they aren't letting their guard down as they scan the surroundings with a serious expression.

"Really..Putting aside the money, isn't it only obvious it's better for them to be alive?"

Rodrick retorted with an amazed tone of voice but it seems he thinks it's a joke.

"Why are you saying such softhearted things. They have the skills to make it to the 7th floor. It's more beneficial for us for them to be dead..But if that's the case then the reduction in request fee.."

Ginger grumbled with a troubled voice.

"Stop pointlessly chattering. Now then, a bit more. Let's go."

Miduchi reprimanded everyone like that.

After advancing another 4 km we discovered traces of a camp again.

With this it means they were definitely alive until last night.

On the way up to here there was traces of combat several times and just the blood was dry but the decay of the corpses hadn't started.

"It should be in another 3 km or so. Let's hurry."

After hearing Gwine's words we all started running.

And then along the way around the time we were going to pass through the forest I got a reaction for something with {Detect.Life}.

The number is 2.

I poured MP into distance and(even then it's less than normally though) extended it to about double so it was about 200 meters ahead.

After using it consecutively once more and it seems they're moving over here.

Different than {Party-ization} it's not very user-friendly right.

I guess they're ogres?

After all that's the case.

They came running out from the dense forest.

At almost the same time I ran out into the area with waist-high grass like a field.

I can see the 2 ogres running towards me with their heavy footsteps.

I finish off one with {Stone Arbalest Missile}.

One more shot, and just when I thought that a {Stone Arbalest} came flying from my side.

When the ogre tried to evade it I felt like the trajectory shifted just a bit.

It's the same {Stone Arbalest Missile} as my own.

It's Miduchi.

The moment I thought I turned around one and shouted "Hurry!" before running at full speed.

That ogre is most likely a scout.

It must have come to check after noticing the {Audible Clamor}.

This is bad.

The fact that there's an ogre between us and {Black.Topaz} means...

Even in the best situation...

No, I'll stop thinking for now.

We need to hurry even just a second faster.

I run past the side of the fallen ogres.

Hurry.

I run through the field and entered the forest ahead of that.

I quickly used {Detect.Life}.

Just as expected there was a reaction.

The number is 11.

The distance is about 100 meters ahead.

Since Rotto should be dead the number of survivors in {Black.Topaz} should be 7 people.

Can I still make it in time!?

"We've come to save you!!"

I raised my voice from the bottom of my stomach.

It would be good if they heard it though.

""..o!!""

".. ..!!"

"..lp us!!"

Alright.

Chapter 267: Black Topaz 6

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 10

I couldn't clearly hear sis Anderson's voice but I felt like I heard the voice of a female so a smile naturally appeared on my face.

"I'm coming right now!!"

After shouting that I adjusted my direction a bit while running towards the area I detected life force just a moment ago.

The trees from the forest are flying by as I go.

I jumped over a small rock the size of my chest and started running again the moment I landed.

In the gaps of the trees, about 70~80 meters or so ahead I guess?

I felt like I saw a glance of the back of a monster that seemed like an ogre.

The overgrowth of the trees is still dense so I can't get a grasp on the location of the group yet.

Faster.

No matter how favorable of a light I think about it {Black.Topaz} is on the losing side.

Faster!

Normally it's bad to even trip over a small rock in the undergrowth so I should lower my speed a bit.

However, right now I should leave my luck to the heavens and recklessly run ahead as if there's no undergrowth or rocks!

"Aaaa!?"

I can hear a woman screaming.

"Guge~!!!"

Almost simultaneously the voice that seems to be from an ogre.

It sounds somewhat triumphant.

Faster, faster!

Shit!!

Sweat entered my eyes!

I've been constantly moving since last night so I'm covered in quite a bit of sweat.

I guess I replenished too much water?

I wipe the running sweat with my left hand and run without lowering my speed.

Faster, faster, faster!!!

"Gyappu! Goazo!"

"Goge!! Guggugbutto!"

If it's not then I'm sure you can see me when I'm desperate.

I can see them!!

About 20 meters ahead, there's a place which the trees are somewhat open.

The undergrowth is there not much different from everywhere else.

One of the ogres is kneeling over with it's back at me seeming to jeer at something.

This one is the closest.

Just next to that one is another that is just the same showing it's back to me as it sits down.

About 5 meters from that is the backs of 2 ogres that are holding the clubs in their hands and making movements as if they're ridiculing someone.

And then ahead of that is the silhouette of what seems to be a member of {Black.Topaz}.

I can only see the upper bodies of three people through the standing undergrowth.

Further inside there's another 2 ogres teasing {Black.Topaz} just the same.

The number doesn't match up, is what I was thinking but right now it's a waste of time even to confirm.

It seems the ogres still haven't noticed me but the moment I start taking action it will be a fight for time.

I hid my body behind the trunk of a tree about 10 meters behinds and spent a short moment thinking which to start off with.

I wanted to use {Chain Lightning} with extra MP in it but the positioning is bad.

I used {Stone Catapult} to blow a hole through the center of the one on the left with it's back to me killing it instantly.

Immediately after I used the spell {Fumble} on the one to the right.

Ignoring the ogre that was sitting and in a hurry to turn around I used {Fire Wall} with an extended duration in front of the ogres further back to keep them in check.

It's a 20 meter wide and 3 meter high wall of flames going from one wall of the hall to the next.

I overlapped it five times after all.

The depth of the flames should be about 1 meter.

With this things should be fine for a short while.

The ogres in the back, the ogres in the front, and then {Black.Topaz} they all raised their voices in surprise.

With this I should have separated {Black.Topaz} from the ogres in the back.

"Shi!!"

The one that was closest to me on one knee, while it's attention was on the wall of flames, I stabbed my bayonet into the gap on the side of it's neck.

The bayonet didn't miss it's mark as it stabbed in with a tough recoil.

The ogre flinched taking my bayonet so suddenly from behind.

Even then I put more strength into my left hand on the fore grip and pierced through in one breath.

I'm sure the end of my bayonet pierced through into the ogres mouth.

I should have been able to destroy the medulla.

The ogre shook just a bit and then all the strength in it's body seemed to disappear.

I quickly pulled out my bayonet and charged towards the other one that noticed me and was about to stand up.

"Oraaa!!"

"Gigo~!!!"

I smashed the gun-stock into the end of it's nose and ran past charging towards the one I used the spell {Fumble} on just a moment ago.

It seems the undergrowth in the areas of this one is low at around 20~30 cm.

It's looking over here with a surprised face.

In a hurry it held it's club but it's unsteady.

"Nu..E~~i!!"

I stabbed my bayonet into it's right flank and after quickly pulling it lowered my posture while turning to the right then turned in a way so my bayonet stabbed into the back of it's right knee.

When the ogre's posture collapsed and it dropped it's club I kicked it in the back of the head with all of my strength, then immediately put my left hand to it's back before bracing my legs and firing {Air Blades}, once, twice, three times. Thanks to that my glove is covered in ogre blood.

I quickly turned around and after jumping into the 1 meter high grass once more, faced off against the ogre who's nose I broke.

The ogre was sitting down and it started swinging it's right hand holding the club with a surprising speed for it's broken nose.

As expected I can't carelessly approach a club swinging horizontally.

After all, it's swinging almost as if the grass doesn't exist.

Doba~to and it was almost as if the grass was involved in a small explosion as the areas in front of the ogre opened up.

The ogre was arrogantly not even standing as it remained in a posture with its club while still on one knee.

As expected of it excelling at close combat.

If it had continued the movement to stand up just like that then it would have taken my attack to the leg or abdomen.

Up against one like that and I need to remain cautious.

Seeing me keep an eye on things the ogre licked its bloody nose before grinning with a sneer.

Since my height is low compared to the ogre it must think I'm an easy to beat midget the same as {Black.Topaz}.

""Greed!!""

I can hear delighted voices from the direction of {Black.Topaz}.

Just shut up and watch!! My power as the one who leads the true top team!!

The edges of my lips raise up.

I'll decide it with the next move!

I glare at the ogre from below the visor of my helmet and after slightly lowering my posture prepared to charge at it once again.

The match begins the next time it tries to stand up.

The wall of flames will still last for easily over 1 minute.

The ogre wants to stand up seeing an opening of mine.

I want to intentionally show an opening and aim for when it stands up.

Though that's the case, if it's too obvious then it will see through the fact that it's a trap.

While we were both mixing in feints I started moving in a circle around the ogre.

The ogre showed movements as if trying to keep that in check.

It seems {Black.Topaz} is calling out to their injured allies but I can feel the presence of several approaching my side.

They're probably trying to back me up.

Then I guess I'll make use of them huh?

Now!

Watching the timing I went to switch to charge at it.

"Gooogaaaa~!!!"

It was that moment, along with a roar a Laios came charging in like a hurricane and cut through the ogres head from the side with his sword.

The large sword embedded halfway into it's skull as the ogre died.

Zulu kicked the ogre while pulling out his sword and looked at my for orders.

He took my scene.

He must have been ordered by Miduchi.

"There's 2 of them inside of the flames. Get into formation!"

I make a bitter smile while ordering Zulu and I ignore the members who came to back me up while standing between the wall of flames and {Black.Topaz}.

And then the members of the {Slaughterers} gradually gathered on the battlefield.

The 2 remaining ogres are already nothing more than extras.

Everyone's used quite a bit of stamina and worn out but as expected they've been training on a normal basis.

Even if you can tell they're exhausted from their expressions they're moving briskly.

I'm sure there's no problem leaving it to them.

.....

"Gu...Thanks. You saved us again."

"Thanks for coming."

"uu...I thought we were goners.."

"Thank you."

"Eh? We're saved..."

When the survivors of {Black.Topaz} understood the danger had gone they each started thanking me.

However, other than Rotto there were two other casualties.

Gary(Gary.Bagumaia) and Marin(Marin.Rukkima).

The surviving five of them were all half-dead half-alive with serious injuries but including the sub-leader Kaku(Kaku.Dankel) there wasn't a single one unharmed.

The leader Anderson has an open bone fracture in her left arm and Roru(Roreiru.Naruzomerin) has a broken right leg as well.

The one who looks to have the minor injuries Baru has a pale face and seems to have four broken ribs and Vikkusu(Vikkensu.Barukemi) some considerably severe bruises as well.

I left the treatment to Miduchi, Gwine, Misu, and Rodrick as I listened to Anderson's story.

Supposedly shortly after they split ways with us on the first day they spent it without a problem.

The problem was the next day.

Ever since they came to the 7th floor, {Black.Topaz} encountered their first group of 3 or more ogres excluding the monster room and while they somehow defeated them, Marin ended up suffering serious injuries here.

They ended up having to spend quite a bit of time and mana for her treatment.

Of course, there were other people injured besides just her as well.

They needed to leave some reserve power for the sake of combat with ogres so it was difficult to use mana just on healing.

Even then they managed to keep Marin from dying and they earned quite a bit on the 7th floor so the mood was still cheerful.

That night, Marin coughed up a large amount of blood and it was determined that her organs still hadn't recovered.

On Anderson's decision they decided to put priority on using healing spells on Marin.

Thanks to that she managed to return back to a lull state.

At this point the magicians excluding Marin still didn't have any major injuries as well.

Furthermore Anderson suggested taking the magic stone out of Rotto's corpse to move even just a bit faster but she gave up on it when all of her party members objected to it.

The Viscount Anderson family isn't all that wealthy and the territory isn't very large either.

Just as old man Viruhaima said, excluding Marin, everyone in {Black.Topaz} was born in the same village and many of them have been friends since they were children quite literally 20 or 30 years.

Not just their parents and siblings were acquaintances but they were a group where the older members even changed the younger members diapers when they were younger.

Anderson must have made the statement after quite a bit of resolve but she said she was relieved that they were against it at that time.

Kaku and Baru took turns carrying Rotto's remains while Gary and Vikkusu took turns carrying Marin.

Obviously their movement speed was considerably slow.

The number of eyes keeping lookout decreased as well.

They somehow managed to clear through the next day as well but as expected the number of injured increased and they started putting healing priority on the magicians.

If a magician remains injured then they can't use magic and their mana just ends pointless.

Marin still hadn't recovered enough to use spells.

And then the next day(yesterday).

They struggled a bit this day as well but somehow managed to make it through.

If they continued proceeding carefully they would reach the teleport crystal in another one or two days.

Though there were some injuries, they're first-rate adventurers.

If it's just 2 ogres then they can somehow manage.

Even if it's against 3 of them there shouldn't be any casualties.

Around this time thanks to having healing spells used on her a number of times while Marin couldn't use magic she had recovered enough to walk on her own using a spear as a walking stick.

However, after all let alone fully recovered she could barely walk and in the situation with other injured people combat against ogres was difficult.

The number of injured increased again.

Though Marin can use magic, if another person suffers serious injuries the mana needs to be used for healing them.

Another night passed into today.

{Black.Topaz} ended up being attacked by 5 ogres in this forest and driven into a defensive battle.

They managed to hold out for quite a long time but before they realized it the number of ogres had increased by another 3.

The reliable front line sub-leader Kaku was rendered powerless and Gary took a club to the head and died.

Marin who gathered her strength to form a line of spears but because of her fatigue she lost her balance and took an attack dying as well.

Everyone ended up wounded and it reached the point where the ogres were playing tormenting {Black.Topaz}.

The ogres were intentionally holding back enough not to kill {Black.Topaz} and were playing with them after they had lost most of their power to resist.

That continued for 30 minutes and around the time they were falling into despair they could hear a sound like something was rupturing in the distance.

The ogres must have ordered them to go and take a look because 2 of them left the group and went.

However, among them, Anderson and Roru realized it was the sound of {Audible Clamor}.

The ones coming here are either the {Slaughterers} or {Verdure.Brotherhood}.

It was natural to think it was the {Verdure.Brotherhood} who got tired of waiting for them to return but they had no method of conveying their location.

However, they didn't give up on hope.

They tried to hang on even just a bit longer and bet on the small possibility.

When they were desperately resisting I appeared.

I looked like the Savior right?

Chapter 268: Black Topaz 7

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 10

In any case, you can say we've succeeded with our objective this time of rescuing the leader of {Black.Topaz}, Reddo.Anderson.

They've recovered quite a bit thanks to the healing spells of the {Slaughterers} as well. Of course it's close the bare minimum and there's probably still quite a bit of pain remaining.

However, if you exclude that then you could say it's reached the level where there's no obstructions to their ability to walk.

"Now then..First, I offer my condolences for the members who passed away. I'm sorry we didn't arrive in time for their rescue. It's really unfortunate for everyone. But, please don't let it get you down."

Certainly I think it was unfortunate. It's not like they were people I didn't know at all after all. But, in the end they're just people from another party. Even more so when they're employees of a different place that are jeopardizing the business region we pioneered. Even then social courtesies are necessary.

"However, whatever the case I'm relieved that you were still alive, Anderson-san. By the way we'll be taking the ogre magic stones from here."

"Of course. It's the results of your battle."

I replied by shrugging my shoulders and grinning and ordered everyone gather the magic stones.

Miduchi and Kamu were on standby on both of my sides. Kamu seemed like she wanted to say something, but what she wants to say, I already understand those feelings. I lightly raised my left hand stopped Kamu. No matter what I won't accept that.

We entered the dungeon this time after taking a job from the {Verdure.Brotherhood} but it's only obvious that it's not a job where you can

precisely promise it's been accomplished. 15,000,000 advance payment, and 30,000,000 when we've met the condition for accomplishing it, that's all there is to it. It's a considerable fee but even when you get lost in the mountains of Japan and people go looking for you you'll end up being charged a considerable amount from the Hunting Friends Association or the local group of young men.

It's possible that {Black.Topaz} themselves will offer a new job to "please save us" but this is something we shouldn't accept. Something like "if you don't want to die pay up" is something you shouldn't say if you really don't intend to kill them. It'll end up as double-charging after all.

Even in regards to Kamu and the others, I promised them 5% of the fee as compensation this time, it's only obvious to put in effort to increase the amount but the only ones who bend the truth to do that are trash adventurers and yakuza. Although, honestly speaking it's not amusing having the 7th floor invaded either. In regards to earning money there's no floor greater than this after all. Though there's no altars so you can't find any treasure. Oh~ it might just be that I don't know and I can't deny the possibility you can find some huh? We've never tried mining or anything after all.

She must have known that it's not something that can really be praised even from the common sense on Orth. Kamu obediently gave up as well.

"Could I ask you to remain on standby for a bit until we finish collecting the magic stones? Also, is anyone hungry? It's just a bit but we have preserved food. Ah, of course, I'll be charging for it. Just one ogre magic stone is fine. How about it?"

After all it seems their food conditions must have deteriorated quite a bit. I could hear the sound of the throats gulping from {Black.Topaz} members behind Anderson. I'm sure~ unless you were quite literally at the very limit you wouldn't want to eat the flesh of a humanoid monster or your allies.

I'm sorry for saying it a number of times but I don't want you to misunderstand there's no culture on Orth for cannibalism or eating humanoids. Rather it's avoided. They would at least tan the hides but never eat them. Even if they were a culture that eats them, no matter how used to Orth I get as long as there's other food I would never eat ogres, orks, or goblins, those sorts of

humanoid monsters and completely reject them.

In the first place when farmers of the world grow things based around grains such as wheat I can't help but think someone who would think a monkey or humanoid monster is crazy. Putting aside an emergency situation, it would be quite the reversion back to the hunters of the primeval ages.

I took out that shitty disgusting preserved food from Miduchi, Kamu, and my survival kits. Additionally, I filled a flask with boiling water before putting dried meat in and making soup.

"I think you can already imagine but we came to save you all after directly receiving a job from the {Verdure.Brotherhood}."

"I thought that might be the case...Please bring us to the teleport crystal to the 6th floor. Also, this"

Anderson sighed before taking out one magic stone from the bag on her hip. I check the status to confirm it's one from an ogre. Since I'm receiving money I'll properly do my job.

"I understand. Please leave it to us."

I handed them the preserved food and soup while saying. Starting with Kamu who was next to me, Ginger, Misu, and Jeru the members of the {Butchers} who had been watching over things as they gather magic stones seemed satisfied as well. Selling 9 meals of preserved food for an 800,000 Z ogre magic stone is a huge profit after all. The same sort of reason why Mt Fuji's cola is expensive.

A normal face is only up to the third time. That one time on the 5th floor. Removing the curse. The ogre mage room the other day. It's plenty to have done them great favors three times already. Ah, I guess I did have them help when I was taking in {Sun.Ray} huh? Also, in the past, I talked to her for a bit when we were in the teleport room on the 1st floor. Even then I'm in excess in number of favors and I doubt I'll be punished for them to pay at least this much.

After devouring down the food and drinks I guess they can finally catch their breath, Anderson's facial color had returned a bit as she started talking to me.

"There's no mistake that the teleport crystal everyone used was around 2 km ahead of here right?"

"That's right."

Anderson replied while biting into a hard baked biscuit.

"We'll escort you up to there. We've prepared Baldoggie in the teleport room on the 6th floor. It's fine if you eat them right away or it's also fine if you just return to the surface like that. However.."

"I know. The {Verdure.Brotherhood} has come as well right?"

"That's what I've heard."

Probably, even if they're proceeding considerably smoothly, they're only around the 4th floor right about now though. It's just my prediction but I think they're still on the 3rd floor.

"When did they enter?"

"The {Verdure.Brotherhood} should have entered last night."

"I see. You all..No, never mind. I'll just get depressed hearing I'm sure...Then I'll leave somebody behind in the teleport crystal room on the 5th floor."

.....

We've already finished gathering the magic stones and {Black.Topaz} said they'd pay 1,000,000 Z per person for helping carry the corpses as well. In regards to Gary and Marin's corpses I had Zulu and Giberuti carry theirs. In regards to Rotto who's started to decay just a bit Baru who had recovered quite a bit so he decided to carry his.

In order from those who's hands were open we finished up a light meal of preserved food and soup. Also acting as somewhat of a large break, we spent about 5 hours resting in this place because I determined that we probably wouldn't hold out much longer without it.

Another 2 km. For us who have a lot of members used to it then unless it's a place like the large grass growing in the surroundings we can walk quite easily so even if there's combat along the way we should arrive at the teleport crystal in about 1 hour. There's also the option of advancing without resting. However, for the time being we've accomplished our goal of securing {Black.Topaz} so I'm just taking into consideration the possibility that we let our guards down.

"I'll keep lookout first. I'm sure you're tired, you get some rest."

There was a grateful proposal from Miduchi but I want to play lookouts in at least two places. In other words, myself, and you who has enough composure remaining to suggest that. Endure it.

I sat down on a tree branch a bit of distance away and when I was holding one knee so I could be ready at any moment while scanning the surroundings, Kamu quietly approached me.

"Thanks for letting us profit."

You're welcome.

"We need to take what we can when we can right. Rather than that you should rest right now while you can though.."

"Nn"

Kamu half replied while leaning on the trunk of the tree I had my back against.

"Hey, Greed-kun."

"Yeah?"

This time, I thought it once again, but everyone from the {Slaughterers}, exactly how much stamina do they have?"

I wonder how I should reply to Kamu as she said that amazed. A second master of the general section company that is seriously training or so. As expected let alone the winter battle maniacs CWCT's "Unit R {Ranger}" I'm sure it wouldn't even reach the normal "R {Ranger} though. I haven't made them do advances while crawling or high port* running after all.

"It was my limit just keeping up...I ended up holding you back."

If you understand then there was plenty of meaning to it. If it was just us, No, just me then I'm sure it would have been much faster after all.

"This is simply my opinion but.."

I said that as the preface while looking down at the whorl in Kamu's hair.

"You know adventurers, it would be best if they can do various things all on their own. But, I think that fundamentally it's running. For as long as possible,

continuing to make intense movements. How long they can continue ahead with very few breaks. Whether you can use the sword or spear, whether you're familiar with traps, or whether you can use spells somewhat if you were to compare it to those then it's not a significant problem."

"I've heard about that before.."

Since I've said it before after all. Whether they think it's loud or annoying I'll say it any number of times though.

"It's the same for magic as well. Of course~ it's important to have the technique to land hits with attack spells. But, how short you can make the time before it activates..no matter how skilled you are hitting the opponent if you can't fire it off when you need then there's no meaning. Even if you can't hit it's fine if you can just use it as a threat. Of course it's all the better to land the hit that time. Even Kamu it's not like you're always thinking about hitting with arrows right?"

"..I always shoot intending to land a hit.."

Ah, is that so...Though I think that's correct as a mindset.

"I just wanted to say it's important to be able to quickly get into the posture to shoot. There's no guarantee you'll always have the leeway to shoot from an advantageous position. I just think it's more important to be able to move quickly and quickly get ready."

"I see..I'll get a bit of rest as well."

After saying that Kamu returned to where everyone else was. Well, the details I was speaking of were more oriented towards soldiers than adventurers after all.

After that we entered combat with ogres twice up to the teleport crystal and we're able to see off {Black.Topaz} as they safely teleported to the 6th floor. We returned back down the path we originally came while gathering magic stones from the ogres corpses and taking periodic breaks, then used the teleport crystal in the center to return to the 6th floor. Of course we avoided combat by walking around the outer wall of the ogre mage room. It's not particularly that I didn't want to show Kamu and the others our combat but I was really tired and

just didn't want to concentrate anymore than that to use spells.

The Baldoggie we had prepared on the 6th floor had properly disappeared. They said they would leave behind one person on the 5th floor and would wait for the {Verdure.Brotherhood} to arrive. We wanted to sleep on a proper bed rather than the dirt bed of this dungeon as well.

We can return to the surface without even taking 10 minutes so we decided to return without a break.

On the 5th floor Baru had run out of energy and was rolled up sleeping in a corner so we quietly chanted the teleport incantation so as to not wake him up. There were several uneaten Baldoggie by his side so it was just a bit amusing.

.....

When we returned to the surface it wasn't just past midnight but a time when the sky was starting to get bright. We tried asking the Baldukk knight group person acting as guard of the tax official for the dungeon whether or not {Black.Topaz} safely returned and,

"It seems that everyone saved them. No, that's quite something."

And said that so realizing that we were able to safely accomplish our job everyone was able to smile.

It's because by this point it was decided that everyone other than the slaves would get 5% of 30,000,000 Z, 1,500,000 as special compensation. We ended up exhausted but 1,500,000 for less than one day is good right.

Also, in regards to the magic stones the total sale price should be close to 20,000,000 Z as well(it's long past the open hours of the "Magic Tool Shop Danhiru" that we always use). These end up being treated the same as the {Slaughterers} at 2% so it's around 400,000 Z. In total that means they were able to earn close to 2,000,000 Z in one night. In my case I'm pleased to have earned over 35,000,000 in one night as well.

In a corner of the entrance plaza starting with Angela, the combat slaves were waiting for our return. After running over right away they congratulated us on accomplishing the job. Eh? What? You all were waiting since yesterday night? I see. Good work. But you know, Angela. You, I'm sure you just were acting like a

senior and forced everyone through the night right? Aren't all four of them exhausted and looking tired? Though they're in front of me so they aren't showing displeased faces.

"I'm grateful for your feelings but from here on you don't need to worry and wait for us that long. Though it's different if I order you."

And I said that before inviting them to eat with us. The youngest of the slaves Jesu ran off to notify everyone about our return.

Without even changing we went to Murowa just like that and had plenty to eat and drink before leaving without spending too much time. It's because the fatigue is really at it's limits and we're tired. After returning to Boil Manor without doing anything else I tried to go o sleep but for some reason Miduchi started bothering me. Sleep already, really. I'm tired too.

"..It's good it was different from expected..but.."

An?

"Hey, let's do it."

It's already close to dawn. Just leave me be.

"Quietly, right?"

Eeeh?

.....

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 11

After retrying from the morning running(unexpectedly all of the members from last night participated in the running) and Kaku from {Black.Topaz} came to our inn as a messenger. He said that Anderson wants to meet me. It seems she wants to have dinner together.

The one who should be responsible for our compensation is the {Verdure.Brotherhood}. And I'm sure they haven't returned yet. We were thanked we saved them so there's nothing that needs to be returned anymore. I already have no business with {Black.Topaz}. They shouldn't either. Thinking it was strange I tried asking and it was, "Even then she wants to properly thank you."

If they're saying that far then I can't turn it down. However, for that sis Anderson to be this well-mannered. Of course, even she's from a noble family and seems to have been educated by the knight group so I'm sure it's possible for her to act as well-mannered as she wants though. I guess that means she's just that grateful.

I've made all today completely off and there's no plans until the {Verdure.Brotherhood} returns from the dungeon and pays the compensation, so I have the time. I decided to have dinner together with her.

After finally being able to rest my exhausted body and taking a slightly late lunch, I invited Miduchi and Rodrick before we entered the dungeon again and while practicing spells did a simple consultation over things from here on out. Miduchi and Rodrick's ages were comparatively older before reincarnating so the things they think are often considerably normal and there's no particular ulterior motive.

As a matter of fact previously, I was considering organizing a different unit centered around Gwine to advance the investigation of the areas around the Dirt Plains. After that under the simple thought, "There's no loss in gathering information" I was just about to actually organize that separate unit.

However, I've reconsidered my thinking after the matter with {Black.Topaz} this time. Even {Black.Topaz} which was that powerful couldn't stand a chance against the ogres on the 7th floor. Of course, we have an abundance of experience and it's difficult to imagine us falling behind ogres or ogre mages at this point as well. But, it's certainly true that if you just let your guard down a bit when you die it just takes one hit.

Digressing from the point a bit.

It's something that I was able to take into consideration thanks to the tremendously powerful magic sword Miduchi uses. Through the fact that the limbs or head are completely sliced off, occasionally when I have the chance to pay attention to those chopped off limbs I noticed it through using Identify. In the case of humanoid monsters, if we call the HP of the entire body 100% then if the head or limbs take roughly 10~20% damage they end up becoming unusable.

They end up worn-out and you can't move them and quite literally if you were to completely cut it off, it seems to deal roughly 10~20% damage for each limb. In regards to this it seems there's some differences even between the same race for individuals with different builds.

The trunk of the body ends up becoming unusable after roughly 40~50% damage. In other words, if you think you'll die there's almost no mistake. These things in regards to damage are nothing more than the result of my observations and just my guess. There's a lot of exceptions so I can't say anything. For example if you pierce someones heart in a single breath then in most cases their HP will reach minus the portion of their Endurance and they die.

In the case that you aren't aiming for that sort of weak point, it seems you can expect damage based on the ability of the weapon but that isn't fixed either. Rarely you can deal damage beyond the abilities of the weapon and there's often times where you deal damage nowhere close to the ability as well. Even if you think you've landed a clean hit sometimes it only deals a small amount of damage so I don't really get it. Somehow it feels like the larger the body they have the more difficult it is to deal damage as well but I also feel like it might just be my imagination. Also, if they're wearing armor then the abilities of that seems to be related as well.

Even if you change the arms and legs to HP, if you add in the body no matter how I think about it they often exceed the total amount of HP. Though just when I think that whether it's the crickets or the grasshoppers they have exactly the amount of HP for their entire body and even when it comes to humanoids there's things like zombies and ghouls where it's suspicious if their limbs even have HP in the first place.

In any case, if you can hit a vital point then it's very possible to instant kill things as well. I can't think of any counter measure to it other than increasing the overall amount of HP in the body. I've discussed it with Miduchi as well but even if it was humanoid if there was a monster like a giant and it's HP is in the four or five digits then even if my sword directly hits it's neck we couldn't guess anything more than that it wouldn't die instantly. Even that if I use something like a {Cannon} type attack spell to properly pierce it's heart then I think it

would be possible to kill it instantly.

Returning to the discussion.

I'm by no means satisfied with our forces as they are now. Ah, it's plenty as adventurers. Of course there's no problem with increasing by another one or two people but if possible I'd like for reincarnated people to take that position. I'm sure it's impossible excluding Kuro and Mary though.

Also, even when it comes to investigating the Dirt Plains I think it's fine to put off dispatching Gwine to make an accurate map. Certainly if you're asking I want a map but rather than that things like the condition of the territory, what kind of governor is there, and what kind of local power families(nobles) other than the governor live there, the condition of the various industries and their future prospects that sort of stuff is far more important and useful. In regards to these I was thinking of leaving a letter with the caravan to Bakuddo telling Kuro and Mary to take a bit of detour on their way over here to investigate those.

During that time, whether it be that one illegitimate child or the children of other nobles I decided to adequately ward them off even if there's contact. It's troublesome but it can't be exchanged with everyone's lives. If I say it like this then it might seem I'm taking Kuro and Mary's lives lightly but I'm sure the dungeon is more dangerous and I didn't want to split up our forces on this side.

Furthermore, the reason Anderson call me out was really just to thank me and I never touched on her origins either.

After the {Verdure.Brotherhood} returns and we've finished taking the compensation we'll be entering the dungeon again but I was thinking of returning the organization of the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} back to normal and just having them support the {Slaughterers} within reasonable means and no overdoing it.

For the time being we'll focus on leveling up and producing a map of the 9th floor. Though I say that, in 2~3 months, and no matter how late we should be able to clear the 9th floor within half a year.

Chapter 269: Funeral

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 12

It seems the {Verdure.Brotherhood} returned late last night. Even then they were about half a day slower than the {Slaughterers} normal speed so it seems they were pushing themselves to clear through the dungeon quite a bit. I guess they're living up to their dignity as the former number one. After finishing up breakfast, when we were about to go out to the other side of the outer crater for combined training I was told a messenger had come for the {Verdure.Brotherhood}.

It seems Viruhaima that old man was feeling quite impatient.

Well, I found out the information that she's the first child of the King who he pays some attention to so it's not unreasonable. The information that Anderson is a illegitimate child or whatever is pretty meaningless at this point so it doesn't matter at all to me. At best it's only worth knowing about as a seed for a fight to start between the King and his wives in the future(though it's really late at this point so if it would even lead to that is suspicious). Also, I don't know what kind of conversations the King and Viruhaima have and there's no direct relation so I'm not interested. If I just get our compensation then they're strangers after all.

In any case, in orders to get the remaining compensation and cash in the magic stones I went to the Elm Tree Manor.

"Here's the rest of the payment. Check the amount."

Basu said that before placing 15 gold coins on the table. Of course I properly confirmed the status of each one after taking them. However, these sure are old and dirty gold coins. If you're paying someone money pay in clean coins. You're upbringing will be found out. And I guess that's just my prejudice huh?

"Certainly. Also, in regards to that one matter I haven't mentioned it to Anderson-san so please don't worry about it."

Of course, that one matter is the fact that she's the first child of the King.

"I wouldn't worry about something like that over every little thing. I'm sure you aren't an idiot after all. Rather than that, what in the world kind of magic trick did you use?"

Viruhaima said with his arms crossed while glaring at me.

It sure does have some intensity behind it with that deep voice of his.

"Eh?"

Magic trick? What's he saying?

Look, even the Basu next to you..And you too? Both of you stop looking at me with such a scary expression.

"one night..No, it's unbelievable that you made it to the 7th floor in less than one day. I'm sure you have a good map of the 7th floor but even thinking about the time it took you to find {Black.Topaz}..If you had considerably good luck..No even in that case it's way too fast right...Do you have some kind of method for moving to the lower floors other than the teleport crystal in the center of the floor?"

Viruhaima stared at my eyes while saying.

Basu was focused on me as if he wasn't going to overlook any lies as well.

Is there something like that? If there was I'd long since have been using it.

There's bags under their eyes and it might just be my imagination but their cheeks look a bit thin as well. Yesterday after we returned from the dungeon we were making similar faces so thinking about how this old man was frantically hurrying through the dungeon just like us and I felt a bit of familiarity swell up.

However, it's not like there's any particular trick or method or anything to it..Hmph.

"Well then, I can't say anything there. However, if there really was a magic like that then no matter how much money it costs I'd like you to tell me about it."

Even the hundreds of millions wouldn't be too much for it right.

"Hey! Can you really move through the floors without using the teleport

crystals! Do you know of a way!?"

Basu leaned over on top of the table and yelled.

You're loud~ really. I know of one. At the very least one that let's you go from the 3rd floor to what's probably the 14th floor in less than one minute. If I were to teach them they'd probably gladly jump right in. Shall I let them go for a dive? Though it'll be a one-way trip.

"Ha~ ..There's no way I would know right? If I did know then I'd like you to tell me."

I shrugged my shoulders in an exaggerated way and said while sighing. Additionally I made a face like "What is he saying, this guy" as if I was making fun of them.

"Chi..Making such an irritating face over every little thing.."

Viruhaima looked like he had just swallowed several bugs while making a grim face and cursing and, "In that case..mumble~mumble..even if he knew..mumblemumble.." and whispered something in a low voice. But, I wonder about that? This time I figured it out thanks to the matter with {Black.Topaz} but after revealing information I could just wait for reckless adventurers to self-destruction all on their own, that sort of hand exists as well. However...

"..Even if I knew I'm sure I wouldn't say it. If I did then it would just increase the meaningless deaths."

"Shut it. Stop acting cool and saying things that sound natural. In what world is there that sort of good-natured person?"

"Isn't it better to sell the information and let the idiots go to die right."

Oh~ I guess we all think the same things huh?

"However, well since you're not saying I guess there really isn't that sort of method huh?"

"I'm sure that's the case. If it were us we'd happily sell it to other people after all."

Aaa~ Adventurers who have weak origins and a bad upbringing sure are

bloodthirsty and unpleasant~

Though weak origins is a way of putting it almost like the country in the North of Japan.

It's a world that isn't suitable for a refined noble-sama like myself.

At this point, whether it be the 7th floor or others I can't imagine it being laid waste even if low level adventurers start appearing there.

Even {Black.Topaz} was driven to the very brink of annihilation after all.

Rather than that, {Verdure.Brotherhood} I just don't want you all to have it easy.

That itself makes it possible for things to be invaded after all.

I'm sure you wouldn't go to the 8th or 9th floors right?

"Hey, what's with that face? Stop acting cool all on your own."

"It can't be, did you say that seriously?"

I stood up from my seat leaving behind the two speechless over the words meaningless deaths will appear. I've already taken what I can get, there's no more business here.

.....

After taking the money, I returned to Boil Manor once and put the small change into my wallet before equipping my rubber armor and hurrying to the outer crater where everyone was training. I'm completely late. Immediately after arriving, I told the members from yesterday other than my slaves to come with me to cash in the magic stones at the magic tool shop after the training fishes so I can hand them their payment.

Incidentally, I intended to try and check them off guard if they were slacking on their training and talking about things yesterday and got excited as I hid my presence and approached but I ended up getting caught by Kimu, Sanno, and Basutorial who were acting as sentries. So you were doing it seriously. Sorry for doubting you.

After that we continued training until the afternoon and confirmed our

coordination then after eating our bento we split ways in the afternoon.

After cashing in the magic stones at the magic tool shop, we returned to the inn and I took off my protectors before putting just my sword on my waist and went to invite Miduchi to the dungeon. However, I ended up being invited by Miduchi to take a nap by the side of the lake once in a while. I guess it is stressful to go and do magic training every time we have free time on days off. I guess it's fine once in a while huh?

It was when Miduchi and I were walking along the riverside.

We came across a campfire on the riverside, or rather, there was a group having a funeral. The population of Baldukk is over 30,000 so someone dies only everyday and funerals aren't anything unusual. But, just when we were about to have an open-hearted date for the first time in a while we saw something depressing~ and just as I was about to turn away from them they were people we knew. Either yesterday or even today, do that sort of thing in the morning...

"That, it's {Black.Topaz} right?"

"Right...A funeral for those who died I guess."

It was easy to guess the reason they went through the trouble of carrying their remains to the surface without taking out the magic stones was to perform a funeral. As expected just taking out the magic stone is a final means.

In order to make it easier to burn there's something called a wooden "funeral pedestal", you surround that with firewood, and place the remains on top of there surrounded by plants that are easy to burn as well as Sotomu oil and then light it on fire.

The "funeral pedestal" is made of a combination of a thin nonburnable tree called Rarukku. Even though it's called nonburnable it's still normal wood so it's just a bit more difficult to set on fire. It never gets very big so it's not used as normal lumber. It's not as if it's sturdy either and it only ever reached a diameter of 5 cm or so.

If you just keep adding firewood as fuel then normally in the 2 hours it takes for the funeral pedestal to burn also thanks to the Sotomu oil, the remains will turn to just the bones and magic stone. Of course, it's not like an incinerator in

Japan so the force of flames aren't all that strong and while the bones might crack a bit even if they're from an elderly person they'll still remain their shape.

It seems that their funeral was already almost over.

There was almost just bones remaining of the three people's remains.

It can't be helped what we've already seen.

Since it seems like there's a good chance they noticed us as well(The riverside is at best~ 3~5 meters wide and the road is right besides it after all) so we just tried to nod and pass by them.

"You went to the trouble of coming?"

The Laios battle axe user Baru called out to us with a facial color like a zombie. It's a coincidence...Who in the world would choose to come~

"Greed-kun.."

Anderson lowered her head with an apologetic expression.

""I give you my condolences.""

Miduchi and I both spontaneously said that and lowered our heads. It's ordinary but there's nothing else to say about it.

"Thank you for going to the trouble."

Kaku started talking to us as well.

"Rotto was almost like a little brother to me. I've been friends with Gary since we were brats. Thanks."

Vikkusu lowered his head as he thanked us as well.

"Even if Marin was like they she had become quite reliable..I'm glad you came."

Roru blinked with her eyes red from crying as she said said.

...

.....

Somehow the mood has gotten strange. I already want to go but it feels like I can't as well.

This is uncomfortable...

In the end we missed out on our afternoon nap.

Miduchi and I returned to the inn disheartened and split to our own rooms before sleeping in bed until dinner.

.....

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 13

Tomorrow we're going to the dungeon so fundamentally we have one day off. Just, we're still young and recover our stamina quickly so after running today we entered the 1st floor of the dungeon to train spells.

Excluding the Basutorial couple who seem to be working on a new menu and Giberuti who's busy shopping for our consumables starting tomorrow all of the {Slaughterers} joined us. Also Rodrick and his combat slaves, Binsu, Misu, and for some reason even Jeru. We ended up reaching a total of 19 people. Since it couldn't be helped I had Zenom and Jeru who can't use magic take along my 5 combat slaves excluding Mekku and Rodrick's 2 combat slaves to look after them as they perform combat training and earn some small change.

The members on my end ended up as Miduchi, Ralpa, Bel, Toris, Gwine, Mekku, Binsu, Misu, and Rodrick these 10 who can use magic.

"I want to be able to use the Cloud type attack spells but I can't even use {Wind Cutter} after all..Is it no good if I don't practice using {Air Bash} and {Air Hammer}? I haven't practiced using wind magic attack spells almost at all.."

"Hey, Greed-kun. If we're using {Javelin} would it be better to practice using Ice as the spell bullet?"

You all are too noisy~ going on and on.

Either way they don't have much mana so even if they try to recover from it they'll quickly get mentally exhausted and last at longest 1 hour or so thought.

But for Binsu, Misu, and Rodrick to participate, I wonder what brought about this?

That night we were told by Bastutorial and the others to come to Murowa so it's not any different from usual but we decided to eat dinner at Murowa. I

wonder if it's a new flavor of Baldoggie? and everyone was expecting it but that wasn't the case.

It was rolled cabbage. The ingredients were just pork seasoned with salt and pepper and onions, is what I thought, but what is it? I feel like there's a slightly nostalgic taste.

Ah, is this shiitake?

They must have wrangled it out of Miduchi. There's bacon wrapped around the surface of the rolled cabbage and it's been cooked in a consomme soup, the cabbage was simmering. It's good but as expected compared to the ones served in restaurants of our past life it's hard to call it superb. Well, it can't be helped though.

"I'm amazed there was cabbage in this sort of season."

When I was showing a bit of admiration and they said that while they're a bit expensive, the capital imports crops that are shifted from their normal season so purchasing them itself is possible. Come to think of it, they do say that if you just have the money there's nothing you can't buy in the capital after all. It seems they went to the trouble of having Cathy bring some when she was returning from the factory.

"This, it's shiitake {Rosurujji}. You're using dried shiitake {Rosurujji} as well right. I'm amazed you got your hands on it."

Huh? For Miduchi to say something like this means the origin of these shiitake wasn't Miduchi? Come to think of it I think it was about last month, she said she ran out of shiitake so she wanted to go to Tokerin's place in the capital.

"Yeah, as thanks for the Baldoggie Tokerin-san shared some of it with us."

Hee~ though we were just giving them to him thinking of it as thanks for previously and the preservatives. It might not be a bad idea to start seriously using him as a point of contact to do business with Lail Kingdom. Come to think of it he was addressed as "Leader of Foreign Business" by the King. Miduchi said he was the point of contact for the assassination business or something like that but isn't that all there is to it?

Ah..It might be good to request for Lail Kingdom to take care of the

investigations as well. According to Miduchi, Lail's caravans don't just deal with Rombert but they also go peddling with mushrooms and drugs in Devas as well so, what did she say the guard was again? It seems that warrior class or whatever go along as well so if they just send along a few extra members then it could be possible for them to investigate along the way.

Thinking I had come up with a good idea when I tried consulting with Miduchi that night I was told, "our internal conditions would become known to them." However, there's nothing that can be done worrying about something like that. Also, there's no internal conditions that we'd be troubled for them to know about. In the first place aren't there a lot of out foreign spies around? There's also the example of Myun. I'm sure there's no one who wouldn't investigate the opponents territory when they've been in conflict with them for a long time, it could be that outsiders like Lail Kingdom or a different country have already sent in spies to investigate.

It's not like I particularly want to hide the fact that I'm investigating it. I'm just simply lacking in people to do it. Rather that way we just might be able to get by without a long investigation and I can continue training everyone where I can watch over things. I tried asking in the case that I have someone of Miduchi's skill level go to investigate, how much would it cost and I was told, "It's different from assassination so I don't know. But, in the case of assassination it sometimes costs in the hundreds of millions."

As expected the level of difficulty is different so it's difficult to think it would be that expensive. However, they might decide the price based on cutting out their superior forces for a fixed period of time. Though I say that, it's different from assassination, and the degree of danger is different as well so I'm sure it'll definitely be a good bit cheaper.

If along with that I have Kuro and Mary investigate things then make comparisons between the results then I can get an idea on Lail Kingdom's investigation ability as well. Additionally, I can make the pipe between us thicker, depending on the details it could be good material to help decide whether they're friendly to us, there's a fear of opposite, or neutral.

I'm sure the estimate is free and it's nothing to hurry over so the next time I go to the capital I'll stop by once to discuss it over tea I guess.

Chapter 270: Magic Item

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 14

This time when we enter the dungeon Angela is accompanying the {Butchers} and Toris is going with the {Exterminators}. Excluding them the remaining 9 of us in the {Slaughterers} will be exploring the 9th floor. Midway through next month we'll be performing a test for switching out members for those who want to try it and if it seems like a member will be able to change then after that we'll bring them into the dungeon once then if there's no problem on the next time we enter the dungeon we'll try to clear the 9th floor. If there's no members who get switched out then shortly after the member change battle when we enter the dungeon again just the same we'll head towards the center area of the 9th floor and try to clear it.

Hearing this everyone's motivation seems to have gone up but just as expected of the former {Sun.Ray} members, there was no one among the veterans getting restless. However, Sanno and Ruttsu who hope to enter the {Slaughterers}, and also, Rodrick's combat slaves Denda and Karimu who want to get promoted along with their master, the four of them seem to be quite motivated to the point there's a bit too sharp of a gleam in their eyes.

Sanno and Ruttsu are just the individuals so putting them aside, why in the world are Denda and Karimu is what I was thinking but it seems, "A slaves earnings are the masters earnings. If the amount the master is earning increases then naturally our earnings will increase as well" was the reason. I see, I thought there was various ways of thinking about it.

Rodrick has the role of calming them down. Of course, Rodrick himself wants to enter the {Slaughterers} as well but among the tension he seems to be moderately relaxed. Just as expected from someone who's received investiture as a knight of the Faruergaz Knight Group he's calm. After all those who properly trained here and there seem to have some composure. They might understand that this composure will reduce the chances of a mistake.

.....

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 19

After returning to the surface I heard a slightly unexpected story. It seems that all of the remaining survivors of {Black.Topaz} cleared out of their inn and returned to their home town. Since I was a bit interested I tried gathering the rumors but it wasn't anything at all though. It was just that they were returning to return the magic stones of the members who passed away to their families.

Supposedly Viscount Anderson's territory is in the Northern Royal Territories so it will take them a considerable amount of time to go and return so they just cleared out of their inn for the time being. Although, my relationship with them is nothing more than friends so it doesn't particularly matter even if they don't come back just like that. It seems the reason they didn't go back right away after that was because they were looking for a caravan escort job that's going towards their home town.

It seems that as expected they didn't have enough horses for everyone.

What's important is that the other top team that was cooperating with the {Verdure.Brotherhood} is going to be gone for the time being(?). It's the perfect chance to open the gap even wider. Particularly if we could carry back treasure from the 9th or 10th floors and lead them into getting impatient then there's nothing more to say but as expected I'm sure that's impossible. Thanks to the incident this time with {Black.Topaz} both them and the {Verdure.Brotherhood} managed to recover their original caution and tension.

In any case, {Black.Topaz} won't be returning for another couple of months. Hearing this there were some fellows whose bindings started to loosen as they said, "How about if you quickly go to the 10th floor? If it's Greed-kun then can't you make it?" or something like that as well. Certainly it's not as if you can't call it good news to us but that doesn't mean that the level of danger in the dungeon gets any lower.

I'm not changing our plans so we'll keep exploring at our current pace, and I said that ending the discussion.

Also, it seems that the price of the {Refrigerator} I carried into Sandak Company in the capital a while back settled down and sold at 160,000,000 Z.

However, there's still no news in regards to the {Ring.Of.Protection}. I was just about to go to the capital during the break this day time. However, regardless of the fact that Toris and Angela are gone on our time entering the dungeon this time, it was clear that everyone was only just as cautious as usual so I need to properly train them.

In terms of items we {Slaughterers} ended up with zero results this time other than the map but the {Butchers} found an ore on the 5th floor, though it was silver, and the {Exterminators} discovered a party that was wiped out on the 3rd floor so they wrangled away their equipment. It's no ones responsibility that we weren't able to obtain any treasure but isn't this a bit lonely.

.....

Year 7446, Month 9, Day 28

We've returned from the dungeon once again. Last time our only gain was an expansion of the map but this time was properly obtained some treasure. After blowing away 4 {Cave Trolls} that were summoned on the 9th floor it's something we obtained from the shrine on the altar.

【Earth.Amulet】

【Gold.Silver.Topaz】

【Condition: Normal】

【Manufacture Date: 28/9/7446】

【Value: 1】

【Durability: 30】

【Ability: Invalidates {Evocation} type spells made up of a combination of Earth magic and Void Magic at a fixed probability.】

【Effect: Invalidates {Evocation} type spells that are combination of only the Earth and Void Magic types that target the wearer at a fixed probability. Also, it can invalidate single type elemental magic of Earth at the same probability.】

It's in the shape of either the top of a small pendant or brooch.

I think it'll end up selling at a considerable price.

This, I think it will easily go for several billions.

Judging from the name it seems easy to verify after all.

Even just the information I can understand from my **【Identify】** is quite something but it's not something that's lethal to me so I've already decided to sell it sooner or later. If you were to ask if it's comparable to a wand that let's anyone use {Fire Ball} then it's doubtful but I feel like it could put up a pretty good fight.

Also, in regards to the {Ring.Of.Protection}, a potential buyer appeared. The price the other party offered was 140,000,000 Z. According to the letter from Sandak Company and the basis for the price was that the buyer is already in possession of a ring with the same name and it seems they already have knowledge about the ability itself, was the reason.

"I wonder what should be done?"

I decided to discuss it with Toris, Miduchi, and Zenom in my room of Boil Manor. Furthermore, Rodrick is unrelated to the ring this time so I didn't call him.

Though my mind is already made up.

"140,000,000 is once again a considerable amount."

Zenom was sipping on some tea Miduchi made while saying. For sure.

"Certainly, wasn't it a condition of the sale that they teach us what kind of ability is has and how they figured that out?"

Toris said with his arms crossed but it's a bit different. The condition was, "After selling it for an amount that I can accept" they teach me that. If that wasn't the case then I could end up just hearing the ability and how they verified that and then decide not to sell it so I wanted to avoid anyone thinking that would be the case. However, even that seems difficult in the case this time. They're already in possession of a {Magic.Item} with the same name, but whether it's a legend from their ancestors or anything else, if the person thinks, "It has an ability" then even if they say "It's said that it has this sort of ability" then there's no problem with that reply itself.

Even on the point of how they verified then and, "It has the same name so we didn't see a need to verify it" or, "We already knew the ability ahead of time so we put the ring on and tried suffering a minor injury" if they say anything like that then I can't respond with anything.

In any case I wasn't predicting a case like this. I couldn't think of the possibility that there was already someone with an item of the same name and that they would want another one of it.

Miduchi explained the fine details of the condition being after the sale to Toris.

"However, this is quite troubling. If it's come to this then we can only decide based on the amount.."

Toris said while hitting his right thumb against his left elbow with his arms crossed.

"It seems they're willing to tell us the ability so if it's over 100,000,000 I think that's fine though..."

Miduchi said it simply like that but even if it doesn't have any significant ability, it's a magic ring you know? The only ones who know it doesn't have any significant ability is myself and you, so we need to convince everyone else..Zenom was surprised at how high the amount was hearing it, is that fine? But you know..somehow I feel like it's a waste as well. Nevertheless, 140,000,000 Z is a huge amount of money. Other than that there's also another reason that qualifies for why we would need to sell it in a hurry right now. Alright, won't someone quickly realize it?

"Toris what do you think? Certainly 140,000,000 Z is quite something. However, we won't know anything but the ability. Even that's, "it's got the same name so I'm sure it's the same ability" just the ability the buyer believes it is. It's unknown if they'll tell us in regards to the method used to verify that as well.."

I said with a somewhat sullen face as if I hadn't made my decision yet to Toris.

"Isn't it fine to sell it? Precisely because it's something where the method of confirming it is unknown, even if we use it wouldn't it be nothing more than a charm right? After all it's 140,000,000. Even in regards to the amount if it's a

company managed by Duke Sandak then it's difficult to think they'd have bargained for the price to be too low as well right? They're your relatives right?"

While Toris was spending a bit of time thinking about it, Zenom replied in his stead. It sounds like Zenom isn't thinking too much about it before replying but the things he's saying make sense. However, a charm huh...If it's said like that then that's certainly true.

"Normally if you mention a {Ring.Of.Protection} then it would slightly recover {HP Hit.Points} or rather, life force by just a bit, or increase defensive power, that sort of item. Even assuming that ring has an ability similar to that unless it's considerably strong it's certainly an ability that isn't very disappointing without. Also.."

After saying that Miduchi looked at Toris to her side as he uncrossed his arms and hit his knee while continuing after her.

"Al-san! I forgot something important! It's already been determined that there's a magic ring with the same name. Let's think in the case that one other ring with the same name comes out again. Would the price at that time be the same? Right, Miduchi-san you thought the same thing!?"

That's right. Things that happen twice will happen a third time. Just as Miduchi said, putting aside if it was something considerably strong, if it's just that level of ability then it's no..big..deal?

"Certainly that's true. Toris, you noticed a good point. It seems that Zenom doesn't mind either so we're selling the ring."

I said that finishing the conversation.

Well, one or two, even if a new one comes out I don't think there would be a large difference in the price though, just in case, right.

.....

Year 7446, Month 10, Day 5

"This is..!"

After climbing the altar, when Angela looked into the opened door of the shrine she whispered something.

"Armor..It's chain mail!"

Hohou. A moment of gratitude to the monsters we killed just now, {Black Killer Mantis}, {Ferocious Mole}, and {Carnivorous Ivy Tree}. It was worth how powerful of enemies they were.

The chain mail Angela pulled out of the shrine had a radiance almost as if it were brand new. If Ralpa was here(Together with Zenom they're separate from the {Slaughterers} this week) I'm sure she'd be making noise about now.

""That is..!!""

Miduchi and Toris were looking at it with a serious expression to the point that it's scary.

Thinking that was suspicious I guess Bel tried asking, "What is it?" but there was no reply from either of them.

Almost as if, they were trying to see through the identify of the chain mail Angela was holding they were just staring seriously at it.

"What is it?"

There's no sign of changes in any of the other members besides them. Angela is happily carrying the chain mail down towards me from the altar but there's no particular change in her either. There's a reaction to the {Cantrip} {Magical.Detection} so I'm sure it's a {Magic.Item} though...I touched the chain mail after receiving it from Angela and immediately looked at the name.

【Elven.Chainmail】

Hmn.

Does it have a curse or something in regards to elves?

【Elven.Chainmail】

【Mithril Steel Chains.Sphinx Leather Band】

【Condition: Normal】

【Manufacture Date: 5/10/7446】

【Value: 1】

【Durability: 150000】

【Ability: Body Restriction Rate: 5%】

【Ability: Average Penetration Rate: -26%】

【Ability: Armored Protection Area Average Damage Reduction Rate: 18%】

【Effect: Half-Damage.From.Slicer】

【Effect: Half-Damage.From.Fire Breath】

【Effect: Weight.Alleviation】

【Effect: Noise.Reduction】

【Effect: Raise.Hiding.In.Shadow.Rate】

【Effect: Auto.Mending】

There's no curse factor anywhere to it.

Let alone that isn't it a splendid {Magic.Item}!

Other than the extraordinarily high Durability and the Effects it isn't all that different from normal chain mail or maybe just a bit better, just that level, but the way it has six special effects bulked together like that is amazing. It properly has an added face guard coif(something like a hood) as a set with it as well. Of course that has the same abilities, or rather it seems they're considered a set.

When it comes to the Half-Damage types or the Raise.Hiding.In.Shadow.Rate even if we take attacks matching up with the type or try hiding it's not very easy to tell the difference I'm sure but other than that we should be able to notice them in just a few days of using it. Nevertheless this, even if it increases the rate someone can hide themselves with how much it's sparkling as if it was newly polished I think you would notice them right away. Ah, if you wear a surcoat or something above it then along with {Noise.Reduction} I guess it would be more difficult to notice?

""This..""

The two elves were about to say something again. They exchanged glances and then tried to urge the other into speaking first.

"It seems it's called {Elven.Chainmail}. Do you feel something?"

I don't feel anything in particular.

"{Elven.Chain}!?"

Almost reflexively, Miduchi's voice came out of her mouth.

What is it?

"That explains it..Ah, it's a considerably high quality {Magic.Item}, this."

That's only obvious right.

By the way, what about it explains it?

"Somehow I can feel it's existence. I don't know how to explain it.."

"That's right, it's just as Miduchi-san said. Though I don't know how to put it into words.."

It seems that Miduchi and Toris feel some sort of aura or something being given off by this armor. Judging from the name it is called the {Elven.Chainmail} after all...

"And, this, if it's something considerably good then..Toris, you wear it. Since Miduchi already received the rubber protectors that's fine right?"

"Eh? Is that okay!?"

"Yeah.."

I don't really get it but judging from the name wouldn't it be best for an Elf to use it? Though I don't think it particularly matters even if it's not an elf that wears it but, somehow or other, right. It's not as if I can see all of the effects sub-windows so it would be unpleasant if the effects don't work if it's not an elf.

Furthermore, Miduchi didn't show any particular sentiments towards it.

I was just a bit relieved. After all that's rubber protectors given to her by sister and the others. Use it together with me until it's completely worn-out. Putting aside the Body Restriction Rate, it's considerably higher than the chain mail in regards to Average Penetration Rate and Damage Reduction Rate and such, and even is close to that of plate mail.

Now then, we'll be returning to the surface tomorrow but I wonder what happened with the ring?

Chapter 271: One Day In Capital

Year 7446, Month 10, Day 6

We returned from the dungeon.

Miduchi is wearing the {Elven.Chainmail} and Giberuti is carrying the rubber armor she was wearing up until now in one of his open bags. There's several reasons she's wearing it. The first is because it stands out too much.

The {Elven.Chainmail} is a strange {Magic.Item} and if an elf or anyone else is fine but if they equip it then changes into what appears to be slightly worn-out normal chainmail. Of course, if they take it off again it changes back to having a radiance as if it was brand new chainmail.

However, if the user isn't an elf, when they enter the sight of other elves and they can instantly recognize that it's a very powerful and familiar {Magic.Item}. At the same time they'll feel a strong sense that something is about the one equipping or holding the {Elven.Chainmail}. However, in the case the one equipping it is an elf(or dark elf) then there's nothing like that.

It's the same in the case that no one is equipping it but in Miduchi's words, the moment she recognizes that the one in possession of it is Toris and those sort of off feelings weakened(it seems they don't completely disappear). Also, as long as it doesn't enter their sight..for example, if it's put into a bag or something so it can't be seen..then there's no problem.

Then we should just put it into a bag, and some might think it would be fine if we throw it into one of Giberuti's bags, but with that a different problem came to light. It's no problem at first but if you try to carry or hold it like that and it feels like weight gradually increases. In the case you aren't wearing it, it normally has a weight of just about 15 kg but after carrying it for about 1 hour the weight will feel double that to the one carrying it.

In that case it would be better for Toris or Miduchi to wear it. If Toris wears it then we'd have to take apart his bandedmail and carry that so in that case

Miduchi's rubber protectors were overwhelmingly lighter so they're easy to carry. For those sorts of reasons we have Miduchi wearing it to carry it for the time being.

Also, in regards to the size but since it's a size so even a person with a large build can wear it, whether Toris or Miduchi put it on it's still baggy, so it's necessary to fix the size. As a matter of fact fixing the size of chainmail isn't all that difficult. If they just have some guts then it's possible even for an amateur. This is just a matter of it not taking any special technique to fix the size.

If you just have a dedicated tool like radio pliers and patiently do the labor then it's possible for anyone to do it. When I was still little I saw while maintenance was being done on chainmail belonging to the squires of Bakuddo a number of times and when the head of household is handed over I saw them change the size for the new head a number of times as well. Slaves were made to do the work but putting aside the maintenance it took 2~3 weeks to change the size. When the rubber armor was first introduced they were released from that sort of labor and more useful in a different more productive labor.

By the way, in regards to this size changing as well, when Miduchi and Toris wear it themselves, it seems they understand where the line of chains needs to be taken off to fit them as well. Everyone else including myself had no clue. That's why rather than just leaving it to slaves, it's probably more efficient to have Toris the user join in on the work as well. Of course the majority of the work will still be done by slaves though.

I'll try showing my face in Ronslail's store later on. The delivery of the 20 slaves for the sausage factory is already finished but it should be fine even if it increases by another couple of people right. Zulu and Angela have training as well and resting their bodies is a part of their job. Giberuti has jobs like developing new menu items with Basutorial and recently I've been sending him on errands to my company in the capital when he goes to inspect the cleaning job of the factory so he doesn't have that sort of time.

We ended up returning just a bit early so the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} don't seem to have returned yet. We decided to go ahead in cashing in the magic stones and return to our inn, then come back to the entrance plaza after that.

.....

After we finished dinner, when Ralpa returned we discussed the new {Magic.Item} and just as expected, she wanted to look at it. In regards to the armor she understood that it stands out too much in a bad way if someone other than elf wears it so she didn't want to use it. Great. However, in regards to the {Earth.Amulet} while she didn't say anything about it, it seems she felt reluctant to let it go. It's got considerably delicate and beautiful carvings made in it so if you wear it then it does look like a considerably refined accessory after all~

After all she's a woman in that sort of way.

Come to think of it I still haven't left a {Magic.Item} in Ralpa's care yet. Particularly Toris, it's the second one I've left him in a short period of time, so I thought, "I screwed up here" but it's too late now. However, this {Earth.Amulet} is no good. I want to sell it, No, I want to try selling it. The next time one that seems useful and you can use appears I'll pass it around to you with priority so..Ah, that's right.

"Ralpa, I'll hand this over to you. If you have the chance then make good use of it."

I said that before taking the {Bracelet.Of.Dead Body.To.Water} out of a box in the room and handing it over to her and she was considerably pleased. Eas..She's an honest and good fellow. Look over there, stop looking at her like she's a pitiful child. I'm talking to you, Gwine. Isn't everyone else making a face like, that's great?

Furthermore, this time neither the {Butchers} or {Exterminators} brought back any sort of treasure that stood out.

First thing tomorrow morning I'll order another addition 2 child slaves at Ronslail's store and then just like that head towards the capital.

Also, there's something that had to be done tonight as well.

I was a bit sorry on a night we returned from the dungeon when they were tired but I had Toris, Bel, and Miduchi the three of them accompany me until considerably late. Late in the night Gwine and Ralpa came back joined in

partway through but they were drunk and useless. Additionally the moment I took my eyes off them they fell over asleep on the table while still sitting in a chair in my room. It's still better just that it wasn't my bed but Miduchi and Bel were annoyed as they carried them to their rooms. While listening to their voices as they knock on the door waking up Zenom, Toris and I exchanged glances and shrugged our shoulders.

.....

Year 7446, Month 10, Day 7

I showed my face in my company in the capital and after glancing over the account books for a bit I abducted John who was laying down in the night watch room of the factory and went to Sandak Company as well. Terry had a promise to play with a different slave or something and was out. It's better for kids to have time to play as well right. In exchange for John who I brought out, I had Rasseg's son Harris keep an eye on the factory.

It's in regards to the ring and amulet.

I accepted selling the {Ring.Of.Protection} for 140,000,000 Z and finished the discussion by having the buyer report the ability and method used to verify it by the end of the year. And then, I entrusted the new {Magic.Item} we obtained that is the {Earth.Amulet} to them and requested that they sell it.

"{Status Open}. Hmm.....(Long~).....It certainly seems to be a {Magic.Item} but, even then..Umwu..No..Mwu.."

Even though I say it's long it seems he activated {Detect.Magic} in about 5 seconds.

Just as expected he's making an "unbelievable" expression while grumbling over it.

There was never a {Magic.Item} like this up until now I'm sure.

Or even if there was he didn't know about it.

Foreseeing this I abducted John before coming.

In order to perform a demonstration, I called for John I left at the entrance of the company and had him stand in a corner of the back yard with the

{Earth.Amulet} around his neck. It would be bad if he gets afraid so I have him facing backwards.

"No matter what don't move. Well~ I'm sure it won't hurt. No, it might hurt just a bit but I won't do anything that seriously injures you so just endure it."

Of course, I already tested it last night.

It's not like I'm testing it in the real thing.

I've already confirmed that the power of the {Earth.Amulet} activated at about a 50% probability.

Though I only tested attack spells about 20 times.

I tested elemental magic over 100 times.

The company president that is the grandchild of my great-grandfather's cousin on my mother's side(a stranger at this point huh?) was watching over things a bit nervously.

Of course, I've already had him clear the place of people.

"Well then, I'll start. Starting with {Stone Gravel}..!!"

"Mu!!"

The pebble that was fired from my left palm towards John's left hand disappeared the moment it hit John.

Oh~ it's good luck for it to work on the first shot.

John probably hasn't noticed anything at all.

"Next is elemental magic. John, when I get the sign take a deep breath and face downwards. Cover your nose and ears with both of your hands. Alright? Then, here I go."

After saying that I walked to the side of John and used just a level 3, about one bucket full of dirt and poured over top of John.

Arya~ I guess it was no good this time?

John shouted in surprise, "Uwa~!!" but quickly remembered what I ordered him and was covered in dirt just like that.

One more time.

No good huh? I let John catch his breath.

One more time.

Uo, it's still no good. This time I'm not in luck.

John's already buried from just above his knees to about his thighs.

It might just be my imagine but the company president's glare seems to have gotten sharper(doubtful?) as well.

One more time again.

This time it seems it safely activated.

The last bit of dirt I poured down over John's head disappeared all at once at the point it was touching or about to touch him.

Of course, there's no influence to the dirt that I had made up until then. It remains just like that and John is still buried in his surroundings.

"Well, something like this. It can roughly eliminate earth magic about one in every two times. However, if you mix in a different element with the earth and void magic then it can't erase it. I'm sure things around there would require more verification but putting aside {Web} and {Sleep Cloud}, as expected testing {Fire Ball} and {Lightning Bolt} is dangerous I'm sure."

I said to the company president while blowing the dirt off of John's head and shoulders.

"If you're still in doubt about it then this time I'll use it myself. Then it's fine for you to have someone else use earth magic against me."

"..No, that far is fine. This is..I'm sure it will settle with a considerable price. Depending on the case we might open up an auction as well..Are you in a hurry?"

The company president replied while flipping over the {Earth.Amulet} I handed him and looking at it here and there.

"I'm not in that much of a hurry but around how much time will it take for a price to be put on it?"

"..It's this level of an item. I'm sure it'll take time to announce it so I'd like for you to give it at least half a year. At least that is."

Ah, just that long huh? So I guess it's fine if I think of it as a year or so?

"At least half a year huh..I understand. That's fine. I'm leaving it in your care."

Expensive items from Rombert Kingdom that are put up for auction aren't open to the public in a place like a market for bidding but they take the form of private bidding. Though it's the same that it's sold to the person who offers the highest amount for it. According to the company president it's possible the value of this {Earth.Amulet} will be tremendously high(several billion or so). Of course~ I'm sure that's the case.

The company president kindly let us use their well so I had John wash off and then dried him all at once before we left Sandak Company. I bought a bag of candy for John.

While seeing John back to the factory, I showed my face in Greed Company once and after that went to Tokerin's healing clinic. Of course I have a souvenir as well. The factory is on break while Cathy is away in Baldukk so it's jelly beans. It was the last in stock we had at the head office(currently we aren't transporting yokan {yomo} pre-made from Bakkudo. Just the balloons. We're filling those with the yokan {yomo} at the head office and making the completed product. Yokan is a specialty cooking of Rasseg's wife Mili as well) so I bought it up.

Yokan as a souvenir.

Somehow I remember Obon and presents to neighbors from my past life.

Mizu yokan, I want to eat it for the first time in a while~

"..Which is why we'll have completed the tests using the Sorurisu(name of the preservatives) that your provided us by the end of the year to the start of next year and have the prospect of selling a product with a certain level of quality guaranteed over a long period of time to average person."

"Oh! Baldoggie to Erurehei..How magnificent~!"

I'm pleased as well that he'd be the happy over it. We used the mountain of

preservatives he provided us with to continue making prototype products and finally managed to reach some level of completion. We leave a Baldoggie with preservatives added into it on the side of the street and setup a simple trap. If we wait just 1 hour then rats will rush at it. Occasionally stray dogs do too. Just like that we've created priceless sacrifices as we adjusted the amount to the level where the rats won't die and come up with the ratio.

I originally had guessed it was something like sodium nitrite or sodium sorbate but even if I use Identify the name that comes up in the status is "Sorurisu", and it only has written that it's waste produced in the process of purifying the poison sorira from a mushroom called Soruhoggu. That's why at first we tried both 1ppm(0.0001%) or so, even if it's sodium nitrite which has some toxicity, the bare minimum amount that wouldn't even show much effect as a preservative and about 2 grams for every 100 grams which was the single lethal dosage for an adult.

Normally around 60~70 ppm or so is the appropriate amount.

However, different from Miduchi and my thinking, even if we mixed in 2% the dog didn't die. If it's something with a smaller body than a person absorbing 2 grams all at once should have killed it. After gathering my resolve since I can use the spells {Neutralize.Poison} and {Remove.Poison}, I tried eating it as well and was fine. On the contrary if we try to mix in anymore than this it would have been bad because the texture and flavor would start to change.

Now we've established that if we mix in roughly 2,000 ppm(0.2%) then it's plenty to show the effects. In the reasonably dry and low temperature environment of the dungeon it was fine left out in the open for about 2 months, if it's the surface then it should be fine for 3 weeks(18 days) or so. If you pack it in a linen bag or something and seal that in an airtight rubber bag then we already know you can deliciously eat that over 2 months even on the surface. Right now we're slowly increasing the amount a bit at a time as we make things and testing how long it can be preserved.

I requested for Tokerin to inquire with their country by the end of the year in what period of time and how much of an amount they would want. So as to not to take too much profit, I offered it at 30% the retail. I'm sure it'll just end up a transaction once in every few months and each individual transaction will

involve a considerably quantity all at once, not to mention they're selling the preservatives to us at a price close to nothing, and I'm sure Miduchi wants to show a good face to her country as well. In the first place as Greed Company we want to sell favors to Lail Kingdom as well.

Although, it's necessary to pay the government office of Rombertia a tariff of 30% of the purchase price so the amount they're paying Rombert Kingdom will end up about 40% of the retail price though.

Whatever the case there's almost no manufactured meat products other than those preserved in heavy salt that last for a long period of time transported into Lail Kingdom so he was greatly pleased.

Now then, tomorrow is some light adjustments and magic training in the dungeon and the the day after that is combined training.

I need to return quickly.

Chapter 272: Challenge Right 1

Year 7446, Month 10, Day 13

On the 9th floor of the dungeon, I was hoping that the halls we were walking down lead to the large space in the center of the floor while using the teleport crystal in the dead end of the halls a number of times. This time Miduchi and Angela are away from the {Slaughterers}.

"Hey~Hey~, the next a troll or something big appears in a room I'm going to use the bracelet. I can use it once every day so let me use it for today's portion."

Ever since the first day we entered the dungeon Ralpa has been wanting to use the {Bracelet.Of.Dead Body.To.Water}. There's no helping it so I'm enduring but honestly speaking seeing a corpse turn to water in an instant and I certainly can't ignore how useful it can be.

Ah~ certainly this is useful~

If I have Miduchi use it in the future then it's ideal for assassinating an enemy.

In the first place Miduchi's received plenty of training as an assassin and if we choose the target then I'm sure the success rate is high as well.

And then without even leaving the greatest evidence that is the corpse, it's possible to dispose of it without taking any time.

It's because I think like this that I didn't want to bring it.

However, depending on how I think about it, leaving it with Ralpa might have been the correct answer.

If it's her she's stingy so once she's gotten her hands on something once even if I tell her return it I don't think she'll let go of it so easily. Additionally she's an idiot so it wouldn't be strange for her to think it's something she received from me. Though I say that, the way she asks me every single time she wants to use the bracelet's ability means she might be aware of the fact that I was just lending it to her.

"I guess so. Then the next time a big one comes out you can use it."

After I said that giving her permission and her nostrils started flaring as she was breathing heavily.

.....

"Here~ I go~! Nurehiki!"

Ralpa was touching the 4 {Cave Beetle} corpses pile on top of each other after we took the magic stones out and chanting the command word.

The troll corpse that was together with them on the side changed to water in an instant and with a bash~n splashed all around.

"Ho!! Awawaha!!"

I wonder what in the world is that fun? The instant it changes to water she jumps back as far as she can in order to not get wet, and in the end still gets wet taking water all over her lower body. I'm sure no water gets inside of her combat boots but her pants are soaked.

"Sorry."

Zenom said that apologetically but Ralpa is already at a good age, so there's no need for the parent to feel that much responsibility. I think it's a problem with the individual. Yeah.

"It's fine. Hey Ralpa. I'll dry you off."

While laughing to herself as Ralpa approached I touched her wet pants while using the spell {Dry} and dried them off. Ah, is she asking for permission for me to use the spell {Dry} on her?

"It's fine to enjoy yourself but do you get it? When we return there's member change matches you know?"

I don't think there's any meaning but I just wanted her to get a bit more tense.

"Nn~ it would be good if there's a person willing to challenge me."

I'm sure there isn't anyone~ Certainly.

Since there's not much meaning in overwriting the first measurement stamina

test we did at 1 hour, 23 minutes, and 40 seconds so the {Slaughterers} already aren't running anymore. But, if she's letting her guard down she might be challenged and get overtaken. The most likely contender to be challenged is Basutorial and then next is Angela, followed by Zulu. I've heard that everyone is making all sorts of strategies on their own. There's some doing it on their own and others planning to challenge in groups of two or three as well.

This time other than Rokko and Kevin everyone's declared that they're participating in the challenge for the replacement match. Though I say that, it seems that the two of them haven't given up either. On my way back returning from the capital the other day, I saw the two of them running above the outer crater. They just simply don't have the confidence they can clear the stamina test yet I'm sure.

.....

Year 7446, Month 10, Day 17

The next day after returning from the dungeon that is yesterday was a day off. And then today is the greatly anticipated day of replacement matches. It's not strange to express it as something people have been waiting for. Furthermore, Basutorial appears pretty nervous and doesn't seem to have slept much yesterday.

I think several challengers will appear. However, challenging Basutorial, I wonder if they can fight and win against ogres? Up until now Basutorial has experienced a considerable amount of combat against ogres and is used to it so even one on one he can defeat them considerably fast.

"Alright, is everyone ready? Here I go..Ready...Start!"

Excluding Rokko, Kevin, and my combat slaves the 12 of them all started running at once.

I'm sure the members observing the early areas of the course have already long since been at their posts. The ones for the latter half are departing for their posts in order as well. The only ones remaining here are Zenom and I.

"How do you see things going?"

After Zenom saw everyone off with his arms crossed he started talking to me.

"Since Kamu and Ginger ended up not participating as a team after all..I guess the same for Kimu as well. If they were to team up it would have been pretty interesting."

I'm definitely sure Kamu, Ginger, and Kimu, the three of them will clear it. After that is..the only one I can say for sure is Jeru I guess. Among them only Kamu and Kimu are supposedly challenging as a two-person team so it's speculated that their team will definitely obtain the challenge right.

Ginger is challenging as a group of three with Jeru and Misu while Sanno and Ruttsu are doing it as a two-person group. Binsu and Hisu are each doing it alone and it seems Rodrick is challenging together with his combat slaves Denda and Karimu. It's said that among those the only one with a chance of acquiring the challenge right is Ginger's group depending on how much effort Misu puts into it.

"Hmm. After all Kamu and Kimu are strongest contenders right."

"I think so too."

"However, I'm sure it will be difficult for Kamu and Kimu.."

He~ After all Zenom thinks so too huh? Kamu's skill with the bow is first-rate. It's not at the level of Bel but I'm sure that's a special case. She also has courage and I think her instructions to her allies are precise as well. However, the problem is having Kimu handle the ogres at the front line. The spear she uses is considerably long and if she uses it skillfully she can keep the ogre from approaching as Kamu turns it into an arrow pin-cushion I'm sure. However, she'll probably end up having her hands full just restraining the ogre and it'll be difficult for her to find an opening to do any major damage with the spear. In other words, we can assume it'll take them a considerable amount of time to deal with the ogres.

Other than those two there's the three person group lead by Ginger but just the same they're leaning a bit too much towards attacking though it's possible for Ginger or Jeru to grab the ogres attention while the other attacks and Misu uses magic from the rear. Especially Ginger's skill with the spear is extremely high and it's believed she can take on an ogre alone with it. You could say that their ability to wipe out the enemy is overwhelmingly higher. Rokko and Kevin

both have the same level or even greater skill at the front line but I'm sure they won't meet the minimum line for the test.

Though I say that, since the ones being challenged have the same number of people I think there's merits and demerits to it. Particularly Kamu is just the two of them, it seems like it would take some time for them to defeat it but there would be two people from the {Slaughterers} being challenged just the same. If they designate Angela and Basutorial who are said to have relatively low abilities then they must think they have a sufficient chance of winning.

However, both Angela and Basutorial can already defeat ogres one on one and they can even deal with a situation where they have to fight one versus multiple. Which is why I can't help but think it'll be difficult. In that case the ones who have the highest power to wipe things out should speak the loudest, so Ginger and the others are believed to have the higher chances at in any case just overcoming them in the amount of time it takes to defeat the ogres.

I think the reason she isn't challenging it alone is because her only experience against ogres is the little bit she got during the rescue job for {Black.Topaz} the other day. Even that the only time she actually took on an ogre was the last time when we were beating them all to death so I think she just doesn't have any confidence in it.

"I think the same..If Ginger was teaming up with Kamu then, otherwise if she was alone then I think the possibility would have been high."

"I guess so..By the way Al, how far do you think everyone else will hold out?"

"I'm sure it's still difficult for everyone else.."

I haven't properly measured their time but just guessing based on their condition while running in the morning. I think Jeru is barely alone the minimum line but I can't imagine everyone else can make it to the minimum.

"Out of Kamu and Ginger which do you think will return first?"

Hmn, that's a difficult question.

"Kamu I guess?"

I remember the whorl of Kamu's head when I talked to her for just a bit under

the tree I was keeping lookout on the 7th floor the other day.

"Ho? I've heard that Ginger is faster?"

"Certainly that's true. But I think Kamu will put quite a bit of effort into it this time. I think it's possible she'll cut 1 hour and 20 minutes."

"Hmn, bet..Don't make that sort of face. Sorry about that."

That's right. I don't like using people giving it their best as the subjects of a gamble.

Including making fun of them during the middle of that as well.

If it's during training or after the results of the main thing come out then laughing or being laughed at can't be helped.

Right now, they're seriously giving their best effort not on the daily training but on the main thing.

.....

Sure enough, the one who first returned was Ginger just as expected. Her time more than exceeded the minimum line at 1 hour, 17 minutes, and 30 seconds. Kamu and Kimu came back cutting just before 1 hour and 20 minutes. And then, a bit unexpectedly even Jeru returned in 1 hour, 22 minutes, and 30 seconds, surpassing the minimum time by over 1 minute. That comes out to Ginger and Jeru earning over 7 minutes in time. With this if Misu can surpass 1 hour and 31 minutes then their three-person group will have obtained the challenge right.

Furthermore, Basutoral can't exceed the minimum time either but even then he should be able to cut 1 hour and 30 minutes now. There was a complicate expression on his face. Cathy doesn't seem to get it very well but it seems she can understand her husband is nervous.

About 6 minutes late for the minimum time Rodrick came back with an expression as if he may die at any moment. The Misu of attention still can't be seen. Ginger and Jeru were staring at the road nervously. In comparison Kamu and Kimu went into the Boil Manor to borrow the shower and wash away the sweat.

The next one to return was Binsu.

His time was 1 hour, 32 minutes, and 10 seconds.

So Misu was no good huh?

This time was unfortunate.

And then, Misu, Sanno, and Denda came back shaped like a sweet dumpling.

Their time was 1 hour, 33 minutes, and 30 seconds.

Ginger and Jeru went to comfort Misu who broke down in tears.

Following that Ruttsu and Karimu returned and finally Hisu came back and fell over barely able to to breath.

Hisu's time wasn't all that bad. She cut off below 1 hour and 50 minutes after all.

It's a surprisingly level of progress compared to one year ago.

For the sake of their muscles, after a short break, I had them do some simple stretches.

"Now then, the ones who obtained the challenge right were Kamu and Kimu. Who are the two you want to challenge?"

I asked the two when they returned from their shower.

Although, it seems the two had long since decided already.

"We'll challenge Saji and Maurso."

Kamu replied.

"Kimu are you fine with that?"

Kimu hides her overflowing fighting spirit as she nods.

"Alright, got it. The day after tomorrow we'll enter the dungeon. The members are Kamu and Kimu. Basutorial and Angela. Also, Miduchi, Gwine, Zenom, Toris, Giberuti, and I. Everyone else get some rest until we return. I think we'll be in the dungeon for 4~5 days."

We split up there.

.....

Year 7446, Month 10, Day 18

The day of our overall combined training.

It goes without saying in regards to Kamu and Kimu but Basutorial and Angela were putting some fierce spirit into it as well. During the break time these four were each in their own groups as they whispered discussing things.

Just from the area I can clearly hear Basutorial and Angela seem to be going with the orthodox method where Angela acts as the front and while she's dealing with things Basutorial looks for openings with his spear or uses magic.

"First off I'll hit them in the face with an arrow. Then I'll quickly throw aside my bow and cut in. You make use of that opening with the spear and.."

"If it goes well then we might be able to earn time but that's dangerous, sister. We can't afford any mistakes. Here I'd like to you have faith in my spear."

"But, that's lacking in decisive power."

"Wasn't that something we already were prepared for right. We need to fight three consecutive matches with ogres right?"

"..I guess. It's no good getting impatient."

"Yeah. Let's do what we're both used to without making any mistakes. Maruso is quite something but after all I think the neck of their side is Saji."

"Certainly..if it's a one one one practice match then he can't win against Ginger after all."

"Against me either."

"That's right."

"I've dealt with 2 ogres before as well so I won't lose to Saji."

"I'm depending on you."

"Yeah, I'll show you I can precisely deal with them. That's why sister you also properly hit with the bow."

"Yeah, leave it to me."

They were talking about that. Additionally just like I did once upon with the Rindobel couple in the former {Sun.Ray} on the 7th floor, they were discussing things using rocks on the ground to plan things out.

When I suddenly noticed it even Basutorial and Angela were writing something on the ground with serious faces as they discussed it. Their strengths are the accumulated combat experience against ogres and Basutral's magic. In comparison Kamu and Kimu have shallow combat experience against ogres but they've got an incomparable level of experience as adventurers in the dungeon and it's possible for them to reasonably deal with any opponent. And then, they have a larger means of long range attacks than Basutorial.

All of the other members were taking a break a bit of distance away so as to not get in the way of their strategy making.

However, obviously the topic of discussion is whether or not the Kimu and Kamu group can overcome the Basutorial and Angela group. Furthermore, Zenom, Miduchi, Toris, Bel, and I were all collectively looking over both groups. I mean, I'm sure they're making bets over it after all. I don't want to hear it.

Zenom was making an uncomfortable face while trying to call out to Ralpa but I stopped him.

Just look at those lively and overjoyed expressions Ralpa and Gwine have on their faces, I'm sure they're already beyond recovery.

If it's done in a place where I can't hear about then I'll just ignore their enjoyment. It's because I can feel progress in the fact that they're able to cope with just that much, it's fine.

Chapter 273: Challenge Right 2

Year 7446, Month 10, Day 19

The teleport room of the 3rd floor. Among several parties that were camping out, there was luckily one spot open along the walls. There's a reasonable number of people so you can hear voices coming from here and there. It's been quite a while since the majority of the people had already become acquaintances.

"How is it? Are you tired?"

Gwine hands the tea Miduchi made over to Kamu and Kimu while asking them.

"Thanks. Hn~ not that much I guess? The pace isn't all that different from the {Butchers} after all."

Kimu smiled while saying.

Well, I'm sure. Now not just the {Butchers} but even the {Exterminators} are clearing through to this teleport room on the 3rd floor on the first day and camping out here after all. It's just the pace that differs a bit and it shouldn't be all that different. Ah, I haven't dispatched Gwine before so they might not be able to get a feel for it~ They might just be making comparisons to how slow other parties than the {Slaughterers} clear through the dungeon.

Other than that, Zenom and others were resting their tired bodies while talking and waiting impatiently for the dinner Giberuti was making.

However, Basutorial and Angela weren't participating in that, they're still enthusiastically whispering about things along the edge of the wall.

Somehow, the challengers Kamu and Kimu seem to have more composure. The side that should be taking them on isn't holding back at all in making preparations almost like the challenger, and thinking that it was a bit amusing. It's fine, if you just calm down and do it the same as usual you won't lose so easily. On the contrary if you get impatient and try to implement some strange

strategy you don't usually do, it's more frightening when that falls through.

Well, it's nothing for me to comment on right now. Do whatever you please.

.....

Year 7446, Month 10, Day 20

We smoothly cleared through the 4th and 5th floors and arrived at the teleport room on the 5th floor so we're taking a short break.

The campsite that {Black.Topaz} used is covered in dust but it's been expanded quite a bit. The amount of bags in the spot the {Verdure.Brotherhood} uses has increased quite a bit as well. And then, it's not a corner of the room but there's a considerable amount of bags in the spot {Gehenna.Flare} uses as they seem to be smoothly developing it as well.

On our route through the 5th floor this time we didn't end up with a course that passes through any altar rooms. Our pace at clearing through the 5th floor is obviously faster than the {Butchers}. Or rather, you could say it just doesn't differ much from our pace yesterday though.

I guess since Kamu already experienced a faster pace during the incident with {Black.Topaz} the other day, she wasn't having any problems in particular. But, as expected she isn't used to this pace either so her expression was a bit more serious. On the end of Kimu she hasn't moved at this pace past the 4th floor so the amount of talking she was doing had clearly decreased and her expression was dark. I'm sure it's not exhaustion from lack of stamina for the two of them but mental fatigue. It's good to see that they've properly increased their abilities. After that is just experience.

Once again today Basutorial and Angela were discussing things every time we took a break and there wasn't any particular change.

Just like that, I was watching as Kamu explained things about the traps on the 6th floor to Kimu so they don't have any problems tomorrow.

"In regards to those teleport traps. The {Slaughterers} have already made an almost perfect map from walking around the 6th floor. If we pass through the edge of the hall in order then it's easy to get by them. That's why it seems fine if you don't think about it so carefully."

"..I've heard that a number of times already. But.."

"It's alright. I thought the same until the other day. But, it's already fine. It's not like it's the first time for you either, you've already passed through them a number of times right?"

"That's right but..Even if you tell me the range where you'll fall into the trap...No one knows if it's the same for all of the traps on the 5th floor after all..When I think that I might disappear.."

"If we enter the {Slaughterers} then I don't think that will be allowed. We can't always be taking our time around there forever after all."

"If sister says so then.."

If sister says so huh? It seems there's still not enough trust, in me as well. Though it can't be helped since the length of time they've been together is no comparison though.

After finishing our break, we teleported into the 6th floor.

.....

After teleporting into the 6th floor, we're approaching the third monster room soon.

While I'm standing at the lead of the party I use Identify vision to look into the room from further down the hall.

..It doesn't seem to be dangerous but this is..troublesome. I told everyone "it seems to be fine" and then we walked ahead without lowering our pace. It seems like the other side has noticed us as well. I lightly wave my hand and gesture that we're not monsters.

"Ooh~ Gwine~!"

After entering the monster room and Garuban.Disukorudo or Garun who was keeping lookout for {Gehenna.Flare} while they take a break sharply noticed Gwine and approached while calling out to her. The one who I waved to just now was this guy.

With no difference from usual the orange flames on their armor that's been dyed black stands out.

"Ah, Garun-san. How are you doing?"

"Just listen to this, because of that shitty leader" If it isn't Gwine-han!!"

Pushing aside Garun the leader Heggusu. Whiteflame ran over and took Gwine's hand.

The other members all stood up from the places they were sitting and gathered to approach Gwine and Zenom as well.

"Ah, Firefreed-san, it's been a while."

"It's been a while~!" while~"while~""

"Yeah, I haven't seen you all in a while.."

Obviously they weren't paying the slightest interest in any of us other than Gwine and Zenom. They didn't even greet us. Treating us as if we're air or something that isn't even there.

"Please have some tea."

"If you're fine with something simple we have tea cakes as well~"

"Ah, please let me hear the continuation of that discussion from the other day, the one from when Firefreed-san was younger."

"That sounds great!"

"I want to hear about it as well!"

Zenom sure is popular. We just smile bitterly as we're left behind.

"Hey, shitty leader! Go and suggest a break to them."

"Sh..Shitty..Th..That's so mean.."

Ah, for the time being it seems our existence has been recognized. During the time we were wandering around the 4th and 5th floors unless I took action first, we were really just ignored though...For some reason I feel just a bit happy.

"Can't you at least manage something like that, how useless!"

"..Really~ you're all too loud.. Ah~ Greed-han. We'll at least offer some tea so you all should take a break around here as well. Around that area over there is fine."

The dwarf speaking with a Guranan accent said while pointing to a random corner of the room. It won't even take 2 hours to arrive at the teleport crystal from here. It can't be helped. Shall we take a break? I turned around to everyone with an expression like it can't be helped. Everyone was making vague expressions.

Somehow you know~ Though, somehow I kind of like this man called Heggusu. Though it might be pity from being oppressed by his members. I turn around again in order to reply.

He's gone.

Huh? After one-sidedly declaring to me Gwine has already been abducted!?

Was that just an afterimage!?

"Here you go~ Firefreed-san can have this one.."

"Hey, Mima. We had some Reida leaves right? That.."

"Eh~ to them as well?"

"Idiot, for Firefreed-san and Gwine-chan."

"That's right, there's the leaves from the tea we were just drinking right? The leftovers of that is plenty."

"Ehi~ Gwine-ha~n, sit down over here~"

"Ah, hey! Gwine-chan over here!"

"Ow, it hurts! Don't pull me!"

"Leader! Let her go! You're hurting Gwine-chan!"

"Really, please stop fighting. Then starting from next to Heggusu-san."

"No..No way~"

"Oh~hyu~, ah, we have some bisubanana, eat up, here eat all you want."

"Eh? Is that fine? I'm happy~!"

"Muhyohyo, Gwine-han's smile is so nice~"

"Hey, Garun, Vigo, Bobu, return to keeping lookout, it's you guys turn right?"

"Something like lookout those guys can do""That's right!""

"Really~ well I'm sure they won't miss any monsters""That's right!""

No way you pieces of shit. But, we can't slack off on keeping lookout. Now that it's become like this I already know from experience that {Gehenna.Flare} absolutely won't do something like keeping lookout. However, bisubanana he said? Those are super expensive fruits that cost over 50,000 Z each!? I've only eaten it once during a course meal in a restaurant in the capital...

"{Gehenna.Flare} sure is troublesome right."

"Those guys have always been like that since a while back. Though just Kevin didn't seem to have any complaints."

Kamu and Kimu were talking about it while making faces like it can't be helped.

I'm sure they were like that to {Sun.Ray} as well.

"Angela, Basutorial. Keep lookout together with me. I'll keep an eye on those two halls over there. Angela you watch those two, and Basutorial watch that one over there. After 10 minutes we'll switch with Miduchi, Toris, and Kimu."

.....

"Zenom, Gwine. We're leaving soon."

20 minutes later, I called out to the two of them who were sitting in a circle with {Gehenna.Flare}.

"Since I was called please excuse me."

"Eeeh~ already?"

"Gr..Greed-san, just a bit longer! Gwine-chan still hasn't come to sit by me yet!"

"Nmo~! I'll sit by you next time Bobu. Hey, let go of me."

"Gwine-cha~n!"

"Sorry about that, Bobu. We're already going. Let go of Gwine."

"Ssu! Firefreed-san, please let me hear more stories again next time~ssu!"

"Thanksu!" "Thank!" "Tha~!"

"Greed-han, sorry about stopping you up. Well, we're in your care from here on out as well~"

In regards to what?

"No..Well then, please excuse us."

What do you please to request of us next time?

I'm already sick of it...

However, these guys, they sure do have quite the composure for being on the 6th floor.

I'm sure they've already come a number of times and are somewhat used to it but in some meanings as expected of them.

.....

Year 7446, Month 10, Day 21

After eating the breakfast Giberuti prepared for everyone, we had a meeting before teleporting into the 7th floor.

A confirmation of the regulations.

"It's fine to start with the challengers, Kamu and Kimu's group right?"

"I don't mind."

"That's fine."

"Alright, then let's go over things one last time. Kamu and Kimu are challenging Basutorial and Angela. The winning group joins the {Slaughterers}."

I already discussed it countless times already but I repeat once more.

"The victory and defeat is decided by taking on 1 ogre and the amount of time it takes to defeat it. We'll repeat combat with ogres three times and the group with a shorter total time wins. I'll take time with this clock magic tool. The time starts when I say "begin". Since there's also the matter of the distance and position from the ogre but I'll make sure there's no unfairness on that end."

The four of them nod.

"It's fine for you to do combat in any way. Whether it's cutting with a sword, stabbing with a spear, shooting with a bow, or using magic it's your choice."

I look at the four of them in order as they nod at everything I say.

"Alright, the signal for completion is when you've taken the magic stone out and hold it up. Don't forget."

First off it's necessary to search for just the right ogre for the test. It's not like we're aiming for the 8th floor or a monster room so it's easy that the teleport destination doesn't matter.

"We're already prepared, so bring it on anytime!~"

Kimu said enthusiastically.

"Ffu. Then let's go. Jukuda!"

In a moment we were teleported and we went from the dim 6th floor teleport room to the 7th floor which was bright like midday. It seems there's no ogres or goblins around us.

After confirming our location on the map, it seems like we'd run into an ogre if we just wander around randomly so without any real basis I faced towards the right side. If we're lucky then there should be an ogre in the forest spread out about 100 meters ahead.

"We'll go with {Wedge.One} in that direction. If I discover an ogre then I'll raise my closed left hand."

I've already more or less explained our formations. The dispatched leaders to the {Butchers} have more or less explained things to them so it's plenty to just go over the fine details.

On our way towards the forest I use the spell {Detect.Life} to search for enemies. In my case since my void magic level is high even if I extend the range it can be done with less MP than usual.

There's nothing~

I guess we'll need to wander around a bit.

On our way through the forest, I use {Detect.Life} again.

There's one. It's barely on the edge of the range I can detect, around 200 meters ahead.

Conveniently it seems to be just 1 as well.

It should be in a wasteland or plains ahead of this forest.

An ogre or goblin. Since there's just 1 it's probably an ogre though.

For a short while we continued just like that and the monster entered our sight.

After all it was an ogre.

It's sitting in the center of the plains after the forest opened up and is just dazing off almost like it's bathing in the sun.

I gave the sign of discovering it and lowered my posture.

We approach carefully so it won't notice us no matter what.

In another 15~20 meters from passing through the forest I can see a convenient place covered by bushes.

The size is plenty so it's probably ideal for watching.

I hide behind the bushes and after everyone had gathered over I quietly said.

"There's an ogre over there...You can see it right? It seems to be just 1 so we'll start with it. Kamu, Kimu. Are you ready?"

"We're ready but let us go over things for a moment."

"Yeah, I don't mind."

The two of them started going over things in a whisper.

It seems they're done in less than a minute.

"Is it fine already?"

The two of them nod. Seeing that I nod back.

And then Zenom took out the clock magic tool so they could tell.

It's the usual alarm clock sized one we always use in the dungeon.

"If you want backup say something without hesitation. If things seem

dangerous then even if you don't say anything we'll move at our own convenience but don't think badly of it."

Kamu and Kimu were making faces like they already knew that and nodded.

Alright.

"Begin"

While lowering her body Kimu went straight ahead holding the long spear and Kamu went a bit around to the right while holding her bow.

I think there's around 20~30 meters from here to the 1 ogre in the plains?

It depends on their movement speed but it shouldn't even be a minute before the battle starts.

Everyone was watching as Kamu and Kimu approach the ogre from the shadow of the bushes but soon after the two of them were hidden in the grass of the plains.

"6:22"

Zenom said while still holding the clock magic tool.

"About 30 seconds."

Hearing that Miduchi said it almost as if she was responding but I guess she means that it's now 6:22:30, 30 seconds after the test started.

Basutorial and Angela are watching the surroundings of the ogre.

I took the glove off my left hand and tensed up so I could provide back with magic at any time. Since I don't want to lose Kamu and Kimu in this sort of place after all.

Author's Note: {Gehenna.Flare} Member List:

**Heggusu.Howaitofureimu (Heggusu), Male, Dowāfu, Poleaxe.Magic
Jonasan.Birubān(Neisan), Male, Dowāfu, Tomahawk.Shield
Miruhīma.Aisumerutā(Mīma), Female, Dowāfu, Flail.Magic
Garuban.Disukōrudo(Garun), Male, Dowāfu, Warhammer**

Rōkairu.Girufureā(Roiru), Male, Dowāfu, Mace.Bow.Magic

Daniera.Bāningusu(Daniera), Female, Dowāfu, Tomahawk.Bow.Magic

Maruisharu.Fureimushafuto(Māshu), Female, Dowāfu, Mace.Bow.Magic

Vīgouru.Reddobureizu(Vīgo), Male, Dowāfu, Battle Axe

Robāto.Rokkubureiku(Bobu), Male, Dowāfu, Halberd

Chapter 274: Challenge Right 3

Year 7446, Month 10, Day 21

Just as expected from veteran adventurers Kamu and Kimu made almost no sound.

They're approaching the ogre with the sound hidden as the still strange sound of the wind inside dungeon rustles against the grass.

If it's from here then there's no way to accurately determine their location as they approach while crouched down.

"Hmn, after all putting aside Kimu-san, as expected of sis Kamu.."

Miduchi whispered.

You can tell!?

She sure is amazing~

"Right now around where are the two of them?"

He must have heard Miduchi's whisper. Basutoral whispered as he asked Miduchi.

"Kimu-san is about 30..27~28 meters from the ogre on this side. Sis Kamu is on the right side..about 20 meters away I guess..It's easier to tell Kimu-san."

Are you serious.

Zenom looked at Toris's face while still holding the clock magic tool but Toris just shook his head.

Right~

Well, whatever.

...

Oh.

I see now. If it's mentioned while looking then even I can somehow tell.

Over there and there.

Kimu is just about 15 meters from the ogre.

Kamu is just a bit closer to Kimu on the right side about 15 meters away.

It seems everyone else has noticed as well as they aren't making a sound just focused on them.

They're letting their guards down in watching the surroundings but the only thing ahead is the ogre and them and we just passed through the rear.

There's probably not much meaning in using {Detect.Life} or keeping watch with our eyes for a short while longer.

Kamu stood up and just as only her head appeared for a moment and a bow came up soon after as well.

And then an arrow was fired.

Since it was from a bit to the rear-side of the ogre it didn't notice until it hit the back of it's head.

"Giooo~!!"

The moment the arrow stabbed into it the ogre jumped up as if it was hit and stood up while turning around at the same time.

However, after removing the irritating arrow it crouched down again.

It's probably picking up it's weapon.

Kimu wasn't so slow as to miss that opening.

While still keeping her body held low she charged at it almost like a short-distance Olympic runner.

The only difference is that she's holding a long spear.

Also, she has a long round tail which is the same gold and black stripe color as her hair.

Kimu charged at it without making a sound going in a straight line with her spear.

The moment the crouching ogre noticed Kimu I think there was already

almost no distance.

The ogre raised it's body in a hurry just as Kimu's long spear stabbed deep into it's right chest.

"Goo!!? Gaaaa~!!"

As the ogre screams in surprise and pain it seems to have already forgotten that it was just hit by an arrow a moment ago.

It grabs on to the spear stabbed into it's chest with both hands in order to pull it out.

Kamu is running through the grass after throwing down her bow, it doesn't seem to have realized that she's approached aiming for the back of it's knee.

Kamu is making use of her short height as a gnome as her head isn't showing out of the grass.

Most likely the ogre's lung was injured as blood is coming from it's mouth as it fights with Kimu to try and pull the spear out.

Normally the spear should be immediately pulled out.

Putting aside it being grabbed, if it were to be broken then it's all over and ogres have plenty of power to manage that.

Particularly when there's multiple enemies the chances of the ogre breaking it are high.

However, no matter how stupid ogres are, it seems it's not stupid enough to break the spear while it's still stabbed into it's chest(although, I don't think this is related to intelligence. Not just limited to ogres, I think anyone would first reflexively try to pull it out) so just limited to this situation where there's only one enemy, Kimu's method is correct.

It also can act as a cover to keep the ogre from noticing Kamu's approach, or rather that's probably the aim.

"Aaaaaah~!!"

Kimu puts some fighting spirit into it as she yells.

The ogre is backing up as it tries to pull the spear out while Kimu takes

another firm one or two steps forward as if to stab it in even further.

It's easy to tell the muscle of the arms holding the spear is swelling as strength is being put into it.

"Guga!!?"

Kamu cut the back knee of the ogre with her short sword.

The short sword she uses isn't quite at the level of the type-64 bayonet I made in the past(though it was mostly father and Arnold that made most of it) but even then it's quite high quality and a sharp blade.

While the ogre showed an opening as it fell to one knee Kimu pulled the spear out and it seems this time she's just trying to keep it in check.

It seems that Kamu cut the back of it's left knee.

Even as blood was coming from it's left knee, the ogre is showing some decent movements as it picks up it's club and twists it's face as if laughing.

It looks as if it's saying that it can do anything as long as it has it's weapon.

However, by that point Kamu had already turned back around in the grass and returned to pick up her bow before shooting more arrows.

Kimu is skillfully holding the ogre back so it can't approach Kamu.

Hm~mm...

Other than how Kamu approached the ogre at the start I guess they're fighting quite carefully.

Both Kimu and Kamu are calling out to each other as they fight with an emphasis on safety.

However, the ogre won't be finished off with just that.

Look.

It's dangerous.

Aaa~

Just from stabbing your spear into the left upper arm of the ogre you thought it did some good damage right?

But, that's a big mistake you know.

Probably, that ogre intentionally was aiming for that.

As proof of that it tensed up the muscle in it's left arm so the spear can't be pulled back out.

And then soon after it swings the club in it's right arm.

However, Kamu managed to shoot an arrow into the ogre's face at just the right timing.

At the moment it flinched from that Kimu seems to have pulled her spear out.

In just a moment longer it was about to destroy the spear.

After Kimu had first stabbed the spear into it the {Strength} she used had long since ended.

Right now, she's not fighting with power but speed and timing.

Kamu is skillfully following up with that.

Things still seem dangerous one on one but if it's like this then it's plenty possible to take on ogres.

And then as they injured the ogre, weakened, and defeated it.

"6:27:20"

Zenom said.

I think he said the start was at 6:21:30 so roughly 6 minutes up to here huh?

Since they used over 1 minute to approach the ogre, I guess that means they were actually fighting for about 4 minutes and 30 seconds?

That's long.

They were too careful.

Well it still depends on how much time it takes for them to take out the magic stone.

It took almost just 15 minutes for them to take out the magic stone.

That's a total of 21 minutes and 10 seconds.

It's incomparably fast compared to the first time entered the 7th floor and gathered magic stones from the ogres.

It might even be as fast as Zulu and Angela now.

I guess they're not losing any face as veteran adventurers.

Now then, next up is Basutorial and Angela's turn. Shall we return once and then teleport back into the 7th floor once more?

Shouldn't they be able to win?

.....

This time once again we conveniently were able to encounter just 1 lone ogre.

Even more conveniently it was in the middle of some plains surrounded by tall grass again.

Just like Kamu and Kimu, Basutorial and Angela said they wanted a bit of time to go over things so I let them.

After having a simple discussion of some things they soon told me they were ready.

Alright.

Zenom lightly tapped on me from the side.

"Begin"

"7:26"

At almost the same time as I declared that Zenom said the current time.

Reflecting on just before, Zenom looked for a good chance while holding the clock and then gave me the signal at a good time.

Hearing my statement, different from Kamu and Kimu, Basutorial and Angela ran off without hiding themselves.

Obviously the ogre noticed them right away.

I can tell that at the same time it started running towards Basutorial holding it's club.

"I guess they intend to earn even just a bit more time..It means fighting it

head on but I guess that's a method as well."

Toris whispered.

"I'm sure it's possible for them right now after all."

Zenom said after hearing that but hearing his words Kamu and Kimu made a shocked expression before asking Miduchi.

"Really?"

"Fighting that ogre..head on.."

"Nn~ they have quite a bit of experience fighting against ogres after all..I've seen Maruso and Saji fighting one on one against ogres a number of times as well."

Miduchi replied without taking her eyes off the backs of Basutorial and Angela.

Basutorial ran to the left while holding his spear on guard and Angela is running while holding up her broadsword as well.

Soon after the two of them were within range of the ogre.

I thought that Basutorial would make use of the momentum from his charge to stab it with the spear but it seems he's being a bit cautious.

He's started restraining the ogre with his spear.

Angela is moving to circle around behind the ogre.

The ogre doesn't want that so it's trying to stop her with it's club but Basutorial is efficiently holding it down.

Their movements show they've completely read the actions of the ogre.

Angela is keenly circling around the ogre and creating openings.

Basutorial is making good use of those openings to land thrusts with his spear.

After taking two clean hits from Basutorial when the movements of the ogre dulled a bit Angela quickly went in to cut the nape of it's neck.

"7:28:20"

Zenom said.

It took them 2 minutes to take down the ogre.

While it might look like that they ended up acting quite cautiously.

Is it because it's the first match?

"7:45:30"

A total of 19 minutes and 30 seconds huh?

Angela is used to taking out the magic stones of ogres so Basutorial was just acting as an assistant and following her commands.

Even then they were slower than Kamu and Kimu.

"Hmm.."

"..Mu~"

Kamu and Kimu were making sullen faces.

.....

During the second round Kamu and Kimu said they want Basutorial and Angela to go first so I changed the order.

Basutorial and Angela's time was a bit slower than the first round at 19 minutes and 40 seconds.

In comparison Kamu and Kimu's time shortened quite a bit and even managed to cut 19 minutes.

It was 18 minutes and 10 seconds.

They managed to shorten it by just a bit by gathering the magic stone even faster.

One more round remaining.

Kamu borrowed the magic scimitar from Miduchi and Kimu also borrowed the magic spear from Gwine.

It's thanks to that they managed to achieve that result.

They can fight the second and third rounds using these weapons after all.

Since I already said that they can fight however they want this isn't against

the rules or anything else.

If I were to say it's not then I'd have to make them use the exact same equipment and if it comes to that then it would be basically impossible for the members who's position overlaps with Zenom, Miduchi, and I.

Just, Basutorial and Angela were a bit displeased.

Don't make faces like that.

Particularly Basutorial.

Even you've been using the {Bracers.of.Might} since the start right.

And then we started the third round after lunch.

The order returned to the start with Kamu and Kimu first.

If you're wondering why there was this much time in between it's because I wanted them to fight against a lone ogre for the first and second rounds, so it took us some time to search for just the right opponent.

This time, the ogre is in the same plains area but the grass is at highest 10 cm.

Though in exchange for that there's waist-high rocks all over the place but they're not really ones you can hide behind.

However, this time there's 2 ogres from the start.

I announced that I would finish off 1 of them with magic and that would be the signal to start this time.

Everyone else would keep an eye on things from the forest just the same as until now.

There's no bushes this time but undergrowth from trees that's over 1 meter high we can hide behind and watch.

"It seems impossible to approach while hiding..It feels quite difficult."

Toris and Gwine were whispering to each other.

"I guess so."

Gwine replied with a complicated face.

"Hey, if it were you Gwine-chan what would you do?"

Kimu seems to be asking Gwine but if you don't have any projectile weapons there's no choice other than to charge at it.

There's somewhat of a distance between the rocks so it should be possible to sneak up to the ogres from here to the first rock about 20 meters away from them.

However, I'm sure only one person could manage to stay hidden.

"I would attack with magic."

".."

Kimu fell silent.

I'm sure Kimu wanted to ask a method that doesn't involve using magic.

However, they already knew very well that Gwine can use magic.

After all Kimu had the arm that was broken by an ogre healed by her.

And then, they know Basutorial can use magic as well.

But, they've never fought together so they shouldn't know how well they can use it.

In the past when we met on the 7th floor, Basutorial didn't use any magic after all.

Around the time Basutorial was just learning magic I remember him talking about his various elemental magic levels going up but soon after he stopped mentioning it.

Judging from Kamu and Kimu's manner of speech it seems they must be thinking his magic is "nothing significant".

Well, in reality his magic isn't all that significant though.

Even then, since he trained to progressively deal damage with it, he's earned experienced in a tremendously efficient way.

All of his elemental magics are level 2 and his fire magic is level 3.

His void magic reached level 4 around three months ago.

He's not completely at the level of a full-fledged magician but he can already

use {Flame Javelin}.

"Are you ready?"

When I asked Kamu and she nodded.

Kimu as well.

"Zenom, since there's also the timing this time it'll be impossible to get an even time. Match it up with us."

"Yeah, got it."

I launched a {Fire Arbalest Missile} into the back of the head of 1 of the 2 ogres that was showing an opening faced away from us and finished it off.

Kamu and Kimu ran off at the same moment the ogre fell over.

Thanks to the magic weapons they were using this time they put up a hard fight and managed the good time of 18 minutes and 30 seconds.

That's a total time of 57 minutes and 50 seconds.

In order to exceed that Basutorial and Angela will need to hurry quite a bit this time.

It's probably no good if they can't finish the combat in less than 2 minutes.

Chapter 275: Challenge Right 4

Year 7446, Month 10, Day 21

We managed to discover just the right ogres.

There was 2 ogres messing around with each other in the middle of some plains with 50 cm or so grass.

They're a distance of about 100 meters from the forest we're hiding.

"Basutorial, Angela. Have you finished your discussion?"

The two of them have already been talking over things for close to 5 minutes.

How about at least replying to me.

Look, just now, even though that was the perfect timing...

And hey!

What are you doing!?

The two of them were tying something long and thin to the end of Basutorial's spear.

Ah..Yeah..that is...

【Arrow.of.Blindness】

【Sawtooth Oak.Iron】

【Condition: Normal】

【Manufacture Date: 24/8/7446】

【Value: 20000】

【Durability: 40】

【Ability: The ability of the launching device plus 15-65】

【Effect: The living creature which this arrow stabs into regardless of the size of the wound or where it is located, as long as the arrowhead pierces through

to the point of being completely hidden the target will fall into a state of completely blindness. In the case that it takes effect, the duration of the effect will continue for at least 5 minutes. However, once the blindness has gone into effect once even if the arrow is recovered afterwards and used once again, the blindness effect will have been lost. On that occasion it will just be a high performance magic arrow.】

Are you serious...

I can't say it's not allowed at this point...

But.

"I see now.."

"So that's what they had planned."

Zenom and Toris watched their work with a bit of admiration.

"What are they doing?"

"An arrow?"

Kamu and Kimu tried asking Gwine who was nearby, Gwine said, "It seems to be an arrow..Ah...Nfufu. Just watch and you'll see." while grinning.

"..Isn't it surprising? I had heard about it. When Bel discussed it with me I said that it's fine for Bel to do whatever she wants with them. I was wondering when they were going to use it. I was starting to worry if maybe Bel didn't give it to them."

..Fufu.

I can't help but smiling.

Basutorial and Angela both must have been desperate.

Miduchi knows as well that you can only use that arrow once.

According to Miduchi she already said to Bel, "Most magic arrows lose their effects after being used once".

Even then Bel gave it to them.

Whether it's just one or a bunch of them I don't know but in any case she

handed one over.

It might be possible she said to endure it until the last moment or something along those lines.

Well~ something like that doesn't matter at all.

Isn't it fine I guess, using it here.

Including how they're used, I've left all of the arrows in the care of Bel.

And she decided to let them use it.

In that case there's no place for me to comment on it.

I wanted them to be the single arrow that flips over a desperate situation but that's nothing more than my wish.

If you were to ask whether this situation is a crisis for the party then I don't even need to tilt my head and I can deny it but depending on how you think about it, you could say it's a crisis for Angela and Basutorial.

How and why Bel decided to give them the arrow is something insignificant.

There's no way I could understand what she's thinking.

Well it's fine.

It should be a good chance to determine the degree of effect of the arrows.

It's seems they're about ready.

They firmly fixed the arrowhead of the arrow around 10 cm off the end of the spear.

"We're finished with preparations."

"Master, sorry for the wait."

"Yeah, wait just a moment.."

I watch the ogres that are still messing around again while looking for the right timing.

They seem to be messing around almost like baby gorillas or something.

Though they're not that cute.

"..I'll finish off the left one. After I hit it that's the signal. Alright?"

If it's fire that seems like it would stand out a bit too much.

I wonder if I should go with {Stone Arbalest Missile} this time?

Well, I guess it's fine the same as before.

A large flaming arrow was fired from my right hand.

The ogre on the left took the flaming arrow through the side of it's head and died in one hit.

The ogre on the right was confused from the sudden happening.

Zenom has started taking time.

"Iyaaaa~!!!"

Angela let out a loud voice as she was charging ahead.

"!!"

At the same time as that Basutorial ran off as fast as he could while holding the end of his spear ahead.

Angela has a tail with long and tufty hair.

Basutorial's hair is short his tail isn't quite as thick as that of the Tiger-people race.

Those tails weren't waving almost at all as they stood on end.

The two of them should reach the ogre right away.

Obviously the ogre noticed the two of them charging at it and picked up it's club to take them on.

The reason she let out a loud voice to stand out should have been to reduce the amount of time before the battle starts by even just a bit more.

Oh~ it's not the time to just be watching.

I need to be ready in the worst case as well.

Although, if it's them then there shouldn't be anything dangerous about fighting two versus one.

I guess I'll watch while controlling my mana.

The ogre was shouting "Ngooo~!!" while running at them with heavy thuds.

Angela ran off while holding her broadsword ready to swing, Basutorial isn't losing to that as he advances with his spear ready.

Since she doesn't have as much bulk as a spear, Angela's speed is above.

The ogre went for a wide swing with its club to try and crush Angela's head.

Angela lowered her posture in order to evade that as she tried to circle around to the left of the ogre.

Trying to swing a weapon in the right hand to the right would throw off the stance after all.

And then, Basutorial was keeping up with Angela behind her on the right along the way but he stopped around 10 meters to the side of the ogre.

Magic huh?

However, the attack spell that Basutorial is the most used to is {Flame Arrow} and even that takes over 2 seconds to activate.

Hey now what are you doing, and I started to feel irritated.

After all it's long since passed the 2 seconds needed to activate {Flame Arrow}.

Does he intend to slowly take his time using his greatest attack spell {Flame Javelin} or something?

Depending on where it hits it's not as if it can't defeat it.

Just as I was thinking that it was different.

Basutorial was using magic on the end of his spear.

Even though over 5 seconds have passed his spell still doesn't seem to have activated.

I wonder what he is trying to use?

How dangerous.

Should I back them up?

But, both Angela and Basutorial can defeat ogres one on one as long as they have the time.

I guess I'll keep an eye on things for a bit longer.

The spell still hasn't activated after all.

During that time Angela was still holding the attention of the ogre herself.

While circling around to the left she thrust forward with her broadsword.

It seems while rolling to the right she's trying to use attacks which swipe towards its legs.

Though overall she's still moving around towards the left.

However, while it's just a bit, she's gradually being pulled towards Basutorial as he concentrates.

After all ogres can't be underestimated.

Just as expected from a monster that's considerably strong in close combat.

As proof that it's not being dragged along with Angela as she tries to circle around it further to the right.

Hmm, that's dangerous.

I wonder what they're going to do.

I can tell everyone around me is tense as well.

There's already no more than 5 meters between Basutorial who's concentrating and the ogre.

If he ends up taking that club while he's concentrating then...

And then finally, it took close to 10 seconds but Basutorial's spell finally activated.

The spell he used was the reverse magic of {Light}, {Darkness}.

If you normally use the spell {Light} then it lasts 5 minutes, continuing to give off light for 300 seconds or so.

The reverse magic of that {Darkness} only has a duration of 1/100th of that at 3 seconds, but it manifests the pitch darkness almost as if it's absorbing all the

surrounding visible light on that one point which is the target of the spell.

It seems that what it absorbs is just the visible light and obviously if {Infrared Vision} gets used there's not much meaning to it.

In most cases, the temperature of a weapon is slightly higher than the surrounding air after all.

In the past, when I tried asking the elf squire in Bakuddo, Mikkensu about it and when using {Infrared Vision} metal-based weapons and such appear bluish black.

However, ogres don't have {Infrared Vision}.

It might be effective in hiding the reach of a weapon against ogres.

Though along with how short the duration of the effect is it's a spell that doesn't have very many uses.

Normally no matter how much you practice it takes several split seconds to activate so unless it's a person who can use spells in combat there's not much reason to practice with it.

In other words, myself though.

..That guy, since he can activate in this amount of time, he must have practiced it several tens of times.

The surrounding light started to get absorbed by the center point that is the target of the spell the end of the spear as darkness starts to light up(though that's a weird way of expressing it) and a pitch black orb spreads out.

The diameter of the orb should be around 3 meters I guess?

The closer it gets to the center of the orb the greater the degree of darkness.

Though it's diameter is close to 3 meters, the only part that you really can't see anything but darkness is around 1 meter in the center so the portion that can be called true darkness isn't all that wide.

After Basutoral held the spear of darkness at the ready once again he let out a war cry of "Let's gooo~!!" while charging the 5 meter distance to the ogre.

Noticing the abnormality in Basutoral's weapon the ogre let out a shout of

surprise like "Go?!!?"

It seems that while parrying off Angela's annoying attacks with the club in it's right hand it was properly paying attention to Basutorial as well.

However, the moment Basutorial let out a yell while switching to charge at it with the spear of darkness, Angela went for a risky attack!

..!!

Good!

When Angela went to go for a risky attack, the ogre was prepared to receive it with a powerful attack of it's own.

However, it seems Angela had already read that attack.

She lowered her body even lower, almost as if she was crawling along the ground, and avoided it at the last moment in a considerably unreasonable posture, then after evading the ogre's attack jumped towards it.

There Basutorial's thrust also attacked.

Since ogres are skilled with close combat skills it tried to avoid Basutorial's thrust by rolling itself but it ended up mistaking the distance.

"Geo?!!"

It raises a shout in surprise.

And then, it started rolling around while recklessly swinging the club around it.

Basutorial quickly pulled back his spear.

After Angela stood up from rolling her broadsword was covered in blood.

And then, it didn't take much time at all for them to defeat the blinded ogre.

Probably, the amount of time they spent in combat wasn't even 1 minute.

.....

Basutorial and Angela's time was 17 minutes and 20 seconds.

A total time of 56 minutes and 30 seconds.

It was over 1 minute faster than Kamu and Kimu's time.

So we won't be switching them out huh?

I'm looking forward to next time.

"Aaa..So it was no good huh?"

"Even though the plan we had was good.."

On top of switching to good results from the second round, they used their heads for the combat other than just borrowing magic weapons from Miduchi and Gwine. It seems that they had already asked Gwine and Miduchi about it ahead of time. Yeah. I'm relieved that they weren't just thinking about simply fighting it. We aren't doing something like fair sports after all.

How you can gain the greatest advantage, including negotiations I want them to be able to use their heads.

In that sort of meaning Basutorial and Angela properly negotiated with Bel to use the magic arrow and that {Darkness} spell I can't remember using in a number of years so they most likely requested Miduchi to teach it to him.

"Th..The time is..."

"How was it!?"

Basutorial and Angela came back while holding the magic stone.

"Congratulations. It's your win."

Zenom told them while smiling.

Hearing that the two of them made relieved expressions and sat down on the spot letting out a sigh of relief.

"We lost this time but we won't lose next time."

Kamu is claiming victory next time.

"Congratulations, the two of you. But it's just as sis Kamu said, next time we'll win."

Kimu held out her hands to Basutorial and Angela.

And then, while making an expression like oh?, she looked at Angela's head.

Angela made a shocked expression before taking off her helmet and inspecting the surface of it.

Is it scratched or something?

Incidentally, the design of Angela's helmet is the same as Miduchi, Gwine, and mine. It's similar to the JSDF ones with a helmet neck guard in the back fundamentally made from rubber protectors.

It's almost like the type of helmets from the sengoku era other than the fact that it doesn't have anything like the horns or ornaments out of the top of it.

Though that's only obvious since I made it as an imitation of those.

However, the one exclusively for the dog-people race that was made for the wolf-people Dokushu family of Bakuddo has some protuberances for the ears on the top as well as using three large plates rather than the five layered ones in the back.

I don't know the reason.

There was a scratch along the surface of the helmet.

The ogre's club must have grazed it.

Hey, stop making such a pitiful face.

If it's just that degree of a scratch then you can fix it right away taking it to Rassgu's place.

"Good work the two of you. We'll go to Dorureon today with everyone. It's my treat."

After I said that everyone cheered.

I was able to see the efforts of the four of them.

Well it's fine.

Eh? Even Cathy as well?

Ah, might as well, let's just call everyone.

I'm sure there's a number of members who are bored on their day off.

Chapter 276: Towards 10th Floor 1

Year 7446, Month 10, Day 21

I talked about current matters while eating and drinking at Dorureon.

"This time, it was unfortunate for Kamu and Kimu, but I think they really gave it their best to the limit. Basutorial, Angela, you two might be in danger next time."

It seems they've had a bit of alcohol but it's still not a time to get drunk yet.

"I'm still fine for the time being. I don't intend to hand it over that easily."

It seems that today Basutorial gained a bit of confidence.

"It's the same for me as well. No matter who the opponent is I won't lose when it comes to defeating ogres."

Angela raised her spirit in good condition as well.

"I have something I need to discuss in that regard. It's about {Magic.Items} like the sword and spear. Starting the next time I intend to ban the usage of all {Magic.Items}. Since it seems that if I leave it be it would become the standard after all."

Everyone nodded hearing this. Yeah. Since Miduchi's scimitar and Gwine's spear showed actual results this time I'm sure they would be the first ones targeted. There's also Toris's {Flame.Tongue} and depending on the case Zenom's {Cold Axe.Of.Returning} as well, at the very least they're known within the {Slaughterers} so I think they're easy to target.

Since it's not just about clearing through the exam, but after that they'll need to fight against not only ogres without {Magical.Weapons} like that but trolls and such as well.

"What will be prohibited is poisons as well as {Magic.Items}. After that it's fine no matter what you do."

Hearing that there were those making disappointed faces and those with

relieved faces, a variety of different reactions. It can't be helped right. It's a slightly strange way of putting it but it's almost like cramming at the last-minute for an exam and it's hard to consider it as the user's real ability. It might end up in simple fights and negotiations with the owners(borrowers) over the order they can borrow them. It's not good manners, yeah.

After everyone seems to understand on to the next topic.

"Tomorrow morning we're having comprehensive training. There's no training in the morning the day after tomorrow or the day after that but the day after tomorrow there's individual training for each of the teams as well."

Everyone stopped talking while listening to what I say.

"On the next day after that. I mentioned it before but when we {Slaughterers} enter the dungeon starting the 25th we'll be aiming for the 10th floor. This time just like when we cleared the 8th floor we won't be dispatching anyone from the {Slaughterers}. It's a bit of trouble for everyone for another week but I hope you won't overdo things during that time. Kamu you lead the {Butchers} and Ginger you lead the {Exterminators}."

It's a reconfirmation just in case. It took the shape of me designating the leaders but even if I just leave them to pick I'm sure it would have ended up like this, so it should be fine.

"We'll arrive at the teleport crystal of the 8th floor on the 27th. On the 28th, the next day when we teleport into the 9th floor we'll choose our destination to some extent. If we can teleport into a place that leads to that central plaza like area before the afternoon then we'll aim to clear through just like that."

Hmm. I had already predicted it but not a single person seems to be worried.

"If we can smoothly clear it then after that we'll keep an eye on things. If there aren't any problems in particular then we'll return to the teleport crystal on the 8th floor again and then bring Giberuti along to the teleport crystal on the 9th floor. We'll take a look into the 10th floor after that."

Since there weren't any questions in particular everyone started enjoying the food and alcohol again.

.....

Year 7446, Month 10, Day 28

We repeated teleporting into the 9th floor around 20 times. Our map of the 9th floor is at about a 50% completion rate after all. I'm sure it's good luck that we can teleport into a decent location within 20 times. There's a period of several tens of seconds where the teleport crystal can't be used immediately after and there's the trouble of having to confirm the location we teleported into as well(Though the trouble of that is quite a bit lighter for us since we have Gwine). Though it's just 20 times you could say it's a painful loss of over one hour in time.

After that it took us around five hours to arrive at the location of what we believe to be the center of the floor. We had to pass through five monster rooms in order to get up to here. Of those, one of them was an altar room but it was empty.

The current time is just about noon.

"Since it's a good time, shall we have some lunch?"

There was also the opinion that either way we'll be returning to the 8th floor after we clear it so the lunch Giberuti makes is better. However, with the time it takes teleporting, moving, and gathering magic stones it's easy to imagine it would be long past lunch so in the end we decided to bring along bentos.

In an appropriate area just before entering the plaza we took a break while also having our sobagaki bento for lunch. There's a variety of ways to eat sobagaki. The standard way is to pour olive oil over before eating it. Also, mixing some minced chicken coated with salt and spices into it and deliciously eating them together. It's also good to throw some thin slices of ham on top of it as well.

This time it was a bit expensive but we a version of warm sobagaki with spices as well as things like wild lemon juice squeezed over top. It's quite refreshing like this and delicious as well.

We had some rest for a period of time and everyone finished up going to the bathroom.

"Alright. Let's go."

Everyone stood up and started checking their equipment and whether or not they've forgotten anything.

.....

It was a dreary location like the center of the 8th floor with just rough rocks laying around here and there. Everyone is about to start advancing in the {Wedge.Two} formation with Miduchi at the lead using {Party-ization}.

We aren't going to make the same mistake again this time.

We'll beat down the gatekeeper-like Mino together with everyone. All 10 of us. There's Bel and Miduchi who use the bow. Other than me, there's Toris and Zulu who are using the shield, and the reliable Zenom as well. Ralph and Angela should do some good work too. And then, Gwine and Basutorial can dish out some big damage.

Even if it's a Minotaur that swings around a giant weapon, there's no way it can win against this lineup right.

Mm.

The sensation of Miduchi's {Party-ization} disappeared.

Here we decided to have one more meeting for the sake of reconfirming things.

After all, let alone {Identify} not even magic can be used.

"It's just as expected. I said it before but the floors of this dungeon are protected by a Minotaur. I think without a doubt there will be one here as well. There's no difference from the information I heard from the King and the 8th floor after all."

"But, the first guardian has amazing equipment right?"

Gwine said a bit anxiously.

"Yeah, that seems to be the case. But if there's only one Minotaur then I'm sure we can deal with it in any way we want."

There's no guarantee that there will be just one but I don't want to lower everyone's morale here. I said it lightly on purpose.

"Listen well. Probably but the moment we enter the sight of the opponent the surroundings should get bright all at once. If it's possible then keep one eye closed. We'll go with {Wedge.One} from here. We'll use three meter intervals."

I said that before passing by Miduchi and taking the lead.

"We'll be advancing slowly but the moment things get bright assume that it's the start of combat. It's fine to think that we've been discovered at that point so you can switch to free usage of your weapons. However, don't forget the possibility that there could be multiple opponents. Though it's probably just one."

Though I don't want to lower the morale, just in case I need to give a warning. So if the worst case scenario happens no one goes into a panic.

"In the case that there's multiple opponents, "in the case you discover new enemies, shout out and warn everyone of the location"."

Ralpa said what I was going to say before I could.

Can this girl not keep her mouth shut?

Though it can't be helped since I've repeatedly said this over to the point of wondering how many times it been but even then.

Even in the practice maneuvers in the past it was these sorts of fellows that were the first to be judged as killed in action.

Well, there's not much use in saying anything at this point.

"It's fine as long as you understand. Everyone, don't get careless in keeping watch in the direction you're in charge of."

After that one more thing.

It's something we definitely need to confirm.

Though I've already predicted it, just in the case.

"Toris"

"Yes."

Toris moved a bit of distance from everyone towards a large rock.

Everyone's watching him.

"{Status Open}..Alright. Emeron"

Oooh..

Just fitting for the name {Flame.Tongue}, the blade was surrounded by flames.

Everyone smiled seeing it.

Toris quickly returned the sword to it's scabbard.

Well, I don't mind even if we're noticed because of this.

Either way things will get brighter.

...

.....

Things aren't getting brighter.

Hm~m.

"Miduchi, Bel. Just as originally planned I'll decide whether or not to use them but..in the case there's only one Minotaur, use it immediately if it's far too strong. If there's multiple opponents or the opponent isn't a Minotaur, then make sure you properly select your targets. You brought three of them this time right? Miduchi use one and Bel use the remaining two."

"Yeah."

"I understand."

Alright, let's go.

.....

We start advancing towards the teleport crystal of the 9th floor.

Just around the time we could vaguely see the outline of the central pillar, the 30 meter high ceiling suddenly lit up and that usual banging sound as if the air was being torn apart spread through the plaza.

Ahead of our sight under the sun-like light from the ceiling, there was a Minotaur just like we had expected as well.

The number of them far exceeded my expectations at 9.

I thought at most there would be 3~4 of them.

No, it's not like I had any basis for it.

Those 9 Minotaur all yelled in unison with a "Vumooo~!!!" as if they were showing their anger or hatred towards us intruders before charging forward.

There's 1 with a slightly larger body that's close to 2.5 meters tall wielding a halberd.

There's 1 similar to the one we often sneak attack from behind on the 8th floor that's over 2 meters tall wielding a battle axe.

There's 1 that's just barely over 2 meters wielding a bardiche.

The other 6 of them are all just around 2 meters but they're all brawny and muscular showing their splendid physique.

Each of them are wielding a trident, cross-spear, voulge, glaive, partisan, and hand axe.

"Uge!! There's a lot of them!"

"Ralpha, don't break the formation! We'll receive them using {Echelon.One}! Everyone can freely use their weapons, {weapons.all.free}.!! Miduchi, Bel, start with the huge ones!!"

The moment I gave out those orders, first off two arrows went flying towards the Minotaur that were charging over here, and then soon after one more arrow went flying.

The arrows splendidly rendered the 3 largest ones powerless.

With the effect from the arrow attacks the 3 large ones started yelling, "Bega!!!", "Gudai!!!", "Godoyadwo!!!" as they turned into nothing more than large targets swinging their weapons causing unrest among the other Minotaur.

"They're coming!!"

Right now is the chance while the opponent has faltered as their formation fell apart in the middle of their charge.

With me in the center, Zenom on my left, Toris on his left, Angela on the

farthest left, Ralph on my right, and Zulu to her right, then right behind us Gwine and Basutorial are ready with their spears.

Miduchi and Bel are a bit further behind that firing off arrows at point blank distance.

Since we have to take on the Minotaur that use long range weapons, matching up with the opponents we have close to a 5 meter interval between each of us as well.

Luckily the Minotaur that was holding the hand axe which seemed to be the easiest target came charging towards the center swinging it around.

Time to kill.

I'll quickly finish up this weak looking one to reduce the numbers.

"Gwine you back up Angela, Basutorial you back up Zulu!! Start finishing them off from the outer edges!"

I had everyone fortify their defenses and sent Zulu and Angela to back up to comparatively fragile edges.

With the 3 that were blinded and turned into nothing more than electric fans to the side, the number that our vanguard is facing off against is 6.

If I can quickly finish off the one in front of me and become free then we'll soon gain the advantage.

However, the Minotaur that was wielding the hand axe was unexpectedly skilled and let alone finishing it off, I ended up having to pour all of my nerves into just being able to evade, block, and parry its attacks.

I think it's an opponent that would have been dangerous for anyone else to take on besides me.

There's a major problem in this one's skills being unexpectedly high but even then I think we were lucky that I was the one who ended up dealing with it.

Probably, its skills are above mine.

This sort of opponent, it's the first time.

Since I'm using my specialty bayonet I'm barely managing to hold out but let

alone my skill with close combat techniques, it's probably even better than that Baron Logan from the first knight group.

Since I can't focus on anything but fighting, I've already lost my sense of time.

But, even then I've already been fighting at my full for over 5 minutes.

I'm making use of my speed and moving around to evade the attacks but I'll probably only last another few minutes.

I have confidence in my stamina but eventually I'll definitely run out of breath.

In comparison the Minotaur doesn't seem tired at all.

Rather it even feels like the speed and power of its swings with the axe are gradually increasing.

Then, by the time I noticed the number of Minotaur had been reduced by 4.

And, I really don't have the leeway to be paying attention to my surroundings though.

"Zenom-san, Ral, Toris, start by finishing off the large ones in the back!! Zulu and Saji back up Maruso, the others back up Al!!"

Miduchi rapidly gave out orders.

It's damned pathetic but this is my level of skill, there's no helping it.

Hurry up and save me!

Chapter 277: Towards 10th Floor 2

Year 7446, Month 10, Day 28

The Minotaur in front of me raises its hand axe up, then just as I think it's about to swing down it hides behind the small buckler on its left arm and changes the trajectory midway to mow me down.

Since I was learning from all of the combat up until now I was barely able to succeed in avoiding the axe.

However, thanks to that my stance collapsed and I ended up taking a kick from the Minotaur to my side.

It wasn't a kick with any momentum behind it so I was somehow able to endure it.

I haven't taken any attacks from its weapon yet but I've been hit by that small buckler twice and this is the second time I've taken a kick.

My body is creaking warning me of the danger.

However, at the same time as I took the kick from the Minotaur I succeeded in stabbing a throwing needle into its thigh.

Just now was the third throwing needle I've been able to stab into the mino.

Of course, my throwing needles have the numbing poison smeared on them.

Different from the cheap product used for ogres, it's the highest quality poison made at the high-end adventurer medicine shop Misshizu.

It's an extremely powerful poison which if I were to get hit by it my entire body would be paralyzed in less than 30 seconds.

However, even then the movements of the mino aren't getting any weaker.

Up until now I've been able to land four attacks on the mino.

One thrust to the right flank with my bayonet, just the same a slash with my bayonet to its right forearm.

And then the two stabs from throwing needles I've thrown at it.

This time is the third stab.

With this it's the fifth hit.

All of the attacks other than that were blocked or parried by its small buckler or evaded.

However, it's my first time facing off against an opponent that was completely composed even after taking a total of five attacks.

It's only obvious for the Minotaur that protects the 8th floor but whether it's ogres, trolls, or even the horned bear, if I landed a good hit on them their movements weakened a bit.

If I were to land two clean hits then it was normal for their movements to visibly weaken from the pain.

This fellow is completely miraculous.

It's frightening to even imagine exactly how much HP it has.

This time, I had all of the members of the {Slaughterers} smear high-quality numbing poison on their weapons before we charged into combat.

Just from what I was able to observe even when I'm shitty busy, other than this Minotaur that it's in front of me, the numbing poison doesn't seem to be having any effect on the one wielding a trident that Angela and Gwine are up against as well.

Putting aside the large 3 that we blinded at the start, it seems to be reasonably effective against the rest.

The mino is swinging down its axe again.

This time before it could make any sort of cheap tricks, it was only several tens of centimeters but I was able to put some distance between us and it's completely hit air.

Making use of that opening I tried I thrust at it with the tip of my bayonet but was blocked by the small buckler.

I had already read that.

I predicted that it would block me with it's small buckler.

This time, I had my left hand just before the magazine area of the bayonet around the trigger(if it were the normal model, then it would be around the hand guard curve or top part of that), but at the same time as I thrust it I moved it along the curve of the magazine.

It's faster to push it forward from the trigger than to pull it back from the hand guard and easier to put in more strength.

The moment I was blocked by it's small shield, in the form of pushing up from the magazine area I twisted the bayonet vertically and at the same time body slammed into the buckler with my left shoulder.

Then I twisted my left hand around to hold the left side of the fore grip of my bayonet while holding it up.

I let go of the grip with my right hand and grabbed on to the guard of the sword coming out from the barrel while holding it up as well.

After taking my body slam it's the same as if the mino's left arm with the buckler fixed to it is restricted.

And then, all at once using the momentum of ducking my body down with the bayonet facing the sky I aim the gun stock towards the left cap slamming it down.

I'll break the plate of your kneecap!

However, the mino managed to evade it with quick movements that exceeded my expectations.

Since it forcefully evaded my attack there was some excess in the movements of the mino.

In that instant I was somehow able to put some distance between us and recover my stance, it's time to start over from the beginning again.

This fellow is amazing.

"Vumoffu, bo~ge~!!"

You're loud~ Mino.

This time I'll make the first move.

Rather than using bayonet fighting, I made use of movements with the bayonet to thrust directly at it twice and close the distance.

Both of the thrusts were parried by the small shield.

And then the third time.

You thought it was a direct thrust again right?

Sorry about that, it was a low roundhouse kick!

My roundhouse kick cleanly hit the mino's right knee.

When it's stance was thrown off I went for a stab with the end of my bayonet.

However, this was parried by the mino's hand axe.

Immediately after, the mino's buckler comes for a strike.

I lower my back and it's swing goes over me.

At the same time I take a throwing needle out from my right gauntlet with my left hand and throw it at close distance with a side toss(naming: Myun).

"Goo!!?"

It stabs into the loincloth of the mino, it magnificently hit it in the crotch.

Even supposing that loincloth is a {Magic.Item} on the same level as the one Zulu has it would only reduce the damage by a bit.

Some blood started flowing down from inside of the loincloth.

The mino's face twisted unable to endure the pain for the first time.

With that expression that's probably the case.

And, almost simultaneously arrows came flying from two directions, one of which was blocked by the buckler, but the other one nicely stabbed into the mino's right shoulder.

That's a big help!

It seems Miduchi and Bel have started to back me up.

Fuhahahahaha, with this we have the strength of 100.

It's one versus three.

Furthermore there's Bel's bow at point blank distance.

With this there's no chance of losing.

Since the two of them started to back me up I finally was able to gain some leeway to think.

I was able to confirm the state of the battle once again as well.

Gwine and Angela are still fighting against the mino wielding the trident and in good health.

Although, Basutral and Zulu ran up there so there's two people standing in front of it holding it in check and two people keeping it in check with the spear(it seems that they really don't have any leeway to attack, so just keeping it in check is their limit) but as expected things have gotten easier on their end.

Incidentally, Angela's suffered a considerable number of injuries and was told to fall back by Miduchi who is continuing to back me up.

In regards to the 3 large ones, before the two archers {Blast.Back} came to back me up they shot a number of arrows at them and since they couldn't see both the one using the battle axe and the one using the bardiche were defeated by Ralpha and Toris.

The largest one of them all that was wielding a halberd is facing off against Zenom but unexpectedly it's already escaped the state of blindness.

Thinking they should back him up it was just as Toris and Ralpha are both letting out battle cries as they charge from different directions.

With this all of the fights are one versus many(though just Angela and Gwine's were that way from the start).

I can relax a bit with this.

After this I just need to carefully cook it up.

Thinking that I adjusted my grip on my bayonet and glared at the mino.

Miduchi and Bel are still continuing to shoot arrows.

I start making attacks matched up with their arrows.

My thrust was blocked by the buckler again but their arrows hit.

In the opening it flinched a bit from that, I grabbed the inside of it's right hand with my left hand obstructing it's movements and at the same time put in a kick with all my strength.

I felt the sensation of smashing something with the top of my right foot.

"Goo!! o.."

The mino stiffened up.

Hmph, it didn't just bend over but it reflexively brought it's left hand down to it's crotch.

That brought down it's buckler in just the right position to hide itself.

What an obscene fellow.

That pose isn't a good one to show to young women.

I thrust towards it's chest with the bayonet I was holding in my right hand.

It cleanly hit.

The mino lowered both of it's hands.

One more hit.

This time I properly held on with both of my hands as I thrust it into the center of it's stomach and then sliced downwards.

Along with a splat the intestines of the mino start spilling out of it's stomach.

I met eyes with the mino.

It's face was twisted in pain and it's drooling like a cow.

It's expression is just a bit pitiful.

Arrows shot into both of those eyes.

I twisted around to it's side stabbing into it's neck for the finishing blow and then kicked it down.

Immediately after I ran to the right to back up Zulu and the others.

"Miduchi and Bel you take care of the big one!"

Just as I shouted that and was about to run off Basutoral's spear stabbed into the chest and Gwine's spear deeply into it's stomach.

If it has two spears tabbed into it from different directions then it should already be fine.

When it comes to that then even if it's an ogre they'll be fixed in position and unable to move.

I'm sure Zulu will finish it off.

"Angela, you alright!!?"

It seems her injuries weren't fatal.

While she was crouched down on her knees I saw a victory smile from below her helmet.

Wait just a bit longer.

After finishing off that huge one I'll quickly heal you up.

"Vumooo~!! Gizabada~!!!"

The huge one was raging about as it violently swings it's halberd.

It's face seems to be twisted in anger after seeing the situation of the surroundings.

Right now Ralpa and Toris are bearing the brunt of it's gale-like halberd as Zenom stands a bit of distance away looking for an opening to throw his axe.

And then, it was just as Ralpa managed to twist the end of the halberd with her tomahawk obstructing it's movements.

Nice!

There's no way Zenom would miss that opening.

"Ssei!!"

With a spirited yell Zenom threw his axe.

After it left his hand the magic axe spun around while flying and with a thud stabbed deeply into the right shoulder of the huge one.

It let go of it's halberd with it's left hand to try and pull out the axe when all of

a sudden another two thuds sound out as arrows stab into it.

An even bigger opening appeared in the huge one.

"Emeron!"

There Toris went for the deciding blow with his sword surrounded in flames.

The sword of flames {Flame.Tongue} slashed through the side of the big one and at the same time a sizzling noise sounded out as the wound was burnt.

That, isn't it stopping the bleeding as well?

Even then it seems like a considerable amount of blood is coming out.

The movements of the huge one weakened a bit but even then it seems it still had plenty of energy left.

However, I've already arrived at the battlefield, so I'm sure it's just a matter of time.

.....

"How's this? Is there still any pain?"

I used the spell {Cure All} a number of times before asking Angela.

"I'm sorry, I still feel like it's a bit numb.."

"Hn, I see."

I use healing spells on her even more and confirm if the pain has completely disappeared.

I put heavy emphasis on everyone making sure to tell me if there's any pain remaining.

In the worst case scenario, that might end up being the difference between and life and death after all.

Recently even my combat slaves don't show any restraint and let me know if there's even the slightest bit of pain remaining.

"This, it's an amazing wazamono. 【Blood Point.Halberd】 huh?"

"Certainly that seems to be the case, Zenom-san. But no one uses the halberd..Though I guess Rubi does."

"You're going to let him use it? It's a waste for the quality of it."

"Even if you say that, since we managed to obtain it."

"Hey, did you find the {Magic.Item}?"

"I still haven't found it. Bel, how about over there?"

"I've checked everything over here. The weapon seems reasonably good but nothing else. How about you Gwine?"

"Wait just a moment..Ah!"

"Hn?"

"I think that this is it. Miduchi-san, please take a look at it. How about it?"

"..Certainly. But somehow the reaction seems weak."

"I thought so too."

"Show it to me for a minute. {Status Open}..【Bloody.Hand Axe】..What's this?"

"Ral! Let go of it!!"

"Uhyi~!! Don't yell so suddenly, Miduchi."

What is it?

"The name isn't ordinary! It might be a {Cursed Item}."

"Eeh!!?"

Cursed item..

There's no way that's the case right.

The mino was using it after all.

Though it's strength certainly wasn't ordinary but there wasn't anything particularly strange.

Here.

【Bloody.Hand Axe】

【Mithril Steel.Hinoki】

【Condition: Normal】

【Manufacture Date: 28/10/7446】

【Value: 1】

【Durability: 19998】

【Ability: 30-100】

【Effect: It's ability as a hand axe is completely normal. However, every time you land an attack and it bathes in the blood of the target, including the penetration of the attacks, the accuracy, damage, and other abilities increase. The duration of the increase is the level of the target who's blood it bathes in multiplied by 60 seconds. The increase in ability and duration of the effect can accumulate. Furthermore, in order for the increase in ability to take effect the attacks must contain blood-thirst, or otherwise an emotion that corresponds to that as they're performed.】

It's a vicious item that is comparable to a {Cursed Item}.

Chapter 278: Towards 10th Floor 3

Year 7446, Month 10, Day 28

Hmm, {Bloody.Hand Axe}, huh?

It's quite the {Magical.Weapon}. It might be just right for Ralpa. For as long as the battle continues it increases in effectiveness, it's perfect for that idiot. If it continues like this then the only one who has a chance of continuing to go to the front lines even into their 20s, 30s, and maybe even 40s is Ralpa after all.

For the time being I decided to twist and turn the hand axe while observing it and then held the handle while swinging it.

"Yeah, well I'm sure it's fine. It seems like there's no problem with Ralpa either, it has a violent name but I'm sure it doesn't have anything like a curse or spell on it."

I said that before finally grabbing on to the handle letting Miduchi relax. While Miduchi was asking Ralpa, "Are you alright?", after seeing me hold the handle she didn't question it anymore than that.

"Hmn. After all it doesn't suit me. Hey Ralpa, I'm going to leave this in your care. It seems to have magic cast on it, and it's a hand axe, so it should be just right."

"Eh? But, this axe.."

I thought that Ralpa would be excited but somehow that doesn't seem to be the case.

Why? and just as I was thinking that I thought of something. The tomahawk she's using now is one that Zenom used for many years before giving to her. It was originally of considerably good quality so it's lasted quite a long time.

Several years back, when I turned the vampire into dust I ended up doing it along with the hand axe Ralpa was using at the time as well. That time, after she ended up losing her weapon Zenom let her use his hand axe and then

switched to using a sword we picked up. After we returned I bought a pretty good axe as an apology. After that Zenom used the brand new axe and Ralpa started using the axe that Zenom had used up until then. After that, even after I handed the magic axe to Zenom, Ralpa has continued to use the old axe without changing weapons.

Come to think of it I don't remember when it was but Ralpa mentioned it while she was drunk.

"You know, I wanted this axe. Since I was small Zenom would always protect me with this axe, it's also because I'm familiar with it but to me it's the most reliable thing."

It's nothing more than simple sentimentality but if she's fine with that then I felt it wasn't my place to say anything more so I just let it be like that. Since she's always seen it used from nearby over many years I thought she would have used it a number of times and because I thought it would be the easiest one for her to be comfortable using. Being used to the small differences in the balance and weight of a weapon can be a big difference in fighting power but it was also because the foundation of my thinking is that, "if it's the same type of weapon then there's no big difference no matter what you're using".

Of course, I don't think there's all that much of difference between something that's high-quality and a wazamono as well. If I were to use an extreme argument then I don't think there's much of a difference between something with magic on it as well. It's only obvious that the higher weapon quality is better but no matter how dull of a weapon it is it'll hurt to be hit by and if you're stabbed through with it there's no difference that it'll be a fatal blow. If you were to ask me the minute differences in damage that show up using {Identify} are nothing more than a charm or consolation.

Personally the value that I find to be the most important is Durability and whether or not the shape of the weapon is just right for being used or not. Though Miduchi laughed when I said this. She may have thought I was joking or something. Though, I haven't forgotten what she told me at that time, "there may be enemies out there that can't be damaged unless it's a weapon with magic cast on it". There's a huge world out there so I'm sure there's monsters like that as well. Like Dragons or something.

In any case, there's not much of a difference when it comes to a weapon that can only show its effect on the user. It's nothing more than a luxurious personal-use weapon that an adventurer or low-class soldier would treasure. Of course, I won't deny the meaning in fortifying your equipment with those sorts of high efficiency items. It's only obvious to try and equip yourself with even just a bit better quality equipment and even I want them. It's just that I don't have as much concern with it as everyone else.

It's just that I don't want to sell them yet because of the "enemies that can't be damaged without magic weapons" then I mentioned and other than that it's not as if there's no meaning to them at all for the time being, but as a matter of fact there isn't any great significance to them.

"I see. Then I'll loan it to someone el" I didn't say I don't want it right! I'll use it!"

Ah, is that so?

Then say that from the start.

"Here, take good care of it."

"Yeah!"

Ralpa immediately started swinging it around as she checked the balance of the axe.

"Are there any other magic items?"

Thinking that all 9 of them might have been holding on to {Magic.Items}, I wonder if it's possible?

There's no way right.

After all.

Things aren't that convenient.

{Bloodpoint Halberd}

{Double-edge Battleaxe}

{Single-edge Baridche}

{Reverse-Thorn Trident}

{Cross Spear}

{Pole Voulge}

{Black Glaive}

{Ribbon Partizan}

All of the wazamono that we obtained this time. Every single one of them has an extremely high value. If we sell all of them I'm sure it would be over 40,000,000 Z. Furthermore, just from what I can tell the {Double-edge Battleaxe} has a feel similar to the one we obtained from the Minotaur guardian on the 8th floor(after we brought it back and confirmed it, other than the chips made during combat and manufacture date it was exactly the same).

Furthermore, the largest one that was using the halberd was called a {Minotaur.Guard Leader}, and then the others were all {Minor Minotaur.Sentinel} or {Lesser Minotaur.Sentinel}. Incidentally the levels of almost all of them were single-digits but just the {Lesser Minotaur.Sentinel} that I was having trouble with was over level 30. That makes sense..screw you, shit. Well at least the experience points I gained were that much higher thanks to that.

After seeing the status Miduchi was muttering things like, "I wonder if this large one is the usual guardian of the 9th floor? But, the one that was holding the magic weapon was different.." but that sort of stuff doesn't matter at all. The problem is that there's a high chance all of these things will eventually respawn. Next time I'm sure we can definitely take the first move from behind them but 9 of them is still difficult. Ah, no, I guess that isn't the case? I don't really know but we need to try it here a number of times.

"Miduchi, save your thinking for later. There's no guarantee there aren't anymore enemies..though the lightning bolt cage has disappeared, so I guess there aren't any?"

I returned to around where we were noticed by the Minotaur and placed several rocks as a rough marking.

I guess it was around 50 meters or so from the pillar?

Just the same as the 8th floor it's around where the rocky area stops huh?

During the time it's dark the visibility is at best around 50 meters.

Even that's only when you're looking carefully.

Normally you can only see about 40 meters or so.

.....

Just the same as the 8th floor the teleport crystal of the 9th floor was in the center of the pillar in the middle of the floor.

After carrying all of the items in we're taking a break. During that time Ralpa is helping Zulu and Angela carry the corpses of all the mino into one spot before using the magic bracelet to change them to water all at once. Ah, it would have been best if we just used it to change the corpses of the mino on the 8th floor into water as well right. But, I didn't want to use it then.

"Al, it's troublesome that 9 Minotaur will respawn."

"Al-san, what should we do?"

"Judging from the width of this hall, even if we all line up to the limit at best wouldn't it be 4-5 people right?"

Zenom, Toris, and Bel said. Yeah, I know. We still don't know in what way the mino will appear either. I'm sure the way they appear will be the same as the 8th floor but whether they appear all in one line, appear cramped together in a group, or already in formation is completely unknown.

"Wait just a minute."

I raise my hand interrupting them and sort out my thoughts a bit.

Once the minos respawn we can't use magic or Unique Abilities anymore so it's difficult to choose the strongest looking one and defeat it with a sneak attack. Leaving luck to the heavens and taking down 4-5 of them is probably the limit. It will mean our only advantage is that we can definitely sneak attack them from behind. Though even that is an insane advantage.

Probably, if we attack them from inside of this teleport crystal room then even if we end up missing the high level ones I don't think we will struggle as much as before. However, it's different if we try to come back here from the outside again. There's a high probability that it will end up being a dangerous

fight again like just now. The salvation is that the weapons the mino are holding will probably drop in quality, though just that much, just as mentioned before if you ask me that isn't much of a consolation at all. In the first place, we only have 20 {Arrows.Of.Blindness} remaining.

What should we do?

I'm sure we have some leeway until the mino respawn.

Should we just take a look into the 10th floor for a bit and then stop exploring the dungeon here?

Even the treasure that appears up until the 9th floor is considerably good.

If we just keep exploring the dungeon just like we have until now countless times I'm sure there's a high chance we'll find plenty more.

..However, according to Miduchi's theory I can't deny the possibility that there's even more amazing treasure deeper inside of the dungeon.

Or rather, including myself everyone else is starting to believe Miduchi's theory.

Honestly speaking, I can't ignore the possibility that we'll be able to obtain things like mithril or adamantite or other precious metals that we haven't seen.

I'm sure they exist, for sure...

There's also the powerful equipment like the {Elvin.Chainmail}.

There might even be things that can turn the tides of a war like the representative wand which let's anyone use {Fireball}...

Hm~mm...

Well, there's no help in worrying about it myself.

In the first place it's fine as long as we can do something about the minos.

"There shouldn't be much of a problem as long as the Minotaur outside respawn while we're in here. I'm sure we can take out half of them with a sneak attack and if it comes to that then even if we can't use magic I don't think we'll struggle as much as this time."

"I guess so.."

Miduchi said in response with a worried expression. Her face seems to be worrying about when we come back here from outside of the 9th floor again.

"However, the problem isn't there. It's the next time we come here. We won't be able to catch them off guard."

"Certainly..The Minotaur that Al-san and Maruso and the others were fighting against were extremely strong right. Even from what I could tell it was obvious."

It seems Bel was able to understand what I wanted to say.

"Yeah, that's right. That was dangerous. It's different if we could clearly tell from it's appearance but just from a glance it looked the same as all of the other Minotaur. This time, it was a miracle that Angela managed to get away with just some light injuries. Putting it frankly it wouldn't have been strange even if I had died."

"" .. ""

Zenom and Toris were speechless. I'm sure they can't tell because they didn't directly fight against them.

"There's only two methods we can use to safely and definitely clear things."

After I said that I noticed that not just Zenom, Miduchi, Toris, and Bel but the remaining five people had all approached us and were carefully listening to my words.

"The first one doesn't even need to be said, it's to become much stronger to the point where we can easily deal with things like those Minotaur. I've said it a number of times but we just have to massacre monsters right and left far beyond what we have until now to raise our body levels."

It's only obvious right.

And then, I change my expression and look around at everyone.

I looked at the faces of Zenom, Ralpa, Toris, Bel, Gwine, and Basutoral in order. I have no doubts towards Miduchi and the two combat slaves at all. Probably but it should fine to trust Toris, Bel, and maybe Basutoral as well. Also, depending on how I think about it Zenom as well I guess. Hn~ Gwine might be fine. Ralpa..as expected I'm sure she should be able to differentiate between

things which she can say and are no good.

What the, so I guess it's fine?

I continue talking.

"There's technically one more method but..this one isn't so easy. No, it's simple if you want to call it that but it requires some preparation and I need to gather some amount of materials as well. Also..training..No, I need you to absolutely keep things in regards to the method a secret. It's necessary for you to swear that."

I said that once again but everyone was making expressions like, what are you saying at this point?

"Umm you know, sometimes I think it but, Al you, wouldn't it be fine for you to have a bit more faith in us? There's no way we would betray you at this point."

Ralpa said while looking a bit displeased. I can understand the meaning of what you want to say. Under the meaning that is but things aren't that simple in regards to this. Additionally saying it but I'm not worried about you all going anywhere at this point either. It would just be troublesome if you talk about it when you're excited.

"Is it using "guns"?"

Toris said while making a face as if he understands. It seems that Toris had talked about it with Bel. Bel is nodding as well. But, they've reached a good conclusion, but they just missed it. Hearing the words gun, Ralpa, Gwine, and Basutoral were making surprised expressions as they start talking.

""Eeh!? You can make them!?"""

I can't make them, yet. If it's just at the level of a matchlock then it's fine at anytime though. But, when it comes to the matchlock other than carrying around the spark, there's the gunpowder, and preparations to make sure the bullet fires in a straight line, it's difficult to manage. It's even necessary to learn the amount of gunpowder it needs. Also, when it's being fired the gunpowder that gets lit can fly out from the pan. If every time she fires it she has to use healing magic to fix the small burns Bel's beautiful face then her mana won't

last right. Just watch if she ends up suffering burns in 10 places after just firing it once. Bel's mana would end up being halved with just that.

Putting that aside and if it's a bolt action that makes use of metal cartridges or a semi-auto rifle then I can make the parts using metal and spells. The only full-auto rifle I've touched before was the Type-64 but there's a large number of parts and the structure is too complex. In that regard, even at Self-Defense College I used the semi-auto M1 Garand but the mechanism is considerably simple compared to the Type-64, and even in the guard unit I did far more dismantling and maintenance for it than the Type-64 so I can remember it well. There's no problem. I'm sure I have several times more experience in practice shooting it than the Type-64 as well. Though it was blanks.

It's also fine in regards to the firing agent Nitrocellulose. I'm sure I can make the combustion agent DDNP(Diazodinitrophenol) as well. In the worst case silver fulminate is fine too. Both of them are things that I made some amount of from natural materials in training after all. Though it was using proper tools in a lab. Different from the firing agent Nitrocellulose, I haven't done any tests on this one yet so it would take a decent amount of time making adjustments. I'm sure I wouldn't suddenly be able to make something usable in regards to the body of the gun itself as well.

Also, there's an even bigger problem. If I let them hold on to a personal firearm, I won't say who but I'm sure there's someone who will get full of themselves. I'm sure there will come a time when we eventually do proper training in the dungeon so guns are put off until then.

"Unfortunately it's different from the "gun" that fires bullets in order to kill. Keep it a secret from the other members of the {Slaughterers}. For the time being."

Even if you manage to hit that large and durable physique(even the smallest one was close to 2m and there were some that didn't flinch no matter how many times you hit them) that's got even more Endurance than an ogre with something like small bullets unless you can hit their vital points I'm sure there isn't much meaning. In the first place the only one who has done any kind of training on hitting moving targets is Bel.

"If it's not a "gun" then what?"

Toris said a bit unexpectedly.

"It uses "gunpowder". But it's not a gun and not only have I not done any tests on gunpowder for explosive use yet but I've never even made it before. However, there's no problem in regards to gunpowder that can fire a bullet. Ah, if you want to call it a "gun" then I guess it could be called a "gun"..But, I think it's a bit different from what's normally called a "gun". Putting it in easy terms for you all to understand then it's something like a "bazooka with a fuse". Ah, no, a "grenade launcher" I guess? though it's similar it's kind of different."

While I was saying it I lost track of what I was talking about. Well, it's nothing all that amazing.

It's just a fuse-type net gun.

Using some durable(if I make metal wire then it's the fastest) rope that's 1 meter high and 40-50 meters wide to make a net with rough gaps(about 25 cm or so I guess), then make small hook-like things in various places. The size of the hooks should be fine at 25, no around 35 should be good. Then fold that up in waves at an appropriate width. Both ends are then attached on to the gun, or rather, cannon-like warhead or arrow.

It's something similar to a high caliber gun that uses a slightly high amount of firing agent and the barrel slightly spread out horizontally like a double-barrel rifle, inside of there it would like from the front of the barrel like a cannon using the arrow-like warhead before being fired. If things go well then the net would spread out and it should be possible to tangle up the Minotaurs. After that it's fine if we just stab them with spear while their movements are slow.

I'm sure it won't suddenly work out well but after 1~2 months of production and adjustments, then if we just practice we should be fine. After all it's fine even if the aim with it is random. It's even fine if it doesn't manage to tangle up all 9 of the minos at once. Though if I was to mention it then I'm sure adjusting the amount of gunpowder to be used for the firing mechanism and the angle of the muzzle are going to be far more difficult.

The problems are the firing mechanism and the form of the net. I'm sure it will end up a decent weight as well. But, supposedly after you defeat the

guardians a number of times they eventually stop respawning so if we seriously try to hole up in here and continue to defeat them that's a possibility as well.

Thinking like that and it might be good to start seriously making a couple of guns. If it's just aiming for the vitals of an opponent that's several meters away from the entrance then I'm sure anyone can manage it. They can calmly and slowly aim since they're outside and they won't come over.

I wonder what I should do?

Chapter 279: Towards 10th Floor 4

Year 7446, Month 10, Day 29

In the end we decided to stay in the teleport crystal room of the 9th floor and take look in the 10th floor before defeating the Minotaurs by attacking them from behind when they respawned. I thought all 9 of them would respawn at the same time but that wasn't the case, first off 7 of them respawned with only a few minutes difference between, and then when the remaining 2 finally started to respawn the fog just started whirling around where they would have been and there's no sign of them appearing. For over 30 minutes it continued in that state just like that so we attacked the 7 that did respawn from behind and finished them off instantly.

After I tried Identifying the corpses all of their levels were 8 or 9 in the single digits.

They weren't quite to the level of wazamono, but even then we obtained another 7 high quality weapons and it was before the mana recovered in Ralph's bracelet so we couldn't help but drag the corpses behind the pillar and pile them up there.

Here I ended up having to go into thought again.

The first skilled Minotaurs that Angela the others and I fought against, mine was level 32, and Angela and the others was level 30. In all of the monster groups that we've fought against up until now there's never been a level difference this big. Even when it comes to the respawn of monsters the only ones I've directly observed were a few types of room bosses on the 1st floor. Whether it was slimes or giant spiders, in a group or otherwise, the levels were all either the same or only 1 level difference.

Certainly while the sign of them respawning, the fog appears at the same time, there was a vague difference in the time they actually appear but it was at best several seconds to at greatest a few minutes so I just thought it was a measurement error or that amount.

What I can think of here is that maybe the levels of the monsters have relation to the respawn.

I guess it would be proper to think that the higher the level is the longer it takes for them to respawn.

Though in order to verify the theory it would require a maddening number of samples of them respawning. It's necessary to keep the theory at nothing more than a theory and guideline.

Also, in regards to the 10th floor we took a look at but just from a glance it doesn't seem any different from the 8th and 9th floors. Since the 2 remaining Minotaurs still haven't respawned we decided to just take a peek and then immediately went back.

.....

Year 7446, Month 10, Day 30

Already, we're reaching the limit of our stock in emergency use preserved food.

Let's head back today.

The same as usual the fog that appears when the Minotaurs are respawning is still whirling around.

On the side of that the other 7 Minotaurs respawned again. It can't be helped worrying about it.

There's no accomplishment to it but we ended up finishing them off by attacking them from behind again.

Along with the corpses from yesterday Ralpha changed 14 Minotaur corpses into water and then we decided to take another look at the 10th floor.

I wonder if more crabs and crickets and what-not will come out? It's fine to use the spell {Audible Clamor} to lure over monsters but sometimes it might be good to move around a bit. Since we've just been sitting in the teleport crystal room waiting for the Minotaurs to respawn walking around should be fine.

I return my feelings to the initial resolution and we carefully advance forward.

"Something is coming! One..It's fast!"

Bel gave out a warning and prepared an arrow on her bow.

Everyone went on guard with their weapons at the ready.

I started looking further down the cave with {Identify} vision as well.

..What is that? Just from a glance it looks like a 4 meter or so lizard but the shape of it's legs are almost like an insect and it even has six legs. Along with the noisy rustling from it's legs it's heading towards us.

【

【Male/1/12/7444.Lesser Yowie】

【Condition: Normal】

【Age: 462 Years Old】

【Level: 11】

【HP: 603 MP: 1(1)】

【Strength: 21】

【Speed: 35】

【Dexterity: 18】

【Endurance: 55】

【Special Skill: Poison Breath】

【Special Skill: Vibration.Sensing】

"{Arrowhead.One}!"

Just as I shouted that I fired off a {Fire Arbalest Missile}..It was deflected!?

Seeing that everyone raised their voices in surprise.

The flaming arrow flew off in a different direction scattering as it hit the wall of the cave.

It seems it was deflected by the fine scales covering the surface of the monster's body.

I wonder if the angle it hit was shallow?

Otherwise they're considerably tough?

Immediately after I fired off a {Stone Arbalest Missile} which is acknowledged for it's piercing capability(or at least in my mind), this time while I lowered the speed a bit, I fired it off almost vertically from right above it's back.

As expected this splendidly pierced through it's scales and after deeply stabbing through it was stuck to the ground almost like a specimen!

"Shigyaaaa~!!"

While it was letting out an unpleasant scream a {Fire Javelin} and arrows someone fired off stabbed into it's mouth.

There's fangs all lined up inside of it's mouth and just that almost resembles an alligator.

Following that I used the spell {Grow Spike} and gave it the gift of being skewered from below.

"Ge..Gyabu!!"

While letting out it's voice in agony the insect lizard spit out some poisonous looking brown liquid like it was choking but it was almost no momentum and didn't fly any further than 5 meters. Obviously there was no damage on our side.

And then, Zenom's axe went flying with a spin and after stabbing into it's head came back.

This, if in just a matter of seconds..if you don't have a magician who can use {Missile} at a speed of less than 3 seconds you would struggle quite a bit with it.

Zulu collected the magic stone by further cutting open the holes my spells made.

The value of the magic stone was roughly 60,000. If we sell it then it'll be over 400,000 Z.

Just like this, other than the Lesser Yowies, we killed off Blue Battle Crabs and Killer Mantis which were of a different color and even more ferocious while advancing, and after all, or I guess you could say just as expected we discovered a teleport crystal.

I guess we'll return here this time.

.....

"Ah, master! I'm glad you're safe!"

After returning to the teleport room on the 8th floor and Giberuti greeted us so pleased that he might start crying at any moment.

"Sorry about worrying you. I'll talk about the details later. Make us something to eat."

Since we had been holding out by eating preserved foods we devoured the potofu made with carrots, cabbage, and baldoggie, along with bread until we were full.

Furthermore, in his spare time Giberuti finally manage to complete what could be called the prototype for the hardtack. The recipe itself is just a biscuit that you cook twice so it's not all that difficult after all. It seems it was worth it teaching him the method for the flame to pass through better when you open needle holes and add things like hops, sesame seeds, sugar, salt, before boiling it in lard a number of times, filtering out the impurities and adding things of a higher quality.

"I think the taste was decent. It's light and easy to carry around so I'll make a lot of them for everyone during the next days off rather than stocking up on more preserved food that you ate this time."

After I gave it a pass Giberuti happily declared that to me. I think the 7 cm or so long and wide square baked hardtack certainly had a decently good taste to it. This, somewhat decent taste is actually important. No matter how skillfully made they are hardtacks must not be too delicious. Since you'll end up eating them normally. Well, if it ends up being that good then even that's fine so we can start selling them as sweets though.

Since butter is an ultra expensive luxury item there's not many delicious sweets. Obviously these don't use any butter so no matter how much effort is put into them they won't get that delicious.

"Ah, in regards to the recipe for this "hardtack". If you make something that you can consider perfect then make sure you properly write it down."

Later on it's fine if I buy it from Giberuti and depending on the case it's fine to start selling it as something that personally belongs to Giberuti himself as well. Of course it's a matter for after I have my territory though. If I remember right this guys dream was to own his own restaurant after all.

Of the remaining stuff, we just brought along the vegetables and such that expire quickly and returned to the surface.

.....

"..And, just like that we somehow were able to clear the 9th floor. The 10th floor had a similar feel to the 9th floor but it seems like there's a number of new types of monsters and we still haven't tried going to a monster room so I don't know what kind of room bosses there may be."

I gave a simple report of how we arrived at the 10th floor to the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} and displayed the items we obtained from beat down the guardian Minotaur.

"If you want to use it then I'll lend it to you. Though it'll be after I report to the King. I think he'll probably return it though."

After I said that Kevin wanted to use the {Single-Edge Bardiche}. Oh~ as expected he has a good eye. I thought it was a waste not to use the {Double-Edge Battleaxe} we obtained previously so in the end I let Rodrick's combat slave Karimu use it.

Since Kevin said he was going to use one, everyone got excited seeing all of the high quality wazamono weapons and ended up switching out with quite a few of them.

Ginger was greatly interested in the {Cross Spear} and Jeru requested using the {Reverse-thorn Trident}. For Kimu as expected the handles were too long compared to the one she's using now and there were no good substitutes so she had to give up on them.

Ruttsu ended up changing from just a simple spear to the {Pole Voulge} and my combat slave {Rubi} took the {Bloodpoint Halberd}, and I ended up loaning the {Ribbon Partizan} to Jesu.

Rodrick's combat slave Denda who uses the war hammer didn't seem to want

to change weapons for some reason. The {Glaive} ended up being leftover but whatever. Basutorial said that he preferred the spear he was used to using as well.

After that I said would be gone for a short while in order to report to the King so while it wasn't a break for the {Slaughterers} overall but the {Slaughterers} don't have me so they're taking a break(it's too frightening going to a new floor without me) but they still wanted to dispatch leaders to the {Exterminators} and {Butchers} just the same as until now so I gave permission for it when they enter the dungeon again in another 3 days.

.....

Year 7446, Month 11, Day 3

"..These are the items that we obtained from defeating the group of Minotaurs that were the guardians of the 9th floor."

I showed off the items we obtained while also handing over the magic stone. This time I'm in front of the King, first Queen her highness Morairu, as well as his highness Richard the prince who was acting as a bodyguard from the first knight group.

Huh? Putting that aside, the {Refrigerator} that's in the corner of this audience room..I feel like I've seen it before?

【Refrigerator】

【Beech Wood.Iron】

【Condition: Normal】

【Manufacture Date: 18/7/7444】

【Value: 12800000】

【Durability: 465(492)】

【Ability: Internal Temperature 4 Degrees;1489 value/1 day】

【Effect: Able to refrigerate goods stored inside for preservation. No humidity control function.】

..I see now.

"..Certainly...It seems you cleared the 9th floor, Greed. That's quite something."

Morin said in admiration. His highness Richard opened his eyes wide as he checked the status of the weapons and magic stone I handed over along with his parents. Hmhmph, how's that?

"What's so amazing about it? In the end he wasn't able to obtain anything decent so he's just covering it up with things like this."

Ke...and the King said as if he was spitting it out but I'm sure he's just bitter that I surpassed the achievements of his ancestor. As proof of that he was scolded by her highness Morin and his highness Richard for his attitude.

"By the way, putting that aside, why did you come to report on it this time following the last time? Last time I can understand because it was unprecedented achievement but.."

Morin said curiously.

Something like that, even if I say to the world that we "went to the 10th floor" there's no way to prove it was true, so it's only obvious I wanted it to be formally proven to be true. Or at least that's the official reason.

"Ah, I see now."

Even though she asked the question, it seems Morin immediately understood the reason.

No, you know, I can't just say it's because I wanted to be praised or wanted to change their opinion for the better right. It seems I'm still a brat after all~

"Da~hhahaha! He was told it, this brat! That's exactly right! What? Did you want to be praised? Eh? Yes, that's right how amazing~ you are~ As expected of the number one adventurer in Baldukk right~ You shhure did give it your bescht. How great of you~!"

The King turned bright red and held his stomach while laughing out loud. Shit, he saw through it. This is seriously embarrassing.

"Ah..That is, a midway progress report for his majesty.."

I wonder if my face is red?

"Buhyā~ a midway progress report~!?" Just leave it at that already."

Morin said in amazement cutting off the King. It sounded like she might be a bit angry at the King as well.

"Greed. It's good to be proud of your own achievements. Furthermore it's reaching the 10th floor that his majesty George.Rombert the First couldn't reach, it's truly a magnificent deed. You should be very proud for the sake of those who accompanied you as well. It's because only we can officially acknowledge that right?"

Morin smiled lightly while saying. I'm grateful that you're willing to accept the formal reason as the formal reason.

"Wa~ha."

I couldn't do anything but fall prostrate.

"Just the same as last time, the royal family will announce the great achievements you've done."

Last time, soon after that the Royal Family sent out an official notice saying, "The 8th floor of the Baldukk dungeon was cleared by the adventurer Alan.Greed and his party. He's arrived at the 9th floor. This royal family gives praise to this honor." Thanks to that the face value of us {Slaughterers} was even greater than up to now in the town of Baldukk. Though even more riffraff than ever came wanting to join the {Slaughterers} as well. It was around that time when the {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} started to push themselves as well.

"Wa~ha..I'm very grateful."

That's right, I didn't want to be praised.

I just wanted the achievements of our party to be recognized not just my own.

I'll think of it that way.

.....

Year 7446, Month 11, Day 4

Yesterday on my way back from the royal castle, I stocked up on iron ores from a blacksmith.

Additionally, I went to a specialty company to put in a order to periodically purchase large amounts(around 10kg) of freshly picked raw cotton that hasn't been processed yet.

Also, I went to the dyed goods shop and purchased some yellow dye.

Yellow dye has a history being made from the primary ingredient for DDNP(Diazodinitrophenol), picric acid.

If the yellow dye of Orth is made from picric acid then it's an easy profit.

In my room in an inn of the capital I placed some iron ores in a bucket and used {Transmute.Rock.To.Mud} to change it into mud. After that I used sorting to take out the iron and while separating it molded the shape as well. Hmm.

...

.....

First off is just the receiver of something like the simplest revolver. Giving up on the mechanism for the cylinder to automatically revolve around(It's necessary to rotate the cylinder around with your hand every time you fire it. It heats up so gloves are necessary.), it's a very simplified version. Adding to that even the grip is just an iron plate. I'll use a vise or something to fix this into place and then attach a string to the trigger in order to fire it from a distance. It would be best to test out the bullets like this and raise the completion rate of it. It uses gunpowder so it's necessary to take safety somewhat into consideration after all.

Other than that, including the bullet I produced a large number of shell cases and parts of the primer.

During the process of selection and molding I ended up having to remake it a number of times to get a feel for it but since I somewhat got a hold of the trick to it while making the meat mincers, I was quickly able to make them all at exactly the same size. For the time being I made the rifle shell cases in the bottleneck form like general rifle bullets.

I'm sure the net shooter will need a reasonable amount of propellant after all.

After that, while the gunpowder is already fine, it's necessary to produce the primer with the detonation powder packed into it.

Author's Note: (TL: bunch of notes on how new monsters respawn in the general area when other monsters are defeated and there's some amount of randomness to it. If the group isn't completely wiped out a new group won't respawn, though altar rooms are different.) **Chart of respawn times:**

Level - Seconds/Minutes/Hours/Etc

1	1	
2	2	
3	4	
4	8	
5	16	
6	32	
7	64	
8	128	
9	256	4.2 minutes
10	512	8.5 minutes
11	1024	17 minutes
12	2048	34.1 minutes
13	4096	1.14 hours(68.2 minutes)
14	8192	2.25 hours(136 minutes)
15	16384	4.55 hours
16	32768	9.1 hours
17	65536	18.2 hours
18	131072	36.4 hours

- 19 262144 3 days
- 20 524288 6 days
- 21 1048576 12 days
- 22 2097152 24 days
- 23 4194304 48 days
- 24 8388608 97 days
- 25 16777216 194 days(0.6 years)
- 26 33554432 388 days(1.08 years)
- 27 67108864 776 days(2.157 years)
- 28 134217728 4.315 years
- 29 267435456 8.59 years
- 30 536870912 17.26 years
- 31 1073741824 34.52 years
- 32 2147483648 69 years
- 33 4294967296 138 years
- 34 8589934592 276 years
- 35 17179869184 552 years
- 36 34359738368 1104 years
- 37 68719476736 2209 years
- 38 137438953472 4418 years
- 39 274877906944 8837 years
- 40 549755813888 17674 years

Chapter 280: Endless Development

Year 7446, Month 12, Day 26

Bang!

The sound of a gunpowder explosion rings out in the central plaza of the 8th floor.

"I guess it's fine to think that it won't "misfire" anymore.."

I couldn't but talk to myself while test firing the gun.

Incidentally, if you're wondering why I'm not doing it in the central plaza of the front line on the 9th floor and it's because we can't use magic there. Since then we've gone there a number of times and defeated the Minotaurs as they respawn but the first 2 powerful ones that Angela the others and I fought against still haven't respawned so we've just been killing the other 7.

It's inconvenient being unable to use magic so I intend to kill the hell out of the minos until they run out of stock(?). Incidentally, I guess the mino on the 8th floor ran out of stock midway through last month, because it's stopped respawning. Well, thanks to that not just the net gun but I've started trying to make a gun that can fire proper bullets. I intended to do it eventually and it's just on the occasion so it's fine.

"Just now was exactly the 1,200th shot."

Bel said. I can hear her muffled voice through the earplugs.

Incidentally while were test firing the gun everyone within 50 meters is wearing ear plugs.

No one was wearing them at first but the explosion sound largely exceeded our expectations and echoed way too loud through the dungeon. Even though it's a large room with a diameter of 1 km, it's probably related to the fact that the ceiling is only about 30 meters high. Though they had roughly heard about the firing sound from us, since Zenom, Zulu, and Angela couldn't even imagine

the precise volume of it they were a bit afraid after first hearing the large explosion so I made some ear plugs.

The rabbit ears on top of Bel's head are a slightly different shape from those of hyumu, elf, and dwarves so I ended up making ear plugs with a slightly different shape for her along with Zulu, Angela, and Basutorial.

Until I was able to prepare some proper ear plugs for them I had the natural-born Orth people keep watch a bit of distance away or dispatched them to the {Butchers} and {Exterminators}.

This test firing is also for the sake of investigating the durability limits of the barrel and receiver but it's one that's smooth with no rifling carved into it and even if it technically has a revolving cylinder, it doesn't automatically rotate so in truth it's nothing more than a single-shot gun and it's not like the receiver has all that complex of a structure either. Since it has nothing more than an extremely simple structure it should have considerably high durability.

First off I was trying to create the base for the net gun after all, since I thought it wouldn't need rifling so I just didn't carve it in, and as a matter of fact I also prepared one which has the rifling carved into which I'm testing along with it. In regards to the internal structure of this one, it's not just gilded with chrome but I made it entirely using chrome. Luxurious right.

Ever since then every time we enter the dungeon I've been doing the tests but I think you could say it's reached quite the high level of completion. Though, even if I say that it's about 50 points out of a 100 perfect score. In the first place there was no way I could make a perfect 100 points so the place I'm aiming for is around 90 points. Though in reality even that is an objective so high it seems pretty impossible.

Whether it be rubber, swords, or guns, it's not like I'm trying to reproduce things from modern day Earth. I think it's plenty as long as I can make things that are of a quality that would be useful to me on this Orth. Things which are perfect I'm sure a proper craftsmen will appear eventually that makes something on their own and I'm sure that's not my role. However of course, it's all the better the higher quality things are and if the quality is fixed then even more so I have nothing more to say, so I intend to do what I need in order to try

an get even just a bit closer to that.

Either way I'm sure imitations will appear.

Then in that case I should just try at least a bit more to make it harder to copy.

In my case, it's just a matter of that being related to magic and even if I didn't have any talent with magic then it would have just taken far more labor and time but I'm sure I would have come up some reasonable ideas around it. Even in regards to guns, for the time being the two types of gunpowder is impossible to make unless they have an aggregate amount of mana at least at Miduchi's level, and while it's an extreme discussion in this situation, even if one of the prototype guns were to be stolen along with the bullets I can guarantee that it would be impossible for them to fire anymore than the number of bullets they took.

And then, I'm sure it would be nearly impossible to make a copy of my prototype gun with the level of craftsman on Orth. Though I don't think it's completely impossible. Even if they push it and forcefully create a copy, the accuracy and durability would fall, no matter how they struggle it wouldn't even reach the feet of the original, I think they would only be able to create something that's absurd to even call several levels inferior.

Since that's already the case at 50 points I personally am very satisfied.

Recently, I've been firing around 100-200 rounds during each test but around the 500th shot both the bullet and gunpowder have stabilized quite a bit. Even when it comes to this smooth barrel gun, if Bel carefully adjusts the position while firing this bullet then I'm sure she can hit a 2 cm circle within 20 meters. At the same time I've reduced the misfire rate to less than 3%.

I struggled quite a bit to reach this point. Though there were some great harvests as well.

First I'll start from the troubles I guess.

In the process of making the smokeless gunpowder that I experimented with as a child there were almost no accidents that could be called an accident.

However, when I tried firing a cartridge which was packed with smokeless

gunpowder it ended up misfiring and almost all of the fingers on my right ended up one stage before being completely torn off, that happened twice. Carefully using a small amount at a time and splitting it into parts ended up being a success. If I had tried to take it easy and use a lot all at once then it wouldn't have been strange if I died instantly.

Just in case, I had made a shield for work use. It was like a much larger version of the shields that welders use and the small seeing window was made using diamond(It's comparatively cheap on Orth. Though even then it's slightly more expensive than crystal). In both cases I did it in a corner of the central plaza on the 8th floor when there were no other people around so I was able to avoid secondary damage.

Also, I thought that my skill with the spell {Transmute.Rock.To.Mud} would increase even further by producing the primer parts, shell cases, and bullets but after all I guess you could say, the fact that it still takes just below 40 minutes once again let me realize how difficult this spell is to use.

Furthermore, with a reasonable amount of brass ore I can make several hundred shots of the shell cases all at once. Using a small copper ore I can make several thousand primers as well. Even if it takes a considerable amount of time to change it into mud it doesn't take much time at all to do the shaping and casting. It's especially wonderful and worth mentioning that it's possible to shape and mold it so the appearance, size, and adjustments are all exactly the same and perfectly uniform.

Incidentally, I was safely able to make the detonation powder for the primer using DDNP so there wasn't much of a problem. However, I don't know if it's my essential stinginess that caused it or because of habit and I've convinced myself it's common sense from the SDF but all of the shell cases I make are boxer-primed center fire types. If we collect the shell cases of these boxer primed types after usage and clean them then they can be used a number of times. No, I'm just stating an appropriate sounding reason but in reality it's just a matter of me not remembering anything but that.

Add a very small amount of DDNP to the primer and then push it into the small depression in the center, after that you create a simple lid using an even smaller amount of wax that's about to harden. Just like this the primer is

completed. When I was inserting the primer into the base part of the shell casing, I ended up causing countless accidental discharges. It's only obvious that I first started by just assembling the various parts without any gunpowder and confirmed the process after it's hit with the hammer but I screwed up quite a bit when it came to the actual thing.

If I hadn't already assumed it would fail and made an exclusive jig for it before hand I would have ended up suffering quite a bit again here. Though even if I say jig it wasn't anything all that fancy. It's just a very thick iron pipe. The base of the jig is nothing more than a wooden board and I leave the primer facing upwards here, then place the jig that is the iron pipe down. Then I gently place the shell case down from above and with just a bit of power from my hand wedge the primer into the shell case. After that I place a board above the shell case and lightly tap it vertically with a hammer to fit it into place.

The power used to tap it is difficult to adjust. If it's too weak then it ends up taking time and if it's too strong it ends up discharging. Even if it discharges thanks to the jig there's no damage done but including the amount of time spent working the materials end up being wasted. However, when packing the firing agent into the shell case and fitting the bullet onto it it requires even more care.

Since discharging at this point means the bullet being fired after all.

Obviously I prepared an exclusive jig for that as well. In the center of a heavy iron plate I made a sinkhole that was just a bit larger than the bullet and then filled the inside lightly with raw rubber. I push the bullet into there. In the shape of the bullet being stuck into there I flip over the iron plate and carefully place the shell case with the primer set on the base over that matching them up before slowly driving it in.

And then, from here is the harvest.

After seeing those failures a number of times Toris said to leave the mixing and work to him.

At first I thought even if he has {Scale}, I still haven't properly established the process yet and turned him down because it was dangerous when you're not used to it but I quickly reconsidered it. Come to think of it, when I first met him,

it's true that I originally thought he would be useful in the future in producing gunpowder and had expected this. If it's a small amount then even if he fails I'm sure he won't die instantly. And as long as he doesn't die instantly it can be healed.

"{Scale} huh...I guess so, give it a try. Be careful while you're doing it.."

And, I started teaching Toris the mixing method, process, and how to use the jig. Toris nodded while saying hmmhmm to himself listening and every time he heard it just once he ended up succeeding. After sitting down cross legged, it looks like he's just casually grabbing and tearing the materials I made with his hands while measuring by eye. Occasionally he would confirm various things like, "The amount of firing agent needed is fine the same as this right?". However, when I tried confirming the quality after he was done with the work, it seems he was able to do it with far greater accuracy than I could.

When he was inserting the primer in he would slightly adjust the position of the board and say something like, "..Here huh?" before hitting with the hammer. After confirming it was properly fit into place and it was almost as if he was making fun of my trouble. It was just the same when fitting the bullet made with iron(Copper is cheap but it's more expensive than iron and lead is considerably cheap but it requires making an order for it in Baldukk) into place. Obviously the bullets made by Toris haven't misfired even once.

Not just that but he increased the number of holes in the jig when fitting the bullets into place and managed the feat of fitting six bullets into place at once with a straight face on. Now it's to the point where I make the materials, Toris measures the amounts and then assembles them. I only make the blanks with a rubber stopper instead of a bullet for firing the net gun. If you ignore the fact that it's handling dangerous materials even an infant could do the work.

Just like this thanks to the fact that I had the skilled Toris for making the bullets, the time spent in production was largely shortened but even then it eats up a considerable amount of time. Even though it doesn't even take a total of 2 hours to test fire 100 rounds, pretty much all of the time other than that is used up in making the bullets.

However, in any case it might be fine to say that for the time being I've

completed the bullets and the gun which can fire them.

All that's left is to redesign a gun-stock that makes the body of the gun itself easy to carry and make it the shape of a double-barrel shotgun(though they'll both fire simultaneously). Also, if it's possible(and if I have the leeway) design a real gun that can fire live bullets. If it's possible then a revolver or bolt action or anything else but one with a cylinder that can be loaded and shot consecutively, if it's necessary then even something that discards the shells. On this end it's, let's aim for semi-automatic rifle!

No matter how short won't it take a number of years?

Well, let alone the second world war, the single-shot bolt action gun was still used even after that, and even when I died in the accident it was still a solid operation function used in military purpose firearms. A famous sniper from Finland supposedly used a bolt action rifle with no safety to fire 16 shots in 1 minute after all.

We returned to the surface and started the winter holidays.

Either tomorrow or the day after that a caravan from my family should arrive, if it's possible then I'd like to go and visit Mila-shisho as well.

.....

Year 7446, Month 12, Day 27

I've come to the capital while accompanying brother and the others with the caravan.

Accompanying us there's over 10 others including Miduchi.

That's other than the large portion of the two carriages taken up by brother, the coachman, and the six guards.

The color of Ralpa and Gwine's eyes changed the moment they heard shopping as usual. It's the usual for Zenom aiming for some smoked goods, then there's also Rodrick and his two slaves who he wants to let sight see in the capital now that they have some leeway in their earnings. Rokko and Kevin are worked over playing around like crazy. It seems that Kamu and Kimu have something they want to buy, while Binsu and Hisu want to order some new

weapons. All of the other members intend on enjoying their break in Baldukku.

The squire leader Sean was in a good mood as he said, "If we have this many first-rate adventurers as guards it's almost like we're a transport unit delivering important supplies to the front lines." As a matter of fact he whispered in my ear, "Al-sama, it's really quite amazing, in less than 5 years Al-sama has obtained a lot of magnificent subordinates." It's a bit embarrassing to be praised but even with this I don't think it's enough yet.

Also, starting with brother, all of the squires were surprised hearing about my achievements.

"You're really quite the guy! I'm proud of you as well. Today is my treat! Let's go to a good place!"

And brother even pat my head. Really I'm already 18. It's about time you show some restraint with that sort of stuff.

"Wow, that is quite! We've obtained a good story to tell when we get back!"

"Amazing!"

"As expected~!"

"You've really grown up to be so splendid~!"

All of the squires congratulated me from the bottom of their hearts as well. It's embarrassing but I'm honestly happy.

Just the same as usual I appeared at the royal castle to make deliveries and after receiving the remaining money took the order for next time. At the same time taking half the amount. Since we're carrying this much in cash, a larger number of guards can't be helped. Up until now we've had too few with us. According to brother they've got quite a bit of leeway with money so for the sake of letting the squires learn some things they cut out a greater number to come along this time.

Though he also said that one of the greatest factors is that they've got some leeway in workers thanks to using horses and cattle for farm work. Now other than the three war horses used by my family and the four pack horses used for the carriages, they've employed a total of 16 horses and cattle for farm work.

The number of chances for the squires to directly do anything in regards to farm work has been reduced and the amount of time they can spend doing sword training has supposedly increased. And then, cultivating new land is proceeding smoothly, centering around the rubber plantation the fields have spread out by a total of over 20 hectares since I left the village. It's not as if I went around looking at every corner when I returned at the start of this year after all.

Also, it seems that Myun is currently pregnant with her second child.

..I'm glad for your good fortune, Myun.

I want to think that I was able to return the favor to her a bit.

Furthermore, it seems that there was no new matters for congratulation between my brother and his wife. If sister-in-law Shani were to have gotten pregnant just like this then they would have had friends of the same age again. When I said that brother complained, "We really have our hands full with just Zetto and Bekki..All they do is play pranks. Al(Ailado) always has the role of cleaning up after them." with a sour face.

Chapter 281: Mystery of the Letter

Year 7446, Month 12, Day 28

After traveling to the capital the other day, everyone split up to do their own things, the faster ones even left last night. One night passed into this morning, after breakfast Miduchi and I went to the sausage factory and then she left go shopping saying, "I'm going to Tukerin-san's place for greetings with a bit of a "year-end gift"." I said I would pay a visit to Tukerin's clinic after I finished my business as well so we'll meet up there. First off is going to the castle with brother and the others to make rubber deliveries.

With this we've almost completely finished taking orders from the first knight group. Starting next time we have orders for four suits of armor from the first knight group and the remaining seven suits are all from the second knight group. Though I say that, it's not as if this is the end of our relationship with the first knight group. Only about 60% of the knights and squires have purchased the rubber armor our family makes.

I'm sure the remaining 40% will order a suit even if their current armor is still usable once the period comes where they can get the subsidy from the knight group and there's some people who are already using it that will probably buy a new suit again in seven years when they can receive the subsidy again.

In comparison to the leather and metal armor that they've used up until now it's a flaw that rubber armor runs out of durability in

fewer years. However, the merits are that it's cheaper than metal armor, light, and the defense isn't all that lower, furthermore the cost of repairs are so cheap it's not even worth comparing them. It's really great that it's thanks to that we were able to form and maintain this business relationship for so long.

It's unfortunate that it's not as flashy as platemail and full plate armor, so it's not very good for appearances. Probably just in that regard no matter how effort we put into it I don't think we can win. Well, ebonite plate has a pretty good gloss to it as well. Though the color is just a bit..It's too plain.

That's why for the above-mentioned reason there will definitely remain a need for metal armors. Certainly I'm sure that by being pressured by our rubber armor the number of orders they'll get will fall considerably compared to before but they'll never run out completely. Adding to that as well, after all the defensive capability of metal armor is still higher. Though it's heavy. Of course, there was also the idea to just add a thin layer of metal to the surface of the plate portions as well.

However, if we end up going that far...I already discussed this with brother and father before but we came to the conclusion it wouldn't be very profitable.

It's better to just gradually spend a number of years continuing to push the name of the {Bakuddo Brand}. In regards to the production amount as well, even if we increase it it's thought that around double the current amount, or at greatest 2.5 times more would be the limit. Even then in the next 10 or 20 years we should be the largest armor maker in the country. I wanted to wedge into a corner

of the oligopoly of the market and control it to some extent but it's not like I want to buy resentment from monopolizing it. In any case, starting next time we'll primarily be doing business with the second knight group. Unlike the first knight group which can receive a subsidy payment every seven years for half the price of their individual equipment, the second knight group only gets a 30% subsidy everyone seven years so it's expected that the percentage of members who make orders will be far less than the first knight group.

However, the total number of members is a completely different set of digits. In the second knight group there's five times the amount of cavalry knights than the first knight group at 500 people. Even when it comes to the infantry squires they have 20 times the number at 1,000 people. If it were to come to the third or fourth knight groups then the number of people increases even further. Supposedly there's no subsidy for personal equipment for the third and fourth knight groups but even then when it comes time for them to replace their armor I think that eventually about 10% would purchase our armor.

If we take the order cycle into consideration then I don't think there would be any major effects on the market even if we raise the number of orders we take by a few suits next year. After all, it seems that a workshop that makes platemail from start to finish is at it's limit with just two suits per year. Even when it comes to the specialized workshops at best they can manage five suits. That's why it's extremely expensive. It's far too expensive so

there's countless knights who can't afford it and end up just enduring with splintmail, bandedmail, scalemail, or even in the worst case just chainmail.

The people who were aiming to deal with are those sorts of people or those who dislike metal armor because of the weight. Even in the first knight group, I'm sure there's probably people that won't purchase our armor because it's too plain. But, almost all of the people that don't use rubber armor say they're envious of light armor. Though I'd be happy if the number of customers increase.

.....

After splitting up with brother and the others who are returning to the company I started heading towards Sandak Company. I wanted to ask about the progress of that one ring and about the magic nullifying amulet.

First off, in regards to the ring but I was handed a sealed letter.

There's a family crest of some place on the wax seal but I'm not familiar with family crests so it doesn't matter at all. I don't have much interest in which places noble wants to purchase it.

"Fufu...You're well versed in the moral code even though you're young."

After simply saying a single line of, "Please allow me to take a look at it." and without taking a very good look at the family crest, immediately opening the seal and taking the letter out, the company president commented that when I was placing the envelope on the table so the family crest can't be seen. That's right. I have

no intention of breaking into Sandak Company's business area at all.

I gave a single bow to the praise and opened the letter.

..To the seller of this ring,

First off, I'm very grateful to you for selling such an extremely valuable magic item.

Also, in regards to how the ability of the ring is determined, I

was able to confirm if it actually displayed the expected effects after being equipped. Once again after that by confirming using a special type of spell, I was able to identify that it was a genuine magic item. The ability of it is the recovery of life force. The recovery itself is only at the degree of somewhat promoting the recovery of injuries but there's no difference in the fact that it's of great value.

Once again, I'm grateful from the bottom of my heart that you were willing to sell such a precious item as this to me.

Kingdom of Rombert, Minister of the Right, Marquis of Daurain, Zotoruto..

Well, writing your name on the letter is etiquette even on Orth right.

It can't be helped reading something that's written down.

And, what?!?

Mentioning the name Marquis of Dasurain and that's one of the current ministers.

He's otherwise known as the Head Magician of the Royal Court.

The Director of the Department of Royal House.

He's famous to the point where even I know his name.

Though I have a stronger image of him as a pitiful old man with few remaining years left that was brushed away by Baron Logan when he

was begging sister to show him her spells, but as a minister, he's one of those who rules at almost the top in management and politics.

Though I don't know if his abilities are used on the political end.

Additionally mentioning it but just like many ministers in the past, the period he's stayed in office isn't short.

For example, different from his long period of over 10 years in office, the prime minister or Minister of the Left, switched leadership after a short period of only 2 years in office a couple of years back.

If I remember correctly it was a cousin of the King or something that doesn't even have a proper territory and was just a Duke in name.

Furthermore, the family head of the of the Sandak family is one of the Ministers of the Right, and also holds the position of director of the Department of Territorial Affairs, in essence he's the cabinet minister of dealing with territories. Though officially it was territory record keeper or something like that I think it was.

"..!"

Seeing how I was at loss for words the company president made a gentle smile and said, "I'm guessing you're surprised after finding out who the buyer is, right?"

"..No..Well, I was surprised though.."

Well, just that.

Certainly I was surprised at Marquis Dasurain's name but..Rather than something like that, I'm more interested in this "special type

of spell".

This, I'm sure he wouldn't teach me it even if I ask...

Though it would be fine if he just shows me as he uses it once.

"You don't need to worry about it. Since you're being that careful I doubt you would directly try to deal with them in person. It's not strange at all for their name to be written on the letter."

The company president said that but if I can get the chance I'd like to request that he teach me the "special type of spell" or even just show it to me. Of course, if we were doing some kind of business transaction then I have no complaints about going through Sandak Company at all.

Furthermore, in regards to the magic nullifying amulet they're still giving out advance notice about the auction and gauging what kind of reactions they can get for it. Just like this, after gathering information on the initial reaction they'll decide on an actual end date for the bidding as well as the minimum bid price at the same time, then they'll formally send out notice for the auction to start once again.

"It's expected to reach a considerable price."

The company president said while making a pleased face. It seems he can't disclose what kind of price it could reach to me yet.

If it's too low (less than 100,000,000) then I wonder if it's possible not to sell it?

But it's also good to experience the so-called auction at least once right.

.....

Before the evening I made preparations to receive the payment and made plans to visit again, just like that I started on my way towards the clinic that the dark elf Tukerin runs. It's still fresh in my how pleased he was three months ago when I tried sounding out selling Baldoggie to them.

After arriving at the clinic and Miduchi who didn't accompany me to the castle or company was drinking tea while chatting with Tukerin and his wife. On the table there's a wooden box filled with sweets from some high class store that she purchased as a year-end gift and the contents appear to have already disappeared. Since they're all from the same country, I guess they have plenty of things to talk about. It seems they didn't discuss anything business related until I arrived. That's just like Miduchi.

"Greed-dono. Just the other day, I received contact from my country. If it's possible then I'd be happy if you can sell us 3,500 Baldoggie every month but.."

It might just be my imagination but Tukerin's correspondence feels like it's gotten a bit more polite.

However, just 3,500 of them..Is that all they need?

It's an amount that the current factory can produce just by operating through one of the days off.

I reflexively looked at Miduchi's face but she was nodding with a face as if there's no problem.

Eh?

They increased the number of caravan trips to the capital of Rombertia?

Just for this?

If I remember correctly they have a number of dark elf warriors escorting each carriage right..Since it's weight reaches close to 400kg I guess it would almost completely fill a single carriage huh?

"Of course there's no problem at all. Ah, also, if you wrap them in an airtight rubber cloth and then pack that into linen bags they'll remain delicious to eat even at room temperature for two months. I guarantee it."

I think it's probably fine even at two and a half months but just in case I reported it a bit shorter.

"Oh! That is splendid! It's a great help if the quality can be maintained for a long time."

"And then, what should we do about the flavors? Since there's five types do you want 700 of each or all of them in the same flavor?"

After asking that Tokerin was a bit embarrassed as he said, "I would like to request that they're all normal Baldoggie." Yeah. Well I'm sure it's also a matter of individual preferences so that might be the best for starting things off. Ah, or maybe he's embarrassed because they're cheapest? Something like that, I'm not bothered over it at all.

"Also, in regards to the price but is it really fine to sell them to us at 30% of the market price?"

"Yeah, of course it is. It was a request from her, Miduchi, after all. I didn't even take into consideration trying to profit."

Rather~ even if I were to sell them at the market price, normal Baldoggie are 300 Z each.

It's not even enough for the profit to reach 1 gold coin(1,000,000

Z).

It's not like I need to pay the slaves a higher rate for overtime pay working on the holidays so I'm not particularly losing anything, if he's pleased with it then that's all the better. I told him that if he gives us a notice of the amount they want about 10 days before the expected delivery of the goods then that's fine and left the clinic.

After this is..Ah, that's right.

I need to buy iron ores and the various other ores.

Also, it's the most important thing but it's only obvious for

Rassegu and the others as well as the Yotlen family, I need pay the taxes for all of the employees of the {Slaughterers}. When we get back to the company I'm sure Miduchi and I will be flooded with calculations and office work for the rest of today and tomorrow. So troublesome~ I want a calculator.

.....

Year 7447, Month 1, Day 5

Starting tomorrow we're entering the dungeon again.

Things were pretty busy during this New Year holiday.

After confirming the account book and deliveries at the end of the year and taking care of the payment of taxes, Miduchi and bought a large amount of dried fish before entering the dungeon and went to Mila-shisho's place to do magic training. Even after we returned, just like that we flew straight back to the capital again and had to charter a passenger carriage to carry all of the metal ores I ordered in mass from the large companies in the capital to our inn.

After that we started doing spell training for the new spells we

learned from shisho, {Pyrotechnics}, {Grave.Strike}, and {Ground.Smoke}. Incidentally, I tried asking about the "special type of spell" that was written on the letter from Marquis Dasurain during our training at the end of the year but it was extremely disappointing that Mila-shisho had no idea at all.

If I remember correctly then according to sister, Marquis Dasurain's void magic skill level was just about 7 or somewhere around there so even if it's really "special" I don't think there's any reason why I wouldn't be able to learn it.

Though at the very least, putting aside the extremely advanced spells that the Gods use, I once again reaffirmed that Mila-shisho and the fairies can't cover for every spell that exists in this world. Though even if that is the case there's no difference that she's our important shisho.

Now then, I've already finished making preparations for tomorrow, time to sleep.

"{Pyrotechnics}" Alteration

(Earth Magic Lv 1, Fire Magic Lv 3, Void Magic Lv 4, Consumed MP

10+ Differs based on the type)

A base flame is necessary for the spell to activate(it's fine for the base flame to be one produced with magic or a natural flame).

Firework type: Cause a bright multi-colored explosion of light to happen in an instant and while it will brilliantly burn up it won't be associated with any sound. Any living creature that sees this light within a distance of 30 meters has a possibility of temporarily entering a state of blindness.

Smokescreen type: smoke gushes forth from the base flame and forms a smokescreen covering an area of 10 meters. This smokescreen continues for 1 minute times the level of the caster(it's possible for the caster to cancel it at will). Inside of the smokescreen whether it be Infrared vision, X-ray vision, or any vision type skill they won't be able to see through the other side of the smokescreen. All living creatures that enter the smokescreen have a possibility of receiving a penalty of -4 to Strength and Speed. These effects last until the smokescreen dissipates or 2-5 minutes after the target moves out of the range of the smoke.

"{Grave.Strike}" Enchantment.Necromantic

(Earth Magic Lv 3, Fire Magic Lv 3, Wind Magic Lv 1, Void Magic Lv 5, Consumed MP 12)

The caster can surround one desired weapon(otherwise their own fists) that they're touching in a magic sunlight. The brightness is only half that of the spell {Light}. This weapon imbued with light will have a special attack power added when used against {Undead.Monsters} and become a powerful anti-Undead weapon(double damage). The duration of the effect is the level of the caster times 5 seconds.

"{Ground.Smoke}" Alteration.Enchantment

(Earth Magic Lv 1, Wind Magic Lv 1, Void Magic Lv 3, Consumed MP 5)

Allows a volume of smoke equal to the level of the caster times $0.1m^3$ produced from a flame to be absorbed into the ground directly under it. The absorption has no effect if there's no ground below it. It's a spell that makes the smoke from a campfire

more difficult to find.

Chapter 282: Head Slave

Year 7447, Month 1, Day 8

It's the third day since we entered the dungeon.

In the spacious center room of the 8th floor we arrived at before the evening I'm making bullets for the sake of test firing the same as usual. A considerable distance away from the central pillar, in a slightly open area the production of smokeless gunpowder is being done centering around me. Inside of the glass and ceramic containers that I purchased in mass I use magic to separate the raw materials, or rather it's the acids I made through nitrification of the raw cotton.

Though the primary objective is nitrification and denitrification but on that occasion I'm always keeping an eye on it. If the reaction isn't fixed then I immediately stir the mixed acids and accelerate the reaction of the late portions. The stirring can be done safely using my excessive mana.

The next washing process is normally the part that would take the longest amount of time but as a matter of fact it doesn't take that long at all. I'll mention the reason later but my magic(or rather my massive amount of mana I guess?) plays a major role in it.

When it comes to boil washing it, I just use a stupidly huge cylindrical pot for it and it's fine to periodically heat it up with fire magic. Of course, if you have the fuel then it's fine to place it over fire as well. The washing after that is really

nothing more than a bonus. I make a huge bath buckets using ice and after filling that with water carry out the washing. Though rather than a bath bucket it might be more appropriate to call it a pool.

In regards to the current of the water as long as they can use water and void magic anyone can do it.

The majority of the water is something I created but if they just add the water they made themselves to there they can move it by using void magic to move that water. Though the efficiency will drop quite a bit because the amount is small in comparison to the rest but in the end my water will start rotating around in the pool so it's still far better than mixing it with a pole. Also, it's using magic with a clear objective to it's more efficient for earning experience points than just randomly using elemental magic.

Though I say that, the reason for the boil washing and washing with water here is to remove the remaining acid, fat parts, and trash from the raw cotton that underwent nitrification so I don't mind even if they're both done halfhearted. In the end if I just use the spell {Selection} then po~of it'll all be perfect separated from the impurities all at once after all. The only reason I don't do it from the start is so I can take it even just a bit easier. Through using the spell {Selection} it leaves almost no impurities so it reduces any accidents to close to none.

Most likely, I don't think it would be wrong to say that just this most important part is done at an even greater level than the technology on Earth.

After that, while it's wet from the water Toris separates it all at

once. Even here it's possible for us to do precise separation that's almost perfectly uniform so it raises the level of safety when being used even higher. I use {Selection} on the separated materials once again and then use magic again to dry it all at once, or rather if I just pass it through an {Anti-Magic Field} all of the water created with magic completely disappears. If I store in a bottle together with alcohol separated from vodka then it won't deteriorate for a short while.

As a matter of fact right now I'm confirming the mixture ratio for the stabilizer to help the quality last even longer. Sodium bicarbonate is used for laundry and cooking so it was easy to obtain and oxidized magnesium is the main ingredient in the leftovers of a type of magnesium called {flash metal} which was pleasantly easy to obtain as well.

No matter which stage it is water magic is a necessity so it's almost always been Zenom, Ralpha, Zulu, and Angela that have been dispatched to the other teams. Since just Gwine has the important job of producing the map and confirming our current location when teleporting she's still acting together with the {Slaughterers} as usual. Recently she's been on firing duty when we test fire the gun. Though it's just pulling the string tied to the trigger on Bel's signal.

Since it's already the new year, this time I intend to go one step further and start making a new gun. Of course, it's still not one for use in the real thing. One that still doesn't leave the realm of a test gun but this time rather than one that is shot while

resting on a bench, I intend to make one that someone can hold in their hand and fire. Just in case I brought along some walnut wood for making the gun-stock.

.....

Year 7447, Month 1, Day 9

I made a prototype of the second gun. Without giving any thought to the changing of barrels or the magazine, I honestly just made it a back-loaded smooth-bore "completely single-shot gun". Every time you fire a bullet you have to manually release the chamber and add another but learning from the first gun I made a prototype of, even if there's a misfire in the chamber it isn't dangerous other than the muzzle. Also, no matter who is firing it if it's a distance of at most 20 meters then it's hard to miss a human-sized target.

If it's this then all of the mechanisms from the gun barrel to the chamber can be lined up double parallel and then if I just slightly shift the angle into the shape of a fan it should be usable as a splendid net gun. Getting the two hammers to fall simultaneously is simple after all.

The problematic point is putting aside the stabilizing agent of the smokeless gunpowder I'm making, I haven't put any fire retardant in so I've been making the chamber a bit thick and large in order for it to endure the detonation. It's still fine since I'm using shells but with the first prototype gun I put too much firing agent into the shells and ended up having to replace the cylinder twice after all. But, it ends up heavier for that portion.

For that reason, right now I've reconsidered that after all a fire

retardant is necessary~ and looking for one. Dibutyl phthalate or Dinitrotoluene, there's no way right... Ah, maybe the blood from trolls would work? Since it's weak to fire. I just thought there might be some relation but there's no basis to it.

Rather than that, the next topic is the net that this gun will

fire. There's no problem with the network or the needles that hold it together but it's not like it directly fires the net from inside of the barrel so I need to design something like a spear that acts as the actual body to be fired.

It's fine even if it's just once but a durability capable of

resisting the impact. Fire resistant and difficult to burn. And then not as heavy as metal. There's already no choice but a wood stick right. It's fine if it's evergreen oak or walnut or anything else but it's necessary for it to be as fire resistant as possible.

I wonder if it would be fine to just fit the back of it that's exposed to the detonation with some metal? No, I guess it's fine even without it? Either way I'm sure the rubber stopper that acts as a seal for the blanks will be here so the remains will still cling onto it. Putting aside the net, it's something that's fine as long as we don't re-use the launching platform.

Ah, that's right, when it comes to wood that rarukku that's used

for funerals might be good. It doesn't seem all that durable but that's just a matter of durability as lumber, and above all else it's resistant to fire. I guess it's plenty for this type of role?

Furthermore, in the very end, I was finally able to make the

horizontal double-barrel type net gun prototype on the day we were

going to leave the dungeon. First off we'll test fire it a number of times with blanks. It seems there's no problem. With this next time we should be able to try test firing this gun with a net.

.....

Year 7447, Month 1, Day 11

We returned to the surface and while waiting we bit into some baldoggie from Murowa's cart when the members of the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} came out lead by Zenom and Ralpha. Including us none of the teams were able to obtain any big treasure. How dull, and just as I was thinking it's a bad sign for the start of a new year, I reconsidered that something like this was only obvious.

Also, there was some news from while we were in the dungeon. Two things, one that was reasonably important and another that doesn't matter at all. First off I'll start with the one that doesn't matter at all. The other day, it seems that {Black.Topaz} came back. End.

The important news is that there was contact from Sandak Company about talking with Marquis Dasurain. It seems like it would be interesting enough taking a look at the face of an old man who'd spend 140,000,000 Z on a boring ring.

Also, I want to ask about that one "special type of spell" as well.

Additionally if I have the chance I want to know why he used the expression "recovery" in regards to the ability of the ring. Does he really believe that it's recovery or did he say it intentionally thinking that we don't know the ability of it, otherwise maybe it's

just a misunderstanding(if the method of confirming it is bad then that's possible), I wanted to confirm things like that.

If you were to ask me as long as he didn't intentionally say it like that then I don't have much more to say about it. There's no method to accurately investigate the ability like my Unique Ability {Identify}, or at least I can just confirm that after all. Eh? I mean, if the Royal Court Magician and Minister can't investigate it then isn't it impossible for the average person around there to do it? Miduchi said, "There might be skilled magicians out there which haven't surfaced in the world" or something like that but even she's recognized that it's not very realistic, an extremely minuscule possibility that is fine to just ignore.

Even if they do exist as long as they don't appear in the world then they aren't any major influence and there's no way they would specifically go out of their way to come to me just to use a "special type of spell" on me. Even if something like that happens, I'll deal with it when we get there. If it's done in a way which I can tell then it's just a matter of shutting them up. Though if I can't tell there's really no helping it. When I said that to Miduchi she said, "Really, that's so reckless. But there's nothing other than that right." with a difficult expression.

It's true for us but I'm sure it's the same for the other party as well, so I just wrote a letter that any day during our next couple of days off would be fine before leaving it to a passenger carriage to deliver. After all, it seems like the thing he wants to ask me about is the specific details on how we obtained the ring, what

kinds of monsters we fought, and about the dungeon. It's a bit troublesome but there's nothing bad about becoming acquaintances with a major politician. Even more so when that person has a history of trying to mess with sister..though I guess that's only obvious given his work duties huh?

.....

Year 7447, Month 1, Day 12

The next day, after having breakfast Miduchi, Zulu, and I entered the dungeon with just the three of us.

In order to practice the spells we just learned the other day.

After moving around bodies around a bit against goblins and such on the 1st floor, we immediately got started.

I thought there wasn't much meaning(So what if you can use it within a few seconds?) in practicing {Ground.Smoke} too much so I felt it was plenty being able to cast it within 30 seconds and just adequately practiced it a couple dozen times. The problem is the spells {Pyrotechnics} and {Grave.Strike}. Both of these should be even more effective the faster you can cast them.

Miduchi started practicing with breaks and I started without stop.

Recently I've started to understand it but when you're using spells as an example, it seems that the more skilled you are for the example the easier it is to learn it from watching. It's a bit different from leaving it to your high skill proficiency to use the example spell in as short of a time as possible.

It's not that it's best to simply use it in as short of a time as

possible but rather if the person carefully spends 30-60 seconds casting a spell they can cast quickly it's even closer to the ideal

example for teaching, is what I mean. Just somehow or other I feel like the person watching can learn it in less uses of the spell.

Though it's just a feeling so it's not as if I know that's the case for sure.

In any case, for starters there's the spell {Pyrotechnics}. If it's this then even Ralpa can use it and if it's her then I think she would even be able to determine the locations of enemies and allies within the smokescreen with her Unique Ability.

"That smokescreen spell is frightening. You end up unable to see anything."

Zulu said with a shiver. Certainly I was surprised at first as well. When I felt the slight discomfort and tried identifying myself only to notice that the "upper limit" of my Strength and Speed had fallen I was trembling inside beyond Zulu just now. Though I was relieved when it recovered a short while after that.

It might be that this guy noticed there was an abnormality with his body.

"Yeah. But wouldn't it be fine as long as you don't rely on your vision? Using Miduchi's {Party-ization} then putting aside the enemies you can tell the rough location of allies right? It's convenient even just for avoiding friendly fire."

I tried saying that but hearing it Zulu said some words I've never heard him say until now.

"Come to think of it, master never uses that {Party-ization} like the madam right."

It seems he said it slightly but he doesn't know anything much at

all about the Unique Abilities and just thinks it's one of the spells that Miduchi can use since we said that. Since he knows that magic is my specialty it's almost unnatural that he didn't ask about it until now. Although, since it's Zulu I'm sure he was showing restraint.

"I've discussed it with Maruso before as well but I've always thought it's extremely convenient how using {Party-ization} doesn't let us feel the madam close by but master, and everyone else as well. Maruso and I would prefer if master uses it so we can feel master's presence even closer but.."

Zulu said with some restraint. You could say it's quite the admirable slave spirit but if you just take the words at surface value and it could be interpreted in a slightly strange way. Of course, that's even when I already know that Zulu doesn't have those sort of feelings or interests at all. Well, that sort of crap doesn't matter at all. Rather than that it might be a good time to tell him already.

"..It would be best if I use it, huh? There's a reason why I don't..can't use it. Do you want to know?"

Zulu noticed that my atmosphere changed a bit. Furthermore, during this time Miduchi is desperately focused on trying to use the smokescreen type of {Pyrotechnics} and hasn't noticed our conversation.

"Eh? No..that is.."

Zulu started making an expression like he's screwed up and said something he shouldn't have. Even though magic is my specialty and I have an extremely high amount of mana but I have an inferiority

complex towards the spell that Miduchi specializes with. He must think that he accidentally stimulated that.

While covered in sweat from concentrating countless times and leaning against the wall of the dungeon, I looked at Zulu who was kneeling in front of me and started talking again.

"I can't use Miduchi's {Party-ization}. Most likely from here on out, I'll never be able to use in my lifetime. The reason being that {Party-ization} isn't magic after all."

"Eh?"

It must have been an unexpected statement to Zulu. His eyes opened wide.

"Just the same the reason why Gwine specializes in remembering terrain isn't a spell either."

"..Ha...ha?"

"Ralpha, Bel, Toris, Basutorial, and Faruergaz all have something they specialize with. Of course, I do as well..The content is varied for every individual."

I continue saying to Zulu who's making a confused expression.

"It's nothing to be so surprised over. Even you already know how we were reborn from a different world right? It's an ability that those sort of people all have. It's called a {Unique Ability}. It's something that can only be seen by the person them self in their status like the level of magic and {Special Skills}."

".."

Zulu who was at a loss for words just continued to look at my face.

"Even you were amazed by Gwine's growth rate right? I'm sure you accepted the reason for that when I mentioned in the past but.."

Ralpa who's combat abilities were high from the start from being raised and educated by Zenom as an adventurer. Bel and Toris who received combat training as nobles. Even though they're considerably young brats, Angela and Zulu didn't mind it at much from the start. However, when we first started training Gwine I realized they had the feelings of, "Master sure has taken on some baggage". Of course, since they're my slaves they would never say something like that openly though.

A short while after that when I explained things about the blessing of level increases for reincarnated people they seemed to have easily accepted it. That's why when I added Basutorial to the party I didn't feel displeasure from them at all.

"Well, {Unique Abilities} are something special that we reincarnated people have from the moment we're born. In Miduchi's case that is {Party-ization}."

I continue speaking to Zulu who's still dumbfounded and staring at my face.

"..The Laios race has the special skills {Instantaneous} and {Night Vision} right? It's the same as how I'll never be able to use those in my lifetime. It's the individual version of those that only reincarnated people have."

Zulu made a face as if he understood a bit.

It seems the doubts within him have been cleared.

The color of understanding appeared in his eyes.

Along with a light poof sound the smokescreen type {Pyrotechnics} activated.

It seems that after concentrating five times she's finally been able to use it.

"..Oh~ I did it!"

She happily shouted. She was concentrating a bit of distance away from us so she doesn't seem to have realized we were discussing things somewhat seriously.

"You and Angela must have thought it was a bit strange right? Yeah, I get it. It's fine if you don't worry about it."

I continued saying to Zulu who was making a slightly apologetic expression.

"It's a special power that only reincarnated people like us have.

In addition to having a high growth rate, we even have all our memories previous to being born. Do you think it's unfair? Don't hold back. Tell me honestly."

"No. I don't think it's unfair. If you were to say that then someone who was born as a slave would consider the fact that I was born a commoner unfair. Rather than that, I'm pleased that I was able to understand that after all master is a special person."

Zulu said while properly looking me in the eye and after that smiled a bit before fixing his posture and politely lowering his head.

"You're my head slave after all..I'm depending on you from here on out as well. Also, I intend on saying this to Angela. Though I don't intend on telling those other than her "yet". Sooner or later..Even if it's not everything I'll tell everyone else about it eventually.."

"Ha."

With just a short reply Zulu lowered his head even further. I

thought he would ask something even more about my and the others

{Unique Abilities} but Zulu didn't say anything. That's exactly like Zulu.

"Uoo~ I can't see! I can't see anything! Hey! You can't see anything right, with this!..Hn? Also, I've got this vague feeling..Hey say something?"

I'm glad to see she's enjoying herself.

"That's great isn't it! Come out. It's almost past noon so let's go and eat something."

Chapter 283: Magic Ring

Year 7447, Month 1, Day 21

Following the last time we entered the dungeon I'm still developing guns in the plaza on the 8th floor as usual.

Crushing the small problems and making small improvements to be tested during the next time we enter the dungeon.

If there's no problem at that time then I think we'll try using it in the halls and room bosses.

If that goes well then the next time after that I intend on finally going to the 9th floor and trying to fire the net gun against the group of Minotaur. If it's effective against trolls and the such then it should be fine to expect it to be useful against the mino.

And, putting aside the dungeon which has been going somewhat smooth(though it's not completely smooth), as a matter of fact right now Miduchi and I are on way towards the capital.

While we were in the dungeon this time there was a reply from

Marquis Dasurain that he wanted to meet and talk with me as soon as possible. The meeting place is the Department of the Royal House area inside of the government office in the capital. I could have sworn that even if other places were different the department of the royal house(has the role of acting as secretary to the King and manages the royal court and such) and the department of castle forces(deals with military affairs) would be located inside of the royal castle.

Even the imperial household agency of Japan is located in the

imperial palace right. Well, when I tried asking about it later, not just both of the departments, but the other departments also have an area in the castle as well but the castle itself is nothing more than the location of the organization and something like the headquarters are all packed into an area of the government office building.

And, if the King has business with the minister, politician, or bureaucrat or whatever and wants to talk with them he calls them all the way from the government office to the castle. This, the higher your position is wouldn't it just become that much more troublesome getting called out by the King all the time? It would have been fine if the royal castle was at least right next door to the government office.

Of course, even I understand that it would be unpleasant to have a ton of politicians(or you could call them high rank nobles) and officials coming to work in the royal castle which also acts as the house of the royal family everyday, so I can understand the reason for splitting them up.

But, even then I have to wonder about how it's over 1 km in distance away. I'll have to make sure I don't make the same mistake. I wrote it down in the notes of my heart.

Since we're meeting a minister, Miduchi and I are wearing high class clothes like the ones on the days of judgement.

They open in the front resembling kimono from our past life. Though even if I say kimono there's no difference in the sleeves for men and women. Also, there's no hakama on Orth so I can't help but feel like it's off with the appearance. In exchange we're wearing

somewhat comfortable pants and the same combat boots as usual. Incidentally, I don't have any official position and I'm a low ranking noble so the color of my obi is deep green. Miduchi's is a vivid pink color.

First off we stopped by Sandak company which was acting as the intermediary and greeted the company president before going to the department of the royal house together with him. After coming to one of the government office buildings that was assigned to the department of the royal house and the company president conveyed to the squire or knight from the third knight group that was acting as gatekeeper about our appointment with Marquis Dasurain. However, we had a chat about the buildings around here and recent affairs with a different knight from the one that went inside for about 15 minutes while waiting so we weren't bored.

After that we were let through into a reception room like place.

After sitting down on the sofa and sipping at the tea we were given I heard a shouting voice saying, "Hn? The room of Makkaze? I said to take them to the room of Kamukura right!". Miduchi and I exchanged glances. How noisy right.

"He's on his way."

The company president of Sandak company who's wearing the same green-type obi as me said.

So that voice was him huh?

And then, a single old man entered the room. It was a skinny old man a sharp glare. He has a gray reverse triangle beard growing from his chin and his slightly long and plentiful hair of the same color for his age was carefully combed towards the back of his

head. You can tell from a glance that what he's wearing is high quality and while it has a similar design to the kimono Miduchi and I were wearing but I'm sure it cost several times more. The color of his obi is..wow, red. It sure is different when it comes to a minister and Marquis.

Ah, the King's is purple, the queens, princes, and dukes are blue.

If my father were to "formally" have an audience then his would be black. Marquis Webdos is yellow and the commander of the first knight group, Baron Logan is red. When it comes to company commander level I think it would be white or so? The color of these obi displays they're nobles and even among them are graded by ranking to some extent. No matter how important they are commoners and free people can't use any colors except brown, light blue colors, or otherwise pink and different colors like Miduchi.

This old man must be Marquis Dasurain.

"Your excellency Marquis, thank you for the other day. And then, these two over here are the ones.."

Sandak Company's president exchanged glances with us.

"It's nice to meet you, your excellency. My name is

Alan.Greed."

"I'm Midu~ritto.Chizumagurol. It's an honor to meet you."

We stood up from the sofa and greeted him.

"Oh! Oh!?Greed? I've heard that somewhere..Greed..And, excuse me. I'm sorry about especially calling you out. I'm

Dasurain...What, Greed!?"

Obviously Marquis Dasurain has only just found out about our information as the sellers.

Since he was so infatuated with sister I'm sure he had some memory

of the name Greed.

Although, recently I haven't heard his name from sister at all

anymore, so I thought he either gave up or was just too busy to bother with it.

While Marquis Dasurain froze up staring at my face as he was about to sit on the sofa, Miduchi and I took our time taking our seats again.

"Forgive my rudeness suddenly asking something like this but do you have a relative in the first knight group?"

Marquis Dasurain asked me while still frozen in place.

"My older sister is in the care of the first knight group. I'm amazed you know of her."

"..Alan.Greed..Greed Companys..The {Slaughterers} huh..No wonder."

He~ I'm amazed he knows about trivial adventurers like us. Well, a youth who's still at the age of a brat established a company that centers around rubber products and furthermore just the other day surpassed the achievements of his majesty the founding King George.Rombert the first so I guess it's not strange for him to know the adventurers name. After all thanks to that I've become a bit of a celebrity even beyond just an adventurer.

"Ah, no. I'm sorry for all the rude questions. I've heard that your older sister is an extremely skilled magician. Is magic your specialty as well?"

Well, I thought he would ask something like that.

"I'm just a bit better than the average person. When it comes to magic then this Miduchi is even better than me."

Miduchi smiled when I said that about her.

"Hmm, a dark elf huh...Then I guess it's not strange for you to be

skilled with magic..By the way, Chizumagurol-san, what is your void magic level?"

Marquis Dasurain asked Miduchi as he sat down on the sofa.

What are you spacing out for?

It seems Miduchi missed that while spacing out.

I poked her with my elbow.

"Ah!!? Yes! Pl..Please excuse me. I'm just a bit nervous.."

It couldn't be helped so the Marquis repeated his question again.

Could you stop with those sorts of things?

It would suck if we leave a bad impression on such a big shot right.

Though it can't be helped.

"It just reached 5 the other day. Your excellency."

Hearing that Marquis Dasurain's eyes opened wide in surprise.

Though it's really 7.

"As expected adventurers who use spells in live combat on a daily basis have an easy time raising the levels of their magic special skills."

Supposedly this old man entered the dungeon in Baldukk when he was young as well. However, as expected when it comes to the Royal Court Magician he knows that it's more efficient to directly use magic to deal damage to earn experience towards magic. Of course, efficiency earning experience points and the proficiency levels of spells are completely different, and if you were to ask rather than using attack spells to deal damage adventurers save their mana for using healing spells far more often. That's why it's not known very well.

I kind of want to try bluffing and pretend to show admiration to

see how much he really knows but it would be unpleasant if it ends up a snake in the bush and it's not like I have anything to gain from it so I just let it pass.

We discussed recent events for a few minutes and it was finally time for the meeting to enter the main topic.

"Putting that aside and the matter today was about that ring. After all was that something you obtained in the dungeon of Baldukk?"

"Yeah, that's right."

Since Marquis Dasurain didn't know that I was the seller of the ring he didn't know that it was something found in Baldukk. After that when I told him we obtained it from an altar on the 9th floor and he was humming to himself with a face of admiration.

"By the way, it was mentioned in the letter we received from you the other day but supposedly the ability of the ring is "recovery" right?"

If "recovery" means the "acceleration of healing" then it's something extremely valuable to adventurers. Even if you get injured it shortens the amount of time you have to spend laying around on the surface and that directly relates to earning even more.

"Umu. I've already confirmed myself that it has the same name, {Ring.Of.Protection}, as the one that's passed through the generations in my family and has the same effect as well."

"I see now.."

If it's not a mistake in my memory then that wasn't supposed to be recovery but damage reduction.

"For future reference would it be alright for me to ask what kind

of method you used to test it?"

Hearing my words Marquis Dasurain gave me a simple explanation.

The method was just as listed below.

I think I mentioned previously how when writing contracts you mix your own blood with powder from magic stones to use the thumb print. During that time you normally use a pin to prick your fingertip. HP doesn't decrease for just that degree of wound. But, things that hurt still hurt. It's nothing significant and it doesn't even interfere with concentrating for using magic. Well this depends on the person though. In the case of most people, if they seriously start concentrating to use magic it's still possible.

That's why in the case of nobles who have a higher ratio of people that can use magic, many of them will use a healing spell right away. It's the same for me too.

It seems that for the matter this time Marquis Dasurain put on the ring and pricked his finger with a pin just like when doing a contract. He said that while it made a wound no matter how hard he tried to press his finger no blood would come out. Furthermore the wound itself quickly sealed up. After that, the ring didn't display it's effect again that day.

The next day, this time he injured his finger with a pin without wearing the ring. After squeezing his finger obviously blood came out. After confirming that he immediately wore the ring. And then, the wound sealed up and obviously the blood stopped as well. This is the exact same effect as the {Ring.Of.Protection} that was

passed down from the ancestors of the Dasurain family and since it also has the same name, he said that it lead him to believe it was really a ring with the exact same effect.

Hearing his story up to here I started to wonder about it a bit. I

wonder if the "damage reduction" would still be effective even if it's damage you take before wearing the ring? In the first place you can't call wounding the tip of your finger with a pin damage. If it's damage that light(just the same as experience points, it's possible to think that there's such a thing as damage below a decimal point) then I wonder if it would be a target for the reduction if there's not much time between?

Additionally the friendly Marquis showed me the

{Ring.Of.Protection} that was always passed down through the generations in his family.

【Ring.Of.Protection】

【Gold.Sapphire】

【Condition: Normal】

【Manufacture Date: 16/10/7112】

【Value: 1】

【Durability: 49】

【Ability: Damage Recovery;1 HP】

【Effect: In the case that the target who equips this ring undergoes

something where they receive damage to their HP, through the mana in the ring it can recover the damage taken by just 1 HP. The amount of damage it's possible to recover is up to 1 HP per day.】

Just the appearance is vaguely different and it looks really

similar, even with my {Identify} the details are the same..or

not.

However, without showing any sign of realizing that, I

intentionally used the spell {Detect.Magic} and whispered as if showing admiration.

"Certainly it's a magic item..Excuse me, {Status Open}..Just as you said the name is the same as well."

Hearing my words the Marquis lightly nodded as he took the ring and started talking.

"Also, the reason I was confident it was exactly the same is because I confirmed it using a "special type of spell".

That, that's it! What I wanted to hear about.

"Come to think of it you wrote about it in your letter right. What kind of spell is that "special type of spell"?"

"I'm sorry but I can't say that much. But, I'm sure it's difficult for you to accept just saying that. The "special type of spell" is a spell that compares the mana from two items. If you use this spell then you can compare the mana of {Magic.Items} you're holding in both of your hands."

..Ho? So there's a spell like that.

"So you were able to determine that they're the same using that spell?"

"That's right. These rings don't have any other ability than healing small injuries but I treasure them greatly. I'm happy that you were willing to sell it to me. Even more so if something that is passed down in my family through the generations came from the 9th floor, deep in the dungeon that even the founding King didn't reach then it'll raise the character of it."

The Marquis put on the ring again while grinning.

Miduchi moved a bit uncomfortable next to me.

It seems that it appears as almost the exact same thing with that comparison spell. Also, we were able to confirm that even if this Marquis has a "special type of spell" it doesn't compare to my {Identify} unique ability. That's plenty. The only thing remaining is the slight doubts I have about the ability of the ring we found but in the first place it wasn't a significant ability so I'm sure there's nothing more to bother about with it.

After that we discussed the dungeon as we pleased for just a bit and excused ourselves from the room.

We split ways with Sandak Company's president after leaving the building.

.....

On the road towards the headquarters of Greed Company, I was discussing it with Miduchi.

"That minister, I guess his true intention was that he wanted to hear the story about how we obtained the ring right?"

Additionally after hearing that it came from the 9th floor it was just right for raising the status of the magic item that was passed down through his family.

Hearing that Miduchi brought her horse close to my horse.

"Just..there was one thing."

"Hn? Was there anything bad?"

She approached my ear with a serious face and whispered.

"That person, he only lied on one part. The part about it "not having any other ability". Hey, that ring, I wonder if it really only had the ability you said..."

What?!?

Certainly we only just used {Identify} on it and didn't properly confirm the ability at all...

Though I understand the fact that {Identify} isn't perfect(or
believed to be) but...

Side Story 28 - In the case of Munakata Shizuka(Age 26 at time of accident)

Part 1

Really~ there's really no helping that. That seems like it will

take some work. A difficult opponent...

Munakata Shizuka quietly whispered to herself while remembering things from last night.

She received a job transfer order from her workplace to move from the Northern Kantou to the main office in Shinjuku of Tokyo. Since she had the chance she decided to borrow an apartment in the regional town of Kanagawa prefecture where she lived when she was a child and commute from there. One appeal was also that she could get to Shinjuku without needing to change trains.

Yesterday and today were moving days so it was fine for her not to go in to work but after this all she has remaining is unpacking trivial belongings that she won't need right away, and starting from this afternoon she came in to the office a bit late because she wanted to organize her desk ahead of time.

As a matter of fact there was a reason why Shizuka decided on her current apartment as a residence. One of the reasons as also because of the cheap rent from the landlord's family being an acquaintance of her family but the other reason was there was someone she was looking forward to meeting.

The main occupation of the landlord's family is running a small

liquor store and she was the same age as the son there. When they were kids they often played together, slept together, and even took baths together. She remembers his back seeming considerably reliable when he chased off a stray dog while they were in kindergarten. During elementary school he covered Shizuka when she was being bullied and boldly stood up against the bullies, you could say it's thanks to that Shizuka was able to comfortably spend her elementary school days in this town.

Unfortunately partway through her fourth year in elementary school, around the time Shizuka had just turned 10 years old, they ended up splitting ways along with her father's job transfer. At first they exchanged letters but after about one year they both ended up stopping. After that, when Shizuka graduated high school she entered a Touhoku National University and she heard that after her childhood friend graduated from trade high school he started helping with the family business liquor store just like that.

Yesterday she spent time bringing in her luggage and greeting the nostalgic neighbors so she didn't have barely any time to meet. Since it couldn't be helped she made a promise with the landlord in order to go to dinner with him at a pub. She tried going and seeing him like that but...

.....

"Ke...Dinner at a pub~? Fellows who are employed by a good company after college sure have it good~"

"Ha? What's that? I couldn't meet you today so I just wanted to try talking to you for the first time in a while~ What is with those remarks? Are you picking a fight with me?"

"Not particularly"

I guess she heard the argument in the back of the store, his mother came out.

"Shizu-chan, I'm sorry..This child, every since middle school he's been a bit rebellious..Look, Takashi, apologize to her! Go on."

With a reluctant sort of feel her childhood friend Takashi left the house and followed after Shizuka.

"And, what's a good place?"

"Huh? Aren't you the one who invited me? I have no clue. I don't go drinking outside much."

Hearing this Shizuka felt a bit disappointed thinking(This guy, I wonder why he changed so much).

She only had the memories of him always being gentle in the past.

That's why she thought he would already have a girlfriend now and go out on dates a reasonable amount, even if they're not all that stylish she thought he would at least know a delicious restaurant.

It couldn't be helped so they entered the chain pub in front of the station(She was even more amazed hearing him say it's difficult to show his face in the individually managed pubs because they sell alcohol there) and talked about various things while eating and drinking. After a short while they were able to speak openly to each other and she was able to confirm they could speak considerably freely like in the past.

During that time Shizuka was roughly able to understand why Takashi ended up with this sort of personality. Shizuka didn't know(though she guessed it) but after Takashi saved her from being bullying he

still didn't accept bullying and stood resolutely against it.

Through that he interacted more with a bullied kid he met during high school even after graduating and it seems their friendship has continued until now. After graduating from high school he started helping out at home just like that and since the number of friends he had around the same age dropped significantly he ended up heavily influenced by that friend.

Takashi himself evaluated that friend as "Starting with the state of society, he knows a lot of things well and is smart. And above all else his ability to see the essence of things is admirable."

However, hearing his story Shizuka couldn't help but think (Isn't he just a hardcore net otaku. Not to mention a NEET).

The two of them poked at their chicken karaage as they tilted their beer mugs.

"Ah, Hey, why are you squeezing the lemon as you please?"

"It's more delicious to put lemon on it right?"

"Ju..Just doing as you please.."

They ordered one more plate of karaage.

Next a large plate of sashimi was carried out.

"Oh my, after all they're different from over there."

"Odawara is close after all, even the fish of Kanagawa are pretty good right?"

"This place, it's a chain. There's no way of knowing where they stock up from right."

"Come to think of it that's true.."

Some grilled shirokoro came out. In this region since the past

there's been horumonyaki from pig's large intestine and it normally gets seasoned while still raw before being diced and eaten. It's a menu item that's almost always offered in the daily set for

restaurants in this region. It's to the point where even the soba shops have a shirokoro set on their menu. The intestine grill doesn't have it diced and it stretches out for a long of 1 meter. The customer then uses scissors to cut that at just the right size before eating it.

"Yeah, fuwafuwa. It's delicious as usual."

It gives off a inexplicable texture in your mouth almost like you're eating fuwafuwa marshmallows. If it has a bit of fat on it along with deep miso sauce for seasoning then it matches up with beer extremely well. Of course it's good as a side with rice too.

Shizuka remembered how horumonyaki using shirokoro was one of her favorite foods as a child. Either they didn't sell them at the butchers where she was transferred or the ones that were occasionally sold were always cut up and boiled so both the look and taste were completely different.

The only place they're circulated around while still raw is just this region. Even if you say shirokoro in the place she transferred it wouldn't be conveyed and when she couldn't get her mother to buy any for her she gave up and tried to buy it herself, but after all it still wasn't conveyed so she remembered returning home hunched over and apologizing to her mother.

"If it's Maruchou then they're more delicious at Nagano Shop than here."

"Then why didn't you bring us to that Nagano Shop.."

And then as the alcohol started to circulate the two of them gradually got into deeper conversation.

"N~ I'm considerably satisfied with my current lifestyle. We have

frequent customers as well. Of course~ the sales of the store are slightly dropping but in this sort of economic condition, it can't be helped. I'm busy with deliveries and various things, it's pretty difficult but I have quite a bit of flexibility with time as well."

"The sales are dropping..Isn't that a huge problem. Do you not have any intention of making it into a convenience store? That area, there's no convenience stores right. If one appears from some place you won't make it in time anymore?"

"A convenience store right..I've heard about that them. Father and mother both said I could do what I please but...Satoshi said that the convenience stores take the franchise affiliation charge and after that even if your sales drop they'll just look the other way, even though that's the case it seems they still force harsh quotas on what you need to sell.."

"Again with that Satoshi."

"Eh? Did you say something?"

"No~pe"

Shizuka was disillusioned by his appearance of not trying to take any counter-measures towards the dwindling present state and just giving off an air of resignation.

"It would have been good if I hadn't taken over something like the business..I'm sure it would have been different if I had gotten employed at some company..But there's no meaning to working at a company if you don't work harder than the amount your paid and there's also the hard floor of being restructured after all."

She felt some intent to kill towards that statement. Of course~ if

Takashi had gotten employed he probably would have had a different

life. Putting aside firing surplus employees it's only obvious for companies to restructure when reorganizing themselves. However, even if this sort of man were to find employment, she felt like they'd end their entire life as a low-end employee at the window. There's those sorts of people in Shizuka's company as well. They're fine if you just pay them an appropriate amount in wages and by the time of people working their hardest they only can think about their own small life directly in front of them.

In the current economic conditions, even if you put in massive effort working you get low wages, when things start to look bad the company throws away employees at it's own convenience without hesitation. If that's the case then isn't there no reason to put so much effort into working for the company? and there's a lot of people who think like that.

Shizuka thought, "You're not doing the job just for the same of the company." She thinks if you don't want to be thrown away then it's just a matter of polishing yourself. Even though it's fine if you just become a person the company can't fire.

He's become a person who says these sorts of small things. Even today if he were to go to one of the individually managed pubs owned by one of those frequent customers then they would have built up a closer relationship and then could have even sold more alcohol, and thinking that made her feel sad.

"Hey~ Shizuka. Even if you were returning from a transfer to Tokyo, it would have been fine if you didn't live in this sort of distant place right? Why did you go the trouble of...Ah.."

(Takashi this guy, just now he definitely misunderstood

something.)

"No reason. "Thanks to aunt and uncle" the rent was cheap after all. Ah, I have a boyfriend so."

The stuff in regards to a boyfriend was a lie.

.....

While they were riding on the train along the way a frivolous looking man carrying a guitar case got on and sat down next to Shizuka before opening his legs. She could hear music playing through from his earphones. There's a considerable number of seats open but it's not as if she can't endure it enough to change seats. Above all else, there's a music player on her smartphone as well so it's just a matter of her listening to that.

Shizuka started listening to the music she likes and before she realized it closed her eyes.

The next time she opened her eyes was the moment of the accident.

It was when someones bag came flying into Shizuka.

.....

The place that Shizuka received her new life was a large-scale village called Kerasamisshu surrounded by a forest and fields in Viscount Yoraizu's territory. The population exceeded 2,000 people so it might be more correct to call it a town. It's close by the second largest town in the Viscount's territory, Samisshu, and a place blessed in both location and water.

She was named Margaretto as the eldest daughter of sub-Baron Jibekkusu the lord of this village. Her nickname is Peggy. Even if you say she's the eldest daughter, above her is the eldest and second sons, so it would be difficult for her to inherit the family.

The time when she underwent the naming ceremony was later than other people, when she was close to one and a half years old. Obviously shortly after that she noticed her own Unique Ability.

【Margaretto.Jibekkusu/3/7/7429】

【Female/14/2/7428】

【Wolf-People Race.sub-Baron Jibekkusu Family Eldest Daughter】

【Special Skill: Super Sense of Smell】

【Unique Ability: Holy Hands】

(What's this?)

When she noticed it she had no clue what it was. However, since it has the name "Holy" it shouldn't be anything bad. Thinking that (Shizuka)Peggy wanted to try using that Unique Ability or whatever.

It's because she already know about the special skill. However, no matter how she tried she couldn't use it. It was around the time she turned six years old that she learned how to use her Unique Ability. She tripped when playing on the rocks by the riverside and suffered a large cut from her shin up to her knee. The children she was playing together with were stunned over injuring the lord's daughter and just went into a panic. Even Peggy almost started to panic from the pain and bleeding.

"So..Someone go and call an adult that can use healing magic!!"

The boy who was like the leader of the children said that as the other children scattered like a cloud running off towards the center of the village.

"It..It hurts.. It hurts~ Bill, it hurts.."

"Ah, Peggy..I'll wash the cut right now."

The boy brat leader called Bill collected some water from the river and used it to start washing Peggy's leg. It was a cut so deep it went through the flesh and you could almost see the bone. Even after washing it the blood just kept overflowing and the cut ended up being hidden in it again.

(It hurts it hurts it hurts. I want to quickly learn magic. Rather than that don't wash it with that water from the river that hasn't been disinfected, it's dirty.)

Peggy put her hands to the cut and clenched her teeth while enduring the pain.

"Bill, go out a bit on to that road. Even if an adult comes they might not be able to find this place."

Under the overflowing emotions, the thoughts of Shizuka the adult were running and she was able to think just a bit calmly.

Bill was a bit surprised seeing Peggy's face suddenly able to calmly decide on something but soon after ran to the road along the riverside.

Though that's the case she's six years old. She ended up feeling uneasy right away. She desperately (Calm down, you won't die over something like this) tried to calm herself down and stop the bleeding even just a bit more taking off her waist cloth and tying up her thigh with it. She has no strength so she couldn't satisfactorily tie it up but it should be better than nothing. It seems the amount of bleeding has stopped a bit from holding the cut down with her hand.

It was just then, something flashed through Peggy's head like a revelation. She put quite a bit of effort into trying to use it up

until several years ago but in the end gave up unable to use it.

(Unique Ability..【Holy Hands】)

"Ah!!"

The hand she was holding to the cut gave off a bright white light.

The amount of time it was shining was short but it was certainly shining white.

Simultaneously she also felt the pain from the cut soften just a bit.

It's far from being completely healed but the cut is certainly getting a bit smaller!

Just now it went from the shin up to the knee and was split about 15 cm even.

But, now it's definitely just a bit smaller than that!

(What? My Unique Ability is..)

After using 【Holy Hands】 once more Peggy recognized that the cut got a bit smaller again. And then, shortly after that, a chill ran down her spine as she was engulfed in overwhelming feelings of fear.

Peggy started crying and screaming in a loud voice. Even she didn't understand why but she couldn't hold back the fear towards the cut no matter what. Even while crying and screaming (Even though I was able to somehow calm down until just now..) and thought that for a moment but that was it. In any case it's scary. The thoughts that if the blood continues like this she'll die took control of her head.

Before she noticed Bill came back to her side and rocked her trying to calm her down but completely ignoring something like that she

continued to shed tears and raise her voice as much as she could.

During the several tens of minutes until an adult came running,

Bill continued trying to comfort the crying Peggy with a troubled face.

Shit!! She...

After returning last night he couldn't sleep for a short while from the humiliation.

The night passed and today because he overslept a bit he was late to start his morning deliveries and ended up chewing through the matter last night while having a late lunch.

He wasn't directly spoken badly of but you could feel her criticism from the ends of all of her words.

That girl Shizuka..!

Just because she was able to find a job at a somewhat big company after leaving college, she's looking down on me.

Even I would have made it into that level of company if my family business wasn't a liquor store and I had gone to college.

And then, around now I'd be giving it my best at some sort of big job.

She to that...

It can't be helped right.

My house is running a business.

What do you expect me the eldest son to do?

My little sister has only just entered college, what would happen if I weren't doing the job?

Of course~ the old man has only just turned 50 so he can still work plenty.

There might have been the option of gaining social experience of

doing a job for a different company while I was still young.

But, delivering alcohol is heavy labor.

Even if I don't like it there's no choice but for me to do it

right!

However, a convenience store huh...

Certainly it's just as Satoshi said you have to pay a considerable

amount in affiliation charges to the franchise headquarters.

It would be necessary to rebuild the store as well.

I'd even have to hire part-time employees.

However, what Shizuka was saying makes sense.

There's still no convenience stores in this area.

Right now is probably the only chance.

In our case, fortunately we're originally a liquor store so it's

big that we can deal in alcohol.

In a place just a bit of distance away there's one more liquor

store that's about the same size as us.

If we end up being beaten by that place..!

Ah, shit, in the end it's just as Shizuka said.

Even I understand that our business is dwindling.

Almost like an octopus eating it's legs, eventually we'll have to

start cutting into our low savings or we won't even be able to

continue business.

I just didn't have the courage.

I wanted a guarantee that it would definitely succeed.

However, something like that, I knew there was no way of getting

one.

If it's now then I still have the stamina remaining to convert to a

convenience store.

However, since last year we've been in the red even after cutting

my wages in half, right now we're in a state where we're barely

getting by after cutting mother's wages in half as well.

We've long since been in the red as a liquor store.
Even the corporate tax for countless years now we've been bringing
it forward with a blue losses.
Well, you can't say this is all just my responsibility
though.
..Shall I do it?
I'll do it as if my life depends on it.
If I'm doing it, and have decided that then I'm sure even Sato will
cooperate with me.
I'm sure he can't always continue laying around without working
either.
I'll give him a job.
Thinking that and strangely I started to feel a bit grateful to
Shizuka.
Regardless of the circumstances it was Shizuka's words that
fortified my feelings.
I'm sure even she's gone through a reasonable amount of
trouble.
Since it's a mainstream corporation I'm sure there's tons of
excellent people around her, for sure.
Even I understand what it means to be transferred to the main
office in that sort of situation.
Looking from Shizuka's point of view I'm sure she couldn't stand to
watch.
Suddenly I looked up at the clock.
The time is still just past 1:20 pm.
If I remember right Shizuka was going to her company once this
afternoon.
It's noon and not packed I'm sure so did she go to the terminal
station next to the local station to check the time for switching

over to the express train was it?
Even if I go to the local station now I won't catch up to
Shizuka.
It would be more definite to taking a car and head towards the
terminal station.
I want to say just a single word of thanks.
Since she helped me noticed the turning point in my life.
It was a mistake that I forgot to exchange phone numbers or mail
addressed but these sorts of things should be done in person rather
than through phone or mail.
I think I could speak my honest feelings right now.
Thank you.

.....

I was barely able to jump on to the last car of the express train
going to Shinjuku.
In any case I was focused on getting on the train in time so I
couldn't confirm if Shizuka was in the platform.
However, if I go towards the front car from here I should be able
to meet her.
After we passed the next station I had made it up to the front
car.
But, I was able to find Shizuka.
When I was going to call out to her she had her earphones on and
eyes closed.
It seems like she's already asleep as well.
The seat across from her was conveniently open so I sat down
there.
I wonder what kind of face she'll make and say seeing me right
across from her when she wakes up.
I'm sure, she'll say something like I don't understand a girl's

feelings quietly watching her sleeping face.

That too is fine as well.

.....

I didn't make it in time.

No matter how much I regret it's not enough.

It was an accident.

The moment I thought...ah..I was thrown from my seat.

Soon after I hit my head on something and my consciousness when

flying when I heard a cracking sound that was probably my neck

breaking.

.....

And then, when I thought I was somehow saved it seems that wasn't

the case, and I realized that around one week after the

accident.

It seems I've ended up as an example of the cycle of

reincarnation.

Not to mention it seems to be a foreign country and I can't

understand what the people around me are saying at all.

I feel like it has some English to it but somehow it seems

different as well.

After around one year passed by I was roughly able to get a grasp

on my situation.

It seems I was reborn in the something or other noble's territory

of Rombert Kingdom.

Judging from the scent of salt in the wind I can guess I'm close to

the ocean somewhere.

Normally I'm not all that intelligent but during this one year I've

somehow reached the point where I can understand what's being said,

I think.

Well, as expected if you just quietly listen for a whole year even

an idiot would remember a reasonable amount of it.
There wasn't anything else to do after all.
Just like that one such day, I found out about {Status Open}.
When my uncle or whatever from the neighboring village
coincidentally stopped by the house he stopped me while saying
{Status Open} or something and for a short while after looked in a
slightly off place from where I was.
That time I couldn't help but wondering, what is he doing?
However, one day a short while after that, there was an incident
where a considerable portion of the preserved meat they had
purchased and stored before winter went bad.
My parents made a grim face as they called the slaves(that's right,
my family was in possession of several slave families!), and wrote
some sort of characters on the ground instructing them to start
sorting through the dried meat.
My mother was acting as the supervisor there but during that time I
was being carried on a shoulder cord.
That's also why I was able to notice it.
Every time the slaves that were digging up the barrels filled with
dried meat being stored in the storehouse they would say {Status
Open} while touching the dried meat and look at a slightly
different place, then they would start comparing it with the
strange characters my parents drew on the ground.
Seeing that it came to me.
And then I wanted to test it out right away.
I mean, isn't that only obvious?
I had already secretly started practicing talking so I can at least
pronounce it.
After acting like I was getting tired my mother brought me into the

bedroom and left soon after I closed my eyes.
Just in case I waited several matches and then finally I tried
saying it as well.
Nothing happened at all.
Suddenly it all seemed stupid so I couldn't help but start laughing
but after that I quickly figured out how to use it.
And then, I tried saying it while touching myself.

"{Status Open}"

【

【Male/14/2/7428】

【Dog-People Race】

【Special Skill: Super Sense of Smell】

【Unique Ability: Overwrite 10】

What is this? Kanji? Japanese?

【Dog-People Race】

A dog, huh?

Somehow or other I knew it.

I had a tail after all.

At first I thought it was an uncivilized area where Western-looking
people lived.

There's a lot of Westerners even in Africa and I'm sure there's a
lot in Southern America as well.

I thought it was a clan of people born there with ears and tails
through some kind of genes.

However, with this it's all clear now.

It isn't even Earth, this place.

【Special Skill】

【Super Sense of Smell】

【Unique Ability】

【Overwrite 10】

I don't get this part at all.

In the first place why are just the characters here in red?

.....

I spent some time keeping an eye on things for a short while and I started to understand it.

Most things have some kind of name attached to them.

However, as far as I know I'm the only one that's nameless.

Couldn't I overwrite the name data(?) with this so-called

【Overwrite 10】?

Though the meaning of the number 10 next to it is unknown.

Since it's a skill I'm sure it should have a way of using it.

After testing it out a number of times it seems I was finally able to use it.

First off I'll try it on my clothes I guess.

Up until just now the diapers I was wearing came out as

【Underwear(Infant Use)】.

It's a diaper right, if you think about it with common sense.

Diaper, diaper, diaper..Huh? Somehow I feel really tired...

.....

It seems I feel asleep before I realized it.

There's no one in the room right now so I guess I'll try checking the result?

"{Status Open}..Oh!"

Looking at my lower body while I was still laying down and the blue window displayed **【Diaper】**.

It was just then that my mother came into the room.

"Huh? No one is around..How strange?"

And said something like that.

Hmn, I guess it would be better to be more careful when looking at status?

It would be bad if they find a problem with me talking and it seems creepy.

I had my usual meal that was like rice gruel and not very good at all.

I should obediently eat it here.
I want to quickly become alone and test things out after all.
Alright, next up is obviously my name.
I'm called Wally by my family.
That's why it's Wally.
Wally, Wally, Wally..Gya~!!

It hurts it hurts it hurts it hurts it hurts it hurts it hurts it

hurts it hurts it hurts it hurts it hurts it hurts.
It hurts like my head is being crushed!
It hurts so much I can't even let my voice out!

.....

【Wally/15/3/7429】
【Male/14/2/7428.Viscount Heimudaru Family Eldest Son】
【Dog-People Race】
【Special Skill: Super Sense of Smell】
【Unique Ability: Overwrite 9】

The pain continued for a long time that felt like an
eternity.

However, after the pain receded and I confirmed my status it
magnificently displayed my name in the top column.
Hmm. With this then even if it's seen by someone no would think I'm
nameless I'm sure.

Huh? Come to think of it when my status was looked at by my uncle
or whatever there wasn't any sort of strange uproar...

Somehow isn't this..kind of bad?
Eh? And the number has decreased!?
Why?

.....

After half a year passed and I've gradually started to understand
it.

I don't remember when it was but I met God.
Though it was in my dreams.

I was able to hear about various things.

I had predicted most of it but I was reborn in a different world from Earth.

I can't return to my old life(although, in regards to that, I had given up on it from the start, in others long in the past).

Also, it seems that Shizuka is somewhere as well.

Well, you could say this redundant though.

It's a bit late at this point after all.

It seems that the effects of the Unique Ability 【Overwrite 10】 were almost exactly as what I had guessed they were.

When I tried asking, is this perfect? and it seems that's not the case so it's not like I understand it all though.

I ended up using quite a bit of time just asking up to here.

After that I heard several things about the world and such and that was the end.

Was it a dream? and just as I woke up thinking that there was a window floating in front of me with content that seemed to be screwing around written down so I don't think it was a dream.

If it's something that a God did then I can't understand it but I can accept it by abandoning thinking about it.

I mean, it's God after all.

I'm sure it can do anything.

After that I racked my brains investigating the fine details of my ability that I couldn't find out no matter how much I asked God.

First off, the number of uses.

I don't really get why but occasionally it increases.

Recently it rarely increases.

Next up is the effective duration of 【Overwrite】.

This is something that I've figured out after using it countless

times.

As a matter of fact right now, there's addition to the display of my Unique Ability, but it's this.

【Unique Ability: Overwrite(Lv.5)5】

That sort feel. Now wouldn't it remain in effect for close to probably 100 days or so?

After all at first the effect ended after about 6 days.

I was relieved when my name disappeared without anyone noticing it.

A short while after that when it changed to level 2 the length doubled in duration to 12 days.

When it changed to 3 it doubled once again to 24 days.

It was difficult trying to count the days without anyone realizing it.

It's not like there's a calendar on the wall after all.

It was at this point that I predicted the effective duration was doubling every time the level increased.

It was 48 days when it reached level 4.

Also, the number next to the level display.

I've somehow figured out in regards to this as well.

Rarely when I use 【Overwrite】, I suffer from that pain from once upon a time.

And then the number decreases by just one.

I don't know what would happen if it reaches 0.

However, it's just somehow but I think that this number is something of a postponement.

In other words, it's the number of times remaining where "it's fine if I make a mistake".

That would mean that including the first time I used 【Overwrite】 on myself I've committed four mistakes.

I'm sure it's something like a warning in regards to using

【Overwrite】 on targets which it shouldn't normally be used on.

The time when I used it on myself, the time I used it on a bed that entered the room, when I changed the bed to "1,000,000 Yen", "Space Battleship Musashi", and after that when I tried naming something "Malt 100% Yuuhi Ultra Dry", those five times.

In all of those times the 【Overwrite】 itself succeeded.

I've understood it as a warning when I try to name living creatures or 【Overwrite】 things with names that are normally unlikely for this world.

Though I say that, things like "Liquid Crystal Television" and "Bicycle" were okay so it also feels vague whether this guess is correct.

.....

And then, the time when I was officially given my name finally came.

【Walter.Heimudaru/27/9/7429】
【Male/14/2/7428.Viscount Heimudaru Family Eldest Son】
【Dog-People Race】
【Special Skill: Super Sense of Smell】
【Unique Ability: Overwrite(Lv.7)5】

No~ I'm glad I wasn't stuck with it still as just Wally.
I had a family name as well.

Part 2

"..Yes, how's this?"

"Yeah, thanks. I'm saved thanks to you, Peggy."

The squire smiled at Peggy as she rubbed an ointment on the
bruise.

At the training place in the back of the village lord's
manor.

Once again today the sight of Peggy could be seen mixing in with
the combat training of the squires.

Of course, she's also one of the ones holding a wooden sword and
spear as well.

Right now she's 13 years old.

A short while after she first noticed her Unique Ability, she
wanted to know how much power she had so she tried testing it out
every time she had the chance. And then she quickly ended up
meeting God but she wasn't able to ask much of anything at all in
the short 2 minutes of time she had to ask questions.

It couldn't be helped so she continued testing various things out
even after that but as far as she comprehends after doing it for
six or seven years she's almost perfectly gotten a grasp on the
details of her ability {Holy.Hands}.

It's been a while since the level of the Unique Ability was
displayed as Max.

The power she understood {Holy.Hands} as having is the ability so
heal injuries.

Adding to that it seems through activating the body of the target,

it's not perfect but she can treat some diseases as well.
The effectiveness of this ability increased as the level of her

Unique Ability went up as well.
Now when it comes to injuries whether it's an external wound or a
bone fracture she can heal it close to perfect in just a single
use. It's regrettable that it still leaves a small amount of numb
pain and a scar if it was an external wound.
It's truly worthy of being called holy hands.

.....

Here we return the time back to several months after she first used
{Holy.Hands}.

For a short while after that(I'm still not used to it so this is
already my limit), and whether it be by the riverside, on roadside,
or on the side of the night soil reservoir, she falls over and goes
to sleep without picking where she does it countless times(her
family went looking for their daughter after she didn't return home
and have even thought it might be a troublesome disease) but
recently that hasn't been the case as often.

Of course, that's the result of her self-restraint. Starting from
the earliest stages she's still trying to avoid using it in front
of other people.

Obviously the supernatural power of magic exists so it's not as if
this power can be said to be unparalleled but there's no mistake
it's extremely useful.

(Ah, this is bad. Like this I'll end up stealing the job of the
healers...It's fine if in the future I use this ability to work as
a healer myself but if rumors of me circulate around to this
village or the neighboring village then..I'll end up standing out

too much. I might end up being resented.)

There she came up with a plan.

She decided to dress it up as if it was a special power granted to her by God.

For that sake, she needed to carefully ascertain the abilities of this Unique Ability.

During that time Peggy was six years old.

Her {Holy.Hands} had only just reached level 4.

(Speaking of level 4 it's the level said to be plenty full-fledged as a magician right..I've heard that even among adventurers{Vasataira} normally magicians only reach level 4 past their 30s. Then it should be fine to think that my Unique Ability has the power to be full-fledged as well right.)

Since it showed the effects of healing on the first injury by the riverside, she's already confirmed that it has an effect regardless of the degree of the injury. Even though she had a cut that large it was just a bit but it had the effect of healing it. Since it's reached level 4 now then the effect it has should be even greater right?

Thinking that she decided to cause a serious injury to herself and was going to go all out in stabbing herself in the thigh with a knife.

Carefully, she tried to stab into an area where she didn't think there were any major arteries.

However, she couldn't bring herself to do it.

It's also because she was simply afraid but there was also a lot of fear towards the pain and bleeding she knew would occur.

After all not even one month had passed since she suffered that major cut which was so frightening she ended up losing control of

herself.

Up until now she's just scraped her kneecap on a rugged rock causing small scrapes that didn't hurt much and tested her Unique Ability on those. Since a portion of her mentality is already on the same level as an adult, scrapes of that level are nothing at all. But, stabbing herself with a knife is something completely different.

In the end, she couldn't stab herself in the thigh with a knife.

Her plan to come out about {Holy.Hands} ended up being setback.

.....

After that for a short while Peggy continued to use {Holy.Hands} in secret.

And then, one winter day when several months had passed. In the middle of combat training her oldest brother suffered a serious injury. During training, or rather it was normally after training was over, after all of the squires returned to their houses, he remained being training by their father and grandfather. Peggy was playing with her second older brother digging up an ant's nest nearby after he had finished swinging the sword.

Peggy was still about to turn seven years old so she hasn't participated in the training itself yet but since the start of the year she was told to stay nearby when they were training to watch it. This time is normally after the normal training time is over so she doesn't have to watch and just the same for her second older brother who had finished his swinging there was no need for him to stay either so they were just playing together.

"Ah!!!"

Her father shouted in a loud voice.

Before that voice echoed out Peggy had been keeping an eye on her father and grandfathers training just in case it could be of reference to her.

Partway through her father and grandfathers rule based training using real spears, the spearhead of her grandfathers spear came off when her father parried it and it stabbed into the face of her eldest brother who was doing form training nearby!

Her father and grandfather shouted her eldest brother's name as they ran over and her second brother just watched that not understanding what happened. And then, Peggy saw the series of event from start to finish.

Isn't this precisely the time to use that {Holy.Hands}?

Peggy hesitated.

From her standpoint in this dangerous Orth where you never know what might happen from here on out {Holy.Hands} is her one reliable trump card.

However, she only hesitated for a moment.

She ran over at full speed slipping through her surprised grandfather's side and as her father was carefully trying to pull the spearhead out, she casually grabbed it from the side, took it out, and threw it away before putting her hand to her older brother's wound.

Her hand gave off a white light as the wound of her oldest brother gradually closed.

It already was gone leaving just a small bit of traces remaining and she had healed it to point where even if you look closely at it

you would just think, "An old scar from quite a while back?" This surprised not just her oldest brother himself but her father and grandfather who were watching on the spot as if they were going to fall over backwards. When she was asked "Is that magic?" Peggy shook her head.

(I moved spontaneously..But, it's better than older brother dying right..Ah, that's right. The thing I thought up a while back..)

Peggy explained to her family that this {Holy.Hands} was "A strange power she was given by a God that appeared in her dream". In order to get them to believe it for a short while she used her ability to it's limit and her family accepted it. However, after one week passed from the previous day she said, "God will only lend me the power when these hands are really needed.", "God will only show it's miracles when someone has clearly suffered a serious injury and their life is in danger."

Additionally she properly added on, "If we boast about it or brag that there's a special person in the family this we'll suffer divine punishment. The divine punishment will probably take place through a number of events that befall this land." as well.

She thought it would be effective on this Orth where civilization hasn't developed far and there's a wide variety of superstitions passed around.

In regards to this at that time, just when her second brother was about to try and secretly brag to his close friend about Peggy, coincidentally there was thunder from the distance so he really ended up believing in it. As a matter of fact it's also related to

the fact that the other members of her family doubted her words as well. Even Peggy was grateful for the coincidence that seemed to come at almost too perfect of a timing.

In any case, thanks to the power of God which she could actually manifest and the lightning they felt was the omen of divine punishment, from that moment on Peggy's treatment from her family changed.

In the first place, she seemed mature for her age but after she opened up about {Holy.Hands} she received treatment that wouldn't be expected for the youngest child and eldest daughter.

And then, the months and days passed.

Both her oldest and second brother entered the regional knight group of Viscount Yoraizu on the spring of their 14th birthdays, a few years ago, and three years after entering her oldest brother received investiture as a true knight.

It's been two years since her second brother entered but he still can't see the promotion to a true knight yet.

Viscount Yoraizu's territory is a land that has a lot of 10 meter or greater hills deeply covered in trees and there's few consecutive plains. Obviously it's not very wealthy and the equipment of the knight group are lackluster and new recruits have to prepare their own spear, sword, and armor. The equipment for both the oldest and second son was a heavy burden on the family of sub-Baron Jibekkusu. Since Peggy was against becoming something like a soldier she already said she had no intention of taking the exam to enter the knight group. Nevertheless, since it's still a land where monsters are wandering around, she thought continuing

with her training and learning to defend herself at the bare minimum was necessary.

From her point of view she knew that if she made use of her Unique Ability she'd never be troubled living from here on so and that was the biggest reason she didn't want to enter the knight group, so she explained that to her parents as well. If that's what their daughter who was blessed with a useful but troublesome power wants then her parents wouldn't be against it. Though they couldn't deny that deep in their hearts they felt some fear towards their daughter as well.

Since Peggy herself was sensitive towards those sorts of feelings of her parents, she wasn't bothered by it because after she was able to build up some confidence in her ability to support herself, she intended to go to a slightly larger town and adequately speak the words of God again.

Also, in regards to {Holy.Hands} since it healed skin diseases to some extent along with the injuries of her family while they were doing combat training, she had guessed that it was effective against some kinds of diseases as well but when her grandfather suffered a serious injury when trying to soothe a rampaging war horse that was stung by an insect, she was shocked noticing how he vaguely started to grow hair again even though he was going bald before she healed him.

Through carefully confirming the effects, she found out that it heals light diseases at the same time. It was around this period that Peggy started to guess whether (could it be that I can turn back time of the person I'm touching just a bit?) as well.

However, after testing it out on various examples in front of her, as expected she had to abandon that sort of unbelievable idea. For example those complaining of serious stomach aches that suddenly start up and you can tell it's a serious disease from how they're rolling about, also diseases people are born with. For example tetanus which even healing spells can't treat after the symptoms have reached a certain stage. For example putting aside the initial symptoms but just like with normal healing spells it only has a soothing ability towards the heavily contagious disease

Variola.

Seeing her family and the people of the village cringe in fear every time there was thunder in the distance she felt sorry but if she just gravely whisper something like "It seems someone was thinking lightly of it" then everyone would tense up.

The clincher was an incident when one of the caravan of merchants that very rarely comes to the village was attacked and eaten by monsters on their way to the next village after leaving their village.

If you were to say incidents like these are unusual then that's true but they're something that occur somewhere in the Viscount's territory at least once a year. However, after finding out about that incident one of the squires came to the lord's manor and confessed with a pale face that they had unintentionally talked about Peggy to that merchant.

Hearing that her father the Lord went pale and gave the squire a punishment of two lashes with a whip.

It was then that Peggy thought she screwed up.

She thought that it was her fault that an innocent squire didn't just feel more guilt than they should but even ended up getting whipped. She felt sorry towards the squire but she also felt sorry towards her father who had to perform the punishment. (It would have been better if I just remained quiet..No matter what happened after I healed older brother..Hmn, it can't be helped. If I hadn't said it at that time I really don't know what would have happened..but..)

While feeling ashamed of herself she thought it was already too late at this point.

.....

And then we return to the time when Peggy was 13 years and old and treating a squire.

"Dear! Could you come here!?"

Her mother called out for her father from the house.

After Peggy finished treating the squire she picked up the wooden spear and started training once again.

Close to evening that night, they had a guest at the Lord's manor.

The reason her mother called out three hours ago was an advance notice had come announcing the visit of that guest and they wanted to arrange for lodging.

Peggy guessed that she needed to greet the guest as well.

The guests were a Viscount family that came from the south and the head that is the Viscount along with his son are lodging in their house while their escorts are staying with the squires.

Compared to merchants it's unusual for a noble to be a guest but it happens 2-3 times a year.

They have a guest room prepared in their house for those sorts of

guests.

It seems that the Viscount family that is their guests are of the

Dog-People race. She's also a Wolf-People race so somehow compared to other races she feels a bit of familiarity with the Dog-People race.

When she greeted them she strongly felt something was off seeing the face of the child.

Nostalgic, a face with strong Asian features remaining, black hair, black eyes.

Also, it was a face she somehow thought looked familiar.

Though she couldn't remember where she had seen it.

The other child made a slightly surprised face as well.

"What is it? Wally. Were you charmed by his excellency the sub-Baron's daughter?"

When the Viscount teased his son, the son's face turned red as he denied it.

Even Peggy was a bit charmed by the son so she quickly tried to change her thoughts as well.

Of course, it doesn't need to be said but it's not like they're were charmed because they were interested in each others looks.

.....

During the time until dinner Peggy twisted her head trying to think how she could be alone to talk with him in a natural way.

When they were having dinner together with the guests, Peggy decided to go all out and take action.

First off is a sign.

She tried sending meaningful glances every chance she could but the boy called Wally didn't react to any of them. Even though she kept

glancing at him in meaningful ways so she could talk to him without being suspicious Peggy was suspicious of how slow the boy was.

(Huh? I wonder if he's not a Japanese person...)

Thinking that and he started to look even more like a Japanese person.

Since it couldn't be she decided to go with the final method. When the maid was carrying out tea she said she would do it and intentionally spilled some tea when she was pouring it into the boy's cup.

"I'm sorry! Did you get burnt!?"

In a hurry Peggy apologized and took out a handkerchief she had prepared to wipe up the tea.

On a corner of that handkerchief she had written a memo in charcoal. The memo said "Midnight, vacant lot 100 meters from the back of the house" in Japanese.

"No, it's nothing significant, please don't worry about it."

In reality, it wasn't anything significant.

The boy named Wally gently took the handkerchief Peggy was going to wipe his leg with and with polite gestures wiped the tea while glancing at the handkerchief for a short period and seemed to be reading the details. And then, he quickly took a handkerchief from his own pocket before folding it up in the one Peggy gave him and giving it back.

Peggy assumed that meant he accepted it.

After dinner, when Peggy was alone she opened up her handkerchief.

It was written in Japanese on the handkerchief wrapped up in her own, "After midnight, I want you to teach me a place we won't be

seen."

She felt a new door of fate had opened.

One day after turning 13 years old a letter arrived from his older sister who had already received investiture as a knight in Viscount Yoraizu's knight group. The letter was left in the care of a merchant and it arrived close to three weeks(18 days) after it was written.

Reading the letter his father made a slightly pleased face.

However, soon after he started thinking about something and discussed it with mother but the next day he said several squires and I would be accompanying him to the capital of the Viscount's territory Zarakkusu. It seems the objective is to go and pick up sister who received investiture as a true knight. It was my first time leaving the village so I was a bit excited. I'm still a brat~

Zarakkusu is considerably far to the North from this

Masumocchi village and the roads aren't properly maintained so even pushing along a carriage and hurrying quite a bit it seems it'll take close to a full four days for one-way. Since it's not like we're in a hurry it seems we'll take it slow over one week this time.

Shaking in the carriage and occasionally riding behind father

on the horse as we crossed the hills, valleys, and proceeded through the great nature. There's a thick overgrowth of 4-5 meter tall trees in this area and it's quite a bit worst than even the remote mountain roads of my previous life.

Along the way, we had lunch by the roadside and I had them draw a simple map for me of this area up to the capital Zarakkusu on the ground as we moved down the road.

[Map](#)

The pink mark on the bottom left is Masumocchi Village and the red mark on the top right is our objective Zarakkusu. The blue marks scattered along the way are different towns(Of course it's not all of them. The mid-size Winro village in the Northwest of Masumocchi Village isn't marked down. It just has the other towns marked with a reasonable population other than Masumocchi Village).

The black line below Masumocchi village is the coastal line and the brown mountains are the mountainous area going up to Board Mountain. There's almost no flatland where there's nothing marked and it's just small hills up to ones over 10 meters in size all over the place. It feels pretty similar to the Chocolate Hills somewhere in the Philippines I saw on television in my past life.

Right to the West from this map is a large peninsula called the Jindaru Peninsula and it's a territory Marquis Webdos rules over, on the other side of the mountains of the map, to the Northwest, supposedly North of that is where Viscount Pendlaid's territory stretches out. In the East is Royal Territory and of all things some sort of Count that even father doesn't know the name of acts as governor ruling over the Western Dirt region. North of that, it would be Northeast on this map is the Western Kandeiru region which also has another governor ruling it.

Come to think of it, it's the first time I had them draw me a map. Up until now rather than worrying about things outside of the village, I've been ordered by father to record the harvest amounts for crops this season, gather the taxes from the farm families, helping out the slave fisherman with unloading, checking if the fishing tackle has properly been repaired, overseeing the production of smoked and dried foods, and then there's also the obligation of a noble lord's family to train with the spear and sword so I've been worn out everyday and didn't have the energy to do something like that.

Really you know, when all these jobs come surging in one after another and something like what's outside of the village don't matter at all, or at least's how I felt. If you were to ask me I'd like for sister to just quickly find a husband and come back. Two years ago that sister turned 15 years old and entered the Viscount Yoraizu knight group. It was about the time she should have received investiture as a knight so this time it's really something to be happy about.

And then one evening while slowly taking our time traveling over a week, just to the South of Zarakkusu, we arrived at a village called Kerusamisshu. Since we sent an advance notice ahead of time requesting lodging we were able to stay at the sub-Baron lord's manor without any major problem.

.....

The time is midnight. The two moons of Karutari and Neitari were floating in the night sky and it was just a bit bright out from the moonlight.

I started towards the vacant land a bit of distance from the Lord's manor which the sub-Baron's daughter Margaretto specified.

I felt like I had seen her somewhere before so there was something that was bothering me about it as well.

Margaretto was hiding at the edge of the vacant land waiting for me.

In a whisper she quickly said "Come over here" and dragged me out to the edge of the village.

Kerusamisshu is a large village(It already might more appropriate to call it a town), so we moved along vacant land some amount of distance from the peoples houses.

"If it's here then we can relax and talk. You're a Japanese person too right?"

"Yeah, it's the same for you too right?"

We introduced ourselves once again.

"I'll say it once more. I'm Margaretto.Jibekkusu. Everyone calls me Peggy."

"I'm Walter.Heimudaru. It's fine if you call me Wally."

After that checked each others status.

"Oh? I guess you can't see Unique Abilities even among Japanese people."

"That seems to be the case. Peggy, what's your Unique Ability?"

After asking her that she made an expression like thinking about it for a bit and before sighing once said, "{Holy.Hands}. It can heal injuries almost like magic" while looking me in the eyes. Healing injuries, that considerably amazing, but this person, I

guess she won't say anything about the ability level huh? Then it should already be at Max but it's the same for me as well...

"Mine is called {Overwrite}. It's something like naming {Named} and it can attach names to things. There's things which are no good like living creatures and there's a time limit to it as well though. Though, I say that, now I think it won't disappear over a period of years."

Hearing that she made a face in admiration for a moment like "Hm~n" and then immediately made fun of it with "It's plain on top of not being very useful." It's certainly plain so it didn't make me angry. However, it's an unpleasant feeling even though it's out first time meeting. I feel like it's a good thing I didn't say everything. Well, there's a limit to what I'm hiding about it either way.

After that we each discussed our origins and discussed our plans from here on out.

It seems Peggy has confidence that she won't have any trouble living or eating if she makes good use of her Unique Ability and in the future she wants to live a large town like Zarakkusu. Since my Unique Ability is "plain and not usefull" I never deeply thought about it. At most, I thought that if I buy some silver bars and manufacture them into an appropriate shape I wouldn't be troubled if I use {Overwrite} to rename them "Silver Coin".

That's right, that was several years in the past. It was after my Unique Ability reached Max level and I was getting bored of {Overwrite}, by chance I saw father using {Status Open} on the

Silver Shu he was going to pay for construction work. Since I was interested in it I asked father and had him let me check the status of Silver Shu as well and,

Silver Shu {Silver Rectangle}

is how it appeared. After that, I nervously tried using

{Overwrite} on a piece of wood to change it to "Silver Coin" and I was able to do it without a problem. I danced in joy to myself at that moment. For a short while after that I resolved myself for that pain to occur again as I started testing out various things with {Overwrite} once more.

As a result I realized I could use {Overwrite} to change

anything to read "Silver Coin" and "Silver Shu". Just this is something I can't tell anyone about no matter what. I'm sure it'll take a reasonable amount of funds to buy the silver bars and the tools to manufacture them but one day I'll become a billion.

Though before that I need to save up some small change. Also,

in regards to the work room I make in the future I need it to be absolute secret even from my family so I'm sure that will be difficult.

I sent Peggy a lukewarm glance as she made fun of my Unique

Ability and thought that her face was one I've seen before but couldn't remember it. She was looking at me with a lukewarm glance as well. Well, with the features of a Japanese person remaining I'm sure anyone would feel they've seen each other somewhere before.

"Hey, haven't we met somewhere before? My previous name

was.."

.....

In the first place I had intended to leave Masumocchi Village
in the future.

Shizuka, I mean, Peggy intended to leave Kerusamisshu Village
in the future as well.

Since we both have experience being born and raised in the
vicinity of a large city in Japan we didn't want to get involved
with something like farming or fishing. We didn't have any
insistence on this sort of territory in a remote land to the point
of trying to get our older brothers or sisters
disinherited.

The two of us came up with various ideas.

Several of them ended up being rejected and we decided on
several of them as being worth adopting.

"Then in that case isn't it like I'm your
servant?"

"That can't be helped right? But, we're sharing lots in life
together right."

"Sharing lots in life..Well, I understand that it can't be
helped though."

"But, if it goes well then I think we'll be in a delicious
situation~"

"Certainly that's true. And don't say it arrogantly. Wasn't
it my idea?"

"Don't mind it~ That is that right."

"Do you really get it? Things will be difficult at the start
you know?"

"Nn~ I don't think that will be the case

though."

"I wonder about that?"

"It won't."

"Chi..You haven't changed..Hey, Shizuka, I mean,

Peggy"

"What is it?"

"..Well it's fine. Wait around two years. I'll come to meet

you after becoming an adult."

"..Yeah. I'm waiting. This time.."

"Ah?"

"Fufu, it's a secret."

The time was just about close to dawn.

We need to go back.

Today will be harsh since I haven't slept.

Other than the light from the moon it's pitch black as Peggy

and I returned to the house together.

Before I realized it Peggy had held my hand.

Author's note: Masumocchi Village is barely along the southern

coast of Yoraizu territory and Kerusamisshu Village is close to the

top of the territory with almost 100 km in distance straight

between them. Kerusamisshu Village isn't drawn on the author's

dirty map this time. Furthermore, this map is inaccurate.

The capital Zarakkusu was started up as far away from the Dirt

Plains where there's frequent battles as possible and is still a

considerably developing(200 years or so of history)

town.

Chapter 284: Not For Their Sake

The title is 人の為ならず a part of the saying "Mercy/Pity is not for the sake of the people." There's also a saying near the end 驕れる者は久しからずや、盛者必衰か。 , I honestly have no clue how to translate that something about arrogance and prosperity from some book, but it's meaning is supposedly similar to "all worldly things are transient".

Year 7447, Month 2, Day 7

The fifth day since we entered the dungeon.

We're testing out firing the net gun against the bosses of monster rooms on the 8th and 9th floors.

It's the boring job of going over and solving the small problems that surfaced after actually trying to use it.

In regards to the gaps between the nets just as initially expected at 25 cm, quite a bit larger than a soccer goal, it was plenty in terms of size. However, we also learned that it would be best to increase the number of fish-hook like needles attached to there as well. Also, there was a bit of a trick needed in how the net was folded. We ended up failing a good number of times.

And then, in regards to the gun itself the largest problem we predicted was the weight of it but after all that ended up being a problem. After all the weight of a single piece is close to 10kg. It's a gun which I essentially forced a two piece gun into one piece and I ended up making the chamber pretty thick as well so it

can't be helped.

I thought of having Bel use it but even with her high Strength value it was difficult to maintain a shooting posture for long periods. Though I say that, there was no problem for short periods of time so there's no other choice than for her to endure it. When it comes to transportation we have Zulu when he's around and if he's not then it's just a matter of Toris gasping for air. However, after all it's difficult to place any trust in the various status values that can be seen with {Identify} themselves.

Of course they're useful as somewhat of an indicator and just as is shown (It doesn't even need to be mentioned that her proportions are good just like the average female Bunnyman race but compared to the time when we first met her she's developed some decent muscles. Every time I touch her limbs and body to heal wounds I end up vaguely conflicted over the muscles I can feel under the fat layer. Even Miduchi has ripped abs.) Bel is reasonably strong in terms of power.

Other than running she also does strength training a bit. Also, it doesn't even need to be said but she's an adventurer, she doesn't slack off in training with the bow or sword so let alone a normal girl, she can move considerably fast even among adventurers. I'm just repeating myself but even her strength is quite superior. Even if it's not as high as the value shows..Even if it's doesn't reach the point of the Strength value, it's fine to say she's built up quite a bit of power.

If she were to arm wrestle against a random mob that hasn't done any decent training I don't think she would lose. However, I still

think father from when I was a child has more power than Bel and Miduchi. Bel's current {Strength} is 24. It's about the same value as father's Strength when I was a kid but no matter how favorably I look at it, I can't help but think that father's strength was greater. Just the same because of the problem of level while Giberuti has the lowest Strength value out of all of us but I guess because he's always carrying things, he can display the greatest strength among the {Slaughterers} when it comes to carrying heavy things. Though that's excluding me.

Most likely, the various status values that can be seen with {Identify} are the upper limit of "you can train up to this value".

Well, it can't be helped since it was bothering me but there's no point in thinking about status values anymore than this, and above all else right now we're in the middle of testing the gun.

"I've already more or less gotten a feel for it. I'm pretty sure I can definitely entangle 5 or so of the Minotaur from the group at a distance of about 30-40 meters. Shall we go?"

The average size of the boss rooms are about 50 meters per wall in a square shape so it's difficult to do tests based on the assumed distance. It's not completely impossible if we fire it from the hall outside of the room but there's no guarantee that the monsters will all be grouped together after all. Well, it's possible to confirm how the net spreads out as it flies so that's still plenty for the test.

"Alright, let's go and try it. It's already late afternoon today so let's just do some decent earning for today and go to the center

tomorrow."

After resolving on that and making my declaration I went back to guarding one of the halls while Ralph, Gwine, and Basutal gathered the magic stones in the edge of my sight. This time Zulu and Angela are each leading the {Butchers} and {Exterminators}. There's only 8 of us but as long as those strong minos aren't mixed in there's no problem.

Even if they are mixed in I'm sure we'll be fine as long as we can restrain their actions and even if they don't get caught in the net as long as we can all team up against it I'm sure we can win.

.....

Year 7447, Month 2, Day 8

"Then, everyone, just as we planned. I'm going to confirm things once more. We'll advance just like this then after the Minotaurs have noticed us and are 30 meters away Bel will shoot the net."

Bel nodded while releasing the chamber and loading the blank cartridge. The rod with the net attached to it still isn't in the muzzle. It weighs a decent amount so Basutal is carrying it. We'll be taking it out now before carefully folding it with everyone and then loading it.

"Immediately after that Bel will change equipment to the bow.

Miduchi will be guarding Bel. Miduchi, while you're guardian shoot as many arrows as you can."

Miduchi takes the important role of support plus guarding. In the worst case if Bel's net can't entangle a bunch of the Minotaur, if she doesn't have a bow then the degree of danger would greatly increase.

"Everyone else will charge in together with me. It's expected that 7 of the Minotaur will have respawned. We'll split up into two groups, Toris, Basutorial, and I will go from the right. Zenom, Ralpha, and Gwine will go from the left. The first targets are the ones that don't end up captured in the net. We'll finish off the ones captured in the net after the first targets are annihilated. Alright?"

After confirming everyone nodded, we immediately lowered the net from Basutorial's back and after attaching the edges of it to the launching platform of the rod made from rarukku branches, we folded up the net like a hairpin. The trick to it is folding the edges a bit tight while the center is wide. In order for the hooks to not get caught it's necessary to do it carefully. Furthermore, in order for the stitches with the hooks attached to them to not interfere with each other, for the horizontal lines excluding the ones going up and down I made them all slightly slanted.

We finished up our preparations and started advancing.

It's the formation {Arrowhead.One} with Zenom and I at the lead.

Basutorial and Toris are behind me on the right while Ralpha and Gwine are behind Zenom on the left, then Bel and Miduchi are behind Zenom and I.

And then, at last we're facing off against the Minotaurs.

The 7 Minotaur let out a war cry before furiously charging at us

when the net gun Bel was aiming at the one in the center suddenly spit out flames along with a loud roar.

Out of the Minotaurs that were scattered as they charged ahead the net entangled the 5 in the center.

It worked!

The fish hooks that were attached to the net dug into the almost naked skin of the minos and the more they struggled the more other hooks would dig into them. They were trying to swing the axes in their hands but it's not that easy to cut a net made from wire. Not just that but as they pulled the net it caused the hooks to eat further into the skin of the other mino. I thought it would be plenty if it could last 30 seconds or so but judging from this it seems it will last over 1 minute. A happy miscalculation.

I smiled to myself while charging at the mino on the right end with my bayonet at the ready.

I dodged the partizan that thrust at me with a growl at the last minute and after diving in towards the mino thrust my bayonet deeply into its open flank before prying it to the side and slicing through the back as I ran past just like that.

"Gooe!!!"

The mino let out a shout in pain just as Toris shout "Emeron!" while cutting at it, followed by Basutorial making a wide thrust towards its heart.

The cooking finished in no time at all.

After stabbing the slowed mino entangled by the net like crazy with my bayonet, just look, we've already finished them all off.

"After actually trying it was a huge success."

"Mm. If it's this then we can safely defeat them. Now we can relax and come here anytime we want."

Zenom replied to my words as he wiped the blood of the head of his axe.

"But, collecting the net seems like it's going to be a

pain.."

"They rolled around in a showy way after all."

"It seems to be torn a bit. They have quite a bit of power."

Ralpa, Gwine, and Miduchi said while observing the mino that died still entangled in the net.

Certainly they're in a pretty bad condition on this end. There was one that tried to tear the net alone with the hooks embedded in it's body and ones with small wounds all over it's body. A portion of the net is all messed up and entangled, certainly like this it'll take a lot of work to be able to use it again. Since we tested it against trolls and such I could already imagine it but as expected when it comes to entangling 5 at once maybe it would be best to give up on the net..No wait, it was pretty troublesome just to make this in the first place.

"Sorry but I want to recover as much as possible to reuse it. It was pretty troublesome making this.."

"It should be a bit easier if we use Ral's bracelet to change the corpses of the Minotaur to water all at once."

Bel said with a satisfied smile. I see.

"Certainly that's true..Then I guess taking the magic stones out of them comes first."

Basutral took out his large knife for gathering magic stones and approached one of the Minotaur on the edge before cutting through the net to it's chest. Seeing that the other members all took out their knives and started the work as well.

In the end it took all 8 of us close to 30 minutes to properly stretch the net out after changing the corpses to water and then fold it. Well, just this amount of time should be fine. Having to

repair a portion of it that was cut can't be helped.

.....

Year 7447, Month 2, Day 9

The first day of our three days off, after finishing our combined training in the morning I was discussing our recent plans while eating with everyone.

"In regards to the next time we enter the dungeon, but we {Slaughterers} will spend over 2 weeks, or if possible this entire month inside the dungeon. Since I want to make it so we can somewhat safely reach the 10th floor by the replacement match in April. During that time, Zenom will go to the {Butchers} and to the {Exterminators} will be.."

"Yes~yes! I'll go!"

"Nn~then Ralpha, you."

I'm sure it's just because Ralpha is bored from endlessly fighting against the mino while we're in the dungeon. Though everyone is sick of it including me...

Even though I finished the net gun, recovering the net and fixing it to a condition that can be used again is a pain so if possible I don't want to do it. Also, it's easier than using the net gun to just sneak attack them from behind the moment they show signs of respawning, and safer. That's why we're going to camp out in the teleport crystal room of the 9th floor but in order to use magic there we have to move quite a bit of distance, and as a realistic problem, just thinking about camping in the dungeon for a long time is extremely depressing. Of course, as a change of pace we intend on going to the 10th floor or monster rooms on the 9th floor between respawns though even then.

Even that gun I don't think I can say it's perfect. Above all if you miss there's nothing more you can do after that. Though I say that, since it's shooting a net which is a considerable size there's no way to rapid-fire it. Even when it comes to a spare I would have to make once more net. Furthermore there's still plenty of places with room for improvements so it's necessary to continue with various tests. If you move more than 500 meters away from the center of the room on the 9th floor then you can use magic so there's no choice other than to do it there.

"The {Butchers} and {Exterminators} should enter the dungeon the same as usual starting from the 12th. Since the {Slaughterers} have to secure consumables and food as well we'll enter the dungeon one day later on the 13th. I'll make preparations for the {Slaughterers} consumables for after the first week so we're depending on everyone from the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} to transport them to the teleport room on the 6th floor."

After confirming everyone understood, I continued talking.

"If there's anything you need to get into contact with us about or any worst case occurrences then leave a letter inside of that one pot in the teleport room on the 6th floor. I'll contact you about our plans and such through that as well."

I said that before ending things.

Of course, I intend to have Miduchi using {Party-ization} over and over again this time. We can only get in contact through Miduchi but in the case that anything happens when we're split up it's hard to give up on such a convenient method of immediately contacting the other members. Thanks to that every time we enter the dungeon

Miduchi's always got her Unique Ability running so {Party-ization} is still only level 8(Reusing the ability to extend the duration of the effect doesn't earn any experience for the ability. Also, even when it comes to using it consecutively, she doesn't earn any experience unless there's an interval of over 1 hour between uses).

Though she's only 500 experience from reaching Max with it so if we assume she can earn 20 experience a day for it then it's possible to level up in less than two months. Because of magic training and such it's easy to forget about so she's only done it at those times. After we finish exploring the dungeon this time and things have calmed down it might not be bad to use the {Cantrip} {Reservation} or void magic and take time to get her to use it. The bonus to experience points and proficiency levels is appealing after all.

We all moved together on our way towards the center of Baldukku before splitting up into small groups. I started on my way towards the food shop together with Giberuti. After ordering and paying the money I need to go to the capital once with Miduchi to show my face in the company and give out the necessary instructions. After finishing up the instructions and office work tomorrow, we'll return to Baldukk with some Baldoggie, then I need to check if there was anything missing from the orders of consumables and have Giberuti confirm and receive them...

.....

"Oh, it's been a while right."

When Giberuti and I arrived at the food shop the leader of

{Black.Topaz}, Anderson, was there. Come to think of it, this sis was selling my information to the King along with Viruhaima from the {Verdure.Brotherhood} right...It's not really a reason to criticize them but it's not a very pleasant feeling either.

"Yeah, hello there. Hey, old man, I've got an order."

For the time being I made a sociable smile before a light bow and passed by Anderson's side to talk to the old man of the store. It seems that Anderson's follower Kaku came along with her and the two of them just kept talking about something without minding me as I passed by them. Originally they never used things like combat slaves or porters, so they must buy their consumables on their own as well.

After being half-destroyed and losing 3 of their members the current {Black.Topaz} is at best a half first-rate adventurer party. I've heard that they were recently recruiting members but it seems that there was no one who met sis Anderson's standards so they ended it after just pulling a magician out from the second-rate party {Prime Rose}. 驕れる者は久しからずや、盛者必衰か。I feel a bit sorry for them as well.

"Greed-kun, do you have a moment?"

After finishing up our orders, I was called out to as we were about to leave the store.

"What is it?"

"It's difficult to talk about here. I want to enter some place and talk."

Umm you know, I'm busy. I need to go to the capital after this. I have no time to be talking about recent events with you all.

"Well, I don't think you'll lose anything from hearing it. You went

to the trouble of coming to Gary, Rotto, and Marin's funeral after all."

About what?

"It's about my little sisters."

Anderson suddenly whispered in a low voice.

"Giberuti, tell Miduchi that I'll be a bit late."

Chapter 285: Work

Year 7447, Month 2, Day 9

Invited by Anderson the two of us entered a random restaurant. We sat down across from each other at a table in the back of the place and the two of us ordered some tea. Until our drinks came out we killed time by discussing things that happened in Balduku when she wasn't around.

"And then, what was it about your little sisters?"

After taking a sip of bean tea I asked Anderson. This "little

sister" isn't a little sister of the Viscount Anderson family. I'm sure it's the little sister from a different mother with just the same father. Yorire-sama, the daughter of Baron Refaisu flashed through my mind. Come to think of it, they may sort of resemble each other.

"You already know my real father right? Then that's fine. Then you should already know that I have 13 younger brothers and sisters over 8 years younger than me."

8 legitimate children.

Richard of the Prince Ronbarudo territory who's 25 years old and the eldest son of her highness Molail is at the top and at the bottom is the youngest son her highness Marinen gave birth to who should have just turned 8 years old last summer. I knew about it since I heard from Rodrick. If I remember correctly excluding the ones that started to appear in mass a few years back that child should be the youngest.

Other than that, there's 5 illegitimate children that are

known.

These ones are just the comparatively older children.

Misseru.Beirun who was executed two years back should have been somewhere in the middle. If he was still alive then it'd be 6 of them.

After confirming that I nodded Anderson continued talking.

"Among them there's only one child that I was acquainted with. Ah, the other children shouldn't know about my existence. Eh? I can't say that. But, I'll just tell you this."

After taking a sip of tea to wet her throat Anderson continued in a lower voice.

"Though I just found out about it last year. It seems they've already started moving so there should have been movements on your end as well right Greed-kun? That child never told me the reason either so I don't know everything but of the illegitimate children just the females, three of them were made to enter the knight group several years ago."

Ah, I've heard about that before...

"It seems they're being worked hard by the knight group but what's strange is it even exceeds the hedges of the knight group and they're even being taught by the eldest son. It seems the content is limited to combat training against small groups."

He~ I guess that means his highness Richard is also a bit involved in it.

Ah, the thing the King and them were talking about last summer, so it was this? He confirmed if the training was being done properly...

However, it seems it'd be best to avoid mentioning any names.

"That face says you knew about it. Then I'll stop the talk here already. It doesn't seem it's necessary to say everything after all...A considerable bait may have been thrown before my three little sisters..whether that's the case or not as expected I don't know but whatever the case it seems they're being trained pretty hard."

That does seem to be the case. Though the only one who directly showed their face to me was the middle one Yorire-ojosama. Of Anderson's little sisters that are illegitimate children, from the oldest there's Noirura.Jibekuto, 22 years old. The middle child Yorire.Refaisu, 19 years old. And the youngest daughter Mimairu.Fokein, 16 years old. They're each 3 years apart in age. Even when it comes to the oldest one Noirura, she's only 4, no, 3 years different from me in another few days so you could say there's no problem in terms of age difference.

However, they're being pushed pretty hard, huh?

After all...

Last summer, after talking with Yorire-ojosama I tried investigating it a bit but I couldn't find out that much. I could only investigate the things on the surface. Though I was able to guess it to some extent, the only basis I had was the short conversation from that time. Well, I guess I'll try asking a bit huh?

"How are things from your opinion Anderson-san? Out of the three of them, which one receives the deepest affection from your father?"

Since it seems like she originally intended to say various things,

it should be fine if I ask from my end as well.
Anderson looked me in the eyes before lightly smiling and
said.

"The one with green eyes."

Gu..I have no clue. I didn't investigate as far as hair or eye
color. Yorire-ojosama's eye color was..What was it again? I feel
like it might have been green as well but I can't remember...

"Her hair color is..blue."

Anderson said it with a bit of a grin.

Ku...I don't know that either. But, I think it should be fine to
exclude Yorire-ojosama right? She had blue hair the last time we
met but I think she mentioned that she was dying it to match up to
my interests.

Rather~ this sis, she's enjoying herself knowing that I don't know
their hair or eye color.

"Really~ don't make that sort of face. It's the youngest child. I
was a bit acquainted with her mother in the past..That old
man..with Farun-san who's only 4 years apart from me..Shit."

Hmn. I'll pretend not to have heard the latter part.

However, I guess that means the time when she was in the second
knight group?

Sis Anderson is 34 years old this year.

If I remember correctly I heard she entered the second knight group
at the same time as she reached adulthood.

If she has a child that's 16 now then going from the ages I think
it would be around then.

I properly heard those words.

"And, what I wanted to talk about today wasn't something like that.

Well it is related though."

Yes?

"Greed-kun, what in the world did you do? Even if my father is..umm.. Even if you were an excellent adventurer that has quite literally made an unbelievable achievement, I don't think just that would be enough for that person to urge his daughters on."

Anderson suddenly asked me with an intense stare. It's not particularly like I'm announcing it everywhere but I've told a number of people about my dream to create my own country. In the {Slaughterers} including the former {Sun.Ray} members there's no one who doesn't know about it.

When I was talking about it there were a variety of reactions like surprise, laughing, and understanding.

But, I see, so it wasn't being mentioned lightly huh?

If it was being discussed then there's no way Anderson wouldn't know about it at this point. After all together with Viruhaima the two of them were selling my information to the King. There's no way they would overlook it right. Ah, no, I also feel like there's a high possibility of already knowing but thinking "it's unrealistic to create your own country" so tying that together with sending an illegitimate child as a bride might be difficult as well.

Otherwise, it wouldn't be strange to not believe it thinking "A dream-like tale like that. I'm sure it's just for just laughs from the start right." as well. Rather this way of thinking might be closer to the truth.

Of course, it's not amusing from my point of view but anyone who wants to laugh can. Even then I have no intention of putting in the effort towards it.

"That's something that I would like to ask though.."

After hearing my words Anderson looked up into the air. And

then,

"I guess that's true right...That's why you don't really know..That child seemed like she knew something but didn't say that far.."

said with a vague tone of voice.

"Putting that aside, Rokkuwaizu-san was it? You're new magician.

How is she?"

"Ah, Mimu? Nn~ Decent I guess...But, it's somewhat hard to find attackers..."

After trying to ask about the magician they just invited into

{Black.Topaz} the other day and it wasn't a very good reply. They did pull her out of a second-rate party that was barely able to make it to the 4th floor after all. If I remember correctly, her former party {Prime Rose} is one I've seen camping in the teleport room of the 3rd floor a number of times. I don't remember their levels but just because a single magician of that level joins their party there's no way there would be something so convenient as {Black.Topaz} returning to their prior standard.

"Well, for the time being, there's no other choice than for her to get used to the 4th and 5th floor. Ah, that's right. Greed-kun, would you lend me your combat slaves for a short while?"

"No thank you"

"Right..Maybe I'll buy some combat slaves.."

Well, there's no other choice than that for immediately increasing your combat strength.

.....

Year 7447, Month 2, Day 14

The second day since we entered the dungeon of Baldukk. After

opening my eyes in the teleport room on the 3rd floor, all of the

reincarnated people including myself were 19 years old. The hyumu race had an increase to the upper limit(?) of just 1 point but the members of other races are vaguely different.

But, we're already 19 years old huh? It's unpleasant how every year older you get they feel shorter..In my mind one year doesn't even make up 2% of the time of my entire life. In my past life, when I was still a child it felt a lot longer...Of course, this is just my sentiment and I understand that everyone of any age has the same length of a year but I can't help but feel like time passes so quickly in no time at all.

I've already experienced over 60 birthdays so they don't seem new or anything else. Rather, my feelings of it being a slightly not good day that reminds me of the passage of time are stronger. Giberuti showed some consideration in using slightly higher quality ingredients for our meals. The other day when we were shopping for ingredients we also purchased the ingredients for some sweets so we'll be able to have something sweet tonight. Well, just like this it's a day which is good to have slight changes in the food.

When we ran into Ralpa while camping in this teleport room she shouted, "Ah! Someone switch places with me in looking after the {Exterminators}?" as if she just remembered but no one reacted to it. I'm sure Zulu and Angela already realized we'd have some slightly good food while entering the dungeon this time because they carried it. In the first place we had planned to spend a while inside so I prepared even just a bit better ingredients to reduce the amount of stress. Also, the one who volunteered was you. "It's a bit regretful but it can't be helped right, Ral-san. Now,

let's go. We have to return to the surface once the day after tomorrow to transport the supplies after all. Here"

After being called out like that by Rodrick, Ralpa was dragged along and disappeared into the 4th floor.

Then I guess it's about time for us to go as well.

I hope we can make it to the 6th floor safely again today.

.....

Year 7447, Month 2, Day 16

We arrived at the teleport room on the 9th floor just before noon.

Of course the 7 guardians were in the care of the net gun once again as we finished them off. If you're wondering why we didn't come this far by yesterday, it's because it took some time to pack up the various luggage in related to gun production on the 8th floor.

After this, we'll take a bit of a break to have lunch and then

leave Giberuti behind to start preparing dinner while the 8 of us go to the 10th floor. Either way the mino will respawn 18 hours later, which is early morning tomorrow.

I intend to properly start producing guns tomorrow. It's been

proven that the net gun is effective so I intend to go outside of the Anti-Magic area on the 9th floor to make improvements and work on making the guns. First it's necessary to make a spare net gun but I just wanted to forget about the troublesome gun improvements for at least the first day after we arrived on the 9th floor.

By the way, this time we don't have Zenom or Ralpa so I don't

intend on going into any monster rooms on the 10th floor. I've already said this to everyone. As expected if we don't have those two then the front line is difficult unless I join in. Up until now

we've just been fighting against monsters we've fought a number of times so it was fine just thinking of that as an extension of training but as expected if I leave the back support it's scary against opponents we're seeing for the first time.

"Then shall we go?"

After finishing lunch and taking a short break, we departed for the 10th floor.

We've come to it before but the state of the 10th floor wasn't all that much different from the 8th and 9th floors. The width of the halls and the state of the walls were both the same. Additionally, there's teleport crystals at the end of each place and it's not hard to imagine that they most likely lead to areas we haven't been to before.

We wandered around until the evening killing all of the random monsters we encountered and taking their magic stones before withdrawing.

Several days passed with this sort of start.

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Year 7447, Month 2, Day 30

As expected it's about time.

After all it's the 15th day since we started camping out in the teleport room of this 9th floor, that's two and a half weeks.

This time entering the dungeon we've killed the mino group a total of 20 times including the first time. A total of 140 of them.

Matching that up with our previous results and..how many has it been again? In any case we've killed a lot of them. We went to resupply on food six times. Staying in the dungeon and staring at the ceilings for such a long period as this is extremely bad for

mental health. In the first place, I've run out of the cotton needed for making gunpowder to make any further improvements to the guns.

Thanks to that in regards to the guns I was able to obtain somewhat satisfying results for the net gun. I decided to leave one of them on top of a random board in the teleport room of the 8th floor. I have to digress a bit in order to explain the reason. Previously, it's something we knew since making the shower rooms and such but inside of the dungeon if you leave crafted items around without being used they break at a speed far faster than on the surface.

Something like the shower room if it's not used at all for around two weeks the ropes will start to come loose. It's to the point where if it reaches one month the ropes will completely break apart. However, if you just use it with a few days apart there's no wear other than normal aging. When it comes to buckets made from plants, simple leather armor, and bags that don't use any metal parts if you just leave them on the ground without touching them for a period of time they start to break in the same amount of time, or rather the various parts the items are made up of us start to scatter.

We were able to figure out that if no one touches them and they aren't used for roughly 3-4 days they started to loosen. But, strangely enough if you just leave some water inside of the buckets it seems they're considered being used so as long as the water doesn't evaporate there were no problems. It's fine even if you put

something like dried meat inside of it.

Also, there's no problem like that with magic tools like the stove or clock. There's no problem at all with tableware like ones carved from wood or ceramic either.

Obviously it's the same for knives and forks whether they have wooden handles or just ornaments there's problem at all.

What's even better is that as long as the bucket is a properly made one with a metal ring around it then even if it doesn't have water inside it'll last quite a long time to where you can't see a difference even after two weeks.

We couldn't see any problems with knives or ladles either.

In other words, simple things that aren't made up of parts, things that have metal parts included in their production, magic tools, and things that are believed to be in use only deteriorate at the same speed as the surface but manufactured goods which are only made up of fibers or leather and just organic materials deteriorate at an abnormal speed.

Even if I say deteriorate it's not a deteriorate of the quality of the materials but the object itself can't maintain it's form anymore, would be a more appropriate way of putting it. For example, if you were to put a bucket with a hoop made from rattan inside of another proper bucket or tub made with a metal hoop then it's fine even after one month.

Our harvest this time was of course the large amount of mino we killed but also the fact that I was able to seriously start tests on a gun with proper rifling that can fire bullets. It's not as if I hadn't done it at all so far but it was just at the level of

exchanging the barrels of the net guns, so it's not like I made all of the parts exclusively for it.

Just the same as the net gun, I still can't manage a complex structure, it's a completely single-shot gun that isn't even bolt action. However, just as expected because of it's simple structure there's not much need to worry about it misfiring and I ended up with a gun with considerably high precision.

In regards to guns this is the third one in total.

I've left the older net gun and the normal single-shot gun in the teleport room on the 9th floor and since the newly improved net gun is a bit slighter and easier to carry, I've decided to store it in the teleport room on the 8th floor.

Obviously in the bullets and blank cartridges are just lined up in an appropriate bucket for now but I think it's necessary to make an exclusive storage box for them eventually. I want to make it so we can easily pass through the 9th floor by mid-April when the substitution matches start. With the middle of next month as the goal I guess I'll order some exclusive wooden boxes for each size. I'm sure some portable ammunition cases will be necessary as well.

Recently Zulu and Angela seem to have gotten quite a bit used to the firing sound of the guns as they don't appear afraid at all. Particularly when test firing the gun that fires real bullets, they've seen it a number of times and were interested in it's destructive power that's incomparable to a bow. It's close to obvious knowledge for reincarnated people but Zenom, who isn't here, and them seem to have quite a bit of interest in it.

However, excluding the reincarnated members not a single one of them has said "let me try firing it" yet. I'm sure it's big that they saw the initial accidents when making the bullets. Also, another big part of it may be that I did enough nagging about dealing with the bullets and gunpowder to the point of a sour taste in my mouth.

Miduchi, Toris, Gwine, and Basutorial who found it new at first have recently seemed to be bored with it and are just acting as assistants to Bel and I as we continue test firing.

It's true that it's started to get difficult for that Bel and I as well.

"As expected I've started to miss the surface. Shall we return once?"

""Once!?""

That's right. We're going to come back and camp out for the same amount of time again. I was able to build up quite a bit of confidence from my tests with the guns this time. I intend on making a prototype bolt action rifle next time. It's necessary to prepare the materials and I need to go and buy the yellow dye and cotton as well. Ah, putting aside the yellow dye, the cotton should have already arrived at Boil Manor I guess?

On our way back returning to the surface, when I saw the Trent lumber we hadn't taken to the surface still packed in a corner of the 8th floor, I started thinking about various things.

Chapter 286: Beauty Mark

Year 7447, Month 2, Day 30

When we passed through the teleport rooms of the 6th and 4th floors the ones from the {Slaughterers} who were watching luggage in the campsites were Kimu and Denda. Zenom and Ralpa must have no intention of leaving my low level combat slaves to have a rest and watch the luggage.

I left them with the message, "We'll be returning to the surface once but after getting some rest today and tomorrow, we'll be returning to the dungeon again the morning of the day after tomorrow." There won't be any change in members.

Since the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} don't have an exclusive porter like Giberuti the amount of luggage they can carry at once is limited. That's why, other than when watching the bags they shouldn't have been able to get much rest coming to the dungeon this time. This time, it's just for a short while but we're returning to the surface so I'm sure Zenom and Ralpa can both put in an appropriate rest at that timing.

Returning to the surface we saw the sunset sky for the first time in a while and then went to cash in the magic stones. We decided to just eat dinner at the usual Murowa and then everyone split up to return to Boil Manor and Shuni.

In front of Boil Manor Basutorial nervously started talking to me.

"Umm, excuse me, but if it's now I can still make it for the last

carriage to the capital. Is it fine if I return tomorrow

night?"

Ah, I see. Basutral told Cathy that there were no plans for days

off so it's not necessary for her to return to Baldukk.

"Nn, got it. Go ahead."

After hearing my reply Basutoral quickly ran into Boil Manor in

front of us.

"Che~ Saji-san, how nice..."

Gwine said while climbing the stairs to her room.

"Gwine how are things with that person?"

Bel asked her. That person..There's no way of knowing like that.

Just as far as I know she's been screaming over a number of guys recently.

"Nn, somehow, I've already gotten bored of him."

You get it!? Not to mention, "already bored"...

"The other day I had to carry that person back to Pegizu. People

who are weak to alcohol are just a bit..uncool after all."

So..So cruel~ There's also the matter of constitution, something

like alcohol even Zenom is weak against it...Is it a value of

dwarves? Zenom is weak against alcohol but still seems to have the

respect of all the dwarves in Baldukk though...In the first place

does being strong or weak against alcohol have anything to do with

being cool? Well, it's not as if I don't understand though...

"Now it's that person right? Look, from {Gehenna.Flare}.."

Toris is saying it like he knows but it's Garun from

{Gehenna.Flare} right, I'm sure.

It seems like she liked him from quite a while back after

all.

"Ah, Roiru-san? That person, he's somewhat cool but his gaze is too

lewd~ He immediately tries to put his hands around my waist when we're drinking as well.."

Oh, so I was wrong?

"After all I think Zenda-san is cool and like him."

Who's that? Zenda, Zenda..I feel like I've heard it before but can't remember.

"Ah, Masshuzu's?"

It seems Miduchi knows about him. Also, Masshuzu isn't it the name of that cheap clothes store? I don't know about the salesperson of some clothes store.

"That's right, that person, he has good sense right?"

"Eh? Yeah, I guess so."

"During the last holiday I had a meal with him at Rasurun but he pulled the chair out for me and his sense with alcohol was good as well, his fingers are super sexy right, Miduchi-san, don't you think so too!?"

"Ah..Yeah. I think so too, I guess?"

When I tried asking Miduchi about it later it seems he's the successor son of Masshuzu and a hyumu with a playboy face. Certainly it seems like he has good sense with clothes so he's popular among female adventurers with a decent amount of money. But, isn't Masshuzu a place with nothing but cheap hanging clothes? I think the tailored clothes in the capital have a lot better sense and are more comfortable. Even Gwine, after getting some women's clothes tailored at one of the better shops in the capital Kennoton, you were pleased saying "These are the best~" Ah, I guess the quality of products they deal with isn't related right.

.....

After entering Boil Manor and there were several letters leftover

beyond the periodic reports from Rassegu in the capital. Three of them were requests to join the {Slaughterers} so I just adequately scanned over them. Then I started looking over the somewhat more important messages.

One of them was from the madam of Ronslail and it was an invitation to her wedding banquet with her third husband. The end of April huh. She seems to be earning quite a bit.

The senders of the remaining two were Noirura.Jibekuto and Mimairu.Fokein. Excluding sis Anderson, it's the older and younger of the King's three illegitimate daughters. The contents were similar for both of them and they'd absolutely love to meet me once or want to give praise to my great achievements as an adventurer, and it's not a single step outside of my expectations after confirming the sender's name.

If I remember right I met the middle daughter Yorire-ojosama last fall so I guess they're a few months behind her. According to the head clerk of Boil Manor in both cases the senders of the messages appeared themselves and after being told I was in the dungeon wrote the messages on the spot before leaving them. The dates were certainly from a few days after we entered the dungeon and a few days ago.

"Hmph. Unlike that Yorire-ojosama they didn't send squires or attendants and came directly themselves huh..It's a bit admirable."

After reading the message in my room and saying that, Miduchi thought for a moment before making a slightly displeased and uneasy face while saying.

"Nn..Normally it would be a high good impression right. But, if you were to ask me I'd have to give them a minus assessment I guess...If it was just a simple city girl then of course I might feel it's favorable and a plus evaluation. However, just because they want to take the position of future queen the person them self suddenly comes, isn't that sort of thoughtless action a minus?"

Mu, if it's put like that...

This fellow seems to be thinking a bit as well..No, that's wrong.

"Hey, you..stop saying things you don't actually believe."

"Eh? Things I don't actually believe, that's not..I was just thinking about the future.."

It seems I was correct. Miduchi's eyes are darting all over the place.

"You sure are a petty fellow~ Those words just now are something Bel or I would say after carefully thinking about it right?"

After I pointed it out with a bit of a grin on my face Miduchi's light purple face changed to reddish purple.

"I mean.."

"There's no mean or anything else to it. In the first place, don't say things that put down other people just to try and strengthen your own position. Putting aside if you had a clear basis for it, that's nothing more than your imagination right? It doesn't suit you."

I think Miduchi's statement just now was saying a bit too much.

Those daughters might not have heard that I intend on making a country in the end yet. It's possible they've only heard that I've

got extremely good prospects and might be one candidate for a high ranking noble that a territory will be left to look after.
Even if that's the case I guess it's still thoughtless huh? No

wait, why would they think of trying to marry me? Stop getting so full of yourself, me. The only information I've got is that they were urged on by the King and even sis Anderson didn't say a single word that they were progressively trying to win my heart. She just said that they were being urged on and trained pretty hard.
"Nn..I'm sorry.."

The dispirited Miduchi meekly apologized.

"Don't say things that are so unlike you. For example it's possible they could say something like, "Sub-Noble Greed, I was ordered by his majesty so I just met with you to act in line with that. I already have someone I've decided in my heart so..I apologize for the rudeness."

It's possible they directly came asking to apologize(?) as well right. If that's the case then coming in person could be said to be good manners. Though judging from the contents of the messages I'm pretty sure that's not the case.

"Ah, yeah..I guess, so."

Well, looking from this fellow's point of view I'm sure it's not very amusing. Just on the surface and from a theoretical standpoint she might be willing to recognize it but it's difficult for her to accept it in her heart, it's not as if I can't understand. However, in some meanings it's only obvious for a high ranking noble or King to have several partners. Not even limited to nobles, if it's a wealthy person then even some commoners have multiple partners. Not

limited to men or women. Though it's a different matter whether or not there's love there.

.....

Year 7447, Month 3, Day 2

Without going running or doing any training we gathered at the entrance plaza at around 6 am. As expected the time was when it was so the plaza was packed with adventurers and merchants. It's annoying being called out by various people so it might have been fine to go running and shift the time but it's a waste of time. I intend on going all the way to the teleport crystal of the 4th floor at once today.

Recently entering the dungeon has mainly focused on improving the guns and we haven't spent much time at all exploring so it's possible to train as much as we please in the large rooms on the 8th and 9th floors. It's spacious so we can do running or practice matches every couple of hours, as well as kill time doing push-ups and sit-ups for training more than usual.

Just the same as the other adventurer partys we started confirming our equipment in an adequate corner. Whether or not there's any loose strings or bands, whether we're forgetting anything, if our weapons are in good condition, it's necessary to properly confirm everything. It would suck if any problems come up because we slacked off on this after all.

After we finished confirming things, we cut through the mass of people the same as usual on our way towards the entrance. And then I was called out to by the guard Church-san after paying the entrance tax.

"Greed-san, how long are you planning to stay inside this time?"

Even though they don't normally confirm the plans of adventurers exploring inside...I wonder what's the reason for this change..And, I guess there's only one~ Out of the three I don't know which but they must have asked Church-san. It doesn't matter who though.

"Just the same as last time I can't say anything other than it will be somewhat long.."

"I'm sure."

Church-san nodded seriously.

After giving a light nod I started down the stairs.

.....

We arrived at the teleport crystal of the 4th floor quite a bit

after 8 pm. But, it seems everyone is very satisfied that we were able to arrive in roughly 15 hours, so the mood is bright.

Excluding one person, he didn't participate in the combat but since he's carrying a lot of luggage Giberuti seems to be having a pretty difficult time. Sorry about that.

It was Ruttsu who was acting as bag watcher on the 4th floor. It seems like he was applying oil to maintain his leather armor in front of the {Slaughterers} stove but he had already started cleaning up. There's no one else around.

"Huh? I heard that you were going to enter the dungeon today though..Was it a misunderstanding?"

"Fufu, what do you think?"

Gwine proudly stuck out her non-existing chest. Angela and I

watched that with the same light smile. I met eyes with Angela. She

quickly looked away.

"It's too late for you to have entered yesterday..After all it was today huh? Seriously the 4th floor in just a single day..I'm feeling sad now~"

Ruttsu said with a light tone as if he wasn't feeling down at all.

"What, I'm sure you'll be able to reach the 4th floor right away soon."

Toris said while taking some cabbage out of the bag and handing it to Giberuti.

"Hee~ it'd be good if that's the case. What is it today?"

Ruttsu asked Giberuti while drooling. You, judging from the time it's already long past since you ate dinner right? If you want to eat I don't particularly mind though.

"Tonight is the so-called "Wokonomu Yaki". Do you want to eat some?"

That's okonomiyaki. Yesterday when we were shopping there was some good squid being sold. There's no sauce or aonori but we have mayonnaise and it was a request from Miduchi who was together with us so it should be fine once in a while. Since I thought Giberuti would be tired today as well I made it something that wouldn't require much work or cleaning up.

"What's that? Is it good?"

"I've eaten it a number of times but it's pretty good."

Furthermore, it seems that Basutoral worked part-time at an okonomiyaki place in his past life and he starts nagging everyone about the way to stir it so we rarely eat it. We just eat it on the occasion when someone says they want to have it. We don't have any

otafuku sauce so it's not all that delicious after all.
After our meals, leaving Angela and I as the first lookouts they quickly cleaned things up and the men immediately went to sleep. We can take a shower tomorrow. But, recently I guess the girls have gotten extravagant because they went off to the corner of the room to wipe off their bodies with a towel dipped in warm water. I guess Giberuti was considerably tired, I can already hear the light breathing from him sleeping. Toris is letting out some light snores as well, while Zulu and Ruttsu are both sleeping like they're dead with their stomachs full. The extra portion we made was all taken care of by them. Basutorial who was rolled up at the end was making a noise grinding his teeth as he slept. Be quiet~ and knowing it was impossible I tried conveying it telepathically and it became quiet.

I can hear talking voices from behind a simple partition on the other side of the room. There's some distance so I can't hear any of the details though.

"Ah, Bel-san how nice so big..Miduchi-san's shape is as well.."

"Really~ don't touch them."

"Gwine as well isn't that beauty mark on your chest sexy?"

"Ah, this? Though it wasn't there in the past. Now it's been there since I was a child."

"Come to think of it, in the past i used have a large beauty mark on my right hand but now it's disappeared."

Judging from the sounds of their voices it seems like Gwine is providing the topics as usual. I was having Angela massage my right foot after soaking it in the foot bath bucket.

"If you're reborn then something like beauty marks will appear or disappear right.."

It seems Angela can hear their conversation and made a dry smile.

Since she's a Dog-race person even if she doesn't have

{Super.Hearing} she can still hear better than my ears.

So it was a discussion about beauty marks.

How pointless~

Miduchi has a beauty mark close to a place that can't be mentioned~

It's easy to tell because her skin color is light for a dark elf.

Though I guess it doesn't matter because the wife of Tukerin in the capital has deep purple skin but the beauty mark on her chin is easy to tell.

Ah~ Feels good..Right there, harder.

Next, the left one.

Chapter 287: Respectively

Year 7447, Month 3, Day 4

Late last night after we arrived in the teleport room of the 8th floor we took a full 8 hours of sleep per person and recovered our stamina before stepping foot on the 9th floor. Of course starting with the net gun we left on the 8th floor we brought along as much Treant lumber as we had the leeway to hold.

And then just past noon after defeating the mino guardians of the 9th floor we had a slightly late lunch.

"Today after this are we going to the 10th floor?"

Bel asked me. The last time we took a bit of a look around the 10th floor on the first day. However, without hesitation I said, "No, let's not today. I want to do it when we can spend a full day starting tomorrow.", before pulling out the iron ores from the bottom of Giberuti's bags.

"Ah, starting with the guns huh?"

"Yeah. Thinking about those {Lesser Yowie} and I thought I should make a proper gun first."

"You were going to make a gun that can fire consecutively right?"

"That's right. I want to get a good outlook of the gunpowder and bullets today."

I brought along some brass and copper ores. Of course, I haven't forgotten the cotton and I've already resupplied on yellow dye. Also I intend on trying to use the Treant lumber to make the gunstock and hand-guard this time. Last time I made the gunstock

out of walnut wood but I think it was a pretty decent job for the first time. Although, I've made a number of wooden guns in the past so I can't say it's completely the first one.

First off is producing the gunpowder and bullets I guess. Since we're already pretty used to these we can proceed up to the washing process right away. Since we've already reached the point where there's almost no problem with the amount of gunpowder in the bullets there shouldn't be any problem with making the thickness of the barrel a bit thinner.

During the start when there was too much gunpowder the cartridges couldn't withstand the explosion within the cylinder and would expand(there was also expansion from the temperature of the explosion but it was mainly expansion from the blast wave), then I couldn't get the empty cartridges out and in worst case there was no choice other than to break it. Since I didn't add something like an ejector rod after all. I made this possible by somewhat increasing the thickness of that portion of the cartridges to increase the strength. Though because of that the cartridges ended up a bit longer. If possible I didn't want to sacrifice the power.

It's no good if we don't replenish the bullet-heads and shell cases as well. The primer too. Recently the cartridges we've made have a proper thickness and are reusable so I guess it's fine to make a bit less huh?

Now then, while they're washing the acids out from the cotton, it's finally time to work on producing the gun during the spare time.

This time what I'm going to make is a bolt action rifle..is what I'd like to say but as expected that's getting too complex all of a sudden. I intend on making a revolving rifle which is like a revolver made into a rifle. While I'm at it I also abandoned the {top break} form and made it a {solid frame}. Different from the average modern day revolver the revolving cylinder doesn't {sling out}. It's necessary to take out the empty cartridges from the loading gates on the sides one at a time before loading new bullets but for that portion the structure can be made a lot simpler. Additionally for the portion it's made simpler I can raise the durability.

I made the firing mechanism only {single action} as well. Of course it's because I can make the form of the parts simpler. The number of parts I have isn't many. After all, it's only two springs, the trigger, the hammer, the hand which rotates the cartridges pulling the hammer back, and the latch which holds the cartridges in place when they stop rotating. {Double action} is something similar but the structure gets a bit more complex and the number increases by one or two. That's up next. Pin? Ah, it's fine as long as you directly hit the primer so it shouldn't necessary for the time being.

Of course there's no way there would be something like a {gas sealer} so when a bullet is being fired the firing flames leak out through the gaps in the cylinder and barrel which makes a long glove required for your left hand. Though if you're fine with being burnt there's no need for even that.

I made the parts for the first gun in about 1 hour. Once again this time I made the rifling within the barrel using chrome. I'll use the tungsten after I've built up a bit of confidence and got the proper form down. I carved down the treant lumber while roughly estimating the gunstock and barrel and putting them into place. If I match them up other than the receiver and revolving cylinder it should have the shape of a rifle from a while back. I used an exclusive jig to hold the barrel in place while carving out the pipe and shaved it down to almost the same shape as outer circumference of the barrel.

"Shave down the fine places and adjust it for yourself."

I said that while handing over the skin of a fish similar to

kawahagi that works as sandpaper.

It should be about time for the bullets to enter the selection process. I need to head over.

Just like this our first day on the 9th floor ended. Tomorrow a

short while after we eat breakfast we'll defeat the respawned mino and then continue off from today. The 10th floor is put off until after the day after tomorrow.

.....

Year 7447, Month 3, Day 5

Including Zulu and Angela, everyone participated in the test firing

but a problem came to light.

"Lift your chin and close your right armpit. Make sure the gunstock is properly touching your shoulder. Hold your left hand even further forward.."

"Even if you say something like that~"

Since just Gwine's body was small, her arms are equally short so

she can't take up the proper form when firing a rifle.

At first I thought about just teaching her the proper firing form

but you could say it's a good thing we discovered it early on. Her

left hand almost barely reaches beyond the rotating cylinder so

even if she has a glove on it's dangerous and in the first place

I'm sure it would be difficult just to properly aim. The gunstock

is too long. I wonder if I should create an exclusive gun for Gwine

and Zenom?

When we test firing the net gun it was just pulling a string that

was tied to the trigger for benchrest firing and when it came to

test firing the nearly complete net gun I finished by just letting

Bel test it out to get used to the posture so I completely

overlooked it.

Hmn. As expected making another gun of this is...It's fine if I

just exchange the gunstock but it's a pain to change them every

single time after all...I'm sure the characteristics will change

every time I take it apart to exchange them and it'll influence the

firing precision as well~ I guess it's fine after I've made a

proper and more practical bolt action rifle huh...

But, I wanted to teach everyone how to shoot before I made the bolt

action rifle. Well, I guess it's fine to make a {double action}

revolving rifle huh? I'll make that one easier to use for Gwine and

Zenom. Eventually I intend to have Kamu and Kevin use it as well so

I'm sure it won't go to waste.

And, then because that's the case in the end I ended up making guns

again this afternoon as well. Thanks to that I ended up using up a

considerable amount of the iron ores I had prepared. The number of

bullets we can make will be 10% less than planned, like this. Let alone that I only realized it during our first shooting practice today but the consumption rate of bullets is faster than I expected. Ah, even if we collect the bullet-heads I can't reuse them. {Transmute.Rock.To.Mud} can only change things to mud once. Of course, if we melt them down and pour it into a mold then we can still use them one or two more times but thinking about the price of iron ore and the amount of labor and it's not to the point of needing to do it.

It's quite a bit sooner than planned but I guess we should return once.

.....

Yeary 7447, Month 3, Day 6

We went to the 6th floor to restock on food. When we teleported in I'm sure it was just a coincidence but it was just as the {Butchers} lead by Zenom were taking a break. It seems they were about to return to the 4th floor for today.

"Will it be long again this time?"

Misu asked.

"Hn~ I intended on that but we'll probably return once on the 11th of this month. That's why the last time we'll come here should be the 9th so I'm depending on you all with that intention."

After replying that I guess Zenom worried that things weren't going smoothly and said.

"Is there any kind of problem?"

"No, it's not really a problem. It's just there's something I need to return to the surface once to resupply. By the way, it seems like you're earning quite a bit."

Rokko and Kevin were holding what appears to be several magic stones from ogres while making a racket over the weight and color. Around them starting with Kamu, Binsu, Kimu, and Jeru all seemed to be in a pretty good mood as well. It seems there's around 10 magic stones or so?

"Yeah, it's also because we had good luck but we encountered a number of ogres alone or with just two of them. We defeated a total of 9 of them."

That's amazing! Isn't that over 7,000,000! Henry and Rubi aren't included in the head count so my cut is 1/9th. Even subtracting the expenses I profited 700,000. It's not surprising the {Butchers} are in such a good mood.

However, hearing that I thought for a bit. In order to give the {Slaughterers} a bonus of 800,000 Z per person it requires earning 40,000,000. This time, I haven't properly calculated it but on the outward trip we've only earned around half of that.

Even when it comes to clearing through the 7th, 8th, and 9th floors after this I intend for us to return within one day so there's no intention of casually wandering around seeking out ogres. Hmm. If we just spend one day seriously exploring the 10th floor then..No, that's no good. It's too frightening going into a monster room without Zenom and Ralpa in the party. I'm sure there's monsters we'll see for the first time so getting impatient is no good. At the very least until we can properly use the guns...

"Since they were all groups with low numbers everyone wanted to use them as practice for the member change matches but as expected that is~ We properly fought against all of them so there's no need to

worry."

"Yeah."

Of course, I know Zenom would never do anything so careless.

Probably no one else would do it either. I trust them on that end.

.....

Year 7447, Month 3, Day 8

"Don't close your eyes when you're shooting. Properly look at the target."

"Yes, I'm very sorry, master."

While teaching Angela how to shoot I glanced to the side at the hand-to-hand combat training Miudchi, Toris, Bel, Gwine, and Zulu were doing in the distance. It seems like they're putting quite a bit of energy into it because they're bored.

I sent Basutorial to check out the condition of the rock we're using as the enemy about 100 meters ahead.

After confirming the target Basutorial raised his hands into a large X.

"You missed. It's best to think that if you close your eyes you won't hit the target. Well, regardless of the case it's just about quickly getting used to it."

I said that while giving Basutorial the sign to come back with my hand. The role of observer is the hardest.

After all they have to go back and forth between the target and the shooting point. If they slack off I end up yelling at them. Well, this is a form of training as well.

"Wa, yes. I understand."

Angela said that before putting her ear plugs back in and wearing her helmet. It seems she's still afraid of the guns which fire high

power bullets along with spitting fire and a loud roar. However, even with this Angela is considerably better off in comparison to Zulu.

After that we continued shooting training while switching out the observer role in order.

.....

Year 7447, Month 3, Day 11

Just as I told Zenom and the others the other day, we decided to return to the surface once. As a matter of fact we ran out of bullets yesterday. Today we investigated the monsters that appear in the halls of the 10th floor starting in the morning. Even if we can't use guns there's a lot of things we can and need to do.

Honestly speaking even if we don't return to the surface it would have been fine to just keep defeating the minos that repawn like crazy. Well, that's that.

If you were to ask me since I went to the trouble of creating a rifle I want to quickly be able to use it.

Yesterday night, after thinking carefully about it I realized I hadn't even fired one shot this time and after all decided to return just as planned. When it actually comes time to use the guns if I'm the worst at aiming it wouldn't be a joke.

Around the evening when we returned to the surface it seems they heard from the {Butchers} as Ralpa and the {Exterminators} were on the surface.

"What is it? This time you brought along a lot of cotton and such right?"

Ralpa asked while biting into a baldoggie.

"We ended up running out of bullets so we're resupplying."

Toris replied in a whisper but isn't it fine if you don't whisper

when using Japanese? Though it's fine.

"Zenom, Ralpa, switch out today. Miduchi take over the {Butchers,

Toris take over the {Exterminators}."

This time, I planned ahead for this and put emphasis on letting

Miduchi and Toris practice shooting. Thanks to that I think the two

of them are able to use it decently well.

"When do you plan to enter next?"

Zenom asked. How unusual.

"Since we came back matching up this time, it's just right. The

same as usual we'll have three days off starting tomorrow and enter

starting from the 15th then not leave until the end of the month.

Ah, of course there's combined training on the 14th as well."

While replying to Zenom I told everyone our schedule. It seems

Zenom wanted to go to the capital tomorrow to buy smoked meat. It

was just right so I had him bring along Angela and requested they

buy a larger amount of iron ores. Though I intend on buying from

the blacksmith in Baldukk as well it's a bit cheaper in the

capital. Ah, Zulu made a slightly pathetic face when this topic

came up so I exempted him from it. I'm sure he just wants to be

together with the sister from Murowa. It's fine.

It seems Basutorial is going to capital without eating dinner. I

asked this fellow to buy additional yellow dye and cotton.

.....

Year 7447, Month 3, Day 30

We returned from another long two and a half week period in the

dungeon again. I already told them our plans ahead of time so the

{Butchers} and {Exterminators} were all gathered on the

surface.

"With the three days off in between we'll be entering the dungeon again on the 4th of next month but...It's about time we've figured out the monsters in the halls of the 10th floor. Next I intend to challenge the monster rooms on the 10th floor. Though since the minotaur guardians on the 9th floor are still respawning there's no choice other than to continue defeating them."

Next time, first I intend on testing out the rifle against the minotaurs. This time when we were returning to the surface I didn't just leave the net gun on the 8th floor but one of the rifles as well. On our way in I intend to try out using it in live combat against the monsters in the halls and rooms on the 9th floor. If there doesn't seem to be any problem then we'll use it against the mino and then just like that use it on the 10th floor as well.

"Well in any case, in regards to the 9th floor we're able to clear through it with no problem for the time being. After the next time we enter the dungeon we'll have the member change matches. Everyone who wants to participate say something."

"I want to challenge it again."

"Me too."

It's Kamu and Kimu. Just as expected.

"Of course, I will too."

"Me too."

"Obviously right."

Jeru, Ginger, Misu huh? This was just as expected as well.

"Obviously I'll be challenging it as well."

""We will too.""

Rodrick, Denda, and Karimu. I knew about it.

"Yeah, we'll be trying it too."

"Obviously."

Sanno and Ruttsu huh? I guess so.

"I'll try alone."

Binsu? Was he challenging last time?

"I'll be trying alone as well."

Hisu. She seems to be fired up. Give it your best.

"Fu~"

"You~"

""Can't forget about us!""

Rokko and Kevin. Isn't that everyone?

I glanced at Basutorial and Angela. The two of them were smiling confidently.

Though we've slacked off from exploring recently, we've been training pretty heavily for that portion.

Also, putting aside everything else we've been hunting trolls and mino which are considerably higher experience points than ogres.

Even looking at it favorably I think they've increased their power quite a bit.

But, just like the {Slaughterers} in the past they're killing monsters right and left and have earned quite a bit of experience as well.

Though as expected since I'm not around they can't recover all they want.

Now then, I wonder how things will go?

It shouldn't go so easily for either side anymore.

"Alright, so everyone's challenging huh? Got it. I'll decide on a proper evaluation method once again before the end of this break."

Tomorrow I intend on showing my face at the company in the capital

and I want to look at the factory as well. I should be able to take my time thinking while traveling.

Chapter 288: Experience Points

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 1

After having breakfast, Miduchi and I started on our way towards the headquarters of the company in the capital. After going over the paperwork and giving out any necessary instructions we'll check out the sausage factory as well. Since Basutorial came last night obviously it won't be in operation today. By that time it was already close to lunch but John or Terry one of the watch guards should be there.

""Ah, master, madam. Welcome.""

When we arrived at the factory John was disassembling and cleaning the meat mincer while Terry was cleaning up inside of the factory.

Umu.

The hygienic "feeling" is important since we deal in food products.

It's completely impossible to reach modern day Japanese standards of hygiene, a level that will never be reached, but just because other places are dirty doesn't mean we should follow suit.

It means that my efforts in harshly directing them paid off.

Since we had the occasion I had them make some tea and have a short break.

"Is everyone getting along well without fighting?"

Miduchi asked the two of them while handing them a bag of candy she bought along the way. We've already read the report from Cathy but there might be some places she doesn't notice. It's possible for

fights and bullying to occur anywhere in the world of children. It even occurs between adults at times.

"There were two fights since the year started. Myusshi and Bagu, Maru and Rinbi. But, in both cases it wasn't over anything important."

Terry put a piece of candy in his mouth and smiled while saying.

If you can resolve it all on your own then fight as much as you please.

Incidentally, Myusshi and Bagu are both boys at the same age as John and Terry. This is fine.

However, Maru and Rinbi are the eldest boy and girl who reach adulthood this year.

Get along well with each other...

"Also, there wasn't any cases of bullying anyone. Cathy-san has always harshly spoken out against it since then and..umm, everyone is afraid of being scolded by master."

John said while sucking on some candy as well.

Come to think of it, I guess it was around the end of last year?

Something like this happened.

I heard from Cathy that Byogu the smallest child was almost neglected for not moving fast enough. In anger after hearing that without even taking my armor off when it was close to night when we came out of the dungeon I hopped on my horse and rushed into the factory. Rushing my horse from Boil Manor in Baldukk to the factory I arrived in 30 minutes.

After arriving at the factory I told John and Terry who came out to greet me to gather all of the slaves. That day it was already in

the a.m. after everyone returned to their inn but I had them all gather within 1 hour.

And then I hit John and Terry. It's only obvious for a small child to have slow movements. Take your time and patiently teach them. Furthermore, using that as a reason to neglect them is absurd. In the first place if you can't resolve it then why didn't you tell me about it? Ah, it doesn't matter either way whether or not you all were involved in neglecting them. After all for the time being future candidates for management positions.

For that sort of reason I yelled and hit them each once in front of everyone. Of course, I properly took off my gauntlet with brass knuckles embedded into it. Also, I held back quite a bit so healing spells weren't necessary. Obviously I paid no mind whether or not John and Terry had any complaints about it. Though I think they probably didn't have any.

I heard from Cathy that there's a number of children older than John and Terry and with the passage of time there was an age based hierarchy being formed. Well it's only natural so I have nothing to say about that. If the oldest one in the group is superior then that person would do just as expected from their age after all. If it was Japan then I think that would have been plenty.

However, the seniors John and Terry learned to read and write from the Basutoral couple and along with that were a bit more intelligent. They're both 13 years old this year. The level of their studies should be around the middle to late years of elementary. After all it seems they can do the addition and subtraction of fractions now. In comparison there's other child

among the slaves who reach 15 years old and adulthood this year but supposedly they're at best around the lower to middle grades of elementary school.

It's because it's gotten difficult for Basutoral to take the time to directly teach them and the incomplete teaching that Cathy can do through hearsay. Even in regards to Cathy her calculation abilities and various knowledge are at best around the first year of middle school. In fact this level is already more than enough to consider it high level. Particularly if you think about how she was born at the slave ranking and you could even call it a miracle.

Even on Earth until just a few dozen years ago there were a lot of people that couldn't read or do calculations. Those sorts of people weren't educated with the foundations to make logical thoughts or come up with abstract ideas. Because of that they were said to not have enough imaginations in regards to things outside of their sphere of life. It's just my personal opinion but I even think that a low literacy rate may be an necessary requirement to maintain a system based on social status. I think this is just because the past Japan is abnormal and that isn't the case for the trends of the entire world.

Whatever the case, even if it's not all of them a reasonable number of the slaves who are working in my sausage factory right now have a chance of taking on decent jobs in my country in the future.

That's why a certain level of education is necessary. For ruling class purposes.

That's the reason why I told John and Terry who were one stage

higher from the start for obediently learning things to keep an eye on everyone. I gave them individual rooms for the night watch in the factory and even told all of the others to listen to what they say as seniors, showing the difference between them and the others. And then I've heard from Cathy's reports that no other child has appeared yet that can exceed John and Terry. That's why the only ones I can scold in front of everyone is just those two. Well, the only time I've scolded them was just that once.

Thanks to that John and Terry had the dishonor of being directly scolded by me but at the same time it had the result of putting more emphasis on the fact that they're "left in charge of things" by me after being by the number one adventurer in Baldukk. Just as planned.

Putting that aside, I ended up receiving complaints from the third knight group that act as guards of the capital for running my horse through the town in the middle of the night and had to stupidly pay a fine of 30 silver coins.

.....

While discussing various things with the two of them it reached noon. It seems Terry is looking after things for lunch today. Since they were properly cleaning without playing around I thought about inviting even just John for a meal. Intending to give Terry a bit of allowance for his lunch I went to invite John but he nervously said.."I'm sorry, I've already promised someone else.."

Well I'm sure these two at least make appointments to eat with others.

"Oh, is that so? Then it can't be helped. Don't hold back and go

ahead."

After I said that John gave his thanks and went to his room.
It might just be my imagination but he seemed pretty happy.
"John said he was treating his father and mother to lunch
today."

Terry said. Ah, so that's why he was making that sort of face. If I
remember right John's parents were the slaves of a store that was
about to go out of business. I wonder if they were somehow able to
go on? For just a moment I thought of giving John a bit of money
but decided against it. It's better if he treats his parents to
lunch using money he earned and saved up himself.
When John returned from his room he lowered his head once and ran
off holding his wallet.

"What about you?"

"Ah, that is..It's the same for me tonight.."

"That's something to look forward to right."

Miduchi said to Terry.

"Ehe~"

Terry smiled shyly.

After Miduchi and I had lunch we went to pay a visit to Tokerin's
hospital and then went around greeting several places before
returning to Baldukk.

.....

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 6

We entered the dungeon the other day and pushed ourselves quite a
bit to clear four floors a day and just arrived at the teleport
room of the 8th floor late last night at a considerably fast pace.
And then, today we're finally going to try using the rifle against
a boss in a monster room on the 9th floor. If it seems to work

pretty well then just like that we'll use it against the Minos.

Just when we're using it against the Mino I'll have Angela firing the rifle. Bel will be firing the most important net gun.

"Is everyone ready? We're carrying a huge burden again this time but everyone give it your best."

We stepped foot on the 9th floor. Giberuti is carrying the net gun and rifle. We'll switch equipment just before the monster room.

"Nn..Right now we're here. That direction."

Following Gwine's guidance I continue down the halls. We keep advancing while quickly defeating the {Spotted.Cave Crickets} that appear along the way.

And then we arrived near a suitable monster room.

I'd usually prefer to scout out what's there but this time Miduchi is leading the {Butchers}. I left the lead to Zenom and Ralpa while the rest of our main group follows a bit behind. Of course, Bel's already loaded bullets and standing at the ready with the rifle.

Zenom quietly looked into the monster room before sending everyone a sign with his left hand.

4 Trolls, Cave Trolls, or Troll.Kin huh?

I send out a sign that we had decided ahead of time and we get into formation.

This time Bel using the gun is the guts so we won't suddenly rush into the room.

We'll start off with everyone fortifying the surroundings while Bel is in the center. Giberuti will be on standby a bit of distance away.

Bel slowly started advancing while aiming the muzzle of the gun

above and after passing between Zenom and Ralpa advanced towards the center of the entrance to the room. Zenom and Ralpa are on standby at both of her sides. Of course they're already using the ear plugs.

I stand on guard with my bayonet besides Zenom as well. Hmn, Cave Trolls huh?

After confirming that everyone's in position I give Bel the sign.

Bel held the gunstock to her right shoulder with her cheek to the rifle at the ready.

Several seconds later.

Bang!!

Along with the roar of the rifle a certain kill bullet was fired.

The troll that was closest to us facing the side fell over to side just like that.

The bullet doesn't have any jacket, since it's just the so-called hard tip lead bullet, after hitting it's believed it didn't change shape inside of the body but just pierced through the head.

Immediately after the other 3 turned over here to the direction of the roaring sound.

Bang!!

Just as I thought a small hole was opened a bit below the left eye of the one on the left side, it fell over face forward on the spot.

Whether they realized that or not the remaining 2 started running over here while holding their clubs.

Even if it's Bel she should be about at her limit.

"I'll take the one on the right!"

I shouted before hitting the one on the right with a {Flame

Catapult Missile} killing it instantly.

Ralpa, Gwine, and Basutorial fired off {Flame Bolts} at the one on the left.

Zulu and Angela charged at that one with their weapons ready.

Finally Zenom threw his magic axe and without missing it stabbed into the trolls forehead from the front.

After that we all gathered around and beat the 2 Cave Trolls that were convulsing after being shot by Bel until their regeneration couldn't keep up and they completely died. Ah, I forgot to use {Identify}.

After we killed them I checked their heads and the bullets Bel fired completely pierced through, there was a slightly large hole on the exit from the bullet with gray brains sticking out.

Hmm.

I guess they passed out from the large damage to the brain when it hit their heads, or did they die instantly the moment their brains were destroyed...

While it might not be to the point of lead but the bullets are made from considerably hard and heavy iron so they shouldn't have flattened too much when hitting. Most likely they wouldn't have changed in shape anymore than {full metal jacket}. After all making them {Soft.Point} or {Soft.Hollow} might be the best.

I can't tell the precise caliber for sure but I used the image of

M80s a copy of 7.62*51mm NATO bullets that were used by the M1 and my Type-64 in the SDF, so they should be exactly as my image seems.

Though I don't know whether the amount of gunpowder is the same.

Judging from the penetration force this should be fine in regards

to the caliber and amount of gunpowder.

I think taking into consideration the piercing even the bullet-head

should be fine like this. However, that's when the opponent is

{Lesser Yowie} and such which are difficult to pierce through their

bodies. When it comes to Trolls, Ogres, and Minotaur they

fundamentally aren't much different from people and horses so it

might be best to make some changes...

If it comes to this then a revolver type cylinder ends up being a

pain to exchange the bullets.

But, it's fine whether it's bolt action or auto but the complex

structure of the parts are on a completely different level so

trying to suddenly use some other form of magazine than a revolving

cylinder is too difficult right~

Also, if I were to take into consideration exchanging the ball

cartridges in the chamber and if I can just make it possible to

exchange for each rotating cylinder then the rotating cylinder will

be far more useful. After all, they can be replaced along with the

chamber.

Well, that can be done eventually..I guess. It's not like you can't

kill using bullets with high piercing power.

The possibility that you can't pierce through their skin when

shooting them is far more frightening.

Though I say that, even if you can't pierce through they still take

the energy from the bullet so I'm sure they wouldn't take no damage

at all.

Either way is fine.

However, putting that aside, we've proven the usefulness of the

rifle.

If it can pierce through the head of a troll then it should be fine
against the mino as well.

Even if it can't pierce through their heads there's no problem as
long as it works against their large chest or body which isn't
covered in solid bones.

If it quickly pierces through their lungs then either way they'll
quickly have difficulty breathing.

If it hits their heart then it just takes one shot I'm sure.

.....

Out of the 7 Minotaur Bel managed to entangle 4 of them, Angela
instantly killed 1 of them with the rifle and heavily injured 1
more. She must have had good luck with the one she killed
instantly.

The bullet went into it's mouth while it was shouting and then
pierced through the back of it's head just like that.

If she can take out 1.5 of them then the rest of us can deal with
them in any way we please.

Yeah. It should be fine to call it a big success.

If we have this then there's no longer any enemies that can oppose
us on the 9th floor. I'm sure even the 10th floor is no
problem.

I'm very satisfied.

I tried to use {Identify} on Angela while she was gathering magic
stones from the mino.

Obviously I couldn't do it.

I hatefully glare at the 2 whirlpools of fog that are still
swirling around.

If I think about it isn't Angela the first one to completely kill a

mino all on her own other than myself?
We always team up to beat them from all sides after all.
Even when we can't beat them from all sides, there were almost no
instances where one person could completely kill one alone.
If I remember right then Angela was just a bit more from leveling
up to 22.
I'm sure she should have leveled up from that Mino just now.
After taking a short break I intend on going to check out a
different room on the 9th floor so it should be fine to {Identify}
her then.

...

.....

.....Huh?

【Experience: 1429651(1430000)】

It hasn't..increased...

No, it hasn't increased much?

What about the others? I guess Basutorial is fine.

【Experience: 844678(950000)】

It's increased by about 2,000 since before we fought against the
mino, I think. Though I don't have much confidence. But, I can hope
for this much.

Why?

I'm sure she killed that mino instantly.

Hmm, though it might be an exaggeration that she killed it

instantly but it should have been pretty close to that.
Soon after she fired it started convulsing like the trolls but
after we finished off the ones in the net and went to gather magic
stones no matter how I looked at it, it was already dead.
She certainly received a large amount of experience over 1,000 but
that's from the ones stuck in the net and the ones she defeated

together with us..Is it my misunderstanding?
I'll watch the experience points of the shooter once more.
Bel's current experience points are at 【Experience:

1133265(1260000)】 huh.

.....

Out of the 2 Troll.Kin Bel finished off 1 of them. This sort of
fellow.

【】

【Male/28/10/7447.Troll.Kin】

【Condition: Normal】

【Age: 0 Years Old】

【Level: 5】

【HP: 292(292) MP: 1(1)】

【Strength: 37】

【Speed: 16】

【Dexterity: 10】

【Endurance: 28】

【Special Skill: Dark Vision】

【Special Skill: Super.Regeneration Type III】

The remaining 1 was beaten to death by everyone before Bel could do
anything.

Everyone who participated in combat excluding me earned around
100~500 experience points each.

Basutorial who stabbed it with a spear using all of his power
received a bit more but that makes sense.

Ralpha and Zulu who parried and dodged it's attacks at the front
also received a bit more than the rest as well. That's fine too. I
already understand the logic. It's more important that everyone
else received experience points that weren't far off from my
expectations.

Since Bel defeated 1 of them alone it's fine to hope for about

2,000 from this opponent.

【Experience: 1133265(1260000)】

..Don't screw with me.

I observe the Troll.Kin whose head was shot through by Bel while thinking.

Swords and bows are okay but guns are no good?

What in the world is different?

...

Is it because pulling the strings of a bow require your own physical strength?

Even when it comes to a crossbow in the end it requires human strength to load.

Do you not earn any experience points from defeating enemy soldiers using a catapult during war?

Damn it.

Chapter 289: Anxiety 2

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 6

"Al, what have you been doing since just now?"

Zenom called out to me when I was observing the head of the

Troll.Kin in order to cover up the fact that I was focused on thinking. I'm sure it's necessary to explain and it's not like I'll come to a conclusion even if I think anymore than this. I guess it's just right.

"Nn, I was investigating the wound. Look at this. Here is where the bullet from the gun hit."

"Hmm."

"And just like that it passed through the skull and the back of the head and now it's probably stuck in the wall somewhere over there."

"The wound on the back sure is big. Even though the wound on the front is smaller than an arrow wound."

"Yeah, when it passed through the skull from the face the angle must have shifted slightly. Because of that when it passed through the skull in the back of the head it wasn't from the front but a bit above that. It's fine if you just think of it as the bullet getting a bit bigger without losing any momentum."

"Hohou, I see, no clue at all."

As expected even if I were to tell him about the movement of energy or shock waves he wouldn't understand it. I said it as simply as possible without touching on those but it seems it was still outside the category of comprehension for Zenom. Though, I don't

think Gwine or Ralpa would understand either so there's no problem at all.

"Is it necessary to modify the bullet?"

Bel came to participate in the conversation. Although, in her case

I'm sure it has a completely different meaning than Zenom.

"Nn. I don't know if it's necessary or not yet. It would be good if

we can use several types based on the opponent but as expected that is..(Eh..)"

When I turned around while replying looking at Bel I almost raised

my voice and took a step back. Th..This girl, what kind of expression is she making...

There was a blazing light in Bel's eyes and her face was a bit red.

She was making a cruel and bewitching smile while her breath seemed a bit rough. Ah, this girl..Is it that? Is she a dangerous person?

But, rather than that there's a problem.

"Bel! Don't lower the muzzle! Remove your fingers from the

trigger!! Rather than quickly call over Giberuti and hand him the gun."

I reflexively yelled in a loud voice.

"Eh? Ah, I..I'm sorry! I..I'll go and call Larry."

After being warned by me over something extremely basic, Bel turned

red from embarrassment and ran out of the room in a hurry. She was properly holding the top base of the gunstock in her right

hand while holding the barrel up with her left hand as she aimed the gun upwards with an angle of 30 to 45 degrees.

It's the gun reserve stance.

Yeah, it's no good if you can't naturally and subconsciously do

that reserve gun {high port} stance.

Even though she was able to do it just before...

Today I was planning to keep an eye on things while letting everyone try shooting living targets but judging from that state of Bel it's a bit troubling.

Because it's necessary for shooting I only taught her the most basic stances for firing and holding the gun in reserve but judging from this state of things, I wonder if it's really no good if I don't do gun drills?

It's probably no good.

Next time I'll make sure to add a strap to the gun.

In the end after that I decided to hold off on using the gun

because of Bel's bad performance in gun safety.

It's force was plenty to be recognized and either way it doesn't earn any experience points after all. If they can't pay attention to the surroundings and in the worst case someone gets hurt during an accident then that's still fine but there's no going back if anyone were to die.

Also, it's about time for them to get conscious about joint responsibility over a wider range.

Bel apologized to everyone while we were having dinner that night.

"Umm..Everyone, I'm sorry that I stole your chance to practice today."

From how she apologized herself before I said anything she must be feeling responsible for it.

It seemed like the mood was about to get a bit darker and I don't want it to become a situation of blaming Bel.

"It's good that you feel responsible but that's something everyone who was on the spot and had their sights on you should feel."

I'll take this chance to explain how to treat guns or rather about

guns once again.

"..Particularly this gun right now doesn't have a safety attached to it. There's no such thing as being too careful about the safety of your surroundings. Be careful."

I repeat saying the details I've said countless times since I made the first net gun. In particular it seems everyone was shocked that Bel, who's the most skilled at shooting, was intoxicated by firing and got negligent with safety so they appeared to be listening more seriously than usual.

"I'll say this once again but there's three classifications for firing stances. Five classifications when you're holding a gun. However, for the time being the firing stance is the standing position. I want to thoroughly enforce the reserve and upwards positions when handling guns other than when firing. Including Giberuti I want everyone to continue until you can do it subconsciously. Until then using guns in live combat is banned."

For the most part the crouching and laying firing positions aren't necessary in the dungeon so I've skipped those. In reality the standing firing position wasn't on any textbooks I knew of from the JSDF but the firing distance in the dungeon is several tens of meters and depending on the case it could be even closer combat so I made the standing posture the fundamental so they can move right away. Both the hanging and lowering gun postures are impossible until the strap is done as well. Just holding over the shoulder is possible but that's only really used for marches when trying to look good so I left it out as well. The lifting position? That's

another that isn't needed until I've actually got an army and it's necessary to salute.

In any case I just need to pound into them that the holding posture when moving must be in the reserve position holding it upwards.

Also, there's the matter of experience points this time as well.

It might be about a good time for that one matter.

Of course it's in regards to the "{Identification} spell".

I'll consult with Miduchi and Rodrick when we return from the dungeon.

.....

That night when keeping lookout I was together with Bel.

While the two of us were sitting down sipping at hot bean tea

together on a bench near everyone sleeping she apologized once again.

"I didn't notice it at first because I thought I can't afford to

miss but after that when we were against the Minotaurs I was

excited by it's power when Maruso was firing the gun. Ever since

then I've been wanting to use it and itching to try firing it to

the point I couldn't help it...The second time against the Troll

Kin I was extremely excited seeing a monster fall after a single

shot from a bullet. I might not be suited for using guns.."

Bel was nervous like a child as she apologized ashamed of herself.

"If you've realized that yourself then there's no problem. Also, if

Bel doesn't act is shooter than who should? It would be a waste of

{Shooting.Sense}."

I said it as a joke but I didn't think Bel was actually that

worried about it.

"But.."

Bel lowered her head while giving off an air almost as if she was afraid of something.

"You know, even in the JSDF there's a considerable amount of time before they lend out live guns and have you start actual shooting training. The handling of guns is called "gun control" but I feel pretty responsible for not properly pounding that into everyone from the start as well. The matter this time, if you were to ask who is the most responsible then it would be me for using them in live combat in that half-assed state. I'm sorry."

Ralpa's rolled up in her blanket right behind us after switching watch a short while ago. I lowered the tone of my voice while saying it so as to not wake her up.

"No way! Please don't apologize. Putting aside the proper posture, I..it's the same for Ral, Gwine, and Saji as well but we knew very well about the power and dangers of guns. It's something that we should be careful about safety when using."

Completely dropping her nervous lack of confidence Bel tried to cover for me.

"Yeah, I'm sure you could look at it that way as well. But, the one with the most experience and knowledge in handling guns is me. At the very least I shouldn't have let you all use them in live combat until I was confident there were no problems in handling them...I must have been in a hurry myself..Sorry."

With the completion of the guns, I was the worst in getting too excited. Certainly I wanted to be able to safely pass through the 9th floor but there was no need to hurry.

"..I..I'm sorry. I..was worried what I would do if Al-san said he didn't need me.."

Eeh!!? How could that even be possible?

"..Hey, there's no way I'd say something like that right. It's not just to Bel. I wouldn't say something like that to anyone else in the {Slaughterers} either."

I wonder if I seem like someone who would easily say something like that? It's a bit depressing.

"Yes, I already understand that. But, I was talking with Toris about it before we entered the dungeon this time. The power of guns is amazing. If you can make something that good then you should be able to make it deeper into the dungeon of Baldukk anytime..Also, anyone can easily land a hit if they just practice a bit for the distances of battles in the dungeon. If it comes to that then someone like me who's just a bit good at shooting..I'd never know when I'd be told to exchange spots with someone from the {Butchers} or {Exterminators}.."

Bel said with tears falling from her eyes.

So she was afraid of that?

But, if things come to that then it can't be helped..or rather it's not a matter of just that level of discussion I'm sure.

From Bel's standpoint, when there were no guns excluding magic she was just someone a bit skilled at using a powerful long distance attack. That's why she must have had some pride and confidence supported by that. Even after obtaining guns Bel's shooting skill is still quite amazing and everyone's recognized that. She should understand that herself as well.

However, if you just think about it in terms of simple shooting

skill without using Unique Abilities, Bel can't be considered the best. Shooting is after all decided by the amount of practice. Of course I'm the most skilled since I've used guns in the past.

Holding guns in the correct posture is effective in enduring recoil and particularly when it comes to the operation the moment the hammer impacts I'm number one at naturally understanding the meaning behind it. In the first place I'm the one designing and making them after all.

Although, I think it's just a matter of time before I'm overtaken.

Well, that's enough about me.

It seems like Bel wasn't thinking about exceeding me right from the start either.

There an unexpected ambush was laying in wait. Angela. At first she fell over hearing the explosion from the gunpowder and was afraid of it but after having her practice firing and getting used to the sound, I guess she has a natural talent because her skill has visibly improved. In no time at all even Bel doesn't stand a chance against her when not using her Unique Ability. From Bel's standpoint she might have felt a sense of crisis.

But, even then she's still number two excluding me.

Probably, I don't think I was all that skilled at shooting in the

first place so I doubt I'll improve much from here on out either.

Even then I have no problems in the short distance of around 100

meters so it's fine though. Even Bel boasts of a considerable

accuracy in the 10s to 100 meter range without her Unique Ability

just like me and her skill is still continuing to grow.

For her to worry this much just because she got a bit full of herself seeing the power of guns and was negligent with safety...It might have been especially a shock for her with her confidence in shooting.

"Well...I still can't imagine there would be anyone willing to challenge Bel in the next member change match. Also, there's no way you could have it so easy as madam Marquis in the future. If you want status then both Bel and Toris need to eat mud together with me~"

I replied while lifting just the right side of my mouth into a nihilistic smile that I thought was cool.

"Yes..Yes..That's right. But, please just let me say one thing."

Bel who was sitting on my left side said while looking up at me with a crying smile.

Hn? What is it?

"It's fine if you don't try to act so cool and cover it up. Say it a bit more honestly."

Hearing Bel's words a natural smile appeared.

"Nn, I see. I guess so. Bel. It's the same for Ralpa as well but.. just for that level of reason, there's no way I would so easily let go of you two. You two were my first Japanese friends on Orth."

"Oh, what about Toris, Gwine, and Saji? It's the same for Rodrick as well, and if you say that then Miduchi-san's position..Also, what about Zenom-san, Kamu-san, and the others?"

It seems she's feeling a bit better. Bel said while leaning her body against and looking up at me.

It's a teasing tone.

I'm troubled where to look.

Rather~ didn't I just say "first Japanese"...

I scratch my head while scooting forward and leaning all the way

back into the bench looking at everyone upside down to try and

cover it up.

Ralpha who should have been sleeping right behind us was sitting up

and looking over here with a grin on her face.

I completely met eyes with her.

Fufu.

Sleep while you can.

Don't be staying awake to eavesdrop~

The position was a bit painful but I beckoned her over just like

that.

If you're awake then you join us for a bit as well.

It seems Bel stood up to make some more bean tea.

Chapter 290: Anxiety 3

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 8

Now then, once again today I've been thoroughly teaching them about the handling of guns just the same as the day before yesterday but after all thinking about things from here on out and I can't help but feel complicated about not using them for very long. There's no helping the matter of not earning any experience points but there's no mistake that it's a useful weapon. The advantage of anyone being able to use a long distance attack with a fixed attack power is still great even excluding the experience points.

On the occasions when we're up against Mino, Trolls, and Ogres, monsters with strength, I after all want to one with us as insurance. Those sorts of powerful monsters even if they don't land a hit on the vitals like the head all it takes is being grazed to suffer serious injuries. Particularly if we could let the porter Giberuti use it then it would be a big trump card.

While Giberuti was preparing breakfast I was thinking about various things while checking my equipment in a corner of the room. "Hey, Al. I discussed it with Saji when we were keeping lookout yesterday but.."

Before I realized it Ralpa was nearby whispering to me in a low voice. It seems she just finished taking a shower and her hair is still wet as she has a towel wrapped around her head. We can't use magic here so I can't dry it for her.

"Did Bel really point the muzzle of the gun at Al that time?"

Ralpa with a suspicious expression on her face started saying

things that make no sense in an even lower voice as her face approached mine.

She was certainly pointing the muzzle in my direction and her finger was still on the trigger. If that wasn't the case there's no way I would have panicked that much. Even Zenom saw it by my side you know.

"What's the mean?"

"Hmn, as a matter of fact.."

Supposedly Basutorial and Ralpa discussed Bel's actions that were the reason for banning the usage of guns while keeping lookout last night. And then the two of them couldn't help but feel doubtful about Bel, who's knowledgeable about projectile weapons and normally using them damage monsters, handling one carelessly.

"If you put it like that then that's certainly true.."

Though I replied like that, I've already understood the reason why after talking to Bel that night. She said she couldn't hold back her excitement over the gun that was several times more powerful than a bow. She was intoxicated by the fact that it could even render a mino or troll powerless in a single shot. After all, when it comes to the bow let alone a mino or troll, unless you can hit them in the eye from the front you can't even stop an ork or hobgoblin with a single hit.

"For that Bel to handle a gun carelessly is.."

Ralpa was trying to say that Bel's actions were too unnatural coming from her. Certainly if it's put like that then it's hard to imagine Bel ignoring something so basic even though I've been nagging them normally over the handling of guns for so long. Fundamentally Bel's never gone against the things I say. Of course,

she occasionally objects and comments on things so she's not just a simple yes-man but she's never done something so shameful as going back against something that's already been decided. Even though she's like that for her to be negligent with safety in that sort of situation...

Certainly it doesn't make sense.

However, didn't we just enthusiastically go over learning gun command yesterday...

"Hey, what do you think about it?"

"Hmm. If it's put like that then..Certainly I've started to feel that it was a bit strange. Call over Baustoral, no, I'll directly ask Bel about it."

"Yeah, do that. But I'm sure Bel has some sort of thoughts about it. If possible you should do it when you're alone with her and not get angry."

That's only obvious. Of course I understand.

The next one to leave the teleport crystal room for morning beauty(though there's no shampoo) after Ralpa was Bel. She's the only one outside of the room..right. Everyone else is in the room. I told Giberuti to wait a bit longer on breakfast and left the room. I'm not going to peep so don't misunderstand. I decided to wait for Bel to return in the middle area between the rocks we use as a shower and the teleport crystal room.

"A..Al-san, good morning."

"Yeah, Bel, good morning."

"Al-san are you having a shower as well? That's unusual. What's going on?"

No, it's just a portion but I've already got my armor right.

There's no way I'd take a shower at this point.

"Is it fine to talk for a bit?"

"About what?"

Bel tilted her head while wiping her wet hair.

"Hey~ I only just realized it at this point but do you have anything you want to say?"

"Fufu..For Al-san I thought you were acting quite dense."

Dense you say, that's overestimating me right.

"Though, even if I say that since I was able to talk to the other night it was fine whether you realized or not. But, if you've already realized, then don't you already understand what I was going for?"

I felt a bit complex hearing Bel's words but after all she had some sort of objective huh...

However, an objective..In order to thoroughly enforce gun safety once again?

At this point?

"I see. Honestly speaking I didn't realize it myself so I can't boast about it."

"That's fine~that's fine. But, the feelings I talked about at that time were the truth."

"Hn?"

"That I didn't know what I would do if Al-san said I wasn't needed."

"Nn, yeah.."

I guess that means there was some acting and hidden messages behind the parts other than that...

"Nn..It can't be helped acting cool. What Bel wanted to do, I still understand the reason. Why did you do something like that?"

"..Really?"

Really? you say, if it was an objective that easy to understand?

Then after all I can only think of trying to reinforce gun safety once again?

"..But, over half of my objective has already been achieved."

Bel said with a soft expression.

".."

"For the time being, guns have been banned from use. I was able to make time for us to think about the handling of guns again in the meantime."

Bel adjusted her posture and made a serious expression.

"..Al-san. There's something I discussed with Miduchi-san,

Zenom-san, and Toris the other day. Would you listen?"

"Of course."

I'll listen to anyone's opinion including Bel and if it's something worth implementing I'll obviously take it into consideration.

"Al-san haven't you been too overconfident recently? No, there's no special meaning behind it. I can't find the right words for it..Right. With the completion of guns for the time being haven't you been exposing too many weaknesses? Hmn, that doesn't sound quite right either..That's right! Aren't you paying too much attention to everyone that you've lost sight of our original goal?"

Eh? Weaknesses? Was I revealing some?

Well I'm sure there's some things I wouldn't realize myself, I'm grateful that she's pointed it out.

Bel continued speaking in rapid succession.

"Al-san said that he wouldn't let any member of the {Slaughterers} die or be killed. Of course, that's something great and wonderful. I'm in full support of it as well. But, in the first place something like that can't be promised from the moment we enter the

dungeon. It's just a front right?"

..Being told straight to my face is quite harsh, this. I wasn't thinking of it as something like a front but was seriously going for that. But, I can understand what Bel's trying to say. Something like not having any casualties, it's impossible to promise while exploring the dungeon of Baldukk where you never know what might happen.

But, if you say that then you can't mention anything about what will come in the future right? I think at the very least I have the responsibility to make that one of my objectives and even think of it as a duty.

"I understand that. But, please just remember this. People will eventually die. Haven't we already seen countless people who have died inside the dungeon up until now?"

"Nn, well, that's right."

"By the way, this time, why are you still continuing to dispatch Miduchi-san and Toris? If it was Al-san up until now, shouldn't you have dispatched me who was skilled at shooting practice the last time we entered and Maruso who's growth has been considerable to the {Butchers} and {Exterminators}?"

Since Bel suddenly started talking about something completely different I looked around thinking someone was approaching us but that wasn't the case.

"No, there's no particular reason. If I had to say it then, I wanted to concentrate on the training for the two of you since you seemed to be skilled at it, would be the reason I guess?"

Yeah. Miduchi and Toris are both somewhat decent and they can use magic as well so I thought it would be fine to put off serious

shooting practice for them. It's nothing more than putting priority on Bel and Angela who I thought would quickly pick up on it. After hearing my reply Bel started grumbling complaints to herself.

Saying things like, "Really now" and "Because of that.."

Somehow..it seems I took an unexpected action when picking members for the {Slaughterers} this time. Certainly I've been dispatching them successively for no real reason recently.

"This time it was supposed to be Miduchi-san who discussed it with Al-san. Since it was originally a discussion that started from Miduchi-san. But it can't be helped. I couldn't think of anything other than that."

Hnn?

"Really~ why is it only at times when I'm trying to talk about things like this...Even though I don't have any confidence in properly conveying it..The same for Miduchi-san, Zenom-san, and Toris..Ah, excuse me."

Somehow it seems difficult to say.

"Al-san. Couldn't we just stop using guns in the dungeon already?"

"Ha?"

What's she saying?

"Ah, that's not what I meant. The aspect of using guns itself is fine. Though it's not good, it's fine."

I don't understand at all.

"I obviously trust Kamu-san and the others. They're normal Orth people but after accompanying them up until now I feel like I can trust them a reasonable amount. But, they're people from Orth. I'll say ahead of time that I'm absolutely not looking down on them. I

don't want to have to say something like this but starting with guns they don't know how truly frightening weapons from Earth can be. I'm sure they can somewhat imagine it after properly explaining to them but there's no way they could truly understand how frightening they can be in the true meaning."

That might be true. Though it might not be. Whatever the case it's not a topic that we can ever be sure on.

"Umm you know. I, no, we all think that sooner or later someone will die in the dungeon. Of course, no one wants to die. It's the same for me as well. I have no intention of dying."

Y..Yeah.

"Having said that, I'll say it once again. Isn't it fine no matter who dies? As long as Al-san doesn't die the dream will still continue."

Eeeh!! That's not good!

"I heard from Miduchi-san. You were originally only planning to make guns after you had a territory...You pushed your plans forward because we were struggling with just those mere Minotaurs right? Please stop. Please don't take such a large risk for our sake."

Nn..Well, it's certainly true that I started making the net gun because there was no way of telling when the powerful Minotaurs would respawn. We can't use magic after all~

"Certainly everyone was intoxicated by the power of guns at the start. We were really excited. That's the same for me too."

Bel's explanation jumped all over the place as she continued speaking. Simply summing up the main points and it's like this.

She only wants us to use guns when the party consists of the reincarnated people, Zenom, Zulu, Angela, and Giberuti. That would be everyone who currently knows about the existence of guns. While they may look like that even Rokko and Jeru who appear frivolous are pretty solid at keeping secrets. Even if they were to know about guns it's hard to think that they would reveal the information. From the standpoint of a top adventurer at the front lines of Baldukk it's suicide revealing the secret moving force of the {Slaughterers} after all.

However, you never know what might happen next time or the time after that, someone may eventually appear who replaces them in the member exchange matches. If it's the same as up until now then we would continue using the guns at that time.

Furthermore, if we go to even deeper floors from here on out it's easy to think that monsters more powerful than those Minotaur will appear.

Would they really be able to remain quiet about guns that could possibly easily defeat such a powerful monster? Even if no one reveals it directly it's possible it could be leaked from discussions in the party.

Especially when we go to the 10th and 11th floors, everyone is already focused on the conversations between members of the {Slaughterers}, and that'll increase even more.

We can't afford to increase the "possibility" of exposing information about guns, which will be a huge power for us when we go independent in the future, over something like this. If there's something we have no choice other than to use guns for then it

should only be when we have all of the former {Slaughterers} members in the party.

Even if someone ends up losing their life as a result of that we should accept it.

If that's unacceptable then it's fine if we rig the member change matches or anything else so make it so no members are switched out.

And that's the conclusion that the four of them decided on.

"Bel, are you saying that seriously?"

"I'm serious. It means that anyone who dies along the way only measured up to there."

Bel coldly said with no expression like a Noh mask.

Certainly I thought something pretty similar up until a while back...

However.

"Is that the same for Miduchi, Zenom, and Toris?"

"That's right. It was originally something that Miduchi-san brought up and it's the conclusion that we all decided on after discussing it."

".."

"In order to reduce the danger you pushed forward your plans and made guns. That part is fine. But, that might end up bringing about calamity in the future. Al-san, what meaning is there in doing something so naive?"

Naive, huh~ If it's being naive by trying to reduce the chances of casualties among my subordinates even just a bit and raise the safety then it can't be helped. It might be naive. However, I don't think that's the case...

I'm obtaining a massive treasure from this dungeon of Baldukk,

where you never know what might happen, without a single sacrifice. Though I think it's a harsh goal that even that George.Rombert the First couldn't accomplish. However, it's certainly a bit different from what Bel and the others are saying. It would certainly be wonderful if we could do that without using guns. However, the absurdly strong ones that were among those Minotaur. If something like that comes out in the future..I'm sure it will. It'll be close to impossible to deal with that without guns. Even if I were to fight against {The.Gazer} once more there's no way of telling what might happen.

"..That's right, there's a "message from Miduchi-san"."

Bel continued talking just as I took a breath and was about to say something.

"That is..it's a message from Miduchi-san but what I'm about to say is also the opinion of the four of us. Everything up until now was just the type of front that Al-san might like. Even if I say front it was considerably serious about the exposure of information though..in truth though.."

There's a real reason behind it?

"If they just use a gun then even a small child can kill you instantly. It's scary."

Certainly if they witness the power of guns then there's no guarantee someone might not have a change of heart. If it's a person even just a bit quick witted they could kill us in our sleep with a gun or something and then for example it's even possible to imagine them selling it to the Kingdom of Rombert as a new type of weapon. I'm sure they wouldn't be able to create new ammunition but

if it's right after we've made some it would still be a reasonable amount.

Bel continued to say.

"I already know that it's unlikely to the point of overthinking.

Starting with Kamu-san, all of the current members are relying on Al-san and obviously respect Al-san's intentions...you have a firm will as you speak of a dream bigger than anyone and run towards it. Everyone understands quite a bit about Al-san. Also, we think of you as stronger than anyone, wiser than anyone, and thinking farther ahead than anyone else. And then..you share your heart with everyone and wish for our safety more than anyone else."

What kind of Saint is that? I'm not anything that significant.

Also, don't say things like that with such a straight face.

It took quite a bit of willpower to endure breaking eye contact.

"Don't you know? Starting with Kamu-san, everyone says they're going to become a noble below Al-san. Of course~ even if they earn big here in the dungeon at best they could end up as a squire family of some noble somewhere...That's right, supposedly even Misu-san and Jeru-san who planned to return to their home towns one day are discussing things about the future you know?

In order to act more refined Rokko-san and Kevin-san have started joining the study sessions with Saji that they used to turn down as troublesome up until now. Ah, saji only teaches words and math and it's primarily Toris and I that are teaching those sorts of things.

Sanno-san and Ruttsu-san just mastered up to division the other

day. Zulu and Maruso aren't just teaching Al-san's slaves Henry and Mekku but they're teaching various things to Denda and Karimu as well. Everyone's saying they want to quickly participate in Al-san's lectures for Miduchi-san, Zenom-san, Rodrick-san, Toris, and I, that they're definitely going to reach the level where they can.

On days off, there's no longer anyone who spends their days playing around."

Eh..I didn't know that far. But...

"Ah..Ral and Gwine are..Umm.."

Yeah. That I knew about.

"In any case, it's hard to imagine that anyone would betray Al-san and expose things regarding the guns but even if we don't think that way we can't deny the possibility that it'll still be exposed. It's an unpleasant way of thinking but in the first place the focus of reincarnated people and Al-san's slaves are different in that regard after all.."

Ah..Well, that might be the case...

"Al-san, you're already everyone's hope. You're the hope of everyone who wants to entrust their lives to your dream. Of course, that's the same for us as well. Even by chance we don't want you to trip up in an insignificant place."

Bel said that and smiled.

Chapter 291: Identify 1

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 9

For a full 2 days or so after I talked to Bel I continued to pound things about guns into everyone properly. During that time I'd always say, "I have something to think about" and spend it thinking to myself.

After that we returned from the dungeon and just as we were returning to the entrance plaza after cashing in our magic stones it was just as everyone else was returning to the surface. Just the same as usual we moved over to Murowa's food cart and exchanged information about our battle gains this time before everyone started discussing the upcoming member change matches.

Yeah, just as expected.

"This month we'll enter the dungeon once more and then have the member change matches on the days off after that. That's why it'll be after the 18th. Also about the method but I'm making it a more simple and easier to understand method."

I thought about the conditions for the member change match while we were exploring the dungeon this time. Last time was far too overprotective.

Everyone's paying attention to what I'll say next.

"Obviously the stamina test is the same as up until now. We'll have this on the next day after we come out of the dungeon, though I guess that's too harsh so we'll do it on the 19th. After you pass through that we'll confirm who each of the pairs wants to challenge. Alright, everything up to here is the same."

Everyone's got a light smile on their faces as if they have some confidence.

Yeah, since it seems like they've been putting in quite a bit of effort after all.

It might be possible that a number of people or groups will pass other than Kamu and Kimu.

"Things are different starting here. Last time we were measuring time and searching around for just the right ogres it was all too troublesome. From here on out we'll make the method I'm about to explain the standard."

After saying that far I looked around at everyone's faces and it was as if they were saying, "Just hurry up and say it already"

Yes~yes.

"There's no change in that you'll be up against ogres on the 7th floor but this time it'll be a single round match, the details are simple. The test will last almost a full day. It's fine no matter how you use that day. It's over who can bring back the highest value in magic stones from the 7th floor in that day. Of course it's fine even if it's 1 or a lot of them is fine as well.

Obviously only magic stones obtained from the 7th floor will count. The one with the highest value after cashing them in at the magic stone shop Danhiru will win. Right? Isn't it simple?"

Nfu~ and I can hear the sound of sighing. There's some small suppressed laughs as well. They must have quite a bit of confidence. Putting aside the {Exterminators}, the {Butchers} have gained quite a bit of experience fighting against ogres after all.

Of course, I'll be handing each of the groups a map of the 7th floor. Also, I'll have several people go with them as guards and observers to prevent cheating. However, the guards will always remain at least several tens of meters away. They'll confirm the course taken and combat methods but they won't say anything about the methods the challengers decide on and even if they're asked for opinions they won't reply. We'll only tell them just their starting point where we teleported into on the map. Also, it'll act as the safety measure role to prevent them from charging into too dangerous of a place like the monster rooms.

I'll be careful in picking these guards so there's no cheating that occurs. For example, if I let Basutorial or Angela who will definitely be challenged to act as guards, I'll add in at least one other person from the challenger side to act as guard together with them. Depending on the case the person being challenged might be moved to the last in the order and it's fine to fill the guards with nothing but the challengers. If Miduchi or I mix in with them just in case then it shouldn't be all that dangerous.

"Obviously, you should use the weapons and equipment you normally use. Borrowing from someone else is prohibited. It's no good if you can't continue to use it after the test after all. Also, the first ones to pass the stamina test will be given priority in the order for naming someone. If multiple challengers all challenge the same person and everyone wins it would be troublesome in various ways."

Here a number of people started making grim expressions. They must

not have though that far. The strongest contenders among the challengers at this point are Kamu and Kimu who won the right last time. If they can't surpass them in the stamina test it doesn't seem like they'll be able to challenge Basutorial and Angela after all. However, since it was still something only obvious it seems they accepted it soon after.

"Obviously you're free to use the full day however you want. It's fine if you return to the 6th floor partway through to take a break or get some sleep, and it's fine if you don't return as well. Well I don't really recommend not returning though."

After that I went through a Q&A over the fine details and finished the discussion.

.....

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 12

We finished our group training in the morning. Yeah~yeah, it was worth it having them practice attack spells on top of just practice matches this time. After giving out some simple instructions to everyone for entering the dungeon tomorrow, I stopped Rodrick who was about to go for lunch.

"I have a bit of something to discuss. It's something I don't really want everyone else to hear for the time being. Sorry but after you finish eating I want to talk inside of the dungeon. Ah, just in case how about you bring along Denda and Karimu as guards. Which, is why please refrain from any alcohol for lunch today."

Rodrick obediently nodded. In the first place he wasn't the type to drink alcohol at noon. At best drinking some beer occasionally~ on

hot days. Though that's with ice floating inside of it.
After that is, Miduchi who I already talked to ahead of time
and..Zenom for sure.

.....

"What's going on?"

Rodrick asked with a curious expression.

Denda who came along as a guard is standing near the teleport

crystal while Karimu is about 40~50 meters away from us on the
other side of the hall watching out for monsters.

"During our days off this time, I finally completed the new spell

that I've been working on for a number of years now. I wanted to
hear your opinion on it."

Miduchi who was standing quietly nearby looked over at me
naturally.

Zenom made a "Hmm" expression.

"Ah..that. The expansion of {Status Open} was it? So you were able
to do it. Isn't that great."

Rodrick replied like, is that so, congratulations. It's a bit

half-hearted of a reply. He also seemed as if he was about to say,
so what if that's the case? Zenom also gave a reply that was a bit
anticlimactic like, "Ho~ that's~ great right."

Although, in the first place I explained it as "making it possible

to use {Status Open} without touching them with a hand" after all.
Being able to confirm the targets name and types of special skills
in secret from a bit of distance away was the sales point so I had
already somewhat expected this reaction.

"First off, this spell consumes a massive amount of mana. Even for
me it's a matter of whether I can use it 5 times or so right
now."

"Even Al can only use it just that number of times..That's a bit?"

Zenom made a doubtful expression and asked while stroking his beard.

"Yeah. But the effects are even better than that. Give me a bit of time. I'll try using it on Rodrick."

"That's fine but..it might be nice that you can use {Status Open} without needing to touch someone with your hand. Even if you say there's an effect even better than that for Al-san to only be able to use 5 times is.."

Rodrick replied a bit disappointed while putting a bit of distance between us and sitting down on the floor of the dungeon.

Fufu, just watch.

I slowly start mentally concentrating.

That's right.

I've started concentrating.

As a matter of fact it was true that I developed a new spell.

It really took quite a bit of time for me to complete this spell.

Though by the time I remembered it I only worked on it in my spare time.

I named it, "{Shine.Light.Eyes}".

In order to activate the spell it requires void magic at MAX level as well as all elemental magics at MAX level and furthermore requires using all of them respectively between 30 and 35 times to use. Believe it or not the MP consumed is 1450.

Furthermore, the effect of the spell is just as it's name reads. It

let's your eyes shine. If I don't add any sort of extension to the duration it lasts my body level multiplied by 60 seconds or so but

it can be canceled at anytime. If you know the effects of the spell and pay close attention then you'll just barely notice my eyes giving off a light blue light in a dark place, that sort of exceedingly extraordinary spell.

Also, what you can't forget is because the amount of MP used is absurdly high even if anyone were to see it there's almost no way they could imitate it. Even if they did have enough mana to imitate it since I'm explaining it as the spell {Identification}, the effects and flow of mana used wouldn't match up so it's unlikely they'd be able to acquire {Shine.Light.Eyes}.

There's not a single effect other than that.

I solidify my mental concentration in order to activate the spell, and glare at Rodrick.

...

.....

I've completed it!

My eyes should be giving off a dim blue light right now.

"Rodrick.Faruergaz, Year 7444, Month 11, Day 11 name change.

Rodrick.Faruergaz, Year 7428, Month 12, Day 7, name change or naming."

Immediately after I obviously used {Identify} and started reading off the details listed in Rodrick's {Status Window}.

"Male, born Year 7428, Month 2, Day 14, Hyumu race, Count Faruergaz Family Eldest Son, Count Faruergaz Knight.."

Up until here is the general information you can see and obtain from anyone's {Status Open} window.

Rodrick and Zenom both were making amazed expressions as I started smoothly talking without even touching him. I only roughly know how much time has passed since I started. I wonder if I took too much

time for the activation? Even then I practiced so I could activate it within 5 minutes.

There's some sweat that built up on my forehead from concentrating to the extreme and it's started running down.

"Condition, Normal."

""Eh?""

The two of them raised their voices a bit surprised.

Hmhm.

"Age, 19 years old."

The two of them made slightly disappointed faces.

Oh~

"Level, 14."

The two of them made expressions as if they didn't really get it.

"I wonder if it's the body level?"

Soon after Miduchi followed-up saying that and it seems they understood.

There's no way they would know whether the number 14 is high or low but Rodrick's face was somewhat satisfied and I could tell he seemed a bit proud as well.

I guess it's because of how high of a number it is in comparison to the levels of magic special skills.

Incidentally, I think you already know this but it's a number that may or may not be considered low for a member of one of the top teams though it's not so low that it's embarrassing either.

Rather considering his original level I think you could say he's put in quite the effort in these past 2 years.

"Unique Ability, Resistance, bracket Virus Infection close bracket.

No level, horizontal line, no hyphen I guess?"

"Eeh!!?"

"Mu.."

Though I had heard about the fact that his skill had no level information, I never heard how it was displayed, at least I think.

"Special Skill, Earth Magic, Level 3, Fire Magic, Level 3, it seems it's gone up. If your magic special skills level up then say something. Don't forget about it. Wind Magic, Level 2, Wind Cu..I mean, Air Cutter, I've been telling you to use it right. Void Magic, Level 4."

"A..Ah? {Status Open}..!! This is.."

"Hm~mm"

They've already started to show quite the impressed expressions.

They seem quite busy.

Miduchi is smiling a bit while watching that from the side.

Weren't you supposed to be acting a bit surprised, really~

"..Experience."

"Huh?"

"An? Ah."

"Eeeh!!?"

Even Miduchi made a surprised expression.

Since it's still too soon we already decided to keep quiet about experience after all.

I decided to play a joke since you were acting too calm.

Sorry.

"This is a lie. But there should still be something else. There's several unnatural empty boxes."

"Al-san" Well wait a moment, there's a bit more. Count Faruergaz Family, rise to power, Ronbato. Faruergaz was granted the title for raising funds for Rombert Kingdom when it was being founded. The

current family head is Varisshu.Faruergaz the 20th

generation."

While I was reading the sub-window about the Count Faruergaz family and Rodrick's eyes and mouth opened wide as his expression twisted in shock.

Is it really something that surprising?

In order to avoid it being doubted as unbelievable Miduchi and I decided to read this out to some extent but even this is something that you should be able to find out if you spend a bit of time investigating it. After all the household of Count Faruergaz is considerably famous in the Kingdom. Of course, it's troublesome, and in the first place since I have {Identify} I didn't investigate it.

It's hard to fully trust in them in regards to the ability values but I think this sort of information is worthy of believing in it.

There's no way I'd investigate it.

"A, umm, Al-san, were those words just now really..."

"Yeah. Though I was just reading the things written on it. It's not like I was just putting on airs as I said it after investigating it."

".."

"What is it?"

Rodrick started thinking while looking at my face with a serious expression.

"Would everyone here right now please remain quiet about what they heard just now? If possible I'd be grateful if you could forget about it."

This fellow suddenly started saying something weird.

"If you're saying that then it's fine though. But it's not anything

worth hiding right?"

Thinking it's strange I tried asking him and the reply was simple.

Officially the current head of the Count Faruergaz family is the 19th generation and the reason they were granted the title of Count was because of achievements they made in a war after the country was founded. The only ones who know this are the Rombert Royal Family, and those highest up in the line of succession of the Count's family, it seems it's a secret for those other than that.

According to Rodrick the founder of the Faruergaz family isn't

Ronbato but his son named Kobisshu. Ronbato was praised for founding Rombert Kingdom together with George. Rombert the first in the past but a short while after his death it was discovered that he betrayed the Kingdom and was providing funds to Guranan Empire. Obviously the King was enraged and even considered dismantling the Faruergaz family. This scandal was forgiven because Kobisshu who was the head of the family at that time presented a massive amount of money to the royal family and ended up being buried in the darkness without becoming public.

The one who helped assist in that was a person called Marquis

Kuraveru, who is said to have been a loyal retainer during the founding of the Kingdom.

Simultaneously while he was aged quite a bit the King of Rombert,

George the First who was still on the throne didn't have a bad impression of him so Kobisshu declared, "The Faruergaz family starts again with my generation" and started naming himself as the founder of the "reborn" Faruergaz family. Just right for the timing

he had made some decent achievements in the war so it's said they made use of those achievements to raise the family. After that, Kobisshu went about thoroughly erasing all records of his own father Ronbato and you can say he more or less succeeded at it.

However, it's still passed down through only oral instruction to the heads of the Count family and conveyed so that they know that Marquis Kuraveru put in quite a bit of effort to prevent them from being dismantled so they should do their best to serve his family and rerun the favor if they ever experience an emergency. Since he was the eldest son and in a position to inherit the head of the Count Faruergaz family, Rodrick was told about it when received investiture as a knight. After receiving permission and leaving his house, his little brother is supposedly number one in the line to inherit the main household so it seems he sealed away the memory.

After all one of the high ranking noble families that should have sworn loyalty to the Rombert Family having simultaneously sworn loyalty to another family within the Kingdom is far too bad for outer appearances.

It goes against the morals of nobles. Of course, it's not like there's any sort of law against things like that but it's still something that would be scorned against.

Incidentally, the family of Marquis Kuraveru has a decent size territory in the northern Royal Territory and it's built on considerably stable management so they've never even once fallen into any sort of emergency.

In any case, while I wasn't aiming for it thanks to me casually speaking about one of the top secrets of their family they were able to recognize the {Identification} spell as useful.

It was also big that I pointed out the increase in Rodrick's Fire Magic level.

About the details I discussed this time but what was new was confirming the numerical values of {Levels}, {Condition}, {Unique Abilities}, and the fact that I can confirm the levels of {Skills} with levels, just those four. {Age} and such isn't all that important. Also, what you can't forget about is that there's empty boxes and I hinted that there might be even more information. I'll keep an eye on things from here on out and it should be fine if I reveal it progressively.

Particularly the fact that I can confirm things related to {Unique Abilities} both Rodrick and Zenom were impressed by that. They must have think it will be an advantage in searching for reincarnated people with this.

"But, if you can only use it 5 times then it can only be used as the final confirmation on those who we've guessed are highly possible to be reincarnated people and are still trying to hide themselves or we can only use it gain final confirmation on things and such right."

Miduchi said in disappointment and closed things up.

It's in order to give the impression that it's not something I can use freely as I please.

Obviously Rodrick and Zenom both wanted to know the level of someone else. For the time being since they're here I said that

Miduchi's level is 22 and Zenom's is 23 and Rodrick was depressed.

Me? I've only just reached level 31 but in the end I was forced to say it.

I was going to put my hand on Rodrick's shoulder and cheer him up as he started writing the character "no" on the ground but decided not to.

It would sound too sarcastic right. But, Zenom said,

"After all it seems it's easier to earn more experience by going to

lower floors. Just like Al said previously it should be fine to

think that there's something like experience points like unique

abilities...Hey, Rodrick don't get so depressed. There's no choice

but to give it your best right?"

And he put his hand on Rodrick's shoulder.

I reflexively met eyes with Miduchi.

Of course I'm sure Zenom didn't have even the slightest bad intentions.

Look, Rodrick's even started mumbling things like, "Even though I worked that hard.." with an expression like he's dead.

Chapter 292: Identify 2

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 12

After that it took quite a bit of effort to comfort the depressed Rodrick.

We discussed how to handle the spell of {Identification} but just as Miduchi pointed out, we came to the conclusion that it's only really useful for drawing a final conclusion in identifying if someone's a reincarnated person. Other than that is just using it as a reference point for the current abilities of the members in the {Slaughterers} and it's not like it's necessary to use it for that very often either.

Other than that there's the method of use that Miduchi and I expected from the start, using Identify on weapons, {Magic.Items}, and the various pieces of equipment. It's a simple way of putting it but we were thinking of using it for investigating the abilities. However, it seems that Rodrick and Zenom were too overwhelmed by learning about personal identification and finding out levels so they still haven't realized the possibility of using it to Identify items yet.

I'm keeping HP, MP, and the ability values hidden so I have no intention of revealing the durability or ability fields. There's still more things that I don't understand about them after all.

However, putting aside the manufacture date it's big that I can point out the {Effect} fields.

By the way, both Rodrick and Zenom said together that I should

avoid revealing the fact that I've acquired the {Identification}

spell for the present time.

"Even if you tell them it would be best if you keep it to just the reincarnated people I'm sure."

"I agree with Rodrick's opinion as well."

"I think it would be best if we tell everyone about it but..would you tell me the reason?"

Miduchi asked. She's intentionally speaking the opposite opinion to hear their thoughts.

"Hmph, it would probably be best if I say the reason."

"That's true. Zenom-san, I'll leave it to you."

"Previously, I've heard about it from Ralpa so I know it well and I don't really think anything much of it at this point but.."

According to Zenom the concept of body levels would be considerably difficult for pure Orth people that didn't reincarnate to accept.

Also, judging from the case of Rodrick just a moment ago. There will be a gap between the body levels of the original members of the {Slaughterers} and those in the {Butchers} and {Exterminators}. There's no way anyone would say things like it's unfair or complain about it at this point but it could invite subconscious impatience and lead to some unexpected dangers was the reason.

"We dispatch leaders in order to prevent that sort of reckless impatience you know?"

Miduchi said but that's exactly the case.

If it's just something like that then they should properly hold it back.

Even before that, while I'm sure everyone will be shocked just like Rodrick at first but I revealed it because I'm already confident that no one would get impatient over something like this if we just

give them some time.

Even they're first-rate adventurers you know?

They should already know there's a single good thing about getting impatient in the dungeon.

"Of course I'm sure Toris, Bel, Zulu, and Maruso can hold them back..but.."

"Ral-san is.."

Ralpa huh...

If it's her then she might rile everyone up and suggest earning experience points to level up..No, that's not the case. She's already known about experience points and leveling up since several years back. It's just a matter of not knowing the number up until now but she already had that sort of knowledge.

After I pointed that out both Zenom and Rodrick started looking at my face in doubt.

"She's now able to learn the number of something she wasn't able to up until now. Just the same as magic skills she'll start desperately trying to increase it.."

"It's alright. The two of you should place a bit more faith in Ralpa..Though I guess that's a weird way of putting it. Even when it comes to magic she's doing a decent amount of training but it's not like she's putting all her efforts in just to raise the level of her skills. She's just putting in the efforts because that makes everyone safer."

Zenom you're the parent who raised her so don't say such mean things...

"I understand her the best. On top of that I'm saying it but there's no way that's the case. She's simply doing it because she

was told by Al and because she wants to use new spells, nothing more."

Zenom shrugged his shoulders while asserting.

If her parent Zenom who declares he understands her the best says that then I can't say anything more.

"Zenom-san. Have you properly talked with Ral recently? Even if she's like she thinks about things quite a bit."

Miduchi provided some backup fire.

I agree with Miduchi's view as well. Even if she's like that I think she puts a good amount of thought into things.

However, for Miduchi to defend Ralpa...

"Even if you say that, Miduchi. Ral's had some places which she doesn't think about since the past. She's already 19, no in reality I guess she's close to 40? That's the part that I'm worried about.."

I guess to her parent Zenom she'll always be a child.

Well it's fine.

"Got it. Then Toris and Bel, also let's discuss it with Zulu and Angela just in case I guess. Let's think about it once more after hearing their opinions. Shall we head to Boil Manor then.."

I said that before standing up.

.....

We picked up Zulu and Angela from Shuni and then returned to Boil Manor to discuss it with Toris and Bel as well.

After discussing it all four of them wanted to know their own body level just the same as Rodrick but even if I give my best I can only use it one more time so I had them give up telling them it would be too hard in terms of mana today if I don't take a break.

"After tomorrow..I guess so, when we're resting after we arrive on the 7th or 8th floors, we're relying on you when you have spare mana leftover."

I intended on telling you in order so there's no reason to hurry so much right.

I was about to say that but Zenom said the same thing.

However, Zenom already knows his level so even if he leisurely says something like that they argued back with him.

Though I don't think it's information that they need to know in that much of a hurry.

It's not like anything changes just by knowing it either.

Higher than that fellow? even if you know you're above or below someone else so what?

Well, the only ones who know that levels and ability values can't really be counted is myself and Miduchi who I've discussed it with so I guess it's similar to the mental state of a student who wants to know the test results of those around them.

But you know, even if you're placed 50,000 out of the 100,000 total in the country, in reality there might be plus/minus of 40,000 or so, or at least I think there's that much room for measurement errors.

I guess as expected that's saying too much huh?

However, in this case I still think there's several 10,000s in potential difference.

It's weird saying this but because I have {Gift of Natural Talent}

I have over 3,300,000 in experience points.

However, if we were to cut that down to 1/3rd, putting aside

Rodrick, my level would be even lower than Zenom and Miduchi.

If we were to compare the number of monsters we've directly

defeated I'm pretty sure I've killed less.

Recently, the number of chances for me to directly defeat monsters has decreased after all~

Well, putting aside that sort of useless talk, in conclusion even here the opinions were split in half.

Toris said, "Since it's the result of experiencing various painful things earning experience points up until now after all." and claimed that it would be best to tell everyone, Bel's opinion was that there's no need to tell them right now. Zulu and Angela both said, "However master pleases", the usual opinion without a lack of self-assertion that can't even be called an opinion. After pointing that out and they even said, "I don't think our opinions would be useful even if we were to mention our thoughts."

When I said even that's fine so let me hear it and Zulu said, "Well then, while it's truly presumptuous of me but.." with that sort of preface before finally speaking.

"If what master calls the "body level" is the same as the levels of magic then I'm sure the higher it is the more useful everyone would be to master. I remember it being discussed previously so I think it's something similar and while I don't have much confidence in it I remember a feeling that might be the so-called leveling up...If you can understand that in terms of numbers just like with magic then I'm sure it's something good but.."

After saying up there he went silent for a bit as if he got stuck.

Then almost as if taking off from there this time Angela started speaking with a bit of restraint.

"I'm sure it's not just good things. For example, Henry and Mekku

have their origin as knights. Appropriate for that they can both fight considerably well. While they won't specifically put it in words I'm sure they have a decent amount of pride as well. However, it's just a guess but since we've spent more time in the dungeon since a while back, I think that the body levels of both Zulu-sama and myself would be higher."

In other words, she wants to say don't say it?

"Certainly that's one way of thinking about it as well. Maruso sure is kind."

Miduchi said.

"No, madam, that's not.."

Angela said a bit shyly as if it was embarrassing.

"But, Maruso, in reality you want to say this right? Even if we say they've gone to the 1st, 2nd, and recently the 6th and 7th floors, there should be a reasonable amount of space between the levels of Kamu-san and the others just like between Rodrick and myself."

"Ha, well.."

From Angela's point of view she's on the side of receiving challenges for the member change matches so there's a level gap between them, though I think the one who appeals that in advance would have the advantage. But, I'm sure Angela and Zulu wouldn't think of something like that. Whether their level is high or low they should be a useful combat force for me and they think the one that's the most useful should be the member of the {Slaughterers}. It's just a matter of them being happy if that's themselves and if there's someone more skilled than them they think it can't be helped if they're switched out. They're really model cases of

slaves.

"But, it's a result of all your efforts up until now so I still

think it would be best to properly tell them but.."

After hearing the discussion up until now Toris advocated his own

opinion once again.

It could also be said that if we give them time and they calmly

think about it, it could be material to inspire them.

That way of thinking makes sense as well.

I strongly felt that way as well.

Though it's not just about that.

But if I were to say my thoughts on it then that might decide it

all.

However, it seems no one is willing to yield on it~

Though it's not a bad thing to push forward with your own

opinion.

It's a point that's honestly worth admiration that even then the

mood shows no signs of turning bad.

But, I wish someone would just realize it already.

I guess there's no choice other than exchanging looks with

Miduchi...

"Ah!! That's right!"

Rodrick shouted with a slightly loud voice and got everyone's

attention.

"Let's put aside things in regards to body level for a while. Since

there's no difference even if you know about it after all. You

could also say it's just a matter of readiness from here on out as

well. Al-san, just once more, you said you could use that magic

right? That, if you use it on items what happens?"

Hearing Rodrick's words everyone's attention went to me.

I was a bit relieved that someone finally realized it.

This time, body level was a bonus.

Of course it's extremely important that I can confirm both Unique

Abilities and the levels of magic but they're just a bonus.

"Of course, I can find out various things. I can still use it once

more time so let's try it out. Toris, bring out your

chainmail."

Toris went to pickup his armor from their room in a hurry. During

that time I told them that I've already identified Miduchi's sword

and we were able to confirm that it has 4 special effects.

I explained it to Toris after he came back while pretending to the

use {Identification} spell on his chainmail. Everyone was shocked

when they heard it has six special effects, even more than

Miduchi's {Blade.Of.Dyurou}.

"Even things like this..If you already knew then please say that

from the start."

Toris complained about it but was rebuked by Bel.

"It's our fault for not noticing it right away. That I couldn't

think of it until Rodrick mentioned it...Alright? The magic of

{Identification} is useful. But, it can't be used all that often.

We should have noticed such a useful method of using it right away.

Something like finding out their body level from identifying people

or confirming whether they have a Unique Ability or not, that's

certainly important but we need to be able to instantly realize the

even more important aspects."

"..Certainly that's right. I'm sorry, Al-san. I complained about

something stupid. This is a simulation right? Whether we can

immediately analyze information we've been given and select the

ideal methods..Shit, I can't let my guard down."

"Well, it's not anything as exaggerated as that though. But,
putting aside Toris and Bel who heard about it afterwards, I wish
Rodrick and Zenom would have realized it a bit sooner."

I said while making a bitter smile.

"..I guess that's true. If it's put like that then certainly. I was
a bit too excited that we can find out things like levels and
skills in detail. I must have been too overdependent on AI."

Zenom said with his arms crossed while looking at Toris's armor.

And then,

"It's a bit strange for me to say it but every depends too much on

AI. We rely too much on him."

and closed things up with that.

Well, it helps when you say things like that.

Even in my case I have intention of dying that easily from here on
out but there's still the worst case possibility.

Right now the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} are more often still
challenging the dungeon without me.

If I were to die and yes, that's all there is too, then it would be
a bit sad right.

Putting aside bad omens like things about me dying, I want everyone
to build up a habit of analyzing information they've obtained from
various viewpoints.

Also, just as Zenom said there's still quite a bit of
overdependence.

It's good that they've built up a reasonable amount of confidence
but it's still clear that in the end they're conscious of the fact
that I'm behind them.

"And, what should we do? Should we tell everyone? Or otherwise
remain quiet for a while longer?"

In the end we decided to tell everyone about it.

However, that's just for the members of the {Slaughterers} that lead the way into the dungeon.

If anyone enters as a result of the member change matches then obviously I'll tell them.

By the way, when I told everyone how it's annoying that there's two meanings to the single saying of {Slaughterers} they agreed. I want to think of a different name for the former {Slaughterers} that take the lead in the dungeon. Tonight, while we're all having dinner together I'll bring it up and have them think about it for a night.

Tomorrow morning, we'll discuss it when we all go to the dungeon and decide on one.

Honestly speaking I never really liked such a violent name like the {Slaughterers} from the start. Now I've already gotten used to it and it's spoken so often that I don't have any conscious thoughts about it all though still.

.....

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 13

In regards to the matter of names but my idea was to follow the naming of a legendary group of adventurers that managed to defeat a blue dragon in the past and go with, "{Blue.Flame}".

And then Ralpa said I have "bad sense".

I mean, ones like {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} they all have colors in the name right.

Even {Blue.Flame} magnificently managed to defeat a blue dragon you know.

But, in the end everyone rejected it together.

Then when I tried asking what about you and it was,

"{Butterfly.Orchid}".

Something like the name of a flower it's just like a second-rate party from somewhere and she had bad sense.

Though the butterfly orchid is extravagant and beautiful so I like it as well.

Zenom came up with the idea of "100 Year Dream" and bought the admiration of most of the members including me.

However, when Basutorial retorted, "That, it's the name of the premium vodka you bought the other day right?" and his triumphant face turned bright red.

That Basutorial teamed up with Zulu and Angela to suggest {Slayers} which was the exact same idea I came up with in the past as a replacement for {Sooner}.

There were quite a few approvals for it but after all such a violent name isn't to my liking.

It's rejected, rejected.

Gwine came up with the name "{Snow.White}" but it's too cute so rejected.

Giberuti came up with the name "{Greed.Army}" and earned great praise from Zulu and Angela but it was too unpopular with everyone else.

Miduchi came up with the highest number of names.

"{Annihilators}"

"{Black.Lightning}"

Ones around here were a bit disappointing.

"{Golden.Dawn}"

"{Flare.Braver}"

I can still understand ones up to here.

"Mighty Warrior(Samurai Master)"

"Summit of Justice Power(Grand Slam)"

They gradually stopped making any sense and along with that Miduchi gradually got more excited so I rejected them all at once. Written Mighty Warrior and read as Samurai Master or just the same Grand Slam was supposed to have a meaning of complete domination or something like that but I have no idea what she was talking about in regards to Summit of Justice Power.

Among those, there was the name "{Saviors}".

Incidentally, it was Toris and Bel who came up with this name.

I wonder if the two of them were thinking of the type of name I'd like?

Supposedly they came up with it because we seem to save people in the dungeon pretty often.

{Saviors}...

Umu.

{Saviors} huh?

Don't you think it's a perfect fit for me to be leading them?

In the end, the former {Slaughterers} newly decided name was the {Saviors}.

.....

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 14

"Hey, is it already no good? For sure? Is it impossible for me?"

Ralpa is looking at me with expectation in her eyes. This is the teleport crystal room on the 8th floor.

After saying they want me to reserve my mana for using identify,

everyone fought even more carefully and boldly than usual.

Starting with Toris, even Ralpa and Gwine used their mana to the very limit to finish off monsters with attack spells.

"That's already it for today. Tomorrow okay."

This time I dispatched Bel and Angela so I already used Identify on the two of them and told them the details yesterday morning when we decided on the {Saviors} as our party name. Though I can identify items as well, after all they were still curious about their body level.

And then when reached the point of taking a break in the teleport room of the 8th floor everyone said to use Identify with my remaining mana. I used Identify on Toris, Gwine, and Basutorial for today. Toris and Gwine are level 20 and Basutorial is 18.

Furthermore, they decided on the order for being identified by drawing lots.

"Che~ it can't be helped..But Bel was 20 and Maruso was 21 right?

And, father is 23 and Miduchi is 22 right? Then it should be fine to hope for mine to be around 22 right?"

..Yours isn't all that different from Bel. It's 20.

Aside from Zenom who already had a large difference in experience points from the start there's no way you'd reach Miduchi and my slaves who have been putting in so much effort in the dungeon even on days off since the past.

Obviously, I ended up(pretended to) using identify on everyone's level and magic items while were in the dungeon this time

The only thing that was impossible was Bel's {Shortsword.Of.Sturdy} or so because she's not with us this time.

Chapter 293: Replacement Match

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 15

In the end in regards to the guardian of the 9th floor the mino we decided to continue using the net gun only when we fight against it ahead on when going back in. We haven't done the replacement matches yet. Those minos with superior skill probably aren't mixed in but after all I'm still a bit worried. Miduchi, Zenom, and Toris didn't say anything either.

After that we spent our time going into the 10th floor and attacking the minos on the 9th floor from behind to defeat them.

The matter of interest everyone has their mind on is the next Monday after we leave the dungeon, the replacement matches that start on the 19th.

"Saji, Zulu. What about you two? Are you confident?"

Toris asked Basutorial and Zulu. This time I dispatched Angela to the {Exterminators} so these two are the target of discussion.

"What are you saying, Toris-san. Isn't it only obvious that everything's fine? Didn't you see how I just finished off that {Great Troll}!?"

"Even if I were to be challenged it's just a matter of properly doing everything I can. There's no need for worry."

Basutorial said full of confidence and Zulu replied with indifference. Certainly Basutorial's gotten more used to fighting against ogres and trolls since the replacement match last time and

can be seen with the same feelings as the other members. He's no longer on edge all the time like in the past and not as excessively cautious either.

Zulu's just the same as always in only focusing on putting his all into accomplishing his job. Those who properly do what they need to do aren't disturbed so easily and you can tell while he might find it regretful if he loses, he'll just think it can't be helped and work even harder to flip things over again next time. Even from my point of view they don't seem like they'll be defeated all that easily right now. I think it's become a pretty big wall.

"Putting that aside, Al, you still properly have some mana remaining right? Hurry up and look at it."

Ralpa asked me.

Really this fellow...

"Yeah, you're level 2."

"Eeh!!? No way!!?level..2..that.. can't be.."

Her eyes are wide open as she seems to be considerably shocked.

"There's no way that's the case right, idiot. In the first place he replied immediately. It's not like he can activate it in this short of a time."

Toris said with a bitter smile while shaking his head. Both Zenom and Gwine were making slightly amazed expressions as if wondering why Ralpa didn't realize it right away. Up until yesterday I spent more than 20 minutes each time I used it.

In order to really activate the spell {Shine.Light.Eyes}

instantaneously it's probably impossible unless I use it another

1,000 times or so. Even if I were to put in the effort and exhaust all of my mana several times on a daily basis like I did in the past it would take several months.

"Ku..you.."

It seems she only realized it after she was told.

She seems considerably embarrassed but she's just glaring at me with a mortified expression.

"Just stop teasing her already. Isn't she pitiful?"

Miduchi told me off with an amazed tone.

Ralpa was looking at me with such an expectant look and spoke to me in that cheeky way so it was just a bit of teasing.

After that, in the end she heard level 20 and made a slightly

relieved face but it seems she was still a bit mortified. And,

while I say that, putting aside Zenom, it's more in comparison to

Miduchi and Angela who she already knows she's lower level than.

On this day I also identified Zulu and Giberuti's level. Zulu was level 21 and Giberuti was level 6.

Starting tomorrow I need to identify the {Magic.Items}.

.....

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 19

This time there was obviously an increase in the number of people who passed the first stamina test.

Following last time there's the Kamu and Kimu pair.

They easily cleared it.

Then there's the three person group of Ginger, Misu, and Jeru which barely missed it last time.

Misu ended up slowing them down again but because she didn't slow them down as much compared to last time and Ginger and Jeru

increased their times quite a bit they were able to clear it with

some leeway.

And then there's Binsu who challenged it alone.

It was a pass at the very last second but it's still pretty

impressive.

What was unexpected was Rokko and Kevin's group.

Kevin was close to 15 minutes behind the time limit but because

Rokko showed off some absurd speed in the end they were barely able

to make the passing line. Rokko's good walking speed even surpassed

Miduchi's when we were determining the times.

This fellow sure is amazing.

Honestly speaking it's something I've thought since before.

If Rokko were to just pass the stamina test then other than

Miduchi, Zenom, myself, and barely Ralpa would be the only ones

who he wouldn't be able to defeat if he were to challenge alone.

Since they have magic then he might also lose to Toris and Bel in a

quick match but that's only if they don't need to worry about mana

recovery, if things were to be drawn out a bit then he still

surpasses them in a number of ways.

Of course there's also a number of areas where he loses to them as

well.

He's a bit of a half-assed and has a devil-may-care attitude. He

appears to be idiotic and easily get carried away. However, his

skills built up leading the front as the {Assault.Vanguard} in

{Sun.Ray} for many years are real.

His age is just starting to pass his prime as an adventurer at 31

years old.

It's about time for his ability values to enter the descent but

right now is also the period where each of them are at their

highest.

It's unfortunate that his weapon is a long sword so he's a bit lacking in decisive force.

Also, if he were to take a single solid hit that would be the end for him.

As expected I'm sure things would be difficult for him alone. The order of making challenges is decided based on this first test.

I said it last time but they can't challenge the same person. Even if the person who receives the challenge manages to fend off the first challenger, the runner-up still can't challenge the same person.

It's a test which runs over an entire day and rest is also

necessary so I had them restrain from consecutive battles.

Since I'm sure the strategy and pacing will change based on the opponent there's no point to applying the results of one match to the other opponents either. If they have any complaints then they'll just have to raise their ranking in the first test.

Kamu and Kimu obviously declared that they would be challenging Basutorial and Angela.

Basutorial and Angela were already prepared for it from the start so they didn't show any disturbance.

If this was Rokko and Kevin then I think they'd have the highest chance of an upset...

Though I say that, I think it's still the pair that has the highest chance of an upset.

Ginger's three person group challenged Zulu, Toris, and Ralpha.

They must have avoided Bel and Miduchi because they can skillfully

use the bow and have magic as well.

The three on the side of receiving the challenge all had

expressions as if they'd lend them their chests.

If anyone let's their guard down and takes an attack from an ogre

then Toris and Ralpa's mana runs out from healing then it's

possible.

Binsu hesitated for quite a bit but between Bel and Miduchi seems

to have thought that Bel would be easier to deal with.

It seems that challenging Zenom wasn't even worth taking into

consideration from the start.

Bel accepted the challenge with no expression.

I'm sure things will be difficult on this end.

And then Rokko and Kevin threw down their challenge letter to Zenom

and Miduchi.

There was a bit of an atmosphere of self-abandonment but they were

the only ones left after all.

This side I can assert with full confidence.

There's no chance of an upset.

Tomorrow and the next day everyone will get plenty of rest to get

rid of the fatigue and then three days later, the second test

starts from the 21st.

This time even though we're going to the 7th floor since there's

the challengers, guards, and observers we'll be going with everyone

from the {Slaughterers}. Of course, we can't all stay together so

it's necessary to split up the parties until the teleport room on

the 6th floor. I made it so that those being challenged and the

challengers aren't in the same group and split everyone into 8

people per party.

I left leading each of the parties to Toris and Miduchi. Gwine

who's excluded from being challenged as a special case is together with Toris's party while Giberuti and Hisu are in Miduchi's party.

In my party is Sanno, Ruttsu, Rodrick and his two combat slaves, along with my four combat slaves as we head towards the teleport room of the 6th floor. Putting aside the 5th floor, it's the first time for a lot of them to experience the 6th floor. If they aren't put together with me then who could manage them right. Looking at it like this and everyone from the {Butchers} obtained the challenge right.

.....

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 27

We finished the second test and it was just around noon when we returned from the dungeon.

The second test was performed over a period of four days but we still don't know all of the results.

All of the magic stones obtained are still in each of their bags and I haven't seen them either so we really won't know until we cash them in at the magic tool store. For guard and observation purposes while I accompanied several of the teams for the test, it was just one side and I was only able to watch for about half a day after all.

There's only one group which the results are already known. Just Binsu who ended up being hit in the back by an ogre's club a few hours after the test started. The magic stones he obtained up until then was 1 from an ogre and 3 from goblins so as expected there's no way Bel would lose to him.

It seems everyone is greatly interested. This time while we met up

at the 6th and 3rd floors on the return, as expected just like last time each of the groups gathered together and started whispering to each other, since it would be boring to figure out the results partway through I put a gag order on it until the tests all are complete and we finish selling the magic stones to know the complete results.

Of course I let them talk freely about things unrelated to the tests. Particularly Sanno, Ruttsu, Rodrick, and his combat slaves it was their first time seeing ogres so they couldn't hide their excitement.

"Then shall we go and cash them in?"

Leading along a large group we head towards the usual magic tool shop Danhiru. The only ones entering the shop are myself and 1 representative of each group. It's considerably small after all.

First off we cashed in all of the magic stones we obtained on the way into the 6th floor. So they can't be falsified when they're gathering them, each of the parties were properly doing joint management of them. As long as you don't fuse the magic stones together the date they were gathered can be confirmed on them but that can only be determined using my {Identify} after all.

After that we finally reached the point of selling each of the magic stones for determining the test results.

It should be fine to start with the challengers side first. The bag of Kamu and Kimu's group that were at the top of the ranking.

"{Status Open}..Hmm. 7 magic stones from ogres and 10, no 11 from goblins huh...In total that'll be 5,902,200 Z."

The words of the old man from Danhiru spoke echoed through the

strangely quiet store interior.

I accompanied their group for half a day as guard and observer as well. As expected guarding and observing for an entire day consecutively is impossible. While I was still watching them they would carefully set their aims on just 1 ogre and then definitely defeat it with the 2 of them. Their combat was completely stable with no danger.

But, for them to obtain a total of 7 they must have put in quite a bit of effort.

I accompanied them for half a day from 12:00 midnight on the first day until noon of the next day but they must have been tired after exploring for a day, they teleported into the 7th floor after a short 5 hours or so of rest without even taking a shower.

They especially put emphasis on the fact that they would fundamentally be eating the bento that they had Giberuti make while moving.

While making an effort to not look at Basutorial's face behind me, I concentrated on the hands of the old man from Danhiru.

Next up is Ginger and the other's group. I never saw this one.

The number of magic stones they obtained from ogres was amazingly 11 of them! There were 18 from goblins.

The total was determined to be 9,284,500 Z.

I can hear a number of sighs.

Ginger let out a cough while holding the empty bag.

And then Binsu. I just mentioned it but it can't be helped.

The total was 833,600 Z.

Don't get so depressed. You were alone so it really can't be helped. Luck is important too.

Finally was Rokko and Kevin. I was watching but after all they were quite impressive.

They obtained 9 magic stones from ogres and 14 from goblins.

Of all things they obtained even more than Kamu's group.

Rokko's face as he took a step forward from my side looked somewhat proud.

The total was 7,536,800 Z.

I can hear some pretty surprised voices.

"He~ We never even slept."

Go to sleep!

Now then, next is finally the magic stones of the side being challenged.

First off is Zenom and Miduchi.

I wonder how things will turn out?

Zenom casually flipped the bag upside down.

A bunch of magic stones rolled out.

The number, 21 of them. Not a single one from goblins.

Without even needing to wait for the estimate there's no room to doubt their victory.

Rokko's jaw fell so far I thought it might reach the floor.

"We only slept for 3 hours after all."

Oh my~ so that's why there were so many. Zenom sure is rough at

handling people~ No wonder Miduchi was grumbling about it being

"bad for the skin".

And then, Bel.

She's still expressionless like a Noh mask as usual as she took a step forward and casually flipped her bag over too.

7 of them huh? There's no goblin magic stones in Bel's results either.

There's no need to wait for the estimate on this side either.

It's believed that Bel periodically used {Detect.Life} and

efficiently hunted down lone ogres before finishing them off. And then, magic and her bow, even if it comes down to close combat she should have been able to finish things off all at once by relying on her {Shortsword.Of.Sturdy}.

"7 of them alone huh.."

Kamu grumbled to herself.

Next up obviously Toris took a step forward.

Just as expected from how punctual he is he carefully took out the magic stones one at a time.

The number was 19 magic stones from ogres. There appears to be over 30 from goblins as well.

There's not much meaning in waiting for the purchase price on this end either.

Ralpa used almost all of her mana on {Detect.Life}.

These guys, when they ended up finding 3 ogres together Ralpa said, "Since we happened to come across them" and still went to fight them.

Additionally, they didn't even return to the teleport room on the 6th floor and boldly camped out in a hallway of the 7th floor.

I ended up feeling nervous about it.

"Ku..."

I could hear Ginger let out a groan.

Last up is finally Basutorial.

His face has turned pale.

Hey, it can't be!?

But, it's possible.

Basutorial put his hand in the bag and started taking out magic stones.

Chapter 294: Surprising?

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 27

Basutorial first took out the magic stones from goblins.

The number was 8.

Since they're low-value magic stones from goblins it's almost like
a measurement error so they aren't a big problem.

And then next he took out the magic stones from the ogres.

After that first day of the test there hasn't been anything

different about either Basutorial or Angela.

That's why they should have obtained a decent number of them.

One.

Two.

Three...

With an uneasy expression still on his face he carefully took out
one at a time, the total amount was 7 of them.

..This is also..Somewhat difficult...

If I remember right Kamu and Kimu's record was 5,902,200 Z.

So the match is decided by the magic stones from goblins

huh...

In any case, the purchase price that the old man from Danhiru puts
on them is everything.

If it's with my {Identify} then I can quickly calculate the results

and as a matter of fact I immediately did the mental math so I
already know the result.

However, while it's only slight there's some measurement error
using the magic tool scale.

Even that measurement error is a part of the match.

...

.....

The old man of Danhiru was using a wide abacus to do the math. To me it's something that's not very easy to use even if you're used to it. That's why I made a Japanese-style abacus and normally use that one. It's a compact one with only 12 rows but after all the Japanese-style one is easy to use right. Since I didn't have any bamboo it was somewhat difficult making it. In my past life, it was a technique that I learned when I was still a brat but I guess it's something you remember with your body.

In the 50s of the Showa period(TL: 1970-1980) it wasn't strange for a brat to attend sentence structure and abacus classes at all. Out of a class of over 40 elementary schoolers roughly half of them attended one or the other.

The old man of Danhiru moved the various stones up and down before finishing his calculations.

"7 ogre magic stones and 8 goblin magic stones huh...In total that'll be 5,902,200 Z."

Voice of Oh~ were raised everywhere.

It's exactly the same amount.

The magic stone from an ogre that Basutoral brought out was only a bit higher than the ones Kamu brought out.

It was enough that the magic stones from goblins were able to make up for it.

"The same.."

I unintentionally whispered out loud as well.

I can tell that the attention of everyone who was peeking at the counter of magic tool shop Danhiru switched over to me.

As expected the same amount was beyond my imagination.

In the case that Basutoral and Angela won or in the case that Kamu

and Kimu won.

Though they were slightly different based on the difference I had ideas in the case that either side won.

Of course it wouldn't be all that different even if Basutorial and Angela won.

Just, I was thinking that even if Kamu and Kimu lost and it was a close difference(as a matter of fact I thought it would be the difference of 1 or 2 ogre magic stones) then it would be fine for Kamu and Kimu to occasionally accompany the {Slaughterers}, now {Saviors} in order to earn experience.

If it was the opposite of that where Kamu and Kimu won then I would make Angela a fixed leader of the {Butchers} and have Basutorial act as her assistant.

Still I didn't think that it would be determined as the exact same amount.

If there's no mistakes with the abacus in my brain then there should of been a difference of 12 value in the magic stones with Basutorial's side having been higher.

Though if you convert that into the sales price it's a small amount that doesn't even reach 100 Z.

"Everyone gather at Murowa after this."

I said before turning around and leaving.

Basutorial was to my side with a pale face and completely covered in a cold sweat as he looked at me with a crying smile.

I tried to remain expressionless but couldn't help but make a bitter smile.

Bel sure is amazing being able to completely erase her expression.

After leaving the store everyone was gathered and waiting

outside.

They must have wanted to hear the results even just a bit sooner.

Angela who was making a worried expression couldn't seem to come to a conclusion from comparing Basutorial's and my expressions.

I smiled and looked at Angela.

Angela closed her eyes and looked down for a bit before raising her face.

It's the good smile that I've occasionally seen recently.

Everyone who came after me was standing in front of me.

Basutorial still has a pale face.

It's not all that much but as expected Kamu appears a bit tense as well. Also Kimu.

She must have been confident, Miduchi has her usual calm expression on.

Kevin's already made a face as if he's given up but can't hide having some hope.

Jeru and Misu who are holding their heads up in expectation.

It seems they were able to imagine the results after seeing

Ginger's expression.

Ralpa's eating balddogie at a time like this as usual.

Zulu seems to have guessed the results after seeing Toris's expression as well.

Other than that, there's the other members who ended up not making the cutoff for the first test but came along as guards for the second exam and still don't know what the results are.

"Congratulations, Kamu, Kimu. Also, Basutorial and Angela. It was the same amount after all so all four of you are {Saviors}."

After I declared that things got noisy all at once.

"After that, Ginger, Jeru, Misu. You were close. It was unfortunate

for you too Binsu. Rokko and Kevin..you ended up with a bad opponent."

Since things seemed like they were going to get even more noisy I continued with one more statement.

"Kamu and Kimu don't relax too much? Don't forget that next time you'll be on the side to receive challenges."

After I said that, the expressions changed of all the other members who seemed to have completely forgotten.

"Then everyone let's go to Murowa. Let's have lunch while discussing our organization from here on out."

.....

I decided that the new organization of the {Slaughterers} would be just as follows.

First off, the {Saviors}. Fundamentally I'm the leader. We're primarily in charge of the front-lines of the dungeon, the lower floors. And then, putting aside the porter Giberuti as different, there's a total of 12 combat members including Kamu and Kimu who joined this time.

Of course, it's not possible for all of us to teleport at once so at least 2 people and if possible 3 should always be dispatched to other parties. It should end up close to a fixed rotation of the members excluding Gwine as usual.

Next up is the {Butchers}. They could be considered the main force as a normal adventurer party as they have enough skill to pass through the 6th floor of the dungeon. Though in the {Slaughterers} they're in charge of the middle floors. This time 2 people are being taken from here so if things were left just like that they'd lose a bit of their battle lineup.

Therefore it's necessary compensate for that but since the archer {Blast.Back} Kamu and spear-user {Attacker} Kimu are being taken out this time, I had Ginger and Hisu switch parties with the meaning of them supplementing that since they have the same positions.

The organization will be Ginger, Rokko, Kevin, Jeru, Misu, Binsu, Hisu, Henry, and Rubi, the 9 of them and then one member of the {Saviors} will be dispatched as the leader.

And then the {Exterminators}. They don't quite reach the level of a first-rate adventurer party but their strength is plenty to see as between first and second-rate, and they've started to build up some actual results. They're in charge of the upper floors down to the 4th floor. This time with Ginger and Hisu being taken out their combat strength is expected to have a considerable decrease.

The fixed members are Sanno, Ruttsu, Rodrick, Denda, Karimu, Mekku, and Jesu, the 7 of them.

If it's possible then I'd like to dispatch 2 people from the {Saviors} to their end. I guess I should take into consideration buying another 1 or 2 combat slaves. I'm already more than half planning to do that.

And then, the greatly anticipated Golden Week announcement.

Either tomorrow or the day after that a caravan should come from Bakuddo. It's possible they've already arrived yesterday or today and it wouldn't be strange for them to be waiting at Boil Manor.

Also, if possible I'd like to stop by Sandak Company and hear what the situation is with that one amulet as well. Furthermore, I want to go and visit Tukerin's place and discuss things in regards to

the preservatives and I obviously can't leave Greed Company alone either. Of course, there's no forgetting about heading to Mila-shisho's place as well.

I announced that starting today until the 5th of next month is a holiday, then on the 6th we'll have group training, and we'll head back into the dungeon again from the 7th.

Also, at the same time I specially gave all of the members excluding my combat slaves a present of 2% of the magic stone sales we earned this time, the usual compensation amount for the {Saviors}, rounded to 1,360,000 Z per person of the roughly 68,000,000 Z. I gave it to 21 people so around 29,000,000 or so disappeared in bonuses.

Here Kevin gave Rodrick an envious look as he accepted the portion for Denda and Karimu as well.

"Maybe I should buy some combat slaves as well..If they have at least Henry's level of skill then they'd be pretty useful after all."

Of course I don't mind.

If they work properly then I'll pay for that portion as well.

"Kevin, really you~ just think about it for a moment. It's pretty troublesome even just feeding slaves you know? If it's a combat slave then they need at least a somewhat decent place to get rest so it's best to let them stay in a place on the Shuni-class like where I'm staying, and you need to properly feed them as well. Also you have to pay them wages and it costs money to prepare equipment for them as well you know?"

Kimu said as if Kevin as a fool.

Certainly that's true.

There's also quite a few other things you need to be careful about as well.

"Ha ha..Well the expenses certainly do tend to pile up to a decent amount. Even Denda and Karimu require a reasonable amount every month even if I don't have them doing anything."

Rodrick said with a bit of reservation.

This time we only entered combat on the way down and were just acting as guards and observers for those taking the test so I wonder if he feels sorry for receiving the same cut?

Although, what Rodrick was saying is just right and using the Henry that Kevin mentioned as an example, it costs 60,000 Z every month in inn costs with breakfast and dinner costing even more than that.

Though this is also because I didn't put any limits on them. Other than that I'm also paying him about 200,000 a month in wages. It's questionable if someone part of a normal adventurer party that earns primarily from bosses on the 1st floor would even be able to earn that amount every month. Thanks to the fact that I'm spending as much as a full-fledged adventurer on him Henry's performance in the dungeon doesn't fall but if my treatment was bad and their inn and food were of a lower rank, I'm sure the combat slave wouldn't be able to show their full power.

"Also if they were to die then that's the end of it.."

Misu joined in on the conversation.

"Since Henry was originally a knight he supposedly cost 20,000,000 and it even cost quite a bit for his equipment you know?"

Hearing that Kevin made a face like he understood. Rokko was quietly listening beside him while seeming to do the math on the table with his finger. And then he slowly started talking.

"Fu..Kevin, listen well. Recently we've been earning close to 2,000,000 every month. It should be over 1,900,000. "Aberaging" that out since we entered this year and it's 2,100,000."

A ? appeared over the heads of everyone who heard that. If it's "close" to 2,000,000 every month then there's no reason the average would exceed 2,000,000. Well, in reality ever since we entered this year when Zenom is commanding the {Butchers} they've been able to obtain some magic stones from ogres so they should certainly be earning an average of around that much. But, I still felt a bit relieved that this guy wasn't able to win the replacement match.

"Then you subtract 400,000 from there for your own living expenses. The remaining amount is 1,700,000. If you were to buy a combat slave on the level of Henry then it would take roughly 1 year. It's necessary to think about the equipment as well, but well, it should be fine."

That much should be correct. Though 400,000 in living expenses per month is the lowest class for a first-rate adventurer and on the level of a second-rate adventurer.

Well, it should have been about that for them while they were a part of {Sun.Ray}.

"1 year later you purchase a combat slave. If you were to do that then the amount of money you can use is..subtract 400,000 and 200,000 from double 2,100,000, so 3,600,000. However, for the 1 year up until then you can't really spend on luxury, if you were to go to {Honey Collection} then you'd end up with even more deductions. After that, you'd have to continue enduring the same

sort of lifestyle for a further 6 months before you'd finally be able to recover the portion that you spent to buy the combat slave. If you're fine with that's how you spend your final year in your 20s then I won't say anything more though."

Really other than the first part it was all surprisingly correct.

Additionally the fact that it was a pretty logical and well-organized explanation shocked everyone including myself. "Alright? If you spend a full year and a half giving it your best in the dungeon then you'll finally earn some profit from it. If you were to die before that then it's all for nothing and even if it all goes well just watch and see if the slave dies half a year after that. If it comes to that then I'd have to start calling you an idiot."

Rokko closed things up with an expression as if he was completely making a fool of Kevin.

Hm~~m.

I have to wonder about using a former knight like Henry as an example for the combat slave but in the first place it was the request of Kevin so that much should be fine.

But, for that Rokko to...

Kevin is at such a loss for words all he can do is stare at Rokko's face.

"Rokko, you, did you eat anything strange?"

Ginger said with a surprised face.

"An? Anything strange, you mean this?"

Rokko made a lewd face while running his forked-tongue over a baldoggie with lemon grass spices on it as he replied to Ginger.

Ginger yelled "Die!" before starting a different conversation with

Hisu.

"Jeru, did you understand what Rokko said just now?"

Misu asked Jeru at a table a bit of distance away.

"Yeah, I understood it. It's only obvious right?"

Jeru casually replied. Misu made a satisfied expression as well.

"Then, tonight explain to me how different it is if we were to go to the {Saviors} rather than just staying in the {Butchers}.

Convert everything other than money into money as well."

"Ah~ I think I can properly explain it..all?"

Ah, I want to try listening to that as well.

But why was it a question? I guess he's still not that confident?

.....

After having lunch we returned to our inn.

I had a shower and changed clothes, then as I was returning after depositing money in my locker at the shrine it was just as the caravan from Bakuddo was arriving. This time the one leading the caravan was surprisingly the head squire, Sean.

Miduchi was having a good conversation with him.

He's saying that they'll stay one night in Baldukk before heading towards the capital tomorrow morning.

There's no real reason for me to refuse.

Since the {Slaughterers} are just starting a long holiday I'm sure

a number of members will want to come along to the capital.

Ralpha, Gwine, and Basutorial have already packed up a change of clothes and should be jumping on the passenger carriage to the capital about now.

After being pestered by the young squires accompanying him I was made to tell stories about the dungeon as the day ended.

Going to Ronslail's place to make orders for combat slaves..should be fine when I have spare time anytime after tomorrow. That night before going to sleep Miduchi came to my room and said something like, "You might be a bit surprised tomorrow?", but I have no idea what it's about and when I tried asking she wouldn't tell me.

.....

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 28

After waking up in the morning I went running with everyone the same as usual.

It seems it wasn't just Ralpa and the others who went to the capital last night and the only ones left were mostly the {Saviors} and my combat slaves. The only other ones running with us are Kamu and Kimu who's entry into the {Saviors} has already been decided and are putting some spirit into it. Well, that's fine. It's the first day of a long holiday so it might just be that everyone else is simply sleeping in. Particularly Rokko and Kevin who had stayed up from two days ago through to yesterday fighting against ogres. I'm sure they're reasonably tired.

When we returned from running it was after Sean and the others had already finished preparations to depart. Seeing that Miduchi and I took a shower in a hurry and then changed clothes before hopping on our horses. Sorry for the wait. When I tried to have us depart right away Miduchi started going on about not having eaten breakfast yet. But, I guess that's true. We should be able to eat breakfast in about 10 minutes. I had the caravan wait for a bit and the 2 of us went to eat breakfast.

Miduchi even started drinking some tea acting as if we have plenty of time.

Though it's the same for me too.

Supposedly Toris and Bel are planning to head to the capital

together this afternoon and Zenom said he would take his time going to buy some vodka and smoked meats as well. The same for my combat slaves and Giberuti, since Kamu and Kimu are going to play in the capital they'll supposedly accompany them. Only Zulu seems to be going to the capital at a different time. Ha~han~ it must be that sister from Murowa.

Well, the escort squires of the caravan Miduchi and I will be

accompanying are walking so we'll take our time heading there over 2~3 hours.

We arrived at Greed Company in the capital just before noon but

surprisingly almost all of the members of the {Slaughterers} were there. Furthermore, everyone was wearing pretty nice clothes.

The only ones not here are..Ralpha, Gwine, Cathy, and other than that is just my slaves.

Even Toris, Bel, Basutorial, and Zenom are here.

Kamu, Kimu, Ginger, and the others are all here as well.

I guess they went ahead of us while we were slowly taking our time eating?

Let alone that even Rooko and Kevin were wearing clothes that don't suit them.

"Hey, why is everyone here? And those outfits..."

I reflexively asked Miduchi.

"Fufu..Surprised?"

I'm surprised.

Chapter 295: Youthful Recklessness

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 28

Seeing almost all of the {Slaughterers} gathered together Zenom

took a step forward as Sean and I were surprised.

"Well, since we have the chance. Bring along these fellows when you

make deliveries at the castle this time. Outside of the {Saviors}

the only who's entered the castle before is Rodrick after all.

There's a bit too many people but they should at least let us past

the middle moat right? Let them see the castle. I want to see it

for the first time in a while too."

Certainly there's quite a few people..including me there's about 20

people from just the {Slaughterers} here. If we include the caravan

from Bakuddo and Ressegu the head clerk then it'll be close to 30

people. Even then it's just said Zenom said, everyone is registered

as employees of Greed Company so I don't think there's any problem.

Probably they should be fine making it past the outer moat into the

third outer citadel. In order to enter the second outer citadel you

have to go past the middle moat but whether they're armed or not

it's questionable if they'd be let it..I don't know.

There's some slightly deformed parts to it but the castle is more

or less in the hirajiro(TL: built on flat land) Japanese style with

a layered structure. Putting it simply it means that there's

several circular rings of land of different sizes and moats

in-between. The outer moat runs around the very edges of it and

then there's three citadels inside of that covering a considerable

area. There's bridges across the outer moat in several places but they aren't drawbridges but very sturdy fixed bridges. There's large gates at every end of the bridges on the side of the third outer citadel and that acts as both a guard station and lookout tower. If you were to have a weapon on you then you'd leave it there when going inside.

In the third outer citadel there's the stables and lodging for the stationed guards and there's also lookout towers in a number of places other than just the gates. I guess it's taking into consideration the possibility of a siege but the considerably vast vacant land stands out. It's simplistic compared to the castle tower but what I guess you could call the castle of the third outer citadel acts as a more serious fortress and lookout tower as it continues past the middle moat into the second citadel, it's placed to protect the sole drawbridge that leads inside.

If you pass that drawbridge and go over the middle moat then you'll be inside of the second outer citadel. Here other than the defensive lookout towers there's a bit of a garden and such. Just the same as the third outer citadel it's got three layers of lookout towers to protect the drawbridge leading further inside. The various ministries castle branch buildings are located in this area and each of the knight groups from the first to the fourth have their headquarters here as well. The leader, vice-leader, and headquarters personnel of the knight groups all come to work here. Sister is a member of the first knight group but the actual station grounds of each of the knight groups including the first are in a

different location from the castle so she isn't normally here.

Normally, the delivery of armor takes place in a room in one of the lookout towers of either these second or third outer citadels. If you were to ask which, it takes place in the third outer citadel more often. At first we even took care of the deliveries and orders in a vacant lot of the third outer citadel but in the past 2~3 years it's had a feel like going to the second outer citadel when a convenient room isn't open close to the castle in the third outer citadel. In other words I've only gone in a number of times that can be counted on one hand myself.

And, finally there's an inner moat and that leads to the inner citadel. Obviously the castle tower looms over that area. Obviously I've never entered there either and I've only seen it from the outside so I don't know what's going on inside.

"Just a bit, we thought we'd take a look at our future objective."

Ginger took a step forward beside Zenom while saying.

Fu..

I don't know who brought it up but I guess it was that sort of thing.

"..Well, that's fine. But, I think they'll only let you in up to the "third outer cit"..up to the outer perimeter?"

"That's no problem. I just want to take a look at even a portion of the castle that I've heard about."

Sanno said while shrugging his shoulders.

Ah, that's right. I need to say this.

"Also, Miduchi, Zenom, Toris, Bel, and Rodrick you guys stay behind

this time. You've all seen it before and as expected there's way too many people."
"Eeh~~~"

.....

Leaving behind the five who were grumbling that they went to the trouble of coming, even then we took along a total of over 20 people to the castle and took care of the deliveries. We were able to enter the third outer citadel without problem but after all we weren't allowed into the second citadel.

Even then everyone seemed to be impressed by the delicate and splendid ornaments around the building and the magnificently mowed lawn in the vacant land. I was a bit nervous that Rokko or Jeru might start making too much noise but as expected even they were impressed as they just looked around occasionally saying, "Ha~" in a whisper.

Supposedly this Rombert castle was completed for the time being and started to function as a castle 50 years ago from now. Including the ornaments and such the building was only completely finished 40 years after that, a short 10 years ago. Prior to that, Rombert castle used to stand a bit to the North from here in what's currently considered the low-ranking noble district. The grandfather of the current King who was the King at that time had just finished an 80-year project to complete the new Rombert castle 10 years after he took the throne so he spent another 20 years moving castles and tearing down the old one.

I smoothly gave everyone an explanation of that sort of hearsay.

We left the castle after finishing up the delivery and sightseeing and I talked with Kamu on the way back to the company. The one who proposed sightseeing at the castle with everyone this time was Toris. Supposedly Toris told everyone he wanted them to understand my objective to make a new country after this even a bit better. Hearing that they thought it would be good to see the castle at least once. Of course, it seems like there was also the reason of wanting to see the interior of the castle together with everyone at once as well.

On our way of slowly returning to the company headquarters I listened to what everyone was saying.

"Really~ it was amazing right~"

"Yeah, I've only heard about something like that in stories."

"Sean-san you've gone in a number of times right? Have you ever gone even further inside?"

"Yeah, just once I've gone a bit further inside."

"What's going on beyond that?"

"Things get even more luxurious. You can also see a garden with quite a bit of work done to it as well."

"Ha~ ..Garden! So there's even something like that!"

"Did you see the ceiling of that room?"

"Yeah, it had a beautiful picture drawn on it."

"That, it's a fairy tale from the past right."

"Is that so?"

"He~"

"That's right. Don't you know it?"

"I couldn't tell..I felt like I was going to go blind from how extravagant it all was."

"Right. It wasn't just gold but there was even one door that was completely varnished right."

"That was supposedly something with scenery of various places in the Kingdom drawn on it."

"Eh? Is that so Jamie-san?"

"Pu..It really wasn't a fairy tale right?"

".."

The first time I saw it I looked around quite a bit in admiration as well I think it was.

I thought that the original construction of large temples and shrines in Kyoto or famous great cathedrals in foreign countries would be like that. Though I'm sure the theme for the pictures is different.

While that was going on we arrived at the company. Five people with bitter smiles on their faces came out to greet us.

Even here everyone ended up talking about how luxurious and magnificent the castle was. I wonder what everyone's doing after this? Thinking that when I tried asking them about and it seems everyone is going out to eat. Last night, the three who came ahead to the capital early on already reserved a restaurant.

If you're doing that then how about having a meal with everyone in the caravan from Bakuddo and the store? Thinking that I tried suggesting it but was gently rejected by Toris. He wanted to wait until night before we all eat, drink, and get acquainted. Somehow it felt like things weren't adding up but if that's the case it can't be helped. There's probably things that are difficult to talk about when I'm around. In that case I proposed footing a bit of the bill but was rejected on that too. Somehow it wasn't very amusing as I felt like my good intentions were turned to nothing but sooner after Toris lowered his head to me and simply explained the

reason.

Supposedly the lunch meeting this time is in the shape of the seniors of the {Slaughterers} Zenom, Toris, and everyone treating the juniors. Hmm, certainly there's no room for me to join in that case. They've all acted as leaders a number of times and built up a decent amount of trust.

However, in the end they're still mostly 19 year old brats. In order to act as the leader of first-rate adventurers in their late 20s and 30s they can't just be reliable and individually strong but need to pay attention to things on all ends. Putting aside what degree of meaning that has, they must have decided that even just doing a little bit is better than not doing anything at all.

Even the reincarnated people have started again as brats in addition to their past life. I'm sure they want to show off that they aren't just slightly strong brats with a bit of intelligence.

In order to lead people you need to show them the future. Of course, it's not as if there's no other methods as well.

For example instilling them with fear, even the method of controlling people through fear is somewhat effective. Though there's a lot of people who failed trying to do it, if it's up to some extent I think there's even more cases of it succeeding. It doesn't really matter what method is used at the start. In the end if you show them the future and let them believe that you're the assistance they need in order to aim for that then there's no problem wherever the startline is. If you can take responsibility for it that is.

In other words they must want to do something like a rise to action meeting.

If I were to retort even further on it then it's basically Toris declaring that he's aiming to become a high ranking noble of the country I make. In that case putting aside the retainers right now, he must want personal connections that connect to the future as well. Rodrick and Binsu are nobles and supposedly even Misu has some connections after all.

If that's the case then I should just do what I can do on my end.

First off is going over the account book of the company and making corrections, then going to the government office before I forget to pay the luxury tax for armor this time along with the taxes for last month, listen to the state of customers from the Yotlen and Rassegu families, put in an order with Sean and the others for improvements on the items delivered next time, perform an inspection of the sausage factory without warning and reprimand them over any problems to fix, check on the progress of the slaves education, go around explaining changes in the amount of sausage ingredients we'll be needing to the sellers while greeting them, and I need to show my face at Tukerin's clinic to greet and thank him as well. Oh~ it's necessary to stop by Sandak Company and check on things regarding the amulet as well.

Though I can split up some of them with Miduchi there's quite a few things I need to do. First off it's necessary for Miduchi to accompany me in correcting the account books. Thinking that I was about to call out to her and it was just as she was about to go out

with Toris and the others...

Even you're going along with them...I'm sure she's not going just to play around but...Even though it's already been over 10 years since my thoughts have switched primarily to the Ragudarios language of Orth, whether it be using an abacus or doing mental math for some reason saying, "Which is~ why, it becomes X0~ yen.." in Japanese feels a bit more efficient and is easier to concentrate...

It can't be helped so I had Anna go and buy me some sandwiches and ate those while correcting the accounts. After that when I went to the government office and took care of the taxes it was long past 3:00.

The sun is still high but I had Yotlen and the others discuss customer complaints and improvement points of the products with Sean and the others while having tea. It's not like Sean and the others will always be here after all. And then the day passed by as we were doing that. Rasseg and Mili who went out to make deliveries to companies we have contracts with finally came back after finishing up most of the jobs. After that Angela with a slightly red face probably from drinking appeared in the store to tell us to go eat and drink with the {Slaughterers} while she keeps an eye on the store.

Supposedly Zulu is taking the slave brats working at the factory out for a meal so there's no need to worry about them. Originally I've paid them enough in wages so they can eat so I wasn't worried about that. Supposedly Giberuti is keeping an eye on things at the factory.

According to her they were having a motivational meeting at Rokiddo this time and everyone including Basutorial and Cathy are still there. If it's one of the top restaurants of the capital then it's just right for thanking Sean and the others for their long journey. After bringing along the squires from Bakuddo, Ressgu family, and even the Yotlen family it was already a party. Ralph and Gwine's loud laughing was echoing out to the entrance. I almost misunderstood whether that Rokiddo suddenly decided to setup a cheap bar like the ones in Baldukk.

Everyone was completely drunk and considerably cheerful. It seems they were originally having a study session on manners during a meal...Hey now, wasn't it a motivational meeting? Well, I guess that's fine. It should be fine to occasionally have a huge party at this level of high class restaurant while eating high class food.

Anna, Hanna, and Kamuna all loved it after all.

.....

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 29

In the end last night the party continued until late into the night. Thanks to that the squires and normal employees for the company were able to get very acquainted with the {Slaughterers} who are registered as security employees. It was pretty fun. Starting today it seems that all of the {Slaughterers} are going to enjoy themselves however they please in the capital and then return to Baldukk after they're satisfied. It seems Sean and the others are planning to stay one more night to get some rest before returning to Bakuddo.

Just before dawn I woke up the still half-asleep Miduchi to go

running and we encountered the slaves from the sausage factory working hard at running as they're lead by Zulu and Angela. I thought they were missing some people so I tried asking about it and it seems they'll return after finishing half then next time Henry and Mekku will lead them for the other half of the running. That explains why it seemed like only the older ones were with them.

It was then that I heard someone speak from within the slaves. Just when I was thinking who it might be, it was the oldest two slaves among the factory, Maru and Rinbi. Supposedly they want to discuss something with me later.

I don't particularly mind.

Is it negotiations over a wage increase?

For the time being there's not much of a difference other than John and Terry.

Though I say that, the two of them are the oldest and there's physical labor as well, since they also have to look after the smaller kids a bit I had already given them a bit more compared to the others.

Just when I was thinking that, unexpectedly they said they want to be combat slaves.

There's some strange people out there.

I went to visit the store once after returning to the inn for a shower then left soon after greeting the Yotlen family. I thought about visiting Sandak Company first thing today but I decided to go to the sausage factory for the matter from just now. It's to do an inspection without warning as well as to discuss things with Maru and Rinbi. I decided to have Miduchi go pay a visit to Tukerin.

It'll be a bit later but I'll head over there afterwards.

There's 22 slaves I have working at the sausage factory excluding John and Terry. Of those I bought 11 of them at the same timing as we started operation of the factory last summer. A short while after that I bought an additional 9, then another 2 who we purchased to adjust Toris's chainmail and after that was over threw them into the sausage factory.

That's why even if two people or so were to be taken out I'm sure there wouldn't be much of a difference in the productivity of the factory. But you know, these two just reached the age of adulthood this year. It was just as I was thinking I wanted one or two people as combat slaves but they're useless in terms of combat strength. If they haven't learned how to use a weapon for at least one year it's too frightening that there's no way I could bring them into Baldukk.

Just obediently work without showing interest in strange things.

And, a short while later start a relationship whenever and have some kids. There's something I was thinking of having you do around 5 years later after all.

When I arrived at the factory Zulu and the others were waiting together with Maru and Rinbi.

"You said you want to be combat slaves is that right?"

I took a sat on one of the chairs in front of the factory and started biting into a fried baldoggie Giberuti handed me for breakfast while asking.

"Yes, master. We want to become combat slaves that can earn like Zulu-sama."

Maru knelt down and replied with a serious tone of voice.

"I do too, master. Please let us enter the {Slaughterers}."

Rinbi knelt down and said just the same.

".."

I'm sure they look up to things like that at this age.

Otherwise, just as expected they might want an improvement in their treatment.

I felt like I wanted to see what kind of face Zulu and Angela were making by my side but decided not to look.

It seems Giberuti went back into the store to start disassembling the meat mincer.

Maru and Rinbi just hit level 3.

Their slightly low ability values when I first bought them have recovered to the average for a Hyumu at their ages together with the improvements to their diet.

Of course both of them have magnificently healthy bodies.

"Have you gotten sick of making and selling Baldoggie?"

""No!! That's by no means the case..!""

The two of them replied in a panic.

Well, I guess there's no other way they could have replied but that.

"You two, have you ever held a weapon before..There's no way right."

""Yes. However we'll definitely learn and be useful!!""

I wonder where it comes from, this unfounded confidence?

"Hey, you two, stand."

I bit into a Baldoggie while saying.

""Yes.""

The two of them stood up.

There's hope sparkling in their eyes.

They're underestimating it too much.

"Zulu"

"Ha!!"

"Angela"

"Ha!!"

"Hit them"

""Ha!!""

Just as I heard a couple of dull thuds overlap, Maru and Rinbi were both crouched over on the ground holding their cheeks after being sent flying by the blows.

I made a bitter smile.

They sure held back.

Just like that about 10 seconds passed.

After all Giberuti is the best at frying them just right. This

Baldoggie is delicious.

"Maru, Rinbi, master ordered you to "stand". How long are you planning to lay there?"

Maru and Rinbi stood up in a hurry.

Yeah, just relax.

In the past sister and I beat each other up all the time and when I started training with father, the head squire back then Aizensaido, Sean, Whitney, or Mikkensu I was punched and kicked plenty so I understand.

Even if you're punched with bare fists the amount of damage done to your HP is limited.

"Hit them."

""Ha!!""

Another two dull thud sounds overlap.

This time both Maru and Rinbi stood up right away.

They're still going easy on them~

"You already understand with this right? You two won't be useful for anything."

It's somehow started to get pitiful so I called out to them like that.

Both Maru and Rinbi lowered their heads.

The cheeks on both sides of their faces are swelling up.

However, they don't even have nosebleeds yet.

Maru is grinding his teeth while clenching both of his fists as he looks down.

Rinbi's looking down just the same but I can't tell her expression because it's hidden behind her long blue hair.

Well I'm sure she's mortified just the same.

"Master is talking to you? Reply to him."

"" .. ""

"Hit them."

""Ha!!""

This time a couple of even deeper thuds overlapped.

Both Zulu and Angela hit them in the body.

""Guwu...!!""

Maru and Rinbi groaned while holding their stomachs and somehow were able to stand up.

But it took close to 10 seconds.

It's pitiful but like this there's no way they could make it as combat slaves.

The silence continued for quite a while.

"Hey, Maru. If you're like that then you'll die right away you know?"

There's no response.

Just the silence continues.

"Rinbi, it's the same for you too. In the end you'll just be killed by an ork or hobgoblin."

There's no reply from here either.

They're just looking at my feet as I'm sitting on the chair while

either recognizing their own powerlessness, feeling mortified, or

maybe feeling terror as they just keep trembling.

They might be feeling discontent thinking it's unreasonable.

Well, these two were born as slaves so I don't think they'd go so far as seeing it as unreasonable.

However, if they think something can be done about it at just this level then they're underestimating death matches too much right, these brats.

I hold onto my Baldoggie skewer that's completely gone cold as I look from my chair towards Maru and Rinbi.

While their faces twist from the pain I can still somewhat see expressions of resent and regret.

Hmph.

I looked up to my left. I can tell Zulu's making a strict expression.

I looked up to my right. Angela's trying to remain expressionless.

Though I also feel like there's a bit of kindness in their eyes as well.

Though you know~

It's still fine if these two were to die. Though it's not good.

But you know.

Someone else might end up falling into a crisis trying to cover for these two.

Ah, that's right, if these two were to die wouldn't that be a decrease in my assets?

Let's go with that.

Just as I was about to start trying to persuade them.

"I'm hungry. Let's hurry up and eat~"

"Supposedly the factory has today off."

"John and Terry are here right?"

"..Huh?"

"It's Greed-sama."

"Zulu and Maruso..Also.."

"It looks like we'll be able to eat Baldoggie right~ Isn't that one
in Greed-kun's hand?"

"Ooo~ Isn't that great master!"

"Yeah, I like having fried eggs and baldoggie for breakfast."

Sanno, Ruttsu, Rodrick, and his two combat slaves came along.

I guess they're on their way back from running?

All five of them are covered in sweat.

"Hey now~ what's with all the serious faces?"

"What is it? Are you in the middle of disciplining? Properly listen
to things your owner says~"

Don't interfere in this?

Chapter 296: Re-Departure

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 29

Maru and Rinbo both brazenly said they want to become combat slaves so in order to get them to give up I was having Zulu and Angela knock them down until Sanno, Ruttsu, Rodrick, Denda, and Karimu appeared. The five of them appeared covered in sweat as expected from just finishing their running this morning and it seems they came along to get John and Terry to make some baldoggie for breakfast.

"Morning, Greed-kun. What are you guys doing?"

"Yo~ so you were already finished with your running? Zulu, Maruso.

What's going on?"

Sanno and Ruttsu called out to us. You're loud~ Don't interfere.

"If it's about baldoggie then Mekku and the others are cleaning inside so just say something."

I replied with just that before turning my attention back to Maru and Rinbi.

It seems that Sanno and the others quietly went into the factory.

The two of them are still looking at me bitterly as usual.

Even if you look at me with eyes like that those who are useless are still useless.

In the first place something like wanting to be combat slaves, you screwed up in how you suddenly brought it up with me first. If it's to report bullying then that's fine but it's not even that urgent of a matter right.

First off you should have consulted with the head slave Zulu and passed it through him and then only finally came to make the request with me after you've convinced him, even Cathy would have been fine. If it's with her then I'm sure she's easy to talk to as well. In the first place what have John and Terry been doing. Completely skipping over the head slave Zulu and making a direct appeal to me is ridiculous.

Do they not understand that it completely ignores Zulu's position?

Though they must have done such because they didn't know.

Ronslail-san~ you never properly finished training them...

Zulu's still making a strict expression.

Well, it's not like you're normally together with them after all.

It would be barking up the wrong tree to criticize Zulu over something like this so don't make that face.

Though it's a face that doesn't seem to be worrying about himself.

"Hey, the two of you. You want to die?"

"No, I don't want to die."

After a short pause Maru nervously replied.

"What about you?"

I asked Rinbi once again.

"U..Umm, I don't want to die either."

Her voice started to crack up a bit.

"That's only obvious right. Even I don't want to die."

I throw the remainder of the baldoggie skewer I had in my hand into my mouth and play around with the remaining skewer.

"You two, are you saying that fully understanding what kind of thing combat slaves are?"

"" ... ""

You never know when you might be ordered to be my shield you know?

You never know when I might abandon you in order to earn time to escape?

There's no way I'd bring along someone who wouldn't even be able to properly earn any time if it comes to that!

If the number of people increases then so does the food we have to carry.

For as long as the number of people that can teleport at once is limited we can't waste any spots.

Now both Zulu and Angela are combat slaves whose names are known pretty well.

It's to the point where if a random newbie with no achievements meets them on the street or somewhere they'd have to quickly move out of the way and bow down in respect.

Ever since we cleared the 8th floor they've even made it into a reasonable number of rumors over here in the capital I'm sure.

I wonder if that's why...

It would be stranger if these two hadn't heard about things like that.

"How about trying to bring them into the dungeon once?"

Rodrick started talking to me after coming out from the store.

It's got no relation with you right.

Let alone that, even if I were to make these two into combat slaves then...

"Rodrick, sorry but if you aren't willing to take responsibility

can you show a bit of discretion? Also, if I were to use these two as combat slaves they'd end up being put into the {Exterminators} you know?"

There's already your Denda and Karimu, along with my Mekku and Jesu a total of four combat slaves. If there's anymore it might end up as a party with nothing but combat slaves.

Of course, it's not as if becoming someone like the elf slave user Rozuwera is prohibited either. Taking into account that his slaves haven't rebelled while inside of the dungeon and you can tell Rozuwera's got a firm grasp on the hearts of his slaves and is proof that he's treating them properly.

Whether it's from a rebellion or he's killed by monsters, for combat slaves who have lost their master you never know where they may end up through inheritance of relatives so you could say Rozuwera's properly earned the loyalty of his slaves.

Furthermore, it's obviously okay to fortify an entire party of 10 with slaves but even if you were to make such a party I can't imagine it functioning properly. I'm sure they'd take advantage of the fact that there's no overseer and just spend all of their slacking off in the teleport room of the 1st floor.

"Well~ Certainly that's true but just showing them the 1st floor for a bit is teaching them about life. Don't they say, "hit the iron while it's still hot"? Isn't it important to train them while they're still young?"

No, I understand what you're trying to say but if they were to die in the process of that just showing them for a bit there's nothing more that can be done after that...

"Oh~ I just heard about it from Larry but supposedly those two want to become combat slaves?"

Ruttsu came to stick his head into as well. Seriously wouldn't you guys just stop. Well in this guys case I'm sure the majority of it is just out of interest.

"That's impossible right. I'm sure they don't know how to handle weapons so it'll just end with them dying right away. It's not something as simple as that."

Sanno joined in as well but he seems to be speaking from my point of view. Denda and Karimu are behind him holding small leather pouches. It seems they were properly able to buy baldoggie for breakfast.

"I think so too...At your guys level you'll just end up killed by monsters right away and reduce my assets. Give up."

After I said it as if spitting it out Maru and Rinbi just lowered their heads even lower.

See?

If they can't say anything else over just being told this much then there's no way they'd be able to fight inside the dungeon.

"Al-san, if you put it like that then they won't be able to say anything else...Right~ you two?"

Even after Rodrick called out to them like that, naturally the two of them were still clenching their fists while looking down.

I thought Rodrick would be used to dealing with slaves but after actually seeing it he's pretty easy-going.

Well, I'm pretty easy-going myself though.

I can't help but think that I'm dealing with people.

The fact that they're things, I can't clearly come to terms with the fact that they're simply assets which can be consumed.

Even after passing away in my past life I've never had kids.

While I loved my nephews and nieces, I'm sure from their point of view I was just an annoying relative uncle that gives them an allowance occasionally when we meet.

Even when it comes to Zetto and Bekki, I only spent the short period until they were 2.5 years old together with them so it's not like I was together with them until they built up a solid individuality. Of course~ for the most part I understood their personality but personality is in the end just personality. Babies don't have any individuality. I never spent time with them and watched their growth until they were able to think somewhat on their own as a single individual.

In that sort of meaning the closest one would be my older sister Mill but since I myself was an infant, we only ever had any proper contact around when she was 5 years old. By that period her personality had already considerably taken form. I don't know much at all about when she was 3~4 years old and her personality was in development.

Additionally, while it was in the middle of nowhere Mill was born in a noble household and there's the education from father and mother as well. On top that she was raised with plenty of love being poured into her. I'm sure there's no comparison to a child slave from the city.

In comparison Maru and Rinbi were born slaves and if I remember right, around 5~6 years old? Or maybe even earlier? In any case they were estranged from their parents since they were small. It might not be wrong to say they were raised without knowing parental

love at all. In a wider sense you could say they were raised while being neglected. When I first purchased them it wasn't limited to just these two but all of them were extremely thin and had a bad look in their eyes with almost no expression. They even seemed to have some fear of I, their master, in their eyes.

Although, I was already a pretty well-known adventurer back then and also managed a decent company as well.

I thought it was something that couldn't be helped.

Even though that was the case, somehow less than one year later they've started to assert themselves and are expressing their wishes to me.

If it was just that...

The radiance in their eyes.

However.

Of all things to become combat slaves...

Shit.

Why are they looking up to such a dangerous position?

"Call out Mekku and Jesu, never mind. Mekku!! Jesu!!"

Without replying to Rodrick I raised my voice and shouted towards the factory.

I start talking to Maru and Rinbi while waiting for the two of them to come.

"You two, be able to run the same outer crater course as we do within 2 hours by next month. If you can do that then I'll listen to what you have to say once more."

Even if you make that sort of face I still haven't accepted it.

..Damn it.

I feel like there will be regrets.

..Damn it.

..I encourage living a life without any regrets..

Certainly that's true right...

But, I can't take back something I've already said.

Henry, Mekku, Rubi, Jesu.

You all have enjoyed yourself a bit too much until now right.

I'll let you experience a bit of mental stress.

.....

After pushing the care of the two brats for the time being onto

Mekku and Jesu, since time was getting late I immediately went to Tukerin's clinic and met up with Miduchi. After greeting him, I made the request, and paid the bill in advance. Surveying the Dirt Plains. Incidentally the estimate of the cost to survey it was 25,000,000 Z. Expensive~ These greedy dark elf bastards~ If they give me a half-assed survey report after this I'll bully Miduchi at night.

..One year since then. It should be about time for Kuro and Mary to

have retired from the Webdos Knight Group and be departing. Near the end of last year both of them received investiture as knights together. Particularly Mary seems to have been put in charge of quite a few duties regarding accounting so with training their replacements and all that they were expecting retirement to be around spring. After they retire I asked them to investigate the Dirt Plains on their way to Baldukk so they should arrive around summer or fall.

I've already sent them 20,000,000 Z to purchase some horses and as travel expenses just in case. I said to make sure they buy two proper war horses so it can't be helped that it ends up costing

about that much. After they group up with us if they do things properly then something like 20,000,000 Z should only take them about half a year to return.

Now then, if it's possible I want to pay a visit to Sandak Company while it's still morning. Miduchi and I went all the way to Sandak Company but since we hadn't made an appointment the company president was in the middle of meeting someone so we couldn't meet him. After he confirmed the openings the old man clerk said it would be at earliest in the evening so I said we'd be back then and left.

It couldn't be helped so Miduchi and I split up and went around offering greetings to the merchants and companies we purchase pork and materials from. Of course, greetings are just secondary and it was really to investigate shares among their clients. It might be better to call it negotiations to increase the amount of consumable meat they're willing to allot and sell to their new customer Greed Company. If possible I want them to sell us beef as well as pork. We went around to the acceptable butcher stores and farms making use of the spell {Suggestion} when possible to slowly advance our negotiations.

While we were doing that the time passed by until 4:00. Miduchi and I met up before heading towards Sandak Company once again. And, it was just as a group with excited looks on their faces was coming out of Sandak Company and getting into a carriage. The company president had come out to the entrance to see off that group. I guess they're a large-scale business partner or something? While maintaining some distance to not get in the way they quickly

departed. After Miduchi and I made a light nod towards the president, he called us over.

"Hello~ Greed-san, in regards to that {Earth.Amulet} but it's popularity is superb!"

Hohou!

Isn't that the best thing I've heard all day!

"Is that so! That's great."

"Thanks to that while we already sent out notice for the auction it's unfortunate that we weren't able to start taking bids yet.

Well it can't be helped standing around and talking about here so please come inside."

I've mentioned it before but the auctions for expensive items aren't up for public bidding.

The kinds of people who buy or can buy things like that are all busy so there's no way to gather them all in a single place at a fixed time and date. The process of the auction is, first, a notice is sent out in advance.

They have a number of people who would definitely participate in the bidding or are well-informed about the item take a look at it.

And then they have a discussion with the company president on the spot to decide the minimum bid price.

After that they once again send out an official notice to people who seem very likely to make a bid while simultaneously conveying the minimum bid price. Those who wish to make a bid can come look at the item on a day convenient for them and propose the price they'd be willing to pay to the company. After everyone who's interested in bidding has seen the item, the company once again makes a list of everyone's proposed prices and distributes it to

everyone. And then they decide on a fixed date and have private bidding. Those who wish to bid will look at the list before deciding their final bidding price and then tell that to the company. It's because of this that you could say deciding their proposed price at the start is where the bargaining takes place. Therefore, the bidding doesn't take place until everyone who's interested in bidding has seen the item.

The company president said that's the reason, "please think it'll take at least half a year for the price to be decided".

"Those people just now were interested bidders as well. They come on a long journey from far away along with their knight leader and financial affairs minister to have a look at it."

"Ho~ that is quite something.."

"The proposed price they just discussed a while ago was 4,500,000,000 Z. This is around the average proposed price for the auction this time. Therefore, the final bid price should be roughly 1.5 times that."

Nuwwa! 1..1.5 times!?

Isn't that 7..7,500,000,000~!!!

"Eh..then that means it'll be around 6,700,000,000 ~

6,800,000,000?"

Miduchi said with her eyes wide open as Zeni(Z) marks appeared in them.

I'm sure I'm making a similar face.

"That's correct. Even for us it's been a while since we made over 1,000,000,000 in profits from a single business transaction. We're grateful, Greed-san."

The president of Sandak Company lowered his head to Miduchi and I

with a pleased face.

Of course, we're also making pleased faces.

After all even after paying the handling charge and taxes it still

comes out to 5,000,000,000, that's 5,000,000,000!

Even after I pay out bonuses to everyone in the {Saviors} that

leaves over 4,000,000,000 remaining in my hands.

Won't my funds increase by over double all at once!

"There's 9 gentlemen who have expressed interest in bidding and

only 1 remaining who wishes to view the item. Please wait just a

short while longer."

Waiting, I'll wait, I'll wait as long as you need. Waiting with my

head held high.

Supposedly those wishing to make bids aren't just from Rombert

Kingdom but also from Guranan Empire and Bakuruni Kingdom as well.

Obviously it's not like they've made direct contact with the nobles

of countries like those. They get into contact with a local

organization that acts like an embassy and then that contacts their

own country. The purpose of the local organization is for

information gathering and negotiations regarding tariffs but

occasionally they do jobs like these as well. Even transactions

dealing with paintings or sculptures are splendid sources of

cross-country negotiations.

Furthermore, there's a local organization for Devas Kingdom in

Rombertia as well but for the most part we'll still in the middle

of disputes over the borders so it's more or less never used and

the knight group always has them under surveillance. Of course, the

degree of surveillance is extremely high and it's surveillance to

the point that they can brazenly tell they're being watched.

Obviously parties like that aren't given any notice about the auctions.

Supposedly all of the foreign country embassies with fast horses that wish to bid for the amulet have already inspected it and now they're letting important high ranking nobles and clients within the country take a look at it and propose their prices.

Ah, I need to ask this.

"Ah, come to think of it, about the sale price but can I receive it in platinum coins?"

5,000,000,000 in gold coins is 5,000 of them. In the worst case even that's fine but I'm sure it'll be bulky in terms of both weight and volume. I've somewhat heard about platinum coins in discussions but I've never seen the real thing so I want to take this chance to see them.

"Fufu, that's only obvious. That's also one of the reasons why we set the minimum bidding price to 1,000,000,000 this time."

Supposedly it's a custom to set limits on the type of currency being used to pay by setting the minimum bid price. Obviously they carefully limit those who are told about it. In this case it has the meaning of, "It's inevitable to reach the billions. We won't tell those who don't have the ability to pay in the first place but pardon us from any window shopping."

.....

Year 7447, Month 4, Day 30

Yesterday, or rather during this morning when Miduchi and I

returned to Baldukk we started on way towards the fairy village.

After passing through the 1st and 2nd floors we sang the Japanese national anthem as usual and teleported into the fairy area on the

2nd floor, then after clearing through the pitfalls and snake fountain it was time to have a rest until night.
"You can sleep first. I'll wake you up in 4 hours."
After making a simple bed by just spreading my robe out on the floor it was decided that I'd sleep first.
"Yeah. Then I'll get some rest first."
I closed my eyes while using arm guards I took off as a pillow.

Soon after something was placed over my body.
Miduchi must have put her robe over me.

.....

"The rainy season this year was shorter than usual so it's gotten quite a bit sweet."

On my right Shiina with her hair tied up is giving an enthusiastic speech to the buyer in charge of fruits and vegetables for a mid-size supermarket. The official presentation was finished last month during a visit at the end of October and while the mangoes our firm deals in which are imported from Nam Doc Mai in Thailand are more expensive than the pelican mangoes that from the Philippines that over firms deal in, they decided that the flavor and packaging of ours were better so today is the delivery day for that company.

The other party is making sounds as if they're satisfied as well.

If I remember right this was the first client that I'd left her in charge of.

Things sure were pretty hard this time. No matter how hard we tried we couldn't get a hold of them and by chance our fruit and vegetable stocking route had started growing them so I decided to

chance it suggest mangoes which I don't usually handle very often.

That ended finishing the deal.

She was overjoyed by her first sale I think it was.

After offering our thanks and standing up from our seats the buyer

saw us all the way to the elevator on the reception floor.

After the door of the elevator closed Shiina said, "Thank you very

much. Over half of the reason I was able to make the sale was

thanks to Kawasaki-san." and lowered her head to me. When she

raised her head again a beauty mark on her earlobe stood up because

of her tied up hair.

Something like that did happen...

.....

I was shaken awake.

It's time to change shifts.

I stand up from my bed and stretch out before putting my protector

arm guards back on.

Switching out with me this time it's Miduchi's turn to rest.

After taking off her arm guards and placing them as pillows just

the same, I placed my robe over her after she laid down.

I saw down to her side with my back against the wall of the

cave.

"Night."

"Good night."

Miduchi closed her eyes while facing me on her arm guard

pillow.

After about 2 hours passed, I think the time should already be past

9 pm?

I started playing with the bullet-head of a bullet that was mixed

into a pocket of my bag while looking at her face.

The scar I couldn't fix in the end stands out.

I felt a bit sorry about it.

In the end I still can't use the spell that cures illnesses.

"If they just use a gun then even a small child can kill you

instantly. It's scary."

I remember Miduchi's words that I heard from Bel.

..I guess so.

Stray bullets on the battlefield are frightening.

That's why I need to make absolutely sure that guns aren't used

outside of my camp.

They're an absolute secret until the time comes.

Even though I used to think that..right.

I've changed.

"Nn.."

Miduchi rolled over a bit and her face was hidden behind her

white-dyed hair.

I gently brush her hair and push it off her face.

Her slightly pointed elf ears appeared.

There's no beauty mark on her earlobes which are smaller than a

hyumus.

I guess it's only obvious because it's a new body.

I start playing with the bullet-head in my hand again.

Pin~ and I flick it with my thumb before grabbing it as it

falls.

It's the same thing I've already repeated countless times.

【Arrowhead】

【Iron】

【Condition: Normal】

【Manufacture Date: 26/3/7447】

【Value: 1】

【Durability: 114】

【Ability: 10-120】

【Effect: None】

Arrowhead, indeed...Come to think of it the shells are

【Brass.Craft】 while the net gun and revolving rifle were

【Metal.Craft】 right. Even when it comes to the gunpowder it's still

【Cotton(Processed)】 or 【Dye(Processed)】 after all. I have to wonder

about that compared to the bullet-head which has an ability field

and is still barely recognized as a weapon...Though I guess it's

still better than being recognized as clubs.

Oh~ while I was spacing out thinking about things like this it's

almost time.

"It's about time for you to wake up."

"Nn..D..ea.r..no way..that's too embarrassing.."

You, what in the world are you letting me do to you?

.....

Year 7447, Month 5, Day 2

This time the spells that Mila-shisho and Karl taught to us were

{Peace.Glue} and {Roaring.Wall} these two. We struggled a decent

amount to acquire both of them. Putting aside {Roaring.Wall}, I

want to be able to immediately activate {Peace.Glue}. Other than

Toris and Basutorial it's possible for Binsu and Rodrick to learn to

use it after all.

After returning to the capital while still lacking sleep, Miduchi

and I first decided to get some rest.

Though there's only a short while left until dawn, let's sleep

until noon today.

Though in the end both of us still woke up at around 9:00.

A poor person's mentality right.

Now then, I spent plenty of time talking with Miduchi other than

when we were trying to learn the spells.

If Maru and Rinbi can't run the course within 2 hours by the end of

this month then I'll return them to their previous jobs. If it seems like they can run then it's fine for Henry and Mekku to train them with the spear and they can act as reserve members for the {Slaughterers} or it's fine for them to enter the {Exterminators} as well. We'll deal with it when it comes to that when Kuro and Mary group up with us.

I'm sure the investigation of the Dirt Plains will start with just a summary.

According to Miduchi, they'll report the truth of the things they investigate but how much effort they put into the investigation is unknown and depending on the case Kuro and Mary might give a sharper viewpoint of it. In regards to this it's fine if they properly investigate and if not then I'll eventually have to form a surveying team.

And then, the {Earth.Amulet}.

After all an item that can cancel out spells made up of only Earth and Void magic with about a 50% probability is quite impressive. If I were to take it to the extreme then it even has the possibility of canceling out my ultimate attack spell, {Stone Cannon (Missile)}.

Although, I still have things like ice and flame so even if my enemy were to equip it there's not much to fear.

However, that price is attractive.

If we follow Miduchi's theory then below the 10th floor it's possible we could obtain something even more effective.

We've already finished re-organizing so isn't it about time we put some enthusiasm into it?

{Peace.Glue} Alteration

(Earth Magic Lv 4, Wind Magic Lv 3, Void Magic Lv 4, Consumed MP 10)

The targeted weapon along with giving off light for an instant will no longer be possible to pull from the scabbard, holder, or quiver it's already placed inside. The duration of the effect is the level of the caster times 60 seconds. However, it's possible for the owner of the weapon to attempt drawing the weapon just once during the duration of the effect. There's a 1% increase in the chance of breaking the spell for every level different from the caster and the minimum is 1%. However in the case that they realize they can't draw their weapon because of a spell the probability of breaking the spell is doubled and if they try to resist the spell using mana the probability of breaking it increases by 3% for every 1 point of MP poured into it using level 0 void magic.

{Roaring.Wall} Evocation

(Earth Magic Lv 4, Wind Magic Lv 4, Void Magic Lv 5, Consumed MP 13)

On a single wall(The maximum size is 10 square meters per level of the caster. The duration of the wall is 10 minutes per level of the caster.) that the caster wishes creates a wall of noise that can deceive those trying to listen through said wall. The wall can be a large level surface or a gently curved surface and in the case it suddenly bends partway through the valid range will be up to turn. The noise will only be heard by those intentionally trying to hear sounds from the opposite side of the wall.

Chapter 297: Disclosure

Year 7447, Month 5, Day 5

After returning to Baldukk I called for Kamu and Kimu.

It's in order to change their contracts to a new one for the

{Saviors}.

The largest modification is to the compensation.

1% of the sale price of anything "other" than magic stones that we

obtain while in the dungeon is provided as a bonus. Along with that

I need to change the details in Basutorial's contract as well. The

version of the contract document has gone up to 4. Or rather I

guess you could say the {Saviors}-use contract? No, I guess it's

just a contract revision with changes to professional duties.

That's not it.

It's something important.

"Think about it once more before you sign the contract. Kamu and

Kimu, I want you to think that with this you're completely throwing

your lot in with us. The obligation of silence written in the

clauses isn't just for show."

"What are you saying at this point"

Kamu casually signed it with a face as if saying she's long since

known everything.

"Me too. It's only obvious for there to be secrets. Even {Sun.Ray}

had some secrets, did you already forget? In the first place,

whether they're small or big every party has some secrets."

Kimu signed after taking the pen from Kamu and then took a pin to

poke her finger before squeezing some blood out.

I guess it means they aren't just blinded by the high

compensation.

The other day I heard from Bel that Kamu and Kimu aren't just in it for that.

Didn't I just hear about the actions of all the

{Slaughterers}?

..It seems it would be best if I stop using this exhausting viewpoint pretty soon.

.....

Year 7447, Month 5, Day 6

About this holiday but I don't I really like I got much rest.

Miduchi and I aren't allowed the luxury of taking a restful break.

It was the same days as usual of running around to butchers requesting any increase in the amount of pork and to sell us beef as well as teaching Ressg and Mili about the slightly advanced techniques for adjusting the accounts.

The small amount of spare time we had was used for practicing spells, meals and the bathroom, other than taking showers in the inn I feel like I was always doing something.

About the only good time I had was when I happened to see sister walking around all dressed up while walking around Rombertia negotiating with the butchers. Of course, it wasn't the formal front opening clothes like a kimono but the so-called Western-style clothing on Earth and she was even wearing a skirt.

I guess she's made some big progress just that she was wearing slightly better clothes than her under armor or the ones she wore when we went drinking at a bar last time.

And while wondering where she's going or who she's meeting, thinking it's in bad taste I tried following after her but there

wasn't anything to it at all. She went inside of one of our rubber work sheds. She had a bag in her hand so she must be repairing sandals or something. It all became idiotic so I stopped following her. Something like that she should just tell a squire to do it. On a holiday you should be trying to catch a good guy and go out on some dates. But, I felt a bit sad for my sister who's still got no sex appeal as usual.

Just like this the holidays quickly passed by.

The Golden Week break ended yesterday.

Today is our group training after the end of the holidays.

I started thinking a bit about the plan for things after tomorrow while watching everyone work hard training in the vacant field outside of the crater.

..First off is the {Exterminators}.

Since Ginger and Hisu switched out there's some fears about their decrease in combat strength. After all things will be tough if I don't dispatch two people from the {Saviors}. I wonder who I should pick for the first time? I guess Toris and Bel are fine.

As expected I don't intend on letting them overdo things right after Ginger and Hisu switched out. If it's these two then they'll take things slowly without overdoing it as they search for a method for everyone to fight with the deceased combat strength.

Next up is the {Butchers}.

In exchange for Kamu and Kimu switching out Ginger and Hisu joined so there's no major decrease in their combat strength. They were originally members who were familiar since their time in {Sun.Ray} so I think they'll be able to regain their sense of cooperation after just the training today. In that case, I should aim for even

more stability here and dispatch Zenom or Miduchi. This time it would probably be best to leave it to Miduchi since she can use magic.

And then the {Saviors}.

It's only obvious for there to be some members leftover but first off I need to properly discuss things with the new members Kamu and Kimu. I guess we should talk on the 7th or 8th floors where no one else can hear our discussion...However, if I'm talking about us then it might be best to do it when all of us reincarnated people are gathered. They should follow-up in various ways. In that case, I guess it would be best to dispatch Zenom and the two slaves..No, it's not necessary to discuss everything at once, there's no need to hurry for them to understand. The starting battle formation should be fine this time.

After that, I have Maru and Rinbi just continuing to run. Of course, I didn't forget to put emphasis on them definitely taking a break after running for 1 hour and getting plenty of hydration and nutrition. Though I've more or less left it to Henry and Mekku, since they also enter the dungeon I can't leave them to look after two brats all year round. If they can't run all on their own then becoming combat slaves is just a dream within a dream.

By the way, because these two became combat slave candidates there was a bit of trouble at the sausage factory during the holiday.

There was an increase in the number of brats who started saying they want to become combat slaves like them. However, I was easily able to deal with it this time. It's because I set the conditions for becoming a combat slave as being over 14 years old and being

able to run the outer crater course around Baldukk within 2 hours.

Though it's also because Maru and Rinbi were the only ones older than 14 years old but when I explained that 14 years old was when I left my house to become an adventurer everyone accepted it...Hmm. I'm sure that not everyone hoping to will try to become combat slaves but if even a few of them who wish to were to appear wouldn't it be fine to think of it as profiting based on their initial purchase price...

Also, it's not unexpected or anything else but neither John nor Terry said they wanted to become combat slaves. It seems that the two of them certainly admire being one but because they've spent quite a while in contact with Zulu and Angela, they know the reality of what being a combat slave is like. Also, it seems one of the reasons is that both of them still have parents as well.

Though this is just something I can imagine based on the few conversations I've had with them up until now. Both John and Terry are still completely brats but just as expected from working at a food cart popular with adventurers for a reasonable period, they know very well what kind of thing the combat slaves of Baldukk are. Well, even if the two of them wanted to become one at 13 years old they're still not qualified.

.....

Year 7447, Month 5, Day 8

Yesterday we entered the dungeon and now we're in the teleport room of the 6th floor. Since we have Kamu and Kimu who are participating in the {Saviors} for the first time I decided not to overdo things

by rushing to the 8th floor within 2 days. But, while the two of them didn't seem to have any problem from the 1st to the 3rd floors yesterday, they seemed pretty fatigued going from the 4th to the 6th floors today. Even though they have experience accompanying us at this pace and they experienced an even faster pace when we were rescuing {Black.Topaz}, after all they're still lacking in the total amount of experience. We'll probably need to continue at this pace for a short while.

"And, what are we going to do? Will we talk about it today?"

Ralpa asked me after I finished taking my shower and was getting comfortable.

"That's what I plan on. Is there any problem with it?"

"Hnn. I was just asking because everyone seems restless about it."

After glancing around and everyone certainly seems a bit stiff.

They've all gathered together near Giberuti while he's making dinner and are whispering about something.

Kamu and Kimu must have felt this weird atmosphere since we arrived at this room as they're both looking a bit uncomfortable a bit of distance away.

Hmm, it seems it would be best to discuss it right away.

"Kamu, Kimu. Can we talk for a bit?"

After adding more hot water to the bucket for Zenom who's going in after me I called out to the two of them. They said "What?" as they approached me.

"There's just something I want to have a simple discussion about.

First off, listen to what I'm about to tell you. Even if you have

any questions or doubts partway through, I want you to just listen to it all first."

I sit down on one of the long benches while pointing at the chairs across from me.

"Yeah."

"Got it."

Before I realized it Ralpa was sitting on my right. Everyone other than Giberuti who was preparing the meals started to gather as well. Gwine sat down on the opposite side from Ralpa, to my left.

You all really...What are you planning to do when Zenom gets out of the shower. It seems Zulu, Angela, and Basutorial are standing behind me.

Somehow it feels kind of like I'm interviewing the two of them. It might just be my imagination but it feels like we're putting pressure on them.

"What's with you all, don't stand behind me. I won't tell you not to come over but even if you stand in a place like that it's hard to relax so sit down on the side or something."

Look even Kamu and Kimu are making tense expressions.

"Don't get so nervous. I'll finish talking about it before dinner is ready. It's nothing all that important after all."

Even then it seems the two of them were still tense as they sat straight up and gulped.

"..Now then, where to start...I guess so. First off take a look at my status."

I said that before stretching my hand out to the two of them. The two of them checked my status just like I said.

"Yeah. The two of you, what can you tell from my status?"

"Even if you say what? There's not anything particularly strange.

It's the same things we already knew?"

Kamu said in confusion as the representative for the two of them.

That's true.

"Then, next up look at Ralpha's status."

The two of them checked Ralpha's status just the same as mine but

there was nothing really different. Hn?

Kimu's expression changed a bit...

"Next up is Gwine."

As expected if they check three people in succession they'll start

to notice it. They're making shocked expressions.

"And, Basutorial."

This time they must have already figured it out from the start.

They didn't make surprised expressions.

If I had to explain it they were acting more like they've seen

something creepy, I guess? Though that's not unreasonable.

"No way, for all four of you to have the same birthday..."

"Is a coincidence like this really possible..."

Well, unless you were on really good terms with someone you

normally wouldn't be interested in their birthday. Even I don't

have any interest in the birthdays of those other than who I'm

really intimate with. This makes me remember back to the "birthday

paradox". According to that since there's close to 30 people in the

current {Slaughterers} there's around a 60% probability that it

wouldn't be strange for at least 2 of those to have the same

birthday.

Since there's a lot of members at the same age it wouldn't be

unnatural for Ralpha and I to have the same birthday.

"There's no way that's the case right. It's not a coincidence. Ah,

no, I guess it could be a coincidence? I can't think of a good way of putting it. Incidentally, Rodrick, Toris, Bel, Miduchi..and also Hi..Fio has the same birthday as well."

As you could expect I'm sure this reply surpassed their expectations.

They're dumbfounded.

"Now then, just now was the introduction. The main point starts from here. You must find it strange why we all have the same birthday right? I need to start explaining from there.."

A different world. Accident. Reincarnation. I smoothly continued explaining everything while looking at the two of them speechless.

A portion of it isn't necessary after all.

"No way..Suddenly something like that.."

"Are you telling us to believe that? But, the birthdays.."

"Yeah. It's fine whether you believe it or not. I'm not saying it because I want you to believe us. I think it's fine if you just understand the fact that I, we believe it. Even if you say something like, that's stupid~ or you're all mad~, I won't blame you for it. I don't think it's unreasonable. We've only let you confirm our birthdays which is just a single basis for believing in it after all. Of course I don't mind if you check Miduchi and the others status later as well. I don't think they'll be against it either."

"" ... ""

"Also, adding one more thing on top of that and everyone whose name I just said have another common point as well. Everyone's eyes and hair are black. And aren't our facial features somewhat thin? As a

matter of fact the hair color of all of us is black just the same as Rodrick and Fio. Even I've dyed my hair. If I remove the color it's pitch black. It should be easy tell if you look at Ralpa right? The roots of her hair are blackish right? This is a characteristic of the "humans" in our original world. "Humans" are basically the Hyumu race of that world."

It seems they had already realized this point. I guess it's only obvious.

"Well, for now just think, "Is that so?" and listen. From our point of view we were living reasonably carefree lives until one day we were suddenly in an accident. But, we didn't die, we were saved, and just as we thought that after all we weren't saved. We had become babies after all. Obviously all around us were people we don't know and we have no idea what they're saying. We didn't know the Ragudarios {Common.Language} after all."

We were reborn while maintaining just our consciousness and memories as adults over the age of 15 without barely being able to move. The hopelessness of not being able to understand what's being said. Attachments to our previous lifestyle, giving up on things afterwards.

I discussed all of it while faltering to mix in some emotions.

And then around the time we had completely blended in with Orth our meeting with the God who rules over reincarnation. While we had already accepted the reincarnation, the explanation that became the final blow. I guess it's because there's the divine punishment of lightning but the parts about God seemed to be easily

accepted.

"Now then, from here on out is an even more important discussion.

Prepare yourselves while listening."

I change my mood completely from up until now.

The two of them fix their sitting posture while tensing up a bit.

"Before I say this..there's one thing I need to talk about. What

I'm about to tell you is pretty important. Since I'm about to say

it the contract of the slau, the {Saviors} that you signed the

other day is absolute. I've already had you sign it so from here on

out you're in the same lot as us. However, I don't intend for

things to go badly for you."

When I said it with a pretty serious feel the two of them said,

"What are you saying at this point?" at the same time.

Certainly it's a bit late at this point.

"In order to meet God the condition was supposedly that something

had to level up. Of course, it's fine even if it was a magic skill.

However, the majority of us met God before we even learned magic.

And, I thought about it. If this is the case then levels must exist

beyond just magic."

The level of magic special skills can only be seen by yourself.

Then in that case it wouldn't be strange even if there's something

you can't see yourself, is the reason I gave that's almost

completely sophism. Along with that I also explained body level.

The fact that increasing that is most likely one of the methods to

increase individual combat strength.

"So that's why the {Slaughterers} are.."

"Even though everyone's so young.."

After hearing my explanation(?) the two of them exchanged glances

for just a moment before blanking out.

"Well yeah. I think that's the case."

Just when I replied while shrugging my shoulders the sound of the

shower stopped.

Well whatever. Let's continue.

The fact that killing living creatures is believed to be the

fastest method to increase body level.

However, the fact that body level is close to a concept so it's

difficult to place any great faith in it. But, that we still

believe it actually exists beyond just a concept.

"I'll explain things about body level once more after we

eat."

Using the spell {Shine.Light.Eyes} takes some time after all.

"So the reason why the {Slaughterers} don't run from monsters

is.."

"In order to..raise our body level.."

The two of them are grumbling about something with their eyes wide

open.

"I guess that's about it?"

I said while looking around at Ralpha and Gwine. If you have

anything to add then please do..It seems they don't. I guess that's

only obvious. Including Unique Abilities it's not like I told them

everything so even if they wanted to add more I'm sure they don't

know if they should bring it up. Particularly the fact that the

culture of Earth is about 1,000 years ahead of Orth is something I

didn't touch on at all.

"Fu~ ..I feel refreshed. Al, dry me off."

Zenom came out of the shower in borderline underwear wiping his

head as he came towards me.
Something like the half-naked appearance of an old dwarf man, I've
already gotten used to seeing it.

"Yeah.."

I paused the discussion to dry off Zenom's head.

And then Zenom started talking as the drying wind was blowing
towards his head and he continued drying it off.

"Kamu, and also Kimu. You were surprised right? There's no way to
believe it right? I was surprised when I heard about it from Ralpa
in the past as well. However, Ralpa started talking about 1 year
after she was born. Normally it's something that's hard to imagine.
I didn't have any choice other than to believe it. The fact that I
had more or less heard about the details before I met Al and heard
his story must have been a big reason it was easier for me to
accept it."

"..."

"I don't know how much Al told you about. However, just remember
this. For Al to talk about their secret..though I guess you can't
completely call it that but in any case the meaning of them
discussing such an important matter. Tomorrow we'll be going to the
7th and 8th floors but I think there's still plenty more for you
two to be surprised about. Seeing that, knowing it, I don't know
what you'll think but if you have any thoughts it's fine if you
just ask without holding back. I'm sure they'll reply. Nn, thanks,
that's plenty."

I was released by Zenom from being an exclusive dryer so I decided
to say one more thing before dinner.

"Just as Zenom said just now we aren't particularly hiding the fact

that we were reincarnated so it's not a secret. That's why if you want to tell someone else I don't particularly mind. But, if you're going to talk about it then I want you to think about what kind of meaning is behind it. Including what kind of influence the things you say will have on the surrounding people."

Kamu and Kimu both nodded quietly.

"Just, I want you to keep things related to body level and such a secret for the time being. For example even from the {Butchers} and {Exterminators}. We think it's still too soon to tell them. If you think about it a bit you can understand right? If they were to find out about this then they might get full of themselves or overdo things. It's fine if they just think they're killing monsters like crazy because I told them to and it can't be helped..Still for the time being."

"Certainly..If I had heard about it a while ago and believed it then I too.."

"But, thinking about the strength of the {Saviors} and it makes sense..Even I would have probably pushed myself quite a bit.."

I'm sure.

It's even possible members of the same party might start fighting over earning experience points from monsters.

No, it wouldn't be strange for that to happen.

After all when it comes to monsters on the 1st or 2nd floors, particularly if it's just on the level of goblins or gnolls then while they might be a bit dangerous, if first-rate adventurers properly get into formation there's almost no danger to their lives.

Though they must suffer some injuries but at most it's at that level.

"It would be a problem for this discussion to reach outside of the {Slaughterers} as well right.."

"That's right. Everyone will start killing monsters like crazy in order to get even stronger."

"But, reckless idiots might die all on their own."

"Though I can't imagine those sorts of idiots would be in the {Verdure.Brotherhood} or {Gehenna.Flare}."

It seems the two of them have regained themselves to the point where they can speak lightly.

"Yeah, I don't mind if you talk about it with someone else who knows but there's no guarantee who might be listening in on the surface. Since people pay quite a bit of attention to us after all. Just be careful of that."

It seems that preparations for dinner have just finished.

I guess we can take our time discussing the rest after dinner.

Chapter 298: Towards A New Floor

Year 7447, Month 5, Day 9

We arrived at the monster room which ogre mages are believed to be in on the 7th floor.

Today Kamu and Kimu are with us so our pace is a bit slow.

The current time is around 10:00 in the morning.

It took us 4 hours to get up to here in the usually fast pace 7th floor after all.

Furthermore, we discussed even more of the fine details with the two of them last night.

A meeting is necessary before we charge into the monster room.

Though I say that the content is just a single sentence.

"I'll go and finish them off so wait here. Let's take a short break."

Just that.

Ah, I also put some hot water into the flask Giberuti handed me and ordered him to make some tea.

It's just the right sort of place for a rest point after all.

After that I carefully sneak up to the center of the room and after discovering the ogre and ogre mage group freeze them in ice using level 8 water and fire magic then it's just a matter of waiting. In reality though it would have been fine to fight them in close combat like usual but this time Kamu and Kimu are here, well~ I thought I should show them a somewhat good show.

Now I already know that I can finish them off with ice made using just level 8. It's not necessary to use it 8 times over like the

first time I tried it. That's right, though a single usage of level 7 is a bit tough. At the very least double is needed. If you can at least use 3~4 times the amount then even if the aim is a bit off from the center of the group it'll definitely end the lives of the ogres.

When it comes to level 8 you create an amount of ice that is more than enough to not have to worry about things like that so the consumed MP is plenty at just two types of level 8 magic for a total of 16. It's still plenty even if I don't use all of it and decrease the amount. Additionally it's easier when it comes time to erase it.

I froze them inside of ice that's 5 meters high and 30 meters or so in diameter.

Even this is barely 1/30th of the amount of ice I can make with level 8 magic.

Though it's still roughly 3.5 times the amount of level 7.

The reason I'm so bent on using ice is because even if I were to bury them in the same amount of dirt with Earth Magic at least 1 of them would be able to escape.

If you use Earth Magic to create dirt it either appears from your hands or falls from the space above where you're aiming so it's necessary to create more than the amount you actually need. Obviously there's a time lag before they're completely buried so they can move out the way. Although, it requires less MP so you can create all that much more for that amount but if there's that much more it becomes a pain when you're erasing it with {Anti-Magic Field} to find the corpses and gather the magic stones.

After freezing them in ice I briskly walked back to the place where everyone was waiting. A short break while sipping at the tea Giberuti prepared for me.

"Umm, Greed-kun. What about the ogre mages..."

Kamu who's sitting in our circle so we can keep an eye on the situation behind each others backs asked while taking some tea from Giberuti.

"Hn? Yeah, I went and took care of them. They should die pretty soon."

After entering the circle I immediately started sipping at my tea after taking it. It seems like Kamu and Kimu don't understand what I'm saying at all. They exchanged shocked looks with each other before preparing to say something.

"How many were there?"

Ralpa asked while sitting cross-legged and sipping some disgusting tea so the two who were about to say something stopped. No matter how you look at it Ralpa appears to have no sense of danger at all. However, it's certainly not very good even though it's made with hot water~ I understand what you're thinking but couldn't you make a bit better of a face, isn't this fellow too honest?

"The same as usual. Around 10 or so I guess? I didn't properly count them so no clue. Oh~ give me some roasted beans."

I take some roasted beans as a tea snack from Gwine and start crunching away at them. Beans are delicious.

"It sure is a good room as usual right."

"For real, this is about the only place with over 10 ogres all gathered together after all~"

"Right~ it's a nice break whenever Al-san does it at times like

this."

"I know right~ give me some roasted beans too."

"Here you go."

Gwine and Basutorial were having that sort of carefree

conversation.

Zulu and Angela have already taken out their large knives for

gathering the magic stones and have them placed at their sides as

they drink tea while Zenom is busy trying to pull out a hair from

his beard that's grown in a weird spot.

"Hey, Greed-kun. Is it fine to be doing something like this? Even

if I ask everyone they say there's no problem and that we'll

understand soon but won't tell us anything.."

Kimu asked nervously while holding a cup of tea with both of her

hands.

"I heard that you would take care of them using magic

though.."

Kamu seems to be having trouble calming down.

"Yeah, I froze all of the ogres together in ice."

""Frozen in ice...""

"They should all be dead in another 10 minutes or so."

""All dead...""

Nn..I see, the two of them aren't able to use magic was it..Then it

makes sense that they wouldn't be able to understand.

Of course, I don't mean the fact that I can freeze ogres in

ice.

"Nn, you'll understand when you see later."

We killed some time while taking a break waiting for the frozen

ogres to suffocate and then it's finally time to gather the magic

stones.

If Miduchi was here then I could have her erase the ice as practice

for using {Anti-Magic Field} but she isn't so I have to erase it. I deployed an {Anti-Magic Field} that's 5 meters in every direction in front of my left hand before walking around erasing the ice.

Whenever a corpse appears Zulu, Angela, and everyone else quickly take out their knives and run over.

I can hear Kamu and Kimu talking a bit of distance away from me where I have them keeping lookout just in case.

"If he could have done this from the start at that time.."

"Sis, what are you saying? If that was the case then Koritto-san and the others will still be cheating money out of us."

"Ah, I see."

"Also in the end no one died that time after all."

"But, along the way I thought that someone would definitely die.."

"That might be true but even though my arm was broken I didn't think I would die~"

"Since I was able to see it all from the back..I saw them use magic, I was really surprised."

It's not like they're whispering in secret so I think those nearby can all hear them.

I took a look at Gwine who was gathering magic stones closest to them and she had a clear bitter smile on her face.

The corpse of an ogre with an expression of anguish on it's face.

A young female dwarf making a bitter smile as she cuts open it's chest.

It's a bit surreal.

And then we arrived at the teleport crystal room of the 7th

floor.

It seems that Kamu and Kimu were so surprised seeing the ogres frozen in ice in the monster room that they fell over backwards but when I explained to them how I discovered an efficient method to earn experience points and level up the magic skills on the way here they made faces as if they were impressed. We took a bit of a break and then teleported into the 8th floor because it was still too early for lunch.

.....

"After all the 8th floor is different.."

"Trolls was it, what's with those things..No matter how many times you stab them their wounds heal right in front of your eyes, I couldn't believe it until I actually saw it.."

Both Kamu and Kimu were considerably fatigued by the time we arrived in the teleport room of the 8th floor. Just as I thought they were grumbling they were sitting down. This, if the mino was still remaining wouldn't it have been bad?

"Even then if you just ignore the recovery of their wounds and continue to stab them you can defeat them though."

"It was easy when using fire magic right?"

Gwine and Ralpa started talking to the two of them. I quickly started taking off my armor and handed the parts to Zulu. I want to be ready so I can go and take a shower at anytime once Giberuti takes my change of clothes out from his bag.

"But, it's still worth the trouble with how the value of a value the troll's magic stones are right."

Kamu happily said.

"The color is bad but they're bigger than the ones from ogres."

Ralpa replied while quickly taking off her leather armor.

"And you know. Those huge bugs, defeating them itself is considerably easier than the ogres."

Kimu said with a tone of voice several times more cheerful.

"That's right. Even though that's the case their magic stones are worth around 100,000 a piece after all. Honestly speaking if you want to earn money it would be easier to just walk around the 8th floor than wandering around trying to find ogres right. And ogres are strong after all."

Well, if you were to ask me ogres are easier though. Less numbers of them appear so I don't have to use magic as many times. But, well, it's just as Gwine said the bugs don't send instant kill attacks flying like the ogres so that's also true. Ah, the scythes of the mantis aren't for the sake of cutting but in order to fix their prey in place once they've grabbed them. Even if they were to get a hold of your arm with no armor on it at worst it would cut down to the bone or break it and it's not to the point of cutting it off. Though if they were to get a hold of your neck it'd be dangerous but that's not just limited to the mantis after all.

By chance we didn't encounter any Scavenger Crawlers today so we were able to obtain mostly relatively valuable magic stones.

.....

Yeary 7447, Month 5, Day 10

"What's that?"

Kamu asked Giberuti who was carrying the net gun as usual.

"Hn? It's a new model of bow."

Giberuti sure says some good things. I've had him learn how to fire

the gun as well so he knows about the word gun.

"Bow? It doesn't have any strings, how strange..It doesn't seem like it's a crossbow either."

Kimu asked out of curiosity.

"It's something we use against the group of Minotaurs just before the teleport room of the 9th floor. I think you'll understand when you see it."

Basutoral said with a bit more detail but in the end didn't explain anything.

Though that's fine.

I worried about it for a bit on whether or not to use the net gun but in the end decided to use it.

Prior to that, as expected it's a bit scary not using it even though Kamu and Kimu are with us.

In the first place, different from the rifle this one has almost no ability to kill or injure.

If the sticks that act as the launching platform land a direct hit then it might hurt a bit but even that's limited.

Umu, the name net gun isn't good.

It would be best to change it to {Net.Shooter}.

..Though it's just word play.

Well, since I've already decided to use it for the time being I forbid Kamu and Kimu from speaking about it.

Though the two of them said they have that deep of an understanding about the obligation to silence in the part, just in the case, right.

"But, the 9th floor huh.."

"If we're talking about the 9th floor then"

However, I guess they lost interest in it soon after because Kamu and Kimu started whispering about something in a low voice.

It seems it's a discussion about food.

The crabs?

.....

"Delicious! This crab is so good!"

"It was called kanishabu right? I really like this."

The single crab we defeated along the way on the 9th floor. It was

worth it having Giberuti carry it.

Kamu and Kimu were delighted as they ate it.

Us?

As expected we didn't make that much noise over it.

We always eat it at least once after all.

Though it never gets old.

"Ah~ I'm so glad I made it into the {Saviors}.."

"We were only able to eat it once after all..It was worth it

putting in the effort.."

I'm glad you're willing to say that.

However, I'm sure it's a joke saying you were willing to put in the

effort for the sake of the crab but that sure is cheap,

really.

Occasionally Basutorial would go back carrying some crab legs and

even Toris brings back kanimiso pretty often you know.

Didn't you know?

That time when Bel made crab shuumai, weren't you around?

Or did we just eat that with the {Saviors}?

Since we didn't have any soy sauce we stopped after just that

once.

Rather than that what happened to the talk about being impressed by

the net gun, or rather net shooter?

Putting that aside, things will be tough starting tomorrow when we

work on the map of the 10th floor.

Make sure you get plenty of rest.

.....

Just like this we gave our best for about two months and a considerable portion of the map for the 10th floor entered Gwine's head.

During that time the only real thing that happened was the elf Basu, Hyumu sara, and the {Shield.Holder} Benno from the party {Verdure.Brotherhood} ended up seriously injured against ogres on the 7th floor and had to escape, so they had no choice but to suspend activities for a short while.

Ah, supposedly {Gehenna.Flare} is carefully walking around the 6th floor. Also, it seems that {Black.Topaz} purchased several combat slaves.

Oh that's right, in regards to the amulet but it seems that the bidding will end on August 4th.

Just one more month away.

I'm really looking forward to what the final price will be.

Everything is going smoothly for us {Slaughterers}.

Kamu and Kimu have completely blended into our {Saviors} and just as expected from them originally being first-rate adventurers they're pretty reliable as well. Particularly when it comes to knowledge about discovering ores through mining, Kamu was extremely familiar with it. If Kamu says this area smells then roughly 1/10th of the time some type of ore or gem will come out. Though they're mostly just cheap ones.

According to Miduchi gnomes are the next best at these sorts of things after dwarves. Though hearing that pissed off Zenom who doesn't have any knowledge about mineral veins or mining. Come to think of it Arnold, the squire dwarf in Bakuddo who was in charge of forging, his father Gerudan.Furintogel was completely useless

when it came to things like forging and craftsmanship. Though different from Zenom he was extremely strong at drinking alcohol.

Kamu was born in a squire household that serves a baron who manages a mining district in Count Rozenhaim's territory so while she hasn't ever actually worked in the mines she was reasonably knowledgeable about it. No wonder. According to her almost everything below the 6th floor is iron and there's rarely some suspicious places when walking through the halls. Particularly since she entered the 10th floor she said the number of times her intuition has kicked in has increased quite a bit. Even just taking this into consideration I think it's great that Kamu switched parties.

Also, while we weren't able to find any actual {Magic.Items} us {Saviors} were able to find 3 magic tools and while Miduchi was acting as the leader the {Butchers} found some completely transparent lens-shaped glass that's estimated to be worth 10,000,000 Z. You might think the price is a bit too high but completely transparent glass is extremely expensive. Since it can be used as seed glass after all. According to the president of Sandak Company something similar to it has come out of Baldukk a number of times up until now. I ended up buying this. Since it seems like I could use it in the future.

Between the end of June and the start of July the time for Kamu and Kimu to be dispatched to the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} as leaders arrived. Since neither of them can use magic I told them

not to push things too far this time.

However, it's different for the {Saviors}.

It's finally time for us to clear the 10th floor.

I wonder how far we can go against the guardian without the

rifles?

Would it be best to at least bring along the net shooter?

Chapter 299: Underground Terror

Year 7447, Month 6, Day 29

Just before entering the 2 km in diameter large room where the guardian of the 10th floor is believed to be waiting for challengers we decided to have a meeting along with lunch. In the end we brought along both the rifle and the net shooter. Since we're fighting against the guardian of the 10th floor for the first time I thought it was necessary to be as careful as possible. We've even predicted that the guardian this time might be a lot more of those absurdly strong minos. Therefore, including Miduchi not a single person was against bringing along the guns.

"I wonder if it'll be Minotaurs again.."

Gwine said while burying a bone from the chicken leg she just ate in the ground.

"Won't that be the case?"

Toris replied while licking the oil off his fingers.

It sure seems convenient when the end of your tongue is forked.

"The 8th and 9th floors are fine since we know them but I wonder if there were really Minotaurs on the 5th, 6th, and 7th floors?"

And then said as if confirming with me.

"Yeah, that's what I heard from the King. Though supposedly there's no records remaining of the 1st to the 4th floors but I think it's most likely fine to think they were Minotaurs."

I sip at the dried meat soup that was made in my flask while replying.

"What method are we going to use when going in?"

Zenom asked while wiping his dirty beard with a towel.

"What method? Isn't the same as usual fine? Bel entangles them with the net. Then Maruso shoots the ones that aren't caught up in the net. Isn't that fine?"

Ralpa replied as if wanting to say what other methods are there? while already peeling the skin off the dessert orange. Though that's fine as the procedure for charging into battle. But, what Zenom is asking about is the details of the formation, the distance between each person, the order for Angela to shoot in and simultaneously the order for Miduchi to provide backup fire, he wants to discuss things like that ahead of time.

"Isn't the same basic line we used against the Minotaurs on the 9th floor fine?"

Bel said that but there's no way of coming up with any other strategy than that.

The things we should be discussing right now are re-confirming our tactical patterns when up against the group of Minotaurs on the 9th floor and how to deal with unexpected circumstances.

In other words, first off is the problem of whether or not there's another {Anti-Skill Area}. We should assume there "is" I'm sure. I'm sure we'll be able to figure it out immediately if Miduchi's {Party-ization} gets cut off and in the case it remains in effect then it's just a lucky situation because I can freeze them or use attack spells to finish things up.

Next up is problems in regards to the terrain where the battle takes place. Just from a glance and this ridiculously large room doesn't seem any different from the room in the center of the 8th

and 9th floors. If we were assume that it's the same sort of room then in the center would be a large pillar with the teleport crystal room in it and the Minotaurs should be guarding the entrance to there. Roughly 50 meters surrounding the pillar there's no rocks that can be used to hide behind, it's believed to be a dull and dry area with just dirt ground spread out.

The problem is in the case that there's rocks which could act as obstructions or to hide behind and depending on the case maybe even trees and bushes like on the 7th floor. Depending on the size and density of those it might even be difficult to use effectively use the net shooter. We needed to discuss what to in a case like that.

"..I guess it's about time to go."

We finished up our discussion and after burying the the chicken bones and other food in a hole we did a final check of our equipment.

Bayonet, good.

Knife, good.

Survival kit, good.

The various bands including the tie for my helmet, good.

Everyone else is checking their equipment as well.

Along with the usual equipment Bel has one of the net shooters on her. Furthermore she brought along 1 of the Arrows of Blindness just in case.

Miduchi has the spare net shooter and 3 Arrows of Blindness.

And then Angela is using the rifle. This time Angela isn't carrying a shield.

Basutorial and Zulu who carried the nets up to here have finally gotten lighter.

"We'll go with {Hammer Head.Three} with 5 meter intervals."

Zenom stands in the center of the formation with Toris on his right, then Ralph to the right of that. Zulu is on Zenom's left and further to the left from Zulu is me. Basutoral is standing at the head of the handle portion of the hammer and behind him is Gwine followed by Angela, Bel, and Miduchi who are in formation in the shape of a T.

And then we charged into the room and just as expected roughly 500 meters into the room the sensation of the 5 at the lead almost simultaneously disappeared from {Party-ization}. Since we were already used to it on the 8th and 9th floors and had predicted it ahead of time there's not a single person in a panic over it.

Everyone is calm.

Immediately after Toris hid behind a nearby rock before activating the flames of {Flame.Tongue} for just a moment. It seems there's no problem with the usage of {Magic.Items}.

Just as planned the members acting as the handle of the hammer continue advancing while we switch over to the formation {Echelon.Two}. The moment we enter sight of the guardian the room will get bright and the moment Bel fires the net this time we'll change formation to {Balance.Two} as Miduchi takes command over the whole.

Since I don't have any projectile weapons it's best for me to act as a pawn on the front line.

It would be fine for me to use the rifle as well but if it comes to that then the combat strength of our front line would decrease considerably.

Up until now there's been no major difference between the center rooms on the 8th and 9th floors.

We should enter the sight of the guardian if we proceed another 400 meters and I'm sure the cage of lightning bolts will activate.

We continued advancing carefully.

.....

Long before the point we were expecting the room suddenly got bright and following that the cage of lightning bolts activated. There's still rugged rocks all around us. Though the size of the rocks are smaller and only about the height of a person we still can't confirm the appearance of the guardian that should be below the pillar ahead of us.

Everyone including myself suddenly tense up.

Our plans weren't set until another 50 meters ahead.

This, isn't a mino!

Even if it is a mino it's one that's even more powerful!

"{Arrowhead.Six}! Our field of vision is bad here, advance forward!

Bel, the moment you see the opponent fire!!"

I immediately gave the order to put Bel at the lead with Miduchi

and Angela behind her on both sides as the {Saviors} quickly switched into formation following my orders and started advancing at a fast pace. The fact that the room brightened up means that the guardian knows we're here so there's no point in trying to hide our footsteps at this point.

Also, the fact that it was able to detect us at this distance means

the opponent has sharp detection senses on the level of ogre mages otherwise it might have a skill like {Vibration.Sensing} similar to

the Sand Sharks and Lesser Yowie. Even if it does have such a skill, I don't know whether it's using that or not.

After dashing about 20 meters ahead Bel jumped on top of a 1 meter high rock and prepared to fire the net shooter. Following behind her Miduchi and Angela both deployed to the sides before preparing their weapons. What I saw in the direction they were looking were 2 large humanoid monsters that seemed to be over 3 meters tall running over here.

Their legs look thick and sturdy and their tiptoes are split into two as if they only have two toes, then at the end of those are sharp claws.

It seems there's also a large sharp finger at the back of their heel as well.

Their arms are thick and they appear to have four fingers but all of those have similar sharp claws just like their feet.

They have wide bodies almost like they're covered in chitin and the color is a dark brown {Amber} close to black.

On top of their bodies there's a large horizontally flat head almost as if it was embedded into their necks.

The width of it is almost the same as their body and probably close to 1 meter in size.

Below the front of their wide flat heads is a large mouth that seems like it reaches from one side to the other and I can see countless fangs inside of it.

On both sides of it's mouth there's a large curved fang that's at least 10 cm long going towards the interior.

1 of the 2 has another pair of fangs on both the inside and outside that seems to be 10 times the length and has edged teeth along it

almost like a stag beetle with a sturdy looking curved upper jaw.

The other 1 has an upper jaw with fangs that curve towards the outside but this ones just look slightly larger than the fangs on the inside.

Above their mouths there's a pair of eyes almost like an animal that aren't spread apart at very wide intervals but even further on the outside of their large flat heads there's a pair of compound eyes almost like an insect giving off an emerald green light.

What in the world are those? Giant stag beetles!?

The giant stag beetles seem to be letting out a roar as they gradually accelerate running towards us.

The heavy thud sounds from their footsteps echo around the area allowing us to recognize once again just how big they are.

Since there's 2 of them it would be ideal if Bel can capture both of them at once but I won't say anything too extravagant.

It's fine even if it's just one of them.

They seem like troublesome monsters but if Miduchi can entangle the remaining one then I'm sure it's over for them.

"!"

After seeing the appearance of the monsters Miduchi took a breath for just a moment but soon after that fired the net shooter. She fired it at almost the same time as Bel. After firing the net shooter Miduchi drew the sword at her waist and yelled.

"It's an {Amber.Goliath}! {Spread}!"

Just from a glance it's an opponent that looks dangerous.

All over the surface of it's body it reflects dull light almost like a stag beetle.

I feel like, I've previously heard of the name {Amber.Goliath}

itself from Miduchi.

Supposedly they encountered it when they were in the middle of expansion work for her hometown, the underground city Erurehei.

I remember it as being something that specializes in digging tunnels.

That's right, supposedly it's status comes up as

{Underground.Vodyanoy} I think it was?

It seems that the nets Bel and Miduchi launched entangled the individual on the left side with the smaller jaw.

"Everyone, open up as wide of intervals as possible! The front line should try not to look at the opponent as much as possible!! Arrows won't be able to pierce it!!"

That's absurd!

But, there's not a single person who said any complaints and let it dull their actions.

"Just watch their footsteps! If you look at both of the

{Amber.Goliaths} outer eyes from nearby you'll be confused! Maruso, you should retreat and put some distance between them before calmly aiming."

While Miduchi was in the middle of saying that Angela's rifle let out a thunderous roar.

The bullet certainly hit the leg of the one with a large upper jaw.

It's a sure thing if you first aim to injure it's legs and steal it's mobility so aiming for the legs was the right choice.

However, of all things!

The surface of the shell that covers it's knees almost like armor let off some sparks!

The fact that it gave off sparks means that the bullet was deflected!?

No way!?

However, there's one more shot.

After the thunderous roar echoed out once more a bullet was fired from the rifle and hit its large abdomen.

This time it didn't give off any sparks and seems to have properly done some damage.

There's a yellow liquid almost like pus spraying out from the hole in its abdomen.

I felt a bit relieved.

"Fall back, Maruso!! Just make sure you properly maintain your distance!"

At the same time as Miduchi's strict voice sounded out, Zenom put some fighting spirit into it with a "Hmph!!" as he threw his axe.

The axe spun around in circles as it flew before stabbing into the right arm of the giant stag beetle as it tried to defend.

Nice diversion!

"Gimo~~~!!!"

The giant stag beetle with injuries to its right arm and stomach let out a scream in agony but even then continued running while swinging its large claws without lowering speed.

By the way, I wonder if being confused from looking at its eyes is a special skill?

Then wouldn't it not be able to use it here?

Just in case I guess.

"Ku!!"

Bin~ and I heard the sound of bowstrings being released from Bel's bow.

It seems she was aiming for the eyes on it's head but the giant stag beetle shifted it's posture slightly and took the arrow in an unexpected place.

The arrow was deflected.

"Arrows will bounce off! Bel you join in the front line! Zulu

{Cover.3}!"

I listen to Miduchi shout towards Bel while dashing ahead with my bayonet at the ready.

Bullets can pass through it's stomach and chest.

Then I should be able to manage with my bayonet as well.

"5! 3! 10! Oooooohh~!!"

I simply convey my plan while ducking under the claws of it's left arm and stab into the place believed to be it's abdomen.

Good resistance!

"Geeee~!!"

Don't scream in my ear. You're too loud~

I twist around my bayonet trying to expand the damage.

"Saji! Cover for Al!! Ral you go from {Right.2}, Toris and Zulu go

{Left.11}!"

After receiving my orders I listen to Miduchi as she gives out

commands at a fast pace and evade the attack from it's arm as it pulls it back.

"Ta~rya!"

A spear is thrust over the top of my head.

Basutorial huh?

"Eeei!!"

Gakun~ and the posture of the giant collapsed.

It seems that Ralpa's axe hit it's injured right arm.

In the corner of my sight Zenom's axe pulled itself out automatically and returned while rotating.

"Emeron!"

Toris stabbed into it's left side with his sword covered in flames

and then ran past while slicing it.

A sizzling sound came out from it's wound and in a moment an

unpleasant smell started to appear.

"Gogyaaaaa!!!"

A high-pitched shriek started surging out from right above

me.

"Hmph!!"

After Toris ran by it seems Zulu dealt a blow to it's left arm with

his bastard sword.

What a magnificent combo.

It must be the results of their usual training.

Miduchi yelled, "Maruso! Restrain the other one!" while entering

position to cover for me.

"Gabubado!"

It seems Bel's finally drawn her sword and started charging.

Ralpa is still holding it in check to my left.

"To the right!!"

Hearing Gwine's shout I shifted my position to the right of the

giant while pulling out my bayonet.

The stance of the giant collapsed and it fell with it's left knee

to the ground.

A magic spear was suddenly thrust through the area that my body was

in up until now.

However, the giant suddenly opened it's upper jaw and towards

me..!

"Quickly!!"

At the last minute Miduchi entered to cover for me and cut off one

of it's upper jaws.

Almost simultaneously Angela fired a bullet to hold back the other

enemy.

Once again Basutorial and Gwine thrust their spears and helped avert the giants only remaining upper jaw away from me.

It's the beat-it-from-all-sides mode the same as last time.

"Uaaaaaa!!?"

That's Ralpha's voice!

Fear, anxiety, excitement, confusion, chaos, there's a lot of emotions mixed into it.

I spontaneously looked in her direction.

Obviously during that time the giant was still on one knee...

It flexed the inner fangs of it's remaining upper jaw and fixed it's aim towards me.

Both of it's large compound eyes at the base of it's upper jaw entered my sight.

Each of it's small individual compound eyes are flashing giving off a minute light.

What? Is this?

I can't take my eyes off it.

Even though there wasn't anything at all when I saw it from the distance...

Suddenly I felt like throwing up and my vision started twisting together.

Chapter 300: Confusion

Year 7447, Month 6, Day 29

I could still somehow tell up to the point where Ralph raised her voice and cowered over in fear.

However soon after the scenery reflected in front of my eyes gradually became unfixed and began to melt together almost like paint tossed all over a canvas, the scenery twisted around into a mix of rich colors.

My hands, feet, and body all lost their fixed shape and crumbled fusing together with the things nearby transforming into a portion of some avant-garde art painting or something.

Simultaneously,

"Uwa~~~~n" a sound almost like a swarm of winged insects,

"bang~bang" a sound almost like a hammer banging into concrete,

"swish~swish" a light sound,

"Ban~" a sound almost like suddenly hitting various keys of a piano,

"Biyo~~n" a sound almost like one from stringed instruments, and then the sound almost like an engine from an automobile revving up...

There was a wide variety of sounds that I can't even express them all flowing through my head.

I feel seriously nauseous.

I momentarily remembered my sense of crisis.

In any case I need to be able to give out at least the bare minimum orders.

First I need to do something about Ralph who's condition seems strange.

"Ralph 9~nine!"

There's so much strange noise interfering that I can't even hear my own voice.

However, I definitely felt the sensation of my voice passing through my throat.

Suddenly a pure white concentric circular pattern spread out in front of my eyes almost like blooming flowers.

While it was spreading out and moving far away it gradually got even more transparent and in no time at all scattered and disappeared.

I thought that the scenery had crumbled into an unfixed form but before I noticed it had changed to pitch black almost like outer space. All over the place inside of that there were small gatherings of rich color almost like a small coin being born, moving, and disappearing. Even though there's so many various noises flowing through my head it's strange because I can ascertain the direction and volume of each one of them.

However, whenever I try to look in the direction that the giant stag beetle was in the loud sound of an insect swarm rapidly moves in front of me. Simultaneously a violent stream of sounds and colors that I've never experienced before mercilessly passed through my ears and eyes making it even more disgusting and strengthening the nausea.

Shit!!

I don't know what's what but I can still clearly feel the sensation of the bayonet held in my right hand.

Several overlapping bright red circles moved by my side and then
after passing me, scattered, and disappeared again.
All over the place there's yellow, green, and blue circles
overlapping as they move around at high pace expanding and then
soon after becoming transparent and disappearing.

If I were to say that the direction they're heading stretches
almost like several rubber bands piled on top of each other would
you understand?

Otherwise, ripples that spread out into the sky while
advancing?

Though I feel like it might be a bit different something like that
doesn't matter at all.

In the low direction where I believe the ground should have been
there's some light brown circles appearing but these ones disappear
without advancing all that far away.

I feel almost like I've taken some kind of dangerous drugs.

However, the back of my mind is rapidly growing cold.

Though such an absurd situation suddenly started up I can still
somehow think about things.

I don't feel the so-called happiness that supposedly comes when
drugs take effect at all.

Though I can't tell for sure since I've never tried drugs.

Now that I've ordered Ralpa to withdraw from the battlefield in
any case what I need to do is somehow hold back the giant in front
of me. I'd really like for her to take some distance from the giant
once and then take another look at the situation but Ralpa had
just yelled out in a strange voice as her appearance turned
strange. I need to backup those who come to help Ralpa

withdraw!

However, the noise is too loud it's way beyond the level of just
distracting.

All that's reflected in front of my eyes is the brightly colored
balls that make no sense at all.

It's really confusing to the point where I don't know what the hell
is going on.

I wonder if Ralpa ended like this as well?

In front of my eyes various brown-colored bubbles almost like
carbonation from soda started to surge out.

Simultaneously what seems to be the origin for the sound of the
swarm of insects around there seemed to have moved a bit.

The giant should have been just around that area.

At the same time as the clear "kin~" sound of metal hitting

something echoed through my ears a large rainbow-colored shining
circle suddenly spread all over the place before
disappearing.

What in the world is going on!

The nauseous is still seriously bad.

Almost at the same time the sound like a piano suddenly appeared to
my left side and then moved ahead of me just like that.

However, just before it moved in front of me a number of small red
circles stretched out from the source of the sound and the sound of
the piano pushed me away along with them, at the same time large
red circles spread out around where my chest should be.

It felt almost like I was pushed away by someone as they passed
by.

Suddenly the loud sound of a swarm of insects passed by around
where I was until just now.

I ended up falling to just my right knee and somehow managed to endure falling over.

I wonder if it was good luck that I managed to avoid completely tripping over, or...

!?

Ah, damn it!

So that's what it was!!

The red color and piano sound from just now was Miduchi!

The sound of an insect swarm is the giant!

My sight and hearing have been switched!!

What appeared to be circles were actually sounds.

What sounded like noises were the scenery that should have been reflected in my eyes.

Calm down, me.

In, other words..

I must have been captured in some kind of special skill or spell.

In that case.

First off I should try using Identify.

The moment I activated the Unique Ability Identify I felt like the sound of an insect swarm that I can hear in front of my eyes got a bit higher.

I guess this means that Identify took effect?

Then in that case!

"You should be able to use magic!"

I shouted in a loud enough voice that everything in front of my eyes was covered in pure white circles.

Simultaneously I left the giant in front of me to Miduchi while thinking I should finish off the giant that's caught in the net.

I look in the direction I can vaguely recall.

.....It's considerably smaller than the sound in front of my eyes but the sound of a different swarm of insects certainly reached my ears.

At the same time I can tell there's a very small amount of what appears to be the brown-colored circles...

Over there!

There shouldn't be anyone over in that area.

I can't hear any other sounds in between myself and that insect swarm that's far away.

That means there shouldn't be any obstacles between us.

Alright.

Along with another "kin" and the vivid sound of metal, a tremendously large rainbow-colored flash appeared covering everything before disappearing again.

..This is, Angela's rifle I guess? I wonder if that vivid metallic sound is the muzzle flash?

With my right knee still on the ground I stretched my left hand towards the sound of an insect swarm in the distance.

{Stone Ballista Missile}!

I feel so nauseous it's difficult to concentrate.

In part because I was in a hurry but it felt like it took almost an eternity for the spell to activate though even then I'm sure it was at most 3~4 seconds.

Simultaneously the sounds of 5 "ki~~n" sounds almost like a jet engine appeared along with the shrill of metal as they flew off into the distance in no time at all and along with deep blue circles disappeared around where the swarm of insects were.

The moment I was sure that the spell had hit I finally reached my limit and threw up all over the ground.

Sour.

Smelly.

It seems my taste and smell are normal.

I don't know if it's because I threw up once but it feels like

things got just a bit more comfortable.

There's multi-colored circles appearing here and there before

disappearing.

After firmly adjusting my hold on the bayonet in my right hand

again I can hear a light "powa~powa" sound from around where it should be.

I guess it's the sound of my bayonet in my vision.

In front of my eyes there's been some small yellow and earth

colored circles appearing around where the swarm of insects is and

then moving off into the distance. I can also hear some sort of

bouncing sound as if something was hit and a cry almost like

cicadas moving off into the distance.

One of them should probably be Ralpa and the other should be

Basutoral or Gwine dragging her away I guess.

Almost simultaneously an extremely loud sound of a piano being hit

rang out and mixed together with the sound of an insect swarm.

Along with the sound of the piano several red circles appeared and

started to move around.

Miduchi must be shouting something while fighting.

There some pink-colored circles joined in and twisted together

along with a sound like "gishi~gishi" as they moved. Around where

my feet should be I can tell there's some small brown circles

appearing. It seems to be the sound of footsteps.

Bel huh?

Somehow it seems like a high sound was sucked into the sound of an

insect swarm but the moment it made contact the high sound changed directions along with an outbreak of green circles.
I guess Toris or someone's attack spell was deflected?
After that there was a banging sound almost like an engine and then sounds almost like stringed instruments approaching that sound.

"That's no good, don't approach it! Everyone take some distance!!

Bel you retreat as well!! Angela stop firing!! I request backup from just Zenom!!"

You'll end up just like me!

It would be best to leave it to Miduchi who has a bit of knowledge and decent close combat strength.

She has a sword that could even cut through that upper jaw after all.

Also, it's already injured.

The "gishi~gishi" sound went off into the distance.

"Miduchi!! 5 seconds after I give the signal duck down!! I'm going to blow it away with cannon!! Everyone countdown! Let's go!"

I shouted that before pointing my left hand towards the closer insect swarm this time but just the same as usual I can't hear my own shouts at all and there's just the pure white circles spreading out in front of me and disappearing the same as before. I feel like this sight is making it feel even more disgusting. I start concentrating in order to use {Stone Cannon Missile} so the timing matches up with my shouting.

"5!"

Simultaneously various multi-colored circles started spreading out and disappearing.

Everyone, I guess they're counting down together with me?

It's good that they've kept their composure.

"4!"

"Ding~" a sound almost like the bell of a Buddhist altar or the ringing of a bell was absorbed by the sound of an insect swarm and continued to ring just like that.

"3!"

It must have been Zenom's axe, that.

"2!"

I pour in the mana while carefully pointing my left hand towards the sound of the insect swarm. I guess it's because I normally would be able to see it, I can properly grasp where the sound of the insect swarm is.

"1!"

And then the spell was completed.

A sound almost like a giant F/A-18E fighter jet's afterburner came out from the end of my left arm and flew off.

If it's Miduchi then even in the worst case she wouldn't mistake the timing.

I believe in her.

The insect swarm was just before my eyes.

Just in case I added missile to it but it's a distance that's hard to miss.

The sound of the F/A-18E super hornet fighter jet passed straight through the middle of the insect swarm sound.

Immediately after the sound of the insect swarm scattered into multiple directions.

All of the sounds seem to be coming from on top of the ground.

Did I do it?

I don't know if it's a stag beetle or whatever but that was my

ultimate attack spell.

There's no way the likes of an insect swarm could win against Super
Hornet-senpai.

If it hit then I think it would have killed it but I have no idea

what's going on so I can't let my guard down.

"Did I kill it!!? If it's already fine then grab my hand and help
me up."

The sound almost like a piano and a swerving flame started
approaching me.

I felt the sound of a piano wrap around my hand which was still
stretched out.

I guess that killed it...

I spontaneously leaned over onto the sound of a piano.

For just a moment I wondered what I should do if it isn't Miduchi
but this sensation should be Miduchi.

Even if I look at my own body, it's mostly just small gray circles
almost like grains that occasionally outbreak and almost completely
transparent.

The sound of a piano returned my embrace.

It seems there's no longer any danger.

"What kind of condition is Ralpa in? She might be the same as me.

If she's still alive then grab my hand."

Various multi-colored circles appeared in front of my eyes before
disappearing.

"Wa!!? Did she die!!?"

The various circles appear in front of my eyes and disappear
again.

"Shit!!"

My hand was held tightly.

"So she's alright?"

My hand was held tightly again.

"Ah, sorry. I can see and hear but my eyes and ears were done in.

Also, I feel sick. I'm about to throw up."

Though I've already thrown up once.

The multi-colored circles are breaking out and disappearing in

front of my eyes.

Ah, I should rinse out my mouth with water.

Etiquette is important.

Feels a bit late at this point though.

"Sorry but while I can tell you're saying something, I can't

understand the content at all. I can tell where everyone is

standing but I don't know what kind of expressions everyone is

making. It seems the sensations of my eyes and ears switched

places."

Multi-colored circles started appearing in front of my eyes and

then disappeared.

"It might be the same for Ralpha. Someone hold her hand and help

her relax."

"It's fine if it's Miduchi or anyone else but would someone use

{Detect.Magic} on me? If there's a reaction then I don't think I'm

injured but could someone use some kind of healing spell on

me."

And while I was nervously talking suddenly~ the nausea disappeared

and simultaneously my senses returned to normal.

I was relieved from the bottom of my heart.

Miduchi was crying with her eyes bright red.

It seems everyone else was worrying about me as well.

Even after identifying myself I couldn't find any major

problems.

It seems there was a reaction for magic but whether it be {Cure}

type, {Remove} type, or every other healing spell, none of them were effective.

I guess that means the duration of the effect ran out?

After listening to what happened once again and the combat itself didn't even last over a minute after Miduchi fired the net launcher. It seems that the duration my senses were messed up continued for over 10 minutes but supposedly Ralph recovered after 4~5 minutes.

Supposedly everyone around her including the {Amber.Goliath} changed into the appearance of the same person from her past life. Since it was her grandfather who she watched pass away from lung cancer after much suffering when she was young she ended up panicking. It must have been a kind of trauma. I just heard about it from Miduchi so I didn't ask in too much details but it seems she was forced to watch and listen to his dying screams. I'm sure it must have been terrifying.

According to Miduchi the effect of the {Amber.Goliaths} confusion is usually like that and shows illusions of people you knew from the past. Otherwise, if you're unlucky then you start to misunderstand everyone around you as being the {Amber.Goliath} and start attacking them by mistake. Supposedly she's never heard of anyone with symptoms like mine. I wonder just how unlucky I could be.

Also, the moment I finished of the second {Amber.Goliath} the cage of lightning bolts disappeared the same as usual.

Furthermore, just as can be determined from the situation, my stone cannon magnificently hit it and the giant stag beetle was split in

half through the middle of it's body. In regards to this because it was a powerful spell that I've never showed even once in the past, everyone excluding Ralph were excited as they talked about it.

However, thanks to that even if I use Identify they just show up as {Corpse of Great.Underground.Voyanoy}.

Now that I've recovered Zulu was finally able to relax enough to start gathering the magic stones.

After confirming that I'm safe Angela started walking towards the other giant stag beetle further in as well.

I need to Identify the giant stag beetle to figure out their status and about that confusion.

I tried looking at the other one with Identify first but

unfortunately this one was already {Corpse of Great.Underground.Vojanoy} as well.

I've already mentioned that if {Corpse of} appears in the status when I use Identify I can't get much information about them at all.

"Angela, check the status and if it's not a corpse then I'll use the {Identification} spell."

I said to Angela who stopped walking and turned around.

After nodding in agreement she started talking again.

"Hey, and then what was the {Magic.Item}?"

After recovering from both the stress and confusion Ralph Said.

The moment she recovers from the confusion and this.

As expected from our {Slaughterers} number one miser.

I was a bit impressed but it's true that including myself everyone else had completely forgotten about it.

Right. The fact that it's a guardian we've encountered for the first time means that it should have some kind of {Magic.Item}.

Everyone started looking at the torn in half corpse of the {Amber.Goliath} that Zulu was dissecting.

Zulu's already grappling with the upper body as he searches around so if he finds anything he should report it.

The fact that he hasn't means that there's nothing at all.

When the lower body was split off it seems to have done a few flips while flying about 10 meters away as the open wound of the body is facing over here.

Just from a glance that doesn't seem to have any kind of equipment on it either.

Next we looked in the direction of the corpse that Angela's crouching down by.

"Master!"

Angela raised her voice.

So it was this one.

Now~ it's time for the highly anticipated inspection of loot.

.....

"This is..a metal ingot I guess?"

There was a large leather bag hanging from the waist of the

{Amber.Goliath} corpse that Angela was removing from the net in order to gather it's magic stone. After moving the leather bag to the ground I could see a clump of metal almost like metal ingots from the opening.

"Alright! There's a reaction so isn't it magic metal!?"

Ralpa dashed over even faster than me and already used

{Detect.Magic}. I said I would use the {Identification} spell so

being careful of {Cursed.Items} everyone left the unknown

{Magic.Item}-like thing for my arrival without touching it.

However, for it to be magic metal!?

I reflexively used Identify on it.

【Breeze.Horseshoe】

【Mithril】

【Condition: Normal】

【Manufacture Date: 29/6/7447】

【Value: 1】

【Durability: 524288】

【Ability: The same as normal horseshoes.】

【Effect: Auto.Mending】

【Effect: In order to use these horseshoes it's necessary for over

50% of the surface area of the horseshoe to be in contact with a single nail(hardened skin) on the body. In the case that the conditions are met, the shape will automatically transform to match just the right size and shape of the target creatures nail. After this horseshoe has been equipped in a usable condition and the the creature starts using them, it will be able to move for 12 hours consecutively without being fatigued on top of being able to transport double the weight that creature can normally carry. Also, the creature that equips these horseshoes will be able to move over water that is less than 10% of it's height as if it were moving over normal land and furthermore it's possible to move over mud or other unstable terrain just the same. On the occasion of removing them they will easily come off with a touch for the one who equipped them. Furthermore, bear in mind that it's only obvious for the effect to be displayed if horseshoes are equipped to all of the

nails required for movement.】

I just glanced through it but it's fine since it doesn't seem to be anything cursed.

Just in case I picked up the leather bag without touching the contents.

It was a lot lighter than I imagined from the size of it.

This, it's questionable whether it's even 10kg or so.

And then I grabbed on to the bottom of the bag and flipped it upside down.

Then a number of sparkling silver rough metal bars or plates that are about 7~8 cm long, 1 cm wide, and 5mm high came rolling out.

Just from a glance there seems to be around 200~300 of them. Furthermore, there didn't seem to be anything unusual about the leather bag at all.

With everyone watching over, I saw down cross-legged in front of the mountain of small metal plates and started pouring mana into the spell {Shine.Light.Eyes}.

...

"How pretty~"

"Ral, what kind of reaction did they have?"

"Nn~ I think it was the feeling of void magic, earth magic, and wind magic.."

"He~ I wonder what they are?"

.....

Sorry for the wait.

It'll take a while longer for the spell to be complete.

"Since there's a lot of them, I wonder if we'll sell a few?"

"You never know something like that."

"I guess that's true."

"But, if it's magic metal then we might be able to make a sword or something..Uwa"

.....

Of course it takes some time you know?

I can tell you're bored just watching over.

But you know~

"Master is concentrating, if you want to talk then do it over there.."

Angela, you're a really good person.

I'll definitely repay you.

Plus 1 point.

.....

Finally just now, my eyes should have shined.

Though I've just been continuing to stare at the metal on the ground so I'm sure it's not like anyone noticed either way.

"They may look like this but supposedly they're horseshoes. It seems they have the name {Breeze.Horseshoes}."

I said that but only Zulu and Angela who were on standby by my side were impressed and congratulated me.

Everyone else was a bit of distance away and,

"Hey, Miduchi. Can magic metal be sold for a high price?"

And the miser Ralph babbled on,

"You could say they're quite the valuable items."

Miduchi is nodding with a triumphant face as well.

"I wonder if you make arrows and such with it?"

Bel asked in a voice filled with anticipation and,

"Arrowheads that are made using magic metal have a considerably high attack power."

"Then, I wonder if it would be more effective than the gun.."

"Hmm, I wonder about that~ But, it might be close. Bel, what do you want to do?"

"If I ask Al-san he'll make some for me right?"

And, it seems she's talking about something together with Miduchi.

"If there's that much then it should be plenty to make a spearhead and such right?"

The sole married-man in the {Saviors} has started getting over-optimistic all on his own,

"If it's Al-san then wouldn't that be fine?"

Toris casually replied like that while equipping two powerful {Magic.Arms}.

"Hey now, everyone stop saying such self-convenient things. There's still no guarantee it's magic metal right?"

"That's right, really."

Zenom, Gwine. You dwarves are precisely the conscience of the {Saviors}.

"But if it's that beautiful then maybe I'll get my ears pierced?"

Supposedly the accessories from Seishen in the capital are super popular right now. If it's magic metal then I could brag all I want about it."

"Oh? A piercing huh? My dead father used to have it done on one of his ears.."

"Eh? Isn't that cool?"

"Is that so?"

"That's right, I think just having one ear pierced is manly."

"Hmm."

"Not to mention it's magic metal and that sparkle?"

"Maybe I'll get one done as well?"

"If Zenom-san were to use a piercing from Seishen then it'd be cool and I'm sure it would suit you."

"Hohou..But if you were to use that to make an alcohol cup and drink from it I'm sure it would be delicious."

"Ah! That too..That sure is wonderful as well~"

"Right?"

"If you were to make an alcohol cup and a matching small dish, then have a matching toothpick to stick into salted olives I'm sure it would suit you!"

"I'm sure it would be exceptional."

Putting aside weapons and let alone accessories..using magic metal to make tools for drinking, so these dwarves were precisely the cancer of the {Saviors}.

"Listen!"

""Ha!!""

Zulu and Angela both stood up straight.

"Not you two."

All of the cancerous cells started to gather over here.

Everyone present is making an apologetic face but roughly 1 person has their hands behind their while casually babbling, "Wasn't that pretty fast!? I think it took a while longer yesterday though."

"They might look like this but supposedly they're horseshoes. It seems the name is {Breeze.Horseshoes}."

After saying it once again and they all started saying things like,

"Horseshoes~!?", "This is?", "He~", "How unexpected~", and such.

Yeah. It's not as if I didn't think the same myself.

"Probably this wide surface, I guess you call it? If it's in

contact with more than half of a hoof it will automatically equip itself. It lets the horse continue to move from morning until night without ever feeling tired and doubles the amount of weight it can carry. It also seems you can move on top of water or mud and such."

It seems everyone is so surprised their voices aren't coming out.

Though in reality it's the same for me too.

I can't test it out here but after we return to the surface first

off I'm going to try equipping them on my war horse Uranus.

By the way, I wonder why the {Amber.Goliath} was holding something like this?

With no emotion at all Angela took out the magic stone and looked

at the messy corpse of the {Amber.Goliath} still entangled in the two nets. I guess this individual with the smaller upper jaw would be the female? Otherwise it could just be a child with a huge body though I have no clue?

Two on the tiptoes and while it's completely covered in dirt

there's properly a Y shaped metal plate stuck to each of the heels growing from the backs of it's legs.

After cutting each one of them off and touching it with the tip of

my finger and with a plop they fell off returning to the same shape as the other horseshoes in no time at all.

The number of horseshoes inside of the leather bag was 252.

Adding in the ones we recovered from the feet of the 2

{Amber.Goliaths} and there's a total of 256 of them.

If it's horses then it's possible to organize a long distance high speed mobile unit with 64 of them.

If I were to have them pull a carriage made with rubber tires and

an axle with bearings I'm sure it would be pretty amazing.

Ah, though I guess the carriage wouldn't be able to run over water huh?

Chapter 301 : 11th Floor

Year 7447, Month 6, Day 29

After returning the horseshoes to the leather bag and tying the mouth shut I left them to Zulu.

However, it hurts that I wasn't able to properly identify things in regards to the giant stag beetles.

Whether that confusion attack is a spell or special skill.

According to Miduchi, most likely it has the special skill {Confusion} but

supposedly the one she knew about was just a normal(?) {Amber.Goliath}

without the {Great} attached so it's fine to think that Ralpa was hit with the same special skill but she can't say anything at all in my

case. Though that's the case, I ended up like that because I saw the those complex and shining compound eyes so it's easy to guess that

wasn't a spell but a special skill.

I remembered that experience while trying to explain what kind of situation it was and started to feel sick again. That was seriously an unpleasant experience.

It seems like it'll take a reasonable amount of time for the net entangled with the corpse covered in yellow body fluids and green blood but I can tell quite a bit of it can still be used so we'll obviously recover it.

The corpse itself has other uses before Ralpa changes it to water to get rid of it.

We'll test out hitting the corpse with attack spells.

Particularly confirming the strength of the sturdy looking parts of it's carapace and figuring out where the weaknesses are in it's joints is necessary.

We all tried out various things in line with Miduchi's explanation. It's supposedly an uncommon monster which you never know if you'll see it once in every ten years at her hometown. Therefore, she's only ever heard stories about it but didn't have any experience directly fighting against one. There's a lot of points that need to be confirmed.

The result of that was we determined that while the sturdy looking surface of the carapace was impossible but if you land a direct hit on the joints then even Arbalest class attack spells can deal plenty of damage. Even when it comes to the carapace portion if you use Ballista class then it pierces through pretty well so we found out that we can expect a reasonable amount of power from it. However, in regards to the back, elbows, and knees that looked the hardest at the very

least power over the heavy catapult class is necessary.

Furthermore, when it came to the rifle other than the hardest portions it was able to pierce through the carapace no matter where it hit. That means we can expect the penetration power of the {Stone Heavy Catapult} class from the rifles. Although, it's something that I realized after using it up until now but if the rifle hits a bad spot the damage it deals is pretty low. It's not particularly limited to just the {Amber.Goliath} but even against ogres and trolls the larger their bodies are the lower the

damage is when it hits a place other than their vital points.

Though the same goes for bows as well.

The only exception is when you land a direct hit with a sword. Only at times like that does the damage not decrease but actually increases.

Whenever Zulu swings down the bastard sword that he normally uses with one-hand with both of his hands the damage increases by quite a bit. Of course even if he uses it with one-hand if he lands a direct hit the damage increases by

a bit. This goes the same for Toris's sword and my long sword when I take out of the bayonet as well.

However, in the case that I use it while it's still a part of the bayonet or in the case of spears and halberds it seems to do the same damage as when up against normally sized monsters up to the same size as people. Also, even if they're both swords when it comes to Bel's shortsword or Zenom and Ralpa's magic axes even if they land a direct hit the damage seems a bit lower.

Also, what could be considered the most abnormal is Miduchi's scimitar, as long as she lands a direct hit that isn't at a half-assed angle on the neck or limbs then regardless of the damage it will cleanly cut it off. It seems the special effect {Energy.Drain} is working at those times.

Other than that, both the magic stones from the {Great.Underground.Vodyanoy} had an identify value of close to 800,000. If we sell both of them then it should be over 11,000,000 Z.

Something like selling them for 5,500,000 Z a piece, I'm sure magic tool shop Danhiru can't afford to deal in them. If we want to sell them then I'll probably have to take them into the magic tool shop Splendor in the capital. Well, I have no intention of selling them for the time

being though.

By the way, we weren't able to find any high quality equipment like the ones the Minotaurs use.

However, I noticed that the leather in the leather bag that the horseshoes were in was double-layered.

After flipping it inside out and there was a complex pattern carved on the inside of similar to the ones on all of the equipment we've found up until now, if we were to think of this side as the surface then it could be considered quite the high quality leather bag. In order to imprint this intricate and complex of a pattern into such a thin piece of

leather it should require quite a high level of technique.

After using {Identify} it came up as {Double.Tool.Bag}. The materials are supposedly sheepskin(judging from the sensation it should be the original exterior) and {Abyssal.Ogre.Leather}(the side with the pattern on it).

And then right now we're finally taking a break in the teleport crystal room of the 10th floor.

Now then, I wonder what we should do next.
We decided to discuss our plans from here on out.

The conclusion we came to was that the next time when we encounter the {Amber.Goliath} from the outside, when it either discovers or recognizes us and the the room brightens up along with the cage of lightning bolts appearing there's no other choice than to try using some kind of magic.

If it's possible to use magic just like this time then we can blow the giant stag beetles away and kill them with attack spells before they even get close to us. It would be fine to just aim carefully with the rifle as well. It seems fine as long as you don't look at both of it's compound eyes from a considerably close distance at the same time after all.

This time Ralpa and I ended up in a pretty terrible condition but as long as we're careful of that then it's good news that we can use magic. Ever since we've entered the latter half of the dungeon you could say this is the first good news other than finding treasure in a while.

For the time being there should be quite a bit of time before the guardians respawn so first we should explore the large room that surrounds the teleport crystal room. After that if we can manage it we'll take a peek into the 11th floor for a bit and then defeat the guardian at least one more time after it respawns before

returning to the surface.

There's a high probability that it'll take close to 20 hours to repawn just like the last floor so we should have plenty of time to spare. After we return to the surface we'll

probably need to carry luggage back here twice or so but if we don't take care of the things we can do before that I can't relax.

.....

In the evening we tried taking a step onto the 11th floor.
After teleporting what was in front of us was obviously the same teleport crystal we had been holding up until now.
This is the same as always.

And then, the place we thought we were most likely to be at was near the outer wall.
The surroundings of the teleport crystal were like a small semi-circle plaza and the bottom of that semi-circle was almost like the wall of a cliff with the dense overgrown trees from a deep forest surrounding it.
Just from a glance they appear to be broad-leaf evergreen oak trees.

Furthermore, completely different from up until now the 11th floor had light. Gentle orange colored lights were pouring down from the ceiling almost like twilight.
In regards to this it wasn't almost as bright as noon like the 7th floor but it's not like light like this hadn't appeared before.

That's why you could say there was still problem up to here.

However, there was a large difference that you could tell from a single glance.

First off the height of the ceiling was way beyond the 100 meters of the 7th floor.

It most likely goes far above into the kilometers and strangely enough there even appears to be something like clouds.

And if you're wondering why I can tell, it's because there doesn't seem to be anything like hallways at all.

Far into the distance above the the top parts of the forest surrounding us there's a long and thin pillar that stretches all the way to the ceiling almost like an orbital elevator that comes out in SF novels and beyond that is a wall surrounded by light mist that is probably the opposite side of the outer wall.

In other words, the floor itself seems to be a single large room just like the 14th floor(?).

Just as far as can be seen there doesn't seem to be any walls that would make up hallways.

"This was..unexpected right."

Toris casually whispered with his shield at the ready and {Flame.Tongue} in his right hand but he's carefully scanning the surroundings without his guard. He doesn't have his sword covered in flames.

"It seems like twilight but I wonder if it's because of the current time..."

Bel whispered while looking up at the sky with her magic sword in one hand but I'm sure no one has an answer to that.

"It seems there's no monsters nearby.."

Zenom said while observing the surroundings on guard with his magic axe just like Toris. Obviously I've already long since scanned over the surroundings with {Identify} vision but I wasn't able to find anything unusual.

"For the time being I'll write down the number."

Gwine took out a brush and ink from her bag and wrote "1" on an appropriate rock.

"I wonder if it's fine to move forward just like this?"

Basutorial said while guarding Gwine together with Zulu and Angela but I don't think there's any other way about it.

"But wait, isn't that pillar-like thing the place where the teleport crystal is? Probably. It doesn't seem like there's any walls either, doesn't it seem like we could easily pass through~"

Ralpha said while pointing at the orbital elevator far in the distance with her magic axe held in one hand. Though you could say that's exactly the case but I really doubt things would be that simple right?

"Excluding the fact that it's bright and the forest and it's almost like that place..Ah, or was the ceiling even lower?"

Miduchi said as if confirming with me with her scimitar in one hand.

"I just thought the same thing myself."

I replied while observing our surroundings but I couldn't find any dangerous monsters or traps.

"In that case, I wonder if only the boss is here?"

I wonder about that? Just like you said just now, that place on the 14th floor wasn't as bright as it is here and it didn't have any plants

growing. The height of the ceiling is completely different and there's no guarantee that there isn't something lurking in the forest.

"If that's the case then I'm just praying it's something other than that fellow."

Just as I replied like that Gwine put away the brush and asked, "What should we do?"

"Let's try teleporting back in a number of times."

.....

We repeated teleporting into the 11th floor around 20 times. However,

every single teleport location was believed to be somewhere along the outer wall just the same as the first time. I had Ralpa check the

direction a number of times but because the orbital elevator can always be seen in the center we were able to get a grasp on the general outline with Gwine's {Mapping}.

After all it was a large room of about 10 km in diameter and all of the teleport locations were somewhere along the outer wall.

According to Gwine because we can always see the pillar in the center and the outer circumference we should have the easiest time ever in producing the

map.

"Hey, if you use wind magic to fly up high wouldn't you be able to look far into the distance?"

Unexpectedly Miduchi came up with an unbelievably reckless idea.

According to her, either she or I would hold on to Gwine while entering something like the barrel of a cannon made with earth magic. And then, after

climbing up a bit higher than the bottom of the barrel use a decent

level of wind magic to fly high into the air. Then when falling you just have to consecutively use wind magic to attempt a soft-landing. Even in the worst case if you fail on the landing as long you don't die

instantly either Miduchi or I whoever remains can do something about it with healing magic, how do I put it, who in their right mind would do something as terrifying as that? or at least it was such an unrealistic idea that it seemed idiotic to even consider it.

After rejecting it without a moments thought and she said she experienced something

similar so she suggested it was a reasonable amount of basis for it but there's no way we could do something like that this close to the outer wall. If we even make a single mistake with the angle and we'll either crash into the outer wall or die rolling down. Even if that isn't the case there's a forest below and there's guarantee we'd be able to

skillfully land in the plaza.

Ralpa and Basutorial both said "I see!" as if it was a great idea worth hitting their knees over but the Gwine in question was so pale she might start foaming at the mouth at any moment. Although, the idea of having Gwine confirm the surroundings from a high place itself is naturally pretty logical.

The outer wall is just the same as the 6th and 7th floors with just enough

footholds that a professional rock climber with the right tools in our past life..may..be.. able to climb up it.

Since it couldn't be helped while paying the highest level of attention to safety we had Gwine

climb up to the tallest tree nearby just once to confirm the

surroundings and just as expected quite a few things were confirmed.

First off, along the outer circumference there's a doughnut shaped forest with a width of about 200~300 meters.

Most likely all of the teleport crystals from the 10th floor are positioned inside of the dense forest along the outer circumference. In regards to this we confirmed that it was almost certainly the case by moving a mere 100 meters or so along the outer wall and found another small plaza exactly the same as the teleport location excluding the fact that there wasn't a teleport crystal like the one we used. If we were to assume that they're 100 meters apart with fixed intervals then there should be about 314 teleport locations on this floor.

Though there probably

shouldn't be any major differences no matter where we teleport. It's possible there's 360 locations if the intervals are a bit below 100

meters.

After passing through the forest along the outer

circumference and just as expected there's a 200~300 meter wide

waist-high grassland spread out in a doughnut shape. Beyond that is more grasslands or wilderness and then it mixes together with a different forest or bushes. She was only able to confirm the terrain up to there from on top of the tree, but no problem~ if there's more trees growing ahead then it's fine if she just climbs up again. Other than that just as far as Gwine could see she couldn't find anything like monsters.

"If we were to try and go in a straight line towards that pillar I feel like we could

make it."

Gwine gave us some good news. But it seems she was pretty scared as the color of her face isn't very good.

Supposedly she doesn't have anything like a fear of heights but the height of the tree we had Gwine climb was about 10 meters. She climbed up to a height of about 6~7 meters but I'm sure scary things are scary.

"Were there any rivers or ponds?"

Zenom asked.

"I couldn't tell that much."

If we were to assume that there's no monsters or guardian then it wouldn't even take us 2 hours to clear through this floor. Even if there were as long as there's no traps and we don't get injured it shouldn't be all that different though.

"Shall we stop here for today? It's almost 8:00 right? I'm seriously starting to feel hungry and if things go

smoothly those things should respawn around tomorrow morning. I want to catch them off guard and kill them once after properly identifying them after all."

I'm sure it'll take some time for us to repair the net as well so we'll get by with just hardtack and dried meat soup for our meals for today.

It seems there's still over 20 bullets remaining for the rifle and if we can use magic it should be simple to blow them away with that.

It should be fine to slowly take my time identifying the monsters after that.

.....

Year 7447, Month 6, Day 30

【
【Male/30/6/7447.Great.Underground.Vodyanoy】
【Condition: Normal】
【Age: 0 Years Old】
【Level: 10】
【HP: 744(744) MP: 20(20)】
【Strength: 35】
【Speed: 15】
【Dexterity: 15】
【Endurance: 80】
【Special Skill: Excavate】
【Special Skill: Confusion Type III】

It's female partner is pretty similar as well.
However, back stabbing from behind is seriously frightening.

In order to verify the timing which magic can be used, when they were
first respawning all of us surrounded the swirling fog while waiting leaving
just Gwine in the teleport room. The minotaurs on the 8th and 9th floors
respectively took 17 and 18 hours to respawn. I wonder if this time it'll be 19
hours? While that was what we predicted since it was just a weak basis we
obviously woke up pretty early and did a number of simulations while waiting
for them to respawn so we don't look at both of their compound eyes at once.

Just as expected 19 hours later at just past 7:00 in the morning.

The respawn fog finally started swirling around.

During that time we were able to confirm that we were unable to use racial skills, magic, and unique abilities.

And then the moment the {Amber.Goliaths} respawned in a stance with one knee to the ground just like the minotaurs we all swung our weapons down with all of our strength just as we went over in simulations. Attacks that land in a bad spot might not be able to pierce through the hard carapace and deal no damage.

Even then if 4~5 people continue to attack each of them then they'll fall over and those with some leeway might be able to aim their attacks at the joints between the carapace.

That's what everyone thought.

However, the carapaces of the newly spawned {Amber.Goliaths} were pure white like an albino and almost like jelly. It was soft almost like a crab or crayfish immediately after molting. Additionally at the same time as the room turned bright and the sound from the cage of lightning bolts

echoed through Gwine's voice yelled "It works!" from the entrance to the room. I was just about to stop everyone from beating them on all sides and immediately hit with a powerful spell but it didn't even require magic. That's why even when I used Identify on them at this point it still ended up as {Corpse of Great.Underground.Vodyanoy}.

It couldn't be helped and some tests were still necessary so we endured the wait for it to respawn one more time (we spent the spare time

investigating unexplored areas of the 10th floor), and just the same as when the minotaurs respawn after taking one step outside and kicking them over the cage of lightning bolts activated.

Immediately after I pulled back into the hall leading to the teleport crystal room.

And then this time we waited for over 1 hour in the teleport crystal room after

they respawned for the color of their carapaces to turn fully

black. I just mentioned the details of Identify which I checked during that time right? Ah, {Confusion Type III}...

In order to use the special skill {Confusion Type III} it seems it requires simultaneously looking into both of it's compound eyes and you must be in close range that's a distance of less than half the height of the {Amber.Goliath}.

The targets captured in the special skill will see an unpleasant scene of a person of the same race they knew in the past or a scene that they find frightening but supposedly the possibility of seeing through it as an illusion is close to zero. Supposedly it creeps into your heart after taking on more than enough reality to make you believe that it's real.

Otherwise it supposedly can make you mistake all other living beings besides yourself as the {Amber.Goliath}. The possibility of each of

those effects is 40%. But, there's also the possibility of your senses being exchanged like me as well. This possibility was the remaining 20%.

I really had some bad luck.

After that I had Miduchi, Bel, Toris, Ralpha, Gwine, and Basutorial, everyone who can use magic practice using attack spells to aim at joint between it's carapace in the back of it's neck. Partially because we dealt some major damage to it all at once you could say it was an easy victory.

Again one more time. This time we returned to the teleport crystal on the 9th floor and after having some proper rest and meals made it back to the teleport room on the 10th floor with no guardian before the

{Amber.Goliaths} respawned. On that occasion it was a bit of a waste but we brought along blankets. This time we threw the blankets over their heads at the moment they respawned and beat them to death without using magic after safely sealing their compound eyes.

Yeah. There seems to be no problem even without magic as long as we stab them in the back.

Even when it comes to fighting head on, it's fine if I just try invading from the outside matched up with the timing they respawn again and try to finish them off with magic. As insurance it should be fine as long as everyone else remains on standby in the teleport room.

Chapter 302 : Altar 1

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 2

It was evening when we returned to the surface.

It seems like we'll somehow be able to manage the guardian of the 10th floor.

But, the 11th floor...

Completely different from up until now it's a vast world that spans an entire floor.

It's believed to be around 10 km in diameter so the total area should be

about as wide as the Oota district and Shinagawa district in Japan

combined.

Though I only vaguely remember the top and bottom 5 districts in terms of area so I'm not too confident.

We met up with Cathy and the other members of the {Slaughterers} who were gathered together at the entrance plaza.

I already told them that we were going to try and break through the 10th

floor of the dungeon this time so Kamu reserved Murowa for us. For the

time being we returned to our inn to change and then all of the

{Slaughterers} gathered together.

After confirming that everyone was gathered I gave a report on how we succeeded in breaking through the 10th floor.

Hearing my report everyone started cheering and congratulating us.

I took out the magic stones from the 2 {Great.Underground.Vodyanoy} and showed them.

Since the giant stag beetles this time weren't close enough to being human to call them humanoid we weren't able to obtain any weapons or equipment from them but I explained how we found magic horseshoes and the frightening abilities of they had before moving on to the sights we saw on the 11th floor.

Everyone who wasn't able to see that sight made expressions of admiration and a bit of yearning as if they were greatly interested in it.

It seems like they don't have much interest in the magic horseshoes. I said I don't have any intention of selling them so I guess it's because there won't be any bonuses?

Though it would be fine if they just immediately realized how useful of an item they'll be in the future and thought they weren't anything worth making a racket over right now.

And~ Miduchi and Toris are talking about them. Well, I guess that's fine.

But, putting aside those giant stag beetles, everyone might eventually be able to see the 11th floor.

After all supposedly the {Exterminators} were able to arrive at the teleport room on the 5th floor by 4:00 pm on the second day this time. Even though they lost two members and should have had a reduction in combat strength it's quite the miraculous record. It's not all that much different from when Ginger and Hisu were with them.

Though I'm sure one of the primary factors for it is that Rodrick and my combat

slave Mekku's magic levels increased but I'm sure it's also because their progressive nature in combat even surpasses the {Butchers} filled with veterans. They've accumulated quite a bit of experience and because their levels were originally the lowest they're the party that's grown in levels the most over the past two years. In just a bit longer, I guess, if they can shorten their time by about 2 more hours then they should obtain the ticket to explore the 6th floor.

Of course, the {Butchers} aren't losing to them either. Since it seems they were able

to arrive at the teleport room on the 6th floor by just past 8:00 pm on the second day as well. On their end if they can arrive before 8:00 pm on a stable basis then that would be plenty as proof of their abilities. I'd even be willing to give them permission to enter the 7th floor.

After all the results this time were without a leader from the former {Saviors}. In the first place making it to the teleport room on the 6th floor in two days is a high speed that beyond the {Saviors} not even the {Verdure.Brotherhood} has managed.

Their faces are colored with confidence.

"Now then, we'll be going back into the dungeon from the 6th but next time Zenom will go to the {Butchers}. Take over command of them. And then for the {Exterminators} will be..I guess so. Basutorial, you try going."

"Eh? Me!?"

Basutorial replied with a surprised face.

"Yeah, that's right. Isn't it about a good time for you to gain experience with things like that?"

"..Yes. I'll try doing it! By the way, would it be no good for me to bring along Maru and Rinbi?"

..This guy, don't get so nervous over something stupid~
Maru and Rinbi who I let sit at the lowest seats are looking at me with sparkling expressions.

Their eyes are so radiant I can almost hear the sparkling sound effects.
Ah, Basutoral has a relationship with these two from when he taught them at the sausage factory so I guess he wasn't just nervous but just wanted to make use of them even sooner?

"..Obviously that's no good. I'm afraid to even let these two fight against goblins yet."

After I said that Maru and Rinbi both lowered their heads. Of course~ if it's one-on-one then let alone goblins they might even be able to manage against a gnoll. If they're prepared to suffer injuries then while they might not be able to win they may even be able to hold their own against an ork or hobgoblin. But something like that, if any random adult gets desperate enough they could probably manage it. In the first place, there's aren't over in the dungeon after a single battle.

"Hey, Maru, Rinbi. It's still too soon for you two. Putting aside your skills you need to grow a bit taller."

Ruttsu said that to try and cheer them up.

"Yeah, in the first place you've still got a ways to go with your spear

thrusts. Saying to master that things will be fine for you at that level~ Ha~ there's no way I could say it."

Even Jesu my combat slave who's teaching them rejected it.

"Maru, Rinbi."

Since I started to feel a bit bad I called out to the two of them.

""Yes, master""

"Are you eating properly?"

""Of course!""

I obligated them to eat at least one baldoggie, several vegetable side dishes, and six slices of something like plain bread from our past life of a decent amount for every meal. It's still only been about two months so it hasn't shown much of an effect yet. However, if they make sure to properly run and swing the sword 500 times everyday in addition to the diet muscle training menu Miduchi taught them that focuses on squats every two days then they should reach the stamina of a beginner adventurer within a year. Putting aside their technique.

"It's still the period for you two to build up your body. You shouldn't bother worrying about something like the dungeon yet. After a short while longer I'll check on your progress alright? Make sure you do it properly."

""Yes.""

Umu. That's a good answer. Stuff like this sure feels good.

The next day, we found a gap when the stable brat of Boil Manor wasn't looking and tried attaching the {Breeze.Horseshoes} to my Uranus and Miduchi's Ball-Dragon.

Hmm.

Just as expected they're easy to equip and remove.

It felt like it would be unnatural to tell the brat not to touch their horseshoes and if he finds it strange that he can't get them off he might check the status so we removed them right away and threw the lot of them into my locker at the shrine.

.....

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 10

We've taken a step onto the 11th floor.

"I can't see the ceiling..."

Kimu said while looking at the sky.

"There's really no hallways..Also, this light.."

Kamu is trying to stand as tall as she can with her short height as she restless looks around the surroundings but the 5 meter semi-circle radius we just teleported into is completely blocked out by the dense trees so you can't see at all beyond into the sky.

After all, if we hadn't made Gwine climb a tree last time we weren't even able to see

the grasslands that are supposedly 200 meters ahead. Trees with a thickness of 50~60 cms are spaced out with intervals of only about 2~5 meters between. There's undergrowth with large leaves growing all over the place as well and even branches are growing from considerably low heights.

Do they know the definition of photosynthesis?

Isn't it supposed to be no good if the light can't reach them?

..Though it's a bit late to be saying something like that.

Furthermore, the light from the ceiling was still the same madder red color as if it's twilight.

"What should we do? Advance just like this?"

Miduchi asked me.

All of the teleport locations seem to be along the outer wall so there's no choice other than that.

"First let's try clearing through this forest. We'll go with {Wedge.One} using 5 meter intervals."

I said that before standing at the lead.

Just in case I tried using the spell {Detect.Life} but I couldn't detect anything

other than us within the 200 meter range.

I also tried using the spells {Find.Trap}, {Detect.Snare}, and {Detect.Pitfall} but as expected there was no reaction.

Well, it was the same last time so I had already predicted it.

After putting in a decent amount of effort to pass through the forest and things suddenly opened up before our eyes.

Even though there was that many trees up until now, they all suddenly disappeared with not a single one remaining.

We all gathered once again just before the grassland that Gwine saw last time.

"Did you see any monsters?"

Just in case I tried asking everyone but obviously the answer was no.

What's spreading out before our eyes is a thick grassland of about several

tens of centimeters and then beyond that is dotted with forests and

bushes of a decent density just as Gwine reported.

They appear to be just a bit less dense than the forest on the outer circumference but probably aren't all that different.

Even though there's no halls or walls I can't help but sigh over how bad the visibility is.

For a short while everyone strained their eyes looking but after all we weren't able to find anything moving like monsters.

Though it might also be because the light of twilight is quite a bit weaker than the 7th floor.

"Things seem to be pretty open here so isn't a good place now that we've confirmed it's safe?"

Miduchi is talking about using earth magic to create a high platform so Gwine can see a wider range.

Ever since I heard there was a grassland I thought it would be necessary.

Last time there were too many trees so it was difficult to make a stairway. I won't say it was completely impossible but in order to make twisting stairs that avoid the branches up to the top would have required quite a bit of mental concentration.

If we're going to do something that stands out like this then I want to finish it off in one go.

Including Gwine's height she was only able to see from a height of 6~7 meters. There's not even 10 km to the horizon(as far as can be seen). Not to mention taking into consideration the height of the dense forest and she was at best able to see about 5 km. Seeing up to the teleport crystal pillar was the limit. That's why I felt it was necessary to make a hill that's at least 12~13 meters this time excluding Gwine's height.

Though if I can be greedy I think a height of over 20 meters is necessary. When it comes to a height of 20 meters then taking into consideration the angle and the ease of climbing the stairs and it would need a base with a diameter of 50~60 meters or so. A wide area with no trees in the way was necessary. Additionally it would be best if the summit is like a submarine where it has a wall

you can just stick out your head from as well. If we take into consideration attacks from monsters that we don't know where they might be lurking.

"Just as expected the outer circumference is a forest with a width of 200~300 meters. The interior appears to be a grassland similar to that but it's most likely the same for the opposite side as well. Because I couldn't see all the way to the outside of the grasslands. It seems like the interior has quite a bit of dense forest and thickets. In terms of

percentage I'd say it's about 20% grassland or wasteland, 50% forest, and around 30% thickets I guess."

After descending from the hill Gwine's report itself was mostly just what we had predicted.

"Would it be best to try teleporting to the opposite side of the room as well?"

"Nn~ I'm sure that would raise the reliability of it but isn't it fine to do that later on?"

If Gwine's saying that then it's probably the case.

"And, did the ground seem level everywhere?"

Miduchi asked. This is something important as well.

"Yeah, even if there's some hills inside of the forest they shouldn't be all that high. If I had to say which it's unfortunate that it was difficult to tell whether the ground is even lower than here or not. I couldn't tell what was going on with the ground below the forests and thickets without getting closer.."

"It's big just that we know there doesn't seem to be anything like mountains."

Bel joined the conversation. Certainly that's true.

"Yeah. However, there's not very much of a height difference in the terrain of each floor in this dungeon."

Everyone seemed to agree with what I said but no one was able to explain the reason.

Of course, it's not like there's no highs or lows in this dungeon of Baldukk at all.

Miduchi and Kamu who have the special skill {Inclination.Sensing} can both tell the slight inclinations of the ground and even Ralpha notices it using {Spatial Comprehension}.

However, there hasn't really been any way for us to clearly determine that up until now.

Though I found it strange.

"In any case, nothing will start unless we go and take a look."

After ending our conversation here and I hesitated for a moment on whether or not to erase the platform.

Well, I guess I'll erase it.

While I was erasing the platform everyone was discussing things about this floor.

They must be worried.

"{Wedge.One} with 20 meter intervals. The goal is that tree."

I conveyed that we'd aim for a slightly tall tree ahead of the grasslands with considerable intervals between us.

It's questionable whether or not there's even 200 meters to that tree.

There shouldn't be any traps up to there.

"Let's run it all at once."

I lowered my posture a bit while taking a step into the grassland.

Though I don't think there's much meaning to it, it's a matter of feeling.

.....

After passing through the grassland and moving through the forest and thickets for a bit we entered a plaza in an opening between. Everywhere we just passed by is covered in trees other than behind us and with this even if there's some kind of monster it should be blocked from seeing us.

As expected everyone let out a sigh of relief after the tension of passing through a grassland with nothing to hide us.

However, it's eerie that Gwine wasn't able to see any monsters at all even from such a high place.

It was at that moment.

"That, what is it?"

Ralpa asked while looking further into the forest.

The direction Ralpa was pointing into the forest was towards the center where the teleport crystal is believed to be.

"Hn~? What?"

"Where?"

Kamu and Toris are looking in the direction she's pointing but can't seem to find anything strange.

"It's probably hidden behind trees from there and hard to see. From this angle.."

Ralpa let them take over the position she was standing in until now.

"Nn..That is!"

"Eh...Ah.."

Toris stood behind the short Kamu and both of them looked in the same direction.

After a short while they seemed to realize something.

"What could you see?"

"What is it?"

Starting with Angela and Bel, everyone gathered to look in that direction. I want to look as well but it seems the position I'm standing is bad and there's so many leaves, branches, and trees that I can't even see more than 20 meters.

"Al-san! That, it's an altar! I can see an altar!"

Wh~at!?

In a hurry I switched places with Toris and there certainly was a portion of an altar that could be seen around 200 meters ahead.

It's the perfect angle where you can't see it anymore if you even shift your head just a bit.

If there's an altar then that means...

In other words monsters will be summoned.

And then, if it's the same as up until now there should be 4 gargoyle statues nearby.

However, there's also the possibility of obtaining treasure. There's no reason to let this chance go.

"What should we do? Should we try going over to there?"

Ralpa said with a defiant expression as if she might lick her lips at any moment.

"But, it's in the forest. If it's not a plaza then.."

"The trees might be in the way quite a bit."

Bel and Toris both warned at the same time.

That's right.

Especially Kimu and Gwine's weapons are spears. It would be fine if they just thrust it but it would be quite difficult to swing it or rather impossible.

Not just the spear but even using the sword would be pretty difficult.

Wouldn't it only be Ralpa's {Bloody.Handaxe} that can be used without much different from normally?

It's the same for missile type attack spells when the visibility is this bad and even my certain kill technique of freezing them would only work if they're right in front of us...

If there's an enemy that's swinging a weapon or using a portion of it's body as a weapon in front of me then

there's no way I could manage something like freezing it.

It takes less than a split second to swing a weapon down so it's considerably faster than something like freezing.

What should we do?

Up until just now if the density of the forest increased anymore than it was I was about ready to use fire magic to burn everything to the ground before retreating to the 10th floor.

Even if I can't burn the trees I thought it would at least burn the leaves and

small branches.

Also, I thought if there were any monsters nesting in it I might be able to finish them off with the heat from the mountain fire and the lack of oxygen.

Although, that's only if my previous hypothesis about the composition of the air on Orth being the same as Earth was correct and

monsters require the oxygen in the air to breath.

Even if that is the case I didn't have much more than a weak basis for it in the first place.

However, if there's an altar then it's a different matter..I'm sure~

It would be bad if it even burns the altar right.

Since a lot of it is made of stone it might not burn but there's no guarantee it wouldn't cause some kind of damage to it.

In terms of treasure.

If there's just this many trees then it should be possible to cut them all

down with the wind magic level 7 attack spell {Vacuum Blade}.

But, what would cutting them down help?

If they fall down in place it would just make them even more of an obstruction.

Hey, what should I do?

After all I guess there's no way to obtain the treasure other than fighting normally?

Chapter 303 : Altar 2

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 10

I spent a short while contemplating while glaring at the altar.

"For the time being, let's try going to a different place."

It's not like we've seen any monsters. If we approach the altar then there's a high possibility that a monster will be summoned but it's not like

we've actually seen it. This is different from fleeing. It's simply changing directions.

No, though it's fine even if we're running from monsters. Even up until now we've run from them a number of times.

For the time being I decided to move to the right along the grassland

that's believed to be in the shape of a doughnut. The next time there's an opening in the forest I intend to go further inside from there.

After walking for a short while just as expected we arrived at an opening in the forest. It's about 10 meters wide and the trees of just that area

has no trees growing almost like a hallway. After trying to look further inside and it seems to gently curve to the right. It seems like there's no traps either. Then, shall we try advancing from here?

After a distance of about 100 meters this time it curved to the left and then after another 100 meters we were surrounded by forest again almost like a dead end. After advancing a bit further while remaining cautious and

this time Miduchi said "Wait" so we all stopped.

"That, it's an altar right?"

..Miduchi pointed her finger but even looking to the left the trees are too dense so I can't see anything.

After all the vegetation of the forest is thick so it seems it can't be seen other than from Miduchi's position.

I have her open up the place she's standing.

"It looks like an altar..But I can't see anything like gargoyles."

"Al-san. Show me as well.."

I switch places with Gwine.

We need her to properly remember the location.

After advancing a bit from there again and this time Angela discovered an altar in the opposite direction.

"That altar, it seems to be about 200 meters from the one we just saw."

Gwine said after confirming the location of the newly discovered altar.

Hm~mm.

Unexpectedly this is the third altar we've discovered today.

I wonder if there's such a high density of altars on this 11th floor...

I guess that means this hallway like opening in the forest passes in between the altars?

It seems everyone else has the same questions as me.

Up until now all of the altars that have existed inside of this dungeon

have been in what you could call monster rooms and they're enshrine

together with statues of gargoyles inside a room with a decent area. If you step foot inside of that room then the gargoyle statues start to

move as if they were given life and simultaneously the large magic circle like pattern in front of the altar floats up while giving off light before summoning a monster that could be called the guardian of the room.

If you defeat all of those then the door of the shrine installed on the top of the altar opens and if you're lucky you could

obtain some kind of treasure. For adventurers who's goal is to obtain treasure other than this the only way is the magic items which room bosses are confirmed to be holding with a low probability once every couple of years. Other than that, it's possible to obtain valuable ores and gems from mining the walls and such below the 3rd floor, just that.

After that is..I guess just the guardians?

That's why it's not limited to just us {Saviors} but normally it's absurd to overlook an

altar you find. I think the only ones who would normally overlook them are the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} when Kamu and Kimu are commanding them. If Kamu and Kimu hadn't said, "it's fine if it's a monster you can defeat without any casualties.." then I think they would have challenged it.

Even when it comes to them I heard they met with some firmly rooted opposition when they made the decision to overlook

the altar and go around it.

There's a possibility of obtaining treasure worth that much from the altars in the dungeon after all.

Eh? It's something you can only say if you're alive?

That's right.

Shall we put it into an easy to understand example?

There's clearly a gap between you who normally neglects your health and an adventurer that's decently trained and used to fighting. Let's go easy on the opponent as well.

If you were to fight against a Tosa dog that does dog-fighting and if you win it's okay for you to roll some dice.

If you roll a decent number then you get several hundred million yen. If you were told that depending on the roll of the dice you might be given something worth several billion yen, what would you do?

Of course, it's fine for you to bring allies as well. Though it's only up to 9 people other than yourself.

It's fine if you wear armor and it's even okay if you use a katana, spear, or bow as your weapon.

Though there's no guarantee that it'll only be one Tosa dog either.

But, judging from past precedents even at most there's rarely more than 5 of them.

I think challengers would appear at a decent rate.

Even if you're thinking, "there's no way I could do something so frightening", there's at least one person around you who would be delighted to aim for a gamble that could turn around their life in a single go right?

The adventurers who enter the dungeon are people like that.

Kamu and Kimu said they struggled quite a bit to hold everyone back.

I can tell that even those two are anticipating it every time they look at the altar because they have powerful allies with them right now.

Though as expected they have at least enough judgement to not bring up challenging the altar when it's a floor in the depths of the dungeon and

almost our first time here.

Well, we can anytime after all.

"Hmm..It's still early so let's head back and check out some other areas."

Somehow I feel a bit hesitant to advance just like this so I decided to start searching from the beginning again.

In the end we spent all morning and explored around 3 km of the interior perimeter of the grassland.

We discovered altars in a total of 7 places.

Obviously we just took a glance at them from the distance.

We didn't approach even a single one to check it out.

The distance between each of the altars was between 200 meters and 1 km or so.

There's some things that can't be seen because of the angle so I'm sure we overlooked several of them.

Somehow I feel like they're all lined up in a circle centering around the teleport crystal pillar in the center of the room.

Though as expected I don't think they're at fixed intervals.

After lunch we gathered our resolve and decided to approach the first altar we discovered.

.....

It's clearly different from the altars we've found in the dungeon up until now.

First off, it doesn't have any black flames.

Or rather, in the first place it doesn't have something like a torch for flames to burn.

Other than that the shape appears to be a bit different as well.

Furthermore, what appeared to be the shrine from the distance doesn't have any doors.

And, there's no gargoyles and there didn't seem to be any summoning of monsters.

It was hard to even call it anticlimactic.

Even though everyone was on guard and we approached it carefully all we could do in the end was make confused expressions.

It was the same for the other altars we found as well.

I have an endless number of questions while standing in front of the

moss-covered altar sitting silently in forest buried by trees but in the end we decided to take a look even further inside of the forest.

After advancing past the densely overgrown branches and stepping on the

broad-leaf undergrowth and the forest ended leading into a wasteland

with no vegetation growing at all. At longest it's probably about 50

meters, a bit of a plaza with no trees growing.

"How far have we advanced?"

After asking Gwine and she said our current location is about 800 meters from the outer circumference.

There's no traps and we still haven't seen any monsters.

Even after approaching the altars there's nothing at all.

"If nothing happens just like this then it doesn't seem like it'll take much time at all to get over to there.."

Miduchi whispered while looking up at the pillar.

Lead by her I looked up at the long and thin pillar stretching out from above the trees as well.

It's still far away so I can't tell what's going on with the surface of it but thinking about things up until now wouldn't it be close to an exact square?

I guess the surface would be rough almost like it's carved from dirt or rock?

Or maybe it's smooth almost like something man-made?

I can't really tell from here.

The pillar stretches far into the clouds in the sky but whether they're clouds or fog they seem to be slowly moving.

How mysterious~

Putting that aside, it's certainly true if we continue like this it'll take us quite a bit longer than a level ground because we need to duck below

branches and such. However, even then it's 5 km. Taking into

consideration how there's occasionally openings in the forest with

vacant land like this and it should take about 1.5 hours at our speed if nothing happens.

"What time is it right now?"

Bel asked Ralpa and the answer that came back was 2:00pm.

"What should we do?"

Toris asked me.

If it's from here then we could return to the teleport crystal we came in using within 15 minutes if we felt like it.

If we run across the grasslands along the way then probably even faster.

"Let's proceed a bit further."

.....

After passing through the wasteland and we stepped foot on a thicket-like area with a bit of light vegetation.

The formation is {Trail} with Ralpha at the lead.

I'm in the center focused on the right.

Around 5 minutes or so since we started advancing we came out to more vacant land just like the last area.

Though this time it wasn't a wasteland but was covered in short grass.
It's a grassland.

"We're about 1 km away from the outer circumference."

I nod at Gwine's words and look at our surroundings.

There's no birds, animals, or monsters, nothing at all.

"If things continue like this then it seems like we'll be able to pass through all at once."

Hearing Kimu's words everyone made expressions as if saying, "I guess so."

"Hn? Somehow it seems to be protruding outwards?"

Miduchi who was looking up at the pillar without getting bored said something strange.

The direction she was pointing was far above the pillar around where it enters the fog or the clouds or whatever.

It should be right around where it cuts into the clouds.

After hearing it said and it certainly seems to have a bit of a protrusion or rather it feels like there's a part of it that's expanded outwards.

It was at that moment.

A loud ear-splitting noise sounded out.

This sound is, the one made when the cage of lightning bolts activates!

Simultaneously I felt the sensation of Miduchi's {Party-ization} losing effect.

In a panic we all looked around at each other.

The intensity of the light increased and the surroundings became almost like daytime.

The cage of lightning bolts is far in the distance and seems to have

occurred along the outer circumference surrounding the entirety of the 11th floor.

And then, far in the distance in terms of kilometers I can see several pillars made of seven-colored light rising into the sky.

Trying to count them and there's two in both directions ahead of us and two more in both directions even further inside for a total of four of them.

I have no idea what's going on but for the time being I can at least say this.

"Run into the forest!"

Everyone scattered in different directions running into the forest.

It's the proof of veteran adventurers that they don't run in the same direction clumped together even when not told.

If we were to gather up again it's best to do it inside of the forest where visibility is blocked off.

However, even then if it were to be mentioned everyone seems to have primarily run into the forest that we just came from.

It's definitely seems safer so it can't be helped.

I ran off after creating a dirt hill in the center of the plaza.

If there's any monsters nearby then we can use it as a shield.

Even if they aren't nearby I'm sure they'll head over here so if they think the hill is suspicious and show signs of approaching to investigate it then it'd be fortunate.

But, rather than something like that I needed to test whether or not we could use magic.

After all, the fact that the cage of lightning bolts activated means that the guardian has already detected us.

As the last one to run into the forest, I turned around once just before and looked in every direction.

For the time being there doesn't seem to be anything particularly different.

"Al-san, over here."

I heard Toris whispering.

After looking over there and other than Toris, Gwine and Kamu were by his side.

I guess they regrouped after entering the forest.

"Where's everyone else?"

"I saw Bel and Maruso run in over there."

"Miduchi-san and Kimu both ran in that direction as well."

Toris and Kamu both replied while pointing towards the right of the plaza but it seems that Gwine didn't have enough composure to pay attention to anything else.

"What about Ralpa and Zulu?"

"I don't know."

"Maybe over there?"

After looking to the left while saying and I saw a glimpse of golden hair over there.

"There they are. Gwine, go and call Ralpa and Zulu over. Toris you go and call for Miduchi and the others. After regrouping if you encounter any monsters then you don't need to forcefully try and make it back. If it seems strong then use your voice or magic or anything else to try and call me. I'll hit them with attack spells when I find them as well."

After giving out those instructions Kamu and I hid in the shadow of a tree that's hard to see from the plaza.

Shortly after Gwine came back along with Ralpa and Zulu. They seemed to be trying their best to move quietly without making a sound but Zulu's banded-mail makes quite a bit of noise.

"Where's everyone?"

It was just as I replied, "Over there. I sent Toris to get them." to Ralpa in a whisper.

"What..is that!?"

Kamu raised her voice and pointed upwards.
Lead by that everyone tried following where she was pointing.

I can see something that's still as small as a grain of rice flying over here.

Eh? Is that...
Could it be!?

It's too far away so it's outside of the valid range for {Identify}.

Obviously it's out of range for magic as well.

If I were to pour in quite a bit of mana I wonder if it would reach?

And while I was thinking that it was steadily approaching us.

It became about the size of a grain of wheat.

It appears to be a lizard-like reptile with wings like a bat growing from it.

The color is..it's still too far so it looks pitch black.

"Hie!!?"

Kamu let out a small stifled scream in fear.

"Dr..{Dragon}?"

Zulu said in a daze.

"It's my first time seeing one!"

"It's cool!"

Ralpa and Gwine are saying absurd things.

However, a dragon huh?

If that's the case then I've heard about it from Miduchi.

Even I know about it.

It should breathe fire.

Though depending on the type it could be acid, poison, or ice..I feel like there was one more thing as well...

"Don't move, don't talk."

In a hurry I touched each person in order and used the spells

{Resist.Earth}, {Resist.Water}, {Resist.Fire}, and {Resist.Air} on them.

I'm glad I practiced them seriously...

The duration of the effect is 1,000 seconds so it should last for over 15 minutes.
..Finally on myself as well..Alright.

"{Spread}!"

At the same time as I pointed towards the left and gave out the order I lowered my body and ran towards the right.

I took a glance up into the sky.

I can see a lizard flying through the sky from the gaps in the trees.
The dragon which was the size of a grain of wheat is already pretty big.
Around the size of a small marble I guess?
It's head is almost like a slightly thin alligator.
What in the world is that?

A horn?

There seems to be several horns growing stretched out towards the back of its head.

Its body seems to be stretched out and streamline.
Growing from its back are what appear to be the wings of a bat from a glance.
In the center of the wings it seems to even have a frightening looking claw grown out.

Shit, these branches are in the way!

I maintain my posture as low as possible and run as if crawling along the ground.

There they are!

Miduchi and the others were moving towards us from a bit further in the forest with Toris at the lead.

After adjusting my direction towards them and it seems they noticed it right

away.

"Did something come out!?"

Miduchi asked cautiously in a low voice.

Why are you all acting so carefree!

Have you not noticed it!?

"It's a {Dragon}!"

Everyone's facial color changed.

It seems they didn't notice it.

"I'll cast {Resistance} spells on you!"

After saying that first I used the {Resist} spells on Miduchi.

She can use all varieties of the {Resist} spells as well but Miduchi's mana is the next most precious attack method after mine.

I want to preserve it for as long as possible.

Following that I cast the {Resist} spells on everyone else.

I turned around for just a moment and tried looking into the sky but the trees are in the way so I can't see.

I guess it's not unreasonable for them not to notice it like this.

"That is!!?"

The first one I used the spells on, Miduchi, looked up into the sky while approaching the plaza.

Angela who was a bit behind her had a stiff expression on her face just like Miduchi while looking up at the sky.

It seems they've finally noticed it.

"Spread out in that direction!! I'll shoot it down after it enters range just like this!"

In a hurry I passed by Miduchi's side while giving out orders to everyone. Angela ran off with her body held low as if she were being pulled.

"{Dragon}..it's not?"

Stop clattering around!
It's already about the size of a large marble!

{Identify}..Obviously it's still impossible.
But, if I use an attack spell while extending the range then it should already reach.
It's not good that we're gathered together at the firing point.

"Hurry up and go!!!"

I yelled at Miduchi who was casually squinting her eyes while looking up at the sky.
Simultaneously I stretched my left hand out aimed at the {Dragon}.

"It's a {Wyvern}!"

Anything is fine!
I fired a {Stone Cannon Missile}.

A super large telephone pole was launched from in front of my left arm.
If there's this much distance between us then it's plenty for it to accelerate.

The crystallization of my mana went flying towards the flying lizard with extreme speed!
In order to make it easier to see the lizard after firing it I shifted the trajectory slightly.

I don't know if it's a {Dragon} or whatever but as long as this lands a direct hit!

..Whatt..!!?

Chapter 304 : Altar 3

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 10

The warhead of

my greatest attack spell {Stone Cannon Missile} obviously went flying towards the flying lizard that was approaching us from the sky.

But, what in the world!

Around the point when it was 50 meters from the surface it was offset by countless spells(?) that came flying from it's side.

Came flying? No, they might not have come flying.

It almost looked like an extremely long and thin {Anti-Magic Field} stretching out that even I can't make.

It looked like the spell warhead was exposed to something resembling a purple beam.

In any case, the flying spell warhead was exposed(?) to that beam or

whatever that acted as if it wouldn't allow the flying lizard to be

attacked so in order to try and avoid it I shifted the course of the

warhead even more. My {Stone Cannon} was only able to endure it for a

really short period of time. In the end it scattered midway through it's path.

Along the trail that the beam followed to the warhead there was something like a sparkling powder scattered about.

Looking at the scattering trail and it seems that the beam was fired from the

surface.

I said it was an {Anti-Magic Field} but that's probably not an

{Anti-Magic Field}. The warhead didn't look like it crumbled from losing it's mana and an {Anti-Magic Field} wouldn't leave behind that kind of sparkling powder after it moves. That's why I think it should be

something different.

However, what in the world was that just now!?

Miduchi who stopped moving raised her voice in surprise as well.

The beam came flying from the outer circumference of the room from every direction.

Right. Every direction including from behind us as we face off against the {Wyvern}.

Did we overlook a monster!?

Or was it summoned from those altars!?

The flying lizard has already reached the size of a baseball.

I should be able to see it pretty soon and after trying to {Identify} it after all it was the so-called {Wyvern}.

There wasn't anything that seemed to be really problematic among it's abilities. Though {Venom} seems pretty dangerous we have the method of resisting it with magic.

Other than that, it doesn't have any magic special skills and no {Breath}

like the {Dragon} I've heard about in stories or the {Lesser Yowie} and {Frost Lizard} either.

"It's fine so go!! Everyone be careful of the surroundings!! Something is out there!!"

I yell at Miduchi while using an attack spell one more time.

This time it's {Ice Cannon Missile}.

Once again a spell warhead with powerful force behind it was fired from my left hand.

This time for sure!

I started guiding it immediately after firing it.

This time I'll lead it along an arched curve from bottom to top.

I'll give it an ice uppercut.

It might appear difficult at a glance but it's possible to guide the

flying warhead while looking at the opponent so as long as the target

that is the flying lizard doesn't make any sudden maneuvers there's no doubt it'll hit.

I'm sure it can't manage that with that large of a body.

That's the frightening part about a spell with {Missile} added to it.

It seems that the beam isn't flying at it this time.

But, of all things!

Right before the spell warhead was about to land a direct hit on the {Wyvern}

it flapped both of its bat wings wide in front of it and performed an unbelievably sudden deceleration. Since the state of it was almost as if it used emergency breaks in mid-air, it temporarily stalled, and then fell a bit of altitude.

My spell barely grazed just the tip of its nose.

That maneuver completely ignored the laws of physics!

That was way beyond something like the combat helicopter {Cobra}!?

However, for what reason do you I think I added {Missile} to it?

It'll end up taking a bit of a detour but I can still guide it.

Since it's a lot closer than just now after all.

There's still plenty of room remaining in the effective range.

I made warhead of the {Ice Cannon} do a sudden turn as quickly as possible. Then I had it do a sudden descent leading it to the back of the {Wyvern}.

However...

Shit..

It's difficult to control big spells with {Missile}.

If it was a less powerful warhead then it'd be easier to make sharp turns though..!

The sudden turn ended up killing a large portion of the spell warheads speed.

There more of those beams from just now hit it again.

The {Ice Cannon} endured it for just a short period of time again and then quickly crumbled and scattered.

Once again the sky was filled with particles of something almost like a sparkling powder scattered about.

The speed of the {Wyvern} dropped quite a bit because of it's repeated turning as well.

Either because it was making use of that or because it was cautious of attack spells flying towards it, it started flying zigzag while shaking it's

head right and left.

Ah, is it searching for prey?

I can tell it's distracted by the hill I made in the center of the plaza.

It's already gotten quite a bit bigger than a soccer ball.

It's width with it's wings stretched out is about 10 meters.

I guess it's length is probably about the same. Or maybe a bit longer?

Looking at it from the front and the thickness of it's body seems to be over 1 meter.

It's huge.

Up against something like that I'm sure a bow and arrows would be almost meaningless.

It's suspicious if they could even pierce into it.

It would be good if the {Arrow.Of.Blindness} can stab into it but it seems pretty hopeless.

"Bel!"

"Yes!"

I heard a good reply from a place several tens of meters away.

"Shoot it down with the gun!! Also countdown!"

A bow and arrow is no good but if it's a gun then...

Since it's our first time on this floor we brought along the guns.

I had Bel use the gun, Miduchi and Kamu the bow, and Angela is using the broad sword she's used up until now.

Since there seemed to be quite a bit of forest this time I had Angela use the sword without letting her hold any projectile weapons.

For the time being I drove Bel who's probably entered the firing position to a corner of my head.

It's fine as long as I concentrate solely on her countdown.

"3!"

I need to do what I can do.

The {Wyvern} flying zigzag is already pretty close.

"2!"

Even if I don't extend the range of my spells after a bit more my magic level should be plenty to reach it.

Since this time it's already close in terms of distance.

One more shot.

It's {Fire Cannon Missile}.

"1!"

If I fire from the distance even if it were to dodge it should be fine as long as I make some slightly adjustments.

Also, it seems those beams can't be fired rapidly in succession.

I won't let you escape anymore!

We'll finish things with this!

I fire a large spear that's almost as if condensed magma has taken shape just like that.

This time there's no tricks or anything else.

I fired it in a straight line along the shortest distance towards the {Wyvern}.

For just an instant I felt the radiant heat from the warhead.

Almost simultaneously I heard a gunshot.

And then, my {Fire Cannon}...

Was obstructed by multiple beams once again and disappeared without a trace.

It can fire consecutively after all!

Nn? Nnn?

It seemed like all of the beams only aimed for my spell warhead...

Come to think of it I wonder if the bullet hit?

There weren't any beams that went towards the gun, I think.

Though there was a distance of about 200 meters it's difficult to imagine that she'd miss that large of a target.

It seems that at the very least it hasn't done any major damage.

Though I say that, the gun itself might be effective.

"Bel, that's already fine. Stop! Hide in a different location!! Everyone else continue to watch all directions of our surroundings!"

I figured out several of the opponents tricks from that just now.

The one using the spell for that beam is either not moving at all or not moving much at all.

It seems like the route for that sparkling powder all converge from fixed locations along the surface.

It's a spell that can erase my highest level of spell warhead so it should require a considerable amount of concentration.

Do they not have enough leeway to move around?

Other than that it's unknown how they're determining it but I think it aims for whatever has the higher threat level.

Though I can't say that with much confidence.

There's a high possibility that because the bullet flew faster than my attack spell on top of being extremely small it wasn't noticed in the first place.

And then while the only examples for now are spells but it seems to fire that beam when it reaches an altitude of 40~50 meters.

Is it because of problems related to the height of the ones using the spell and they can't see that high without that much of an angle?

Though taking into account how they're fired from various places on this floor and I feel like it might be different.

However, there's also the case of the {Ice Cannon} just now.

There was a very short period of time after the exposure starts and it won't even last 1 second but my spell warheads can endure the erasure.

In the end my {Ice Cannon} was an attack from almost directly below and

even after it arrived at the interception(?) altitude it didn't seem to be destroyed right away.

Even if the {Wyvern} was able to dodge it depending on the direction the {Wyvern} might end up entering the space between the spells several of the magicians(?) are using and my warhead.

Isn't that why it wasn't able to start the exposure?

Can that beam not just do damage to spells but to the body of the {Wyvern} itself?

In that case it seems like it would be best off aiming directly for us but it might be blocked by these trees and unable to accurately grasp our location. Probably.

The {Wyvern} already appears to be the size of a bath bucket.

I guess the distance is about 100 meters or so?

I can finally tell after it's approached this close but it's body from the head to it's tail should be over 15 meters long.

The span of it's wings should be a bit larger than 10 meters as well.

It's altitude seems to be 60~70 meters high from a glance.

Additionally it's looking in my direction.

I guess I was found.

Well, since I've been firing those kinds of flashy attack spells consecutively it's only obvious.

Without taking my eyes off the {Wyvern} I ran a bit and hid behind the trunk of a tree.

After that I carefully picked treetops that are outside of it's visibility

and hid behind a tree trunk several trees away from the first one I hid from it behind.

Come closer just like that!

I'll shoot you down from directly below!

Ah...

This bastard...

The {Wyvern} suddenly started rising and raised it's altitude.

It's leisurely started circling above.

Is it starting again because it lost sight of me?

However, it shouldn't have any attack methods that can be used against us.

But, continuing to glare at each other like this is bad...

I'm sure the ones firing those spell beams won't remain in the same place forever if they see this situation.

It's dangerous if I don't finish the {Wyvern} off right away.

I guess attack spells which send something flying are no good.

In that case, I'm sure {Fire Ball} wouldn't work either...

Then would {Lightning Bolt} work?

Judging from the {Wyverns} size I'd say it's current altitude is about 200 meters or so?

If I extend the range just in case then it's a distance that should be plenty to deal it a blow.

I'm sure even those beams would be powerless against electrical discharge.

Even if erasing it is possible it can reach it's destination over a distance of just 200 meters in a literal instant.

If I pour mana into the power then it should be able to deal a decent

amount of damage before it's erased and if I'm lucky it's muscles will stiffen from the shock and it won't be able to use it's wings anymore.

If it falls from that high of an altitude I feel like it could die from just that.

Just as expected from that large of a body, it should deal plenty of damage.

I look at the {Wyvern} through an opening in the treetops.
That bastard, it's not just me. It seems to have lost sight of all of us.
I gauge the timing of it's revolutions and stretch my hand out almost straight above.

Well, this should be the end.

...

.....

Now!

Lightning was fired from my left hand straight up towards the {Wyvern}.
The bluish-white sparks arrived in an instant...

It turned midway and disappeared!

Eh!?

What's going on!?

I didn't see the beam for that spell!?

Then one more shot!

It's no good.

It seems to be attracted towards whatever that sparkling stuff is.
Centering around the space where those beams passed through it seems that the

sparkling powder that was scattered has properties that attract electricity.

There's no doubt it was able to determine my position so I think while moving towards a different tree.

Like this I have almost no hands I can play when it comes to using attack spells from the distance.

The only spell that seems like it might work is {Disintegrate} but even if I were to pour all of my mana into it I'm sure it wouldn't be enough for that volume.

What should I do?

More importantly, is everyone else alright?

I scanned the surroundings but couldn't tell for sure.
There's not a single sound.

If they're hiding inside of this forest then they should be safe from the {Wyvern} for the moment.

They must be hiding while watching carefully for the casters of those beam spells.

The casters of those beam spells are troublesome as well but first off I want finish off that {Wyvern}.

In regards to the beam it should be fine to just use an {Anti-Magic Field} to block it and finish it off with bow and arrow or gun from behind that. Probably.

Ah, that's right.

In the first place it's possible it never even noticed the bullets from the gun. In that case, it might be a spell which requires proper sight of the target warhead.

Then it's best to hurry.

I'll hit with the level 9 wind magic attack spell, {Hurricane.Cluster}.
Though I feel like even the level 8 {Gale.Turbulence} would be plenty powerful
judging from that {Wyverns} body but here I should use this just in
case.

In the first place, if it's wind magic then it shouldn't see it right?

Also, even if it's erased the temporary outbreak of wind should be able to
scatter those particles.

I raised the edge of my lips and stretched my left hand out upwards.

Chapter 305 : Altar 4

There's actually another char intro/stat page in

between this chapter and 236 but I probably won't do it for a while.

It's just updated stats. If you really want to see

ncode.syosetu.com/n9511bs/348/ , and for added humor run the page through google translate or something.

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 10

A massive amount of air springs forth with my left hand as the starting point. That spreads out in a cone shape and raised up into the air as turbulence. The surrounding trees that were hit with waves from it bent back and forth twisting and shaking.

My ears popped from the rapid change in air pressure.

While still maintaining some amount of direction it arrived at the target {Wyvern} in an instant.

The {Wyvern} that was caught in the vortex of turbulence lost it's balance.

A flood of purple beams rushed there.

All of the beams rapidly moved up and down erasing my spell.

However, just as expected while even more sparkling particles were left behind almost all of them including those were scattered upwards and aren't remaining!

Without a moment's delay I sent lightning flying.

Even if it was only for a moment it was swallowed up by the super turbulent air and while it barely managed to avoid crashing my lightning flew

towards that sort of flying lizard.

"Gyaooooo~n!!"

This

time for sure my lightning hit the {Wyvern} without being obstructed by the shining particles and caught it with bluish-white shining tentacles. And then, the beams started flooding again but it was already too late. I don't know if it's because of the damage or because it's muscle stiffened up from the lightning but the {Wyvern} started falling with it's wings spread out halfway.

"Finish it off!!!"

After yelling that I started running towards the place where it seems to have fallen with my bayonet in hand.

Everyone's started regrouping from the surroundings.

Along with the breaking of branches I heard a loud thud! as a sound similar to tremors could be heard.

"Over here!"

I heard Toris's voice from the shadow of a treetop a bit ahead.

By the time I arrived Angela had stabbed her broadsword into an eye of the {Wyvern} and was gouging it out like crazy.

"Did you finish it off!?"

Someone asked but Angela is moving the grip of her sword in her right hand like she's mad and punching the side of it's head with the small spike

attached to her shield.
The {Wyvern} isn't moving.

【Condition: Shock Injury.Internal Bruising.Puncture Wound】
【HP: -9(612) MP: 25(25)】

"Angela, stop already."

It's already on the verge of death. It already can't do anything at all.

"Hie..gu"

Angela let out a small scream while moving the sword stabbed into it's eye and continued punching it with the spike of her shield with a thud~thud.

Hyun~ and someone's arrow came flying but was deflected by the scales covering it's long neck.
Is it Kamu?

"It's already fine, Maruso. Stop."

Toris embraced Angela from behind to restrain her and after taking his left glove off with his mouth touched the {Wyverns} head with it to check it's status.

"It's dead."

Tors reported to me as I finally got close to it.

【Condition: Death】
【HP: -76(612) MP: 25(25)】

"Hiu..Ha..Ha..."

Looking at Angela's face and it's crumpled with tears.
She must have been quite terrified.
I wonder if it fell right nearby the place she was hiding?
I'm sure that would be pretty shocking.

"It's already safe, the {Wyvern} is dead."

Miduchi grabbed Angela's hand and helped her stand up.

"Ah..Ma..Mad..am..Already.."

"Yeah, Maruso. It's already safe."

It seems Angela was able to recover her composure.

"Don't let your guard down. There should still be something out there."

I gave the warning to everyone.

The cage of lightning bolts is still going strong as if nothing happened.
Though the four pillars of seven-colored light that had risen up have
disappeared there should still be over 20 beings remaining that fired
those beam spells to erase my magic.

We can't let our guard down after just finishing off the {Wyvern}.

"It's fine to put off this things magic stone for now. Rather than that,
let's move to a place that's easy to defend. We'll move to just before
that plaza from just now."

We should move to the place just before entering that plaza.

Not only is it possible to secure visibility of one side but we can hide ourselves
in the deep forest.

.....

After waiting on standby while observing the surroundings for a few minutes and we could tell something was approaching.

Of course, the one who noticed and gave out the warning was Bel.

"There should be one of something with four legs from the left..and four legs from the right as well, I guess...from further in to the left..It's hard to tell..There's something coming from even further in to the right as well. Other than the close ones on both sides it's still too far so I can't tell."

At the very least there's a total of 4 of them huh...

"Miduchi, do you know they might be?"

Ralpha asked Miduchi.

That's right, Miduchi's special knowledge often shows it's true worth at times like these.

"I can't even begin to guess.."

As expected it seems to be difficult.

However, if she can't guess it then I'm sure it's impossible for anyone else.

I can hear a rustling sound in the distance and feel the presence of some kind of animal approaching.

Simultaneously there's a breath like "Bufo~"

The sound of something being crushed like crunch~crunch~snap.

"What's that sound.."

"No clue?"

Ralpha and Kimu were talking in a low voice.

"Somehow it sounds like something is being destroyed.."

"I wonder if it's breaking rocks or something?"

Zulu and Gwine are talking as well.

Hearing that and it certainly does sound like it.

"Bel! The number of legs it has is four right!? It's not two, three, or eight right!!?
It's important!! Tell me for sure!"

Hearing their conversation Miduchi asked Bel in a panic.

What is it?

"Nn..I guess so. There should be four legs on both sides, I think."

Bel replied with her eyes closed while concentrating on her eyes.

"You're certain right!?"

Miduchi's eyes started turning bloodshot from excitement.

What in the world is it?

"Three? Wai..Wait just a minute..The two nearby certainly have four legs."

Bel firmly replied after opening her closed eyes.

"We don't have any room to spare! Everyone if you see something like a cow

whether it be with a bow or spells attack it all at once! Absolutely do not approach it until we weaken it! It's no good to be gathered together as well! Dear you use wind magic to somehow disperse the air!"

If I were to disperse the air something like a bow wouldn't hit right!?

"That sound! In the worst case it might have petrification breath! No matter what you and I mustn't be hit by the attack!"

Before I could say any complaints Miduchi said some surprising details. Hearing that fear ran across everyone's faces.

"Bel you too don't use the gun but use magic as much as possible! Kamu-san it's fine if you try to hold it back. Other than that running into the forest is no good because the footing is bad. We need to run around in a wide area and somehow finish one off without a doubt!"

Even if

you say magic, that beam will...I guess it won't be erased immediately and as long as it has no visibility it can't fire the beam.

"In any case if it has four legs then it's still quite a bit better than eight legs. {Spread}!!"

Miduchi ordered with a strong tone of voice.

Reflexively all of us ran in different directions.

It was just a bit of information but I'm sure she must have thought of something.

.....

The first one I saw was the one that was approaching from the left. I reflexively hit it with {Fire Arbalest Missile} and everyone's spells cleanly hit so it ended up falling over without being able to do anything.

Various places on it's body have keratinized and it has blackish skin that from a glance looks like the shell of a turtle. It has two large horns growing from both sides of it's head and looks exactly like a cow the so-called {Gorgon}. I've heard about it.

The moment the next one showed it's face in the plaza approaching from the right I fired off a spell. It was able to evade several of them but Miduchi and mine had {Missile} added to them so they hit without a problem. We won't give them any time to spit out the breath of petrification.

However, the two that appeared after that were a problem.

They petrified all of the trees along the sides of the plaza while making crunching noises. Then they charged into the plaza we were in while smashing through the petrified trees. Both of them at the same time!

Both of them spit out grey {Petrification Breath} while going to the left and right at a ferocious speed, they approached while avoiding the attack spells Bel, Toris, Gwine, and Ralpha fired!

Freeze them?

Before it solidifies they would be able to spit out breath faster.

It's obviously impossible.

"Bufo!!"

Every time they spit out breath I use wind magic to disperse it.

After it's scattered it seems to lose quite a bit of it's effect or disappears.

However, if things keep up like this let alone freezing them I don't even have the time to hit them with attack spells!

It seems Miduchi is desperate behind me as well.

"Kimu! With your spear!"

I heard Kamu's shout.

"Sure!! Leave it to me."

Kimu replied to that like alpha and omega.

They must be trying to finish it off with Kimu's spear or Bel's spells while Miduchi defends against the breath.

Because the bow and arrows are useless Kamu who threw it aside early on and Zulu are gallantly charging at it and acting as decoys.

On my end Angela and Ralpa are acting as decoys while Gwine and Toris are acting as attackers with spear and spells.

However, while Gwine's spear is a magic weapon it's not as long as the one

Kimu uses and Gwine's body isn't very big either.

Inevitably her reach will be shorter and the burden for that portion falls on the decoys.

I want to use attack spells but there's no one else here with a high enough level of wind magic to disperse that breath.

Even on the other side there's no one but Miduchi.

Toris's {Stone Bolt} hit it's front leg by chance and if Angela hadn't seen that as an opportunity and landed a clean hit it probably would have taken a lot more time to finish it off.

Angela landed a number of attacks consecutively until Gwine's spear stabbed into it's side and Ralpa split it's head open.

Somehow we were able to defeat the one over here.

How are things on Miduchi and the others end?

I turned around while controlling my mana.

"Aaaahhh~!!"

It was just as Kamu's small body was sent flying.

I spontaneously canceled the attack spell and ran towards the direction Kamu was sent flying.

Putting aside the breath if she were to be stepped on..!

And then the worst case scenario unfolded.

"Guo"

Next Zulu's large body was sent flying and hit me so even I was sent rolling. And then flew into Miduchi just like that.

"Hiii!"

"Ah, my hand, my hand is..!!"

Kimu and Bel were hit by the petrification breath!

Before our eyes the two of them gradually turned into nonspeaking statues.

Their equipment and weapon remained just like that without change.

Shit!!

"Bel!!!"

Toris ran over towards Bel.

"Stop!!! If you get close then even Bel will be attacked!!!"

Miduchi yelled from below me.

Zulu, move!!

I sent Zulu flying with all of my strength and then started controlling my mana again as I stood up.

"leeeee~i!!"

Angela went charging in while letting out a scream with fighting spirit and cut through the neck of the {Gorgon} with her broad sword.

.....

We released Kimu and Bel from being statues right away using the spell {Remove.Petrification}.

It seems the two of them were unconscious while they were changed to stone. The moment their bodies returned they went half into a frenzy.

But, it seems they understood the situation soon after and regained their composure.

After that I healed Kamu and Zulu's injuries.

Also, at the same time as the {Gorgon} died the cage of lightning bolts disappeared.

However, since the cage of lightning bolts disappeared I wonder if that means

that beam was fired by the {Gorgons}?

I tried using {Identify} on them but they only had the special skill {Petrification.Breath}?

Let alone a magic special skill, they didn't have a single skill that might be related to that beam.

"{Status Open}..But, it's strange."

I couldn't help but say my doubts out loud.

"What is?"

Ralpha replied.

"That beam of light right?"

Bel said. That's right.

"It seems like it would be best to remain cautious for a while longer."

Toris agreed as well.

"Miduchi-san do you have any ideas?"

Gwine asked Miduchi but she didn't know either, or rather she had too many monsters that it could be so there was no way for her to determine which.

Truly so.

I'm sure every monster that can use magic would be a candidate after all.

For a short while we were on guard while remaining careful of the surroundings but nothing in particular happened after that.

For the time being we decided it was safe so I ordered the two slaves to

gather the magic stones from the {Wyvern} and {Gorgons}.

The

value of the {Wyverns} magic stone according to {Identify} was just over 890,000 by 123. The values of each of the {Gorgons} magic stones were slightly different but all four of them were around 200,000. If we sell them then it'll be over 10,000,000 Z in just magic stones.

Also, it's only obvious but we cut off the {Wyverns} thorn-like tail and carefully recovered it.

Miduchi carefully stored it away.

It's supposedly filled with deadly poison after all.

But since it has the special skill {Venom} then wouldn't it not normally have the poison?

Even when I tried using {Identify} on the tail we cut off it just came up as {Wyvern's Tail-end} and even in the sub-window there wasn't anything related to poison.

And then I realized it when we were recovering the tail but the {Wyvern}'s scales.

The largest ones were a diameter of 6~7 cm while the smallest were 4~5 cm and they're a rounded diamond shape but that one floor guardian pattern was drawn on the surface of every single one of the scales.

There

was no reaction using the {Cantrip} {Magical.Detection} but a slight reaction could be seen when using the spell {Detect.Magic}.

Everyone got really excited over this.

"If we make equipment using the scales of a {Wyvern} I can't even imagine what

kind of price they'll be worth."

and it was also largely because of what Miduchi said,

"The lord of my home town Duke Zamu supposedly has armor made using the scales of a {Wyvern} that's passed down through the generations as their family heirloom."

And what Kimu said in a daze also spurred that on.

If it's on the same level as the heirloom of a Duke family then it would be more difficult not to get excited.

It's troublesome and will take some time but there's no way we'd just throw it away.

We decided to gather all of the scales without leaving a single one behind.

And then after checking the status of the scales we gathered things got noisy again.

{Pure Breed Wyvern's Scale}

A blackish brown scale with a slightly transparent tint.

Even after checking the sub-window of {Identify} there wasn't anything particularly unusual.

Just in case we collected all 8 of the horns from the {Gorgons} as well.

{Gorgon's Horn(Left)}

Something like (Left) are you making fun of me?

I thought that but it seems no one found it strange.

Though after thinking about it there's certainly things with names like {Goblin's Right Hand} or {Ork's Eyeball(Left)}.

Somehow I just really don't care anymore.

After that we decided to first try searching the area around where the pillar of

light appeared.

It's true the beams bother me but it can't be helped thinking about things you don't know.

We decided to just start by investigating a place where we might figure something out but there wasn't any deeper meaning than that.

Relying on Gwine's memory we went to the area where the closest pillar of light appeared but it was just a small 20 meter or so wasteland spread out and we weren't able to discover anything suspicious.

It couldn't be helped so we decided to try going to the next place where the pillar should have been but it was the same.

By this point the time was already past 12:00am.

"It's about a good time but what should we do?"

Toris asked but we still can't afford to rest.

On our way up to here someone brought up the possibility that the source of the beams might not be a monster but the several altars we saw along the way.

They have a different shape from the altars up until now and a certain word floated into the heads of all the reincarnated people including myself.

In other words, a machine.

Otherwise a magic tool or magic item.

We nervously tried approaching one of the altars.

However, the cage of lightning bolts didn't activate and nothing happened just like the last time we approached them so there was no particular need to

fear them.

Even investigating them from the outside we couldn't figure out anything at all. After making up my mind I decided to send the attack spell {Stone Cannon} flying into it and it easily broke apart.

There wasn't any sort of mechanism inside it looked just like plain rock.

But, as expected everyone was completely exhausted.

Most likely, the monsters shouldn't respawn until around 10:00 tomorrow.

For the time being we should munch on some hardtack and take a rest in the teleport crystal room at the center of the room.

By the way, it's unknown how much HP it had remaining but today's MVP was

Angela who finished off the {Wyvern} and furthermore dealt massive

damage to two of the {Gorgons} after that.

It seems like her level went up as well.

Chapter 306 : Live On Bread Alone

People Cannot Live On Bread Alone

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 11

"Fu..."

We arrived at the teleport crystal room in the center of the 11th floor. It's something we figured out after getting closer but this pillar where the teleport crystal room is was just as expected a square which each side is about 50 meters just like the 8th, 9th, and 10th floors.

Over 5 hours have already passed since then.
It's completely morning.

I haven't slept in almost a full day.

Since we haven't been running it's still a bit easier than the time when we rescued {Black.Topaz} but somehow I remember the hard days exploring the dungeon with {Sun.Ray}.

Since there was a high chance that those altars were the source for the beams we went around destroying them in a hurry.

We destroyed over 20 of them in all.

According to Gwine and the altars are at fixed locations exactly 500 meters from the outer circumference lined up in a circle.

In other words, roughly 200 meters from the outer circumference is forest.

The next 200 meters or so from there is a grassland.

The cage of lightning bolts appeared around the border between the doughnut

shaped forest and grassland or at most in the center of the grassland. It was a huge cage that's over tens of times larger than the ones from the floors up until now.

Then after you pass through the grassland you enter a forest or thicket again but another 100 meters or so from there the altars are placed with a fixed distance of several hundred meters in a doughnut shape once again.

Therefore, the total length of the circular shape which the altars are placed along is around 28 kms. If we were to assume they're lined up with an average interval of 300 meters then there should be over 90 of them. I wanted to destroy at least $\frac{1}{5}$ th of them. Of course, it's believed there's a good chance the dungeons automatic repair would take effect but we still did it because we thought it would take a considerable amount of time for them to be repaired.

In any case, we went around destroying as many altars as we could in a hurry so that's why it took this much time. After all this is only the second time we've come to the 11th floor. Even though there's no hallways I didn't think we would defeat the floor guardian after just that amount of experience so the matter this time was really unexpected.

Judging from the things we saw last time we guessed that clearing the 11th floor would take far less time than every floor until now but I never thought it would be this time on just our second try.

It was a floor we were exploring for almost the first time and it's not like we could let our guard down regarding traps either.

As expected we're reaching the limits of our willpower for today.

I talk to everyone while biting a hardtack.

"Everyone, sorry when you're exhausted but endure for just a bit longer. Probably,

the {Wyvern} that was the guardian should respawn around 20 hours after last time so, tomorrow, no, it should be around 10:00 today. There's already less than 5 hours remaining. Right after this we'll get some sleep. Zulu and Angela you two take turns keeping watch."

Sorry but you two be patient with just 2 hours or so of sleep. You're slaves and can't use magic so you drew the unlucky lot. Particularly Zulu who said, "This will increase masters reputation even more!" and

cut off the {Wyvern}'s head then carried the damn heavy thing in shifts with Angela.

Even though I told them to stop because it would just add to the burden. Everyone else agree with them so I just let them do as they like but isn't it fine if we have that many scales?

"In regards to the place the {Wyvern} will respawn but I can think of several patterns. First off is the case where it respawns over in front of that hall as if protecting it. In that case it'll be the easiest.

Since it's fine if everyone just attacks it all at once.

It's got a

huge body so once it's noticed us and we can use magic then we can attack without needing to worry about hitting each other. If it's magic a distance which you can punch then I'm sure those beams won't have the time to come flying and in terms of position the forest should act as a shield so I don't even think the beams will come flying in the first

place."

Everyone's munching on hardtack and sipping dried meat soup while silently listening to me with exhaustion on their faces.

"It should be plenty possible to finish it off before the {Gorgons} come.

In regards to the {Gorgons}, the surroundings of this pillar is nothing but wasteland and viability is good so I think we'll have a safe time fighting with magic or bow. Depending on the case we can just run into this room as well.

They most likely won't be able to enter the room

just like up until now and even in the worst case they do the hall is narrow so it'll be one at a time. In that case~ it's fine if we just wait for them on both sides of the room."

Ah, even I'm having trouble thinking from fatigue. I'm glad I thought about it ahead of time.

"And in cases other than that. There was a protrusion way above this pillar right? If that's the {Wyvern}'s nest and it respawns up there then it'll be troublesome."

It started to get troublesome so I just dipped all three of my remaining hardtack into my soup.

"Nn~ I wonder about that?"

"I wonder if something like that will really happen?"

Miduchi and Bel brought up their doubts.

"What do you mean?"

Toris, Ralpa, and everyone else looked at the two of them curiously when I asked them.

"Certainly I agree if it ends up like Al-san said then it would be troublesome but if it's a floor guardian then in the first place shouldn't it respawn while protecting that entrance?"

"Yeah. I think so too. Though it'll probably move up above where it's easier to attack intruders afterwards."

Bel and Miduchi didn't just find this case doubtful but seem to have the same opinion.

"I see..Certainly that might be true."

Ralpa agreed with a self-satisfied look.

Hm~mm.

"If it were going to respawn in a place where it's at an advantage from the start then why do the Minotaur on the 9th floor all respawn gathered together? It wouldn't be strange for them to respawn separately all around the pillar right? Even the {Amber.Goliath} wouldn't it be best for it to be underground?"

Miduchi said things which all make sense.

Certainly that might the case hearing it said.

Not just myself but everyone else is nodding as well.

"Nn..That might be the case. But, for now I want to think of as many cases as possible. If it respawns above here then it's impossible to aim at it with magic because we can't see it and even if we could the distance is

too far. Even if it were to come down since we'd have to aim the attack spells upwards those beams would be a problem.
Also, it's hard to

imagine since it's called a guardian but it's possible it might not come down right away. They also say, "it's harder to see in the light" so it's even possible it might not see us right below it's feet for a short while."

I sip at my soup and swallow down the soggy hardtack together with it.

"In that case we'll test out everything we can and then return to the 10th floor. We'll restart from the beginning."

Depending on the case we might come to the 11th floor one more time but if the

cage of lightning bolts is still in effect we'll give up advancing to anymore of floors after this. It seems like the amulet will sell pretty high and there's also a high chance that the {Wyvern}'s scales we obtained this time can be made into equipment that won't lose to that in price. We can still obtain quite a bit of treasure up to the 10th floor so if we just focus on nothing but earning for the next one or two years then I should be able save up plenty of money.

Though I say that, I'm sure that won't be the case.

That cage of lightning bolts should stop when either the challenger or guardian's life signs stop or they disappear. If that wasn't the case then it's just a matter of having it already activated from the start.

"Now then, let's get some rest already."

.....

I wash my face with cold water to blow away the drowsiness.

After putting on my equipment, we started waiting in the hall of the teleport crystal room for the {Wyvern} to respawn.

Eventually the amount of light outside rapidly started to drop and it returned to the madder red twilight.

And then, the whirling fog that is the sign of respawn appeared.

"It's coming!"

I warn everyone in a whisper.

Everyone gripped their weapons once more and I can tell they're tense.

In front of the room huh...

Even though I heard what Miduchi and Bel said, honestly speaking I still found it surprising.

However it's just as they said, it's only obvious for a guardian to respawn in a position of protecting the entrance to the teleport room.

That means their guess was correct.

But, no matter how long we waited the fog just kept whirling and the {Wyvern} didn't respawn.

This is~ the same pattern as the strong mino on the 9th floor I guess?

That {Wyvern} was level 28 after all.

It's not like I'm absolutely sure about it but I guess the respawn time of monsters is based on their level?

That's probably the case.

Probably though I have close to no basis for it.

The cage of lightning bolts never activated and the pillars of seven-colored light didn't rise into the air either.

Miduchi's {Party-ization} was never canceled as well.

Just in case we remained on guard while continuing to wait in combat stance in the teleport crystal room but it seems it'll end up pointless...

After gathering our resolve we tried going outside but nothing happened in particular.

Furthermore I tried firing attack spells into the air at random but the beams weren't fired.

I guess the remaining altar-type battery guns are silent because the cage of lightning bolts wasn't activated?

So pushing ourselves to destroy the altars while we were exhausted was meaningless?

Well, whatever.

After that we continued to wear down our nerves while waiting but the fog just kept whirling and there wasn't any change at all.

Since we hadn't got any proper rest as expected our fatigue is close to it's limits. It's fine to get some rest here just like this and then continue exploring after that.

In the first place we had planned to stay in the dungeon until the end of tomorrow.

We decided to return to the 10th floor once and get some rest after having a proper meal.

After that the next time we come it might be meaningless but just in case we'll

start off by destroying all of the altars.

I'm sure it'll take close to a full day but it can be done.

Also, if we inspect how much the altars we destroyed this time have recovered

we can guess how much time it'll take for them to return to normal.

If those altars are battery guns and we destroy them even if the {Wyvern} respawns it's threat level will fall quite a bit.

Even then just in case we spent a full two hours.

We continued on standby until noon before returning to the upper floor.

Maybe we should bring along a war hammer next time?

I wonder if Karimu will lend us his?

But, it's fine to use magic to attack in order.

Even last night not just Miduchi and I but Bel destroyed a consider number of altars as well.

Thinking about that and a war hammer would just end up as more heavy luggage.

.....

We returned to the 10th floor.

There was an appetizing smell drifting about in the teleport crystal room.

"Master! Also everyone else, it's good to see you're all safe."

We still haven't carried in a proper stove magic tool so Giberuti called

out to us when he noticed while cooking over a portable stove.
Yeah. We somehow managed again this time.
But even so, that sure is a delicious smell.
Ah, beef huh.
It was the centerpiece ingredient we brought along this time.

"Ah! It's stew!"

Ralpa threw down the scales we tore off from the {Wyvern} with all of our effort and ran to the pot.
This girl..handle them more carefully.

"Wait just a moment, Ral. First we have to take care of them."

"Ow!! Ow!! Ow!!"

Bel pulled Ralpa back from looking into the pot by her ear while saying.
That's right.
That'll be for after we take care of the two giant stag beetles that respawned outside.

"Don't make such a face. Let's give our best for one more job."

I said while carefully placing the bag of {Wyvern} scales into a corner before confirming my bayonet.
Zulu carefully placed down the {Wyvern}'s head that he was holding in both arms into a corner as well.
Let's quickly finish them off before having a relaxing meal and a good rest.

Though there's still no shower.

.....

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 12

Evening, we returned to the surface just before sunset.

The sky is heavy and clouded.

The wind was blowing heavily but I guess because it's damp there wasn't all that much dust blowing around.

It feels like it's about to rain.

However, while it was unexpected we were magnificently able to finish off the {Wyvern} that was the guardian of the 11th floor and since we succeeded in carrying back a large amount of scales that could be considered {Magic.Items} our expressions were all bright.

Zenom and the

{Butchers} he was leading all seemed to have sour expressions on as if they didn't obtain much of anything and all of the members of the {Exterminators} seemed to be the same except Basutorial who lead them for the first time and seemed to have a comparatively satisfied expression on his face as they were all drinking and eating baldoggie near Murowa's food cart.

In comparison to them, Kamu and Kimu started boasting about how the 11th floor was cleared before their very eyes.

Hearing that everyone was considerably surprised at the unexpected turn of events but at the same time they were pleased with cheerful expressions.

Their expressions changed so much you'd think their sour faces from just now were all *ie*.

Yeah...

Even though it doesn't have any direct relation to their own earnings...

I see..So they're this pleased about it.

The one who triumphantly raised his voice there was Zulu. He placed down the huge bag he was carrying like Santa Claus and opened the top showing everyone while saying, "Don't be surprised, don't shout in a loud voice".

"!! Dra"Shh!! It's a {Wyvern}. As expected of master right?"

Just like that.

Though the one who finished it off in the end was Angela...

She was together with him opening the bag and bragging about me.

So they had just wanted to do this...

Right away, we went to cash in the magic stones we obtained this time other than from the {Wyvern}.

"What is it?"

Miduchi who was walking next to me asked a bit curiously.

"Hn? About what?"

"You seem very pleased."

Is that so?

Leaving behind a gentle smile Miduchi went ahead to the door of magic tool shop Danhiru and opened it.

Very pleased?

I see, so I'm pleased.

After that we returned to the inn once to take showers, change, and then had a report meeting once again. It would be bad if the {Wyvern}'s head rots so the slaves asked me to freeze it. It can't be helped~

Furthermore,

a number of members knew that {Wyvern} scales can be tailored into high class equipment because they maintain both their strength and flexibility. It seems it's normal to tailor them into scalemail or splintmail. It seems they're extremely valuable and you can't easily get your hands on them so the average armor shop around there wouldn't even be able to deal in them.

"Would it be faster to get someone from

the first knight group to introduce me to someone who can produce that sort of equipment?"

After saying that and I was told, "When it

comes to high class equipment then Karimu's armor workshop in the capital is supposedly good." and, "Wouldn't it be good to have them attached to the surface of a shield?". Come to think of it I've heard that the commanders of the first knight group used to buy their armor from Karimu's armor workshop before they started buying from us. It must be a first-rate workshop. It should be fine to ask them.

Hmm.

The

delivery of rubber armor was planned for the end of this month but either way we have three days off starting tomorrow and I have some business to take care of at my company in the capital as well. I guess I'll go and make an appointment to report(brag) to that old man King tomorrow.

If I want to meet him for even a bit of time during deliveries at the end of the month then I need to notify them during this holiday after all. No, the {Pure Breed Wyvern Scales} themselves seem to be {Magic.Item}-ish. Since I'm sure I'll be selling them through Sandak Company, first off I should go to Sandak Company...

No wait, even just for the purpose of properly appealing that I'm earning without slacking off...

.....

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 13

Even though I traveled from afar, there's no way I could suddenly meet the King or the first queen her highness Morail so suddenly today. Obviously I haven't made an appointment and I'm sure they aren't so free that they can meet a mere in and out merchant like me. No, of course I didn't think I would be able to meet them today either. I just came to make an appoint through the first knight group. If it's the first knight group

then putting aside the leader baron Logan, the sub-leader sub-Baron Bittowazu will meet me after all.

But, I went to the trouble of

coming. Thinking it would be no good when I tried asking if I could meet the leader Baron Logan and ask about sister, I was made to wait for close to 30 minutes for a reply but I was given permission. I always think it but the power of the plate symbolizing a direct merchant for the first knight group is really amazing. Or maybe it's the direct merchant for the royal family that's amazing? Unusually I was told to come to their headquarters in the second citadel so moving through all of the guards that challenge my identity every time while bowing, "Thanks for your work" I eventually arrived at the first knight groups headquarters building.

Just as I was about to enter the building I

encountered his highness Richard who seemed to have come along to discuss something with Baron Logan. I bowed to him with the almost empty {Double.Tool.Bag} filled with just three guardian magic stones and several random scales in it hanging from my waist(in the castle, while he may be a princess, since he's on duty there's no need to take the retainer's pose), and moved to the side to let him through.

"Ya~ Greed-kun. Weren't deliveries not for a short while later?"

It seems he's interested in a bit of talk about recent events. He doesn't seem to be in a hurry and neither am I.

After accompanying him for a bit he noticed the bag hanging from my waist.

"Nn...That is, could it be from the floor guardian..."

Come to think of it this person knows about the pattern of the floor guardian. I thought it would look bad carrying around the dirty looking outside in the castle so I flipped it out with the high class looking inside. I told him that I came to make an appointment with the King to report defeating another floor guardian.

"So you cleared the 10th floor! As expected."

And he was extremely impressed while saying,

"If it wasn't for the magic stones you adventurers {Vasataira} bring back the Kingdom wouldn't keep running. I've heard that the {Slaughterers} you lead are the highest peak among them, Greed-kun. It's an important duty of the royal family to praise and announce those sorts of achievements to increase the number of people who follow in your footsteps. I'm sure it would be best to hurry, I'll tell his majesty after this and try to get him to meet you. Wait inside."

and then went off somewhere.

I'm sure that Kingdom not running bit was just lip service but if I can meet the King today then there's no problem. It couldn't be helped so I asked a random person to give a message to commander Logan. And then soon after the commander came along to where I was sitting in a chair at the entrance of the knight group headquarters.

"Yo~ what's going on today? Shall we head to the reception room?"

The commander spoke with a frank manner.

"I'm sorry when you're so busy. I was nearby on a bit of business so I thought about greeting you.."

Also, blahblahblah it would be bad for me not to be here and I explained the situation.

After that I talked with him for a bit but since last week sister was sent on a campaign to a border dispute with Devas Kingdom again. I never heard about it...

Other than that, I heard rumors about it but it seems that commander Logan is retiring at the end of this year.

"I'm already 45 years old after all. It's started to get difficult in terms of stamina. Taku, Visshu, and Segan have all grown plenty as well.."

Taku

is referring to the first company commander, Viscount Takurado. Gendairu and Visshu is the second company commander Viscount Vishuru, Barkisas. And then of course, Segan is the third company commander Viscount Segan. Kendusu.

"And it's necessary for the organization to rejuvenate as well."

Though I don't think the first knight group has so many old people that it needs rejuvenation.

There's people who switched over to the second and third knight groups after losing the competition for company and platoon commander seats and even before that there's people who retired being recruited as commanders for

other territories or their home towns knight groups as well. In order to make up for those retirees roughly 10 new squires join every year.

Isn't the average age between the late 20s and the 30s?

I think it's still plenty within the realm of an organization filled with youths. Well, compared to other knight groups the average age might be 7~8 years higher I guess.

"No matter who becomes my successor I can leave Jeff to support them for a while and after Jeff retires someone else should succeed Jeff as the sub-leader. It's not like you already know them so get along well."

Things will be lonely. They're words of courtesy just for outward appearances but they're still convenient words. But, I actually liked this commander Logan. There's also the favor of him covering for sister but for some reason I like him.

"I've started to want to retire to the countryside and take things easy myself, I've already troubled my wife quite a bit after all."

Commander Logan's territory is a town called Kasoidel which is roughly 500 km east of the capital in Duke Zamu's territory and supposedly along the border of Count Rinflight's territory further to the east. Along with that he also has a territory he received when he was promoted to commander a town in the royal territory called Hamura that used to be managed by Marquis Goruttsu. It's a detached territory and even after he retires from being knight commander he'll have to move back and forth all the time so I doubt it

could really be called "taking things easy" but even then I'm sure it'll be less stressful.

It was around then that Richard came back.

His highness said two or three things to the commander before accompanying me from the second citadel to a room on the third floor of the guard tower into the inner citadel. The commander followed behind his highness after greeting him.

.....

"It seems you're doing well, Greed. I offer my praise."

"Ha..I'm very grateful for your words."

In front of me as I take the retainer's bow is the first queen her highness Morail. Obviously she's the oldest among the four queens and Richard's real mother. She's

also one of the few people who know about the floor guardians. As expected the King wasn't able to free up any time.

I handed over the {Double.Tool.Bag} with the floor guardian pattern on it for them to inspect.

"{Status Open}..this bag, it's different from equipment but it's something from a floor guardian...Hn? There's something inside? Magic stones?"

Ah, I forget to take the magic stones out.
Also the {Wyvern}'s scales.

"Inside is the magic stones from the 10th floor guardian
{Great.Underground.Vodyanoy} and what is believed to be the guardian of
the 11th floor, a {Wyvern}'s magic stone and scales."

"What! Two floors in this short period of time? Ho~ how big."

Morin said while looking at the scale with a diameter of 3 cm.
That, it's one of the pretty small ones.
Richard opened his eyes wide on her side as well.

"{Status Open}..This is!"

Her highness Morail was surprised seeing the status of the Wyvern's scale.
Scales from a Wyvern themselves are a precious item so along with that
they're considerably expensive but not anything that should surprise
royalty.

Even in remote regions of Rombert Kingdom there's places
with {Wyverns} living in them so once in every couple of decades they're
defeated by the local knight groups of those lands.

".."

She went silent while looking at the {Wyvern}'s scale.

"It seems this scale is also a {Magic.Item}. There's a reaction for all
elements of mana...Because it's from a Pure Breed Wyvern..."

I guess she was silent because she was using {Detect.Magic}.

I've already long since known that Wyvern scales were valuable so could you just put out an official notice praising us and end things already? I want to bring them into Sandak Company.

"Greed. Do you have all of the scales from this {Wyvern}?"

Morin asked while narrowing her eyes.

"Ha. I have all of them. Just in case, we also cut off the head and brought it back."

"Ho! What about the tail and claws?"

Putting aside the tail, even the claws? No one said anything about them being able to sell so we just threw them away on the spot.

"No, not those..the meat was rotting so..we didn't bring them along."

"I see..I wanted to see what they looked like..However, the things that you brought back are magnificent. I think it would be good to place the head beside it when we put out the official notice. I want to see it once myself as well."

Yeah, I thought so myself which is why I had Zulu carry it.

Though that's a lie.

Thanks, Zulu.

"Also, about these scales but what do you intend to do with them?"

"Ha, I still haven't particularly decided but either I'll bring them in to the company we use..or carry them into an armor exclusive workshop to tailor into armor..."

"Ho~ I thought you would make some armor out of them through your company."

If it was possible then that would be fine as well but I don't know how to process scales and they can't be used on rubber protectors so I didn't include in the options from the start. Leave the mochi to the mochi makers. I explained that.

Her highness Morail whispered something to his highness Richard. Hearing that his highness called for the palace guards in a loud voice.

Her highness Morail handed one of the guards who appeared her ring and ordered them to call for the King.

Han?

It couldn't be helped so all I could do was kneel and act humble.

Her highness and his highness seemed to be whispering about something serious.

Her highness seemed to be having a good time while his highness seemed to be shrinking back a bit.

While that was going on the King appeared.

"What's going on?"

He gave a slight glance towards me before taking a seat on the throne. Her highness whispered something to him.

"What! Is it even more amazing than what Zamu is always bragging about!? Here, {Status Open}..Hm~mm, Pure Breed Wyvern huh.."

So what about it?

"Hey, Greed. These scales, I'll buy them for 100,000 Z each. How about it?"

Eh? Eeehhh...!!?

"Ha?"

I was at a loss for words.

I mean, we brought back a massive amount that's way over several thousand of them you know?

It took six hours for all 10 of us to tear them off.

Assuming there's 10,000 of them that's 1,000,000,000 Z!

Am..Amazing~!

Of course I'm sure tailoring them into armor would increase the price a bit more, isn't there enough for two or three suits?

However, I'm sure it'll take six months to a year to make it, so won't it barely balance out with the cost of the fees?

Though I say that, I wonder if he won't buy all of them?

"Dear, Greed is also someone who can be considered a first-rate adventurer. I'm sure he at least knows the value. Right?"

"Ha"

No clue~ It seems I was about to be deceived.

"I was just joking. A joke."

Don't lie.

"I'll pay 200,000 each. If it's this then you have no complaints right? How many of them do you have?"

Double!

Amazing!

"Ha. That one is considerably small but ignoring the sizes and there should be about 10,000 or so.."

I'm greatly satisfied, with this.

"An? Hey! Don't screw with me! This is small..This is one of the largest sizes of scales you know!"

Not just the King but her highness and his highness were extremely surprised as well.

A normal {Wyvern} is at most 7~8 meters and it seems you can at best get about 2,000 scales that can be used for armor, it's questionable whether you'll get enough for one suit of armor or not. It seems it's common sense that you won't even have enough to think about a shield as well. If they aren't scales that are somewhat the same sizes then it doesn't look good and if they're too small then as expected it's impossible to process them. If they're below a certain size then they can't be used for armor but only the scabbards of swords or spears and such, and they end up unprocessed so the toughness drops.

I spread my fingers

out to about double the size of the one they're looking at now and said,

"The largest one is about this size I think?" and they didn't just open their mouths in shock but a sharp glint appeared in their eyes as well.

In the end, I had to return to Baldukk in a hurry and return with the

decapitated head and all of the scales. It seems they're going to invite an artisan that the royal family is acquainted with to investigate the price. I personally didn't think they would be something worth that much so I didn't even feel it was troublesome returning to Baldukk in a hurry at all.

Chapter 307 : Finally?

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 14

Yesterday was exhausting.

In the end I had to stay overnight in the royal castle.

Incidentally I didn't get a wink of sleep.

After that I returned to Baldukk once and up to chartering a carriage to

bring the {Wyvern}'s head and scales back to the castle again was fine.

I can accept that I given my own room to stay at in the third outer citadel as well.

Shortly after I arrived the King and his wife along with his highness Richard came along.

First off they said to show them the head so I showed them the frozen head of the {Wyvern} while still loaded on the back of the carriage. The moment I took off the rubber tarp covering it all three of them seemed to be unable to hide their expressions of surprise. But, by that time I had

already heard the fact that the "scales are huge" yesterday morning and since I also heard that there were a lot of scales as well, I felt it

was a bit unexpected that "they would be surprised to that extent".

After all there's not a single person in the {Slaughterers} who has seen a

real {Wyvern}. That's why there's no way I could have known that this

{Wyvern} was over double the normal size either. I just thought, it

seems to be just a bit big~

While everyone was raising an uproar including the King all of the military officers and officials who

happened to pass by were shocked seeing the head of the {Wyvern}. In the end a ton of unknown people came along switching places and standing

around as they all started another uproar seeing the {Wyvern}'s head.

I'm sure that was almost every person in attendance at the castle

hearing the rumors and coming over to take a look at it.

Before I realized it the job of managing the number of people was pushed onto me and I had the realization, "I was able to do something that impressed this many people enough to come take a look~" while at the same time

feeling proud of the allies I went to the 11th floor together with.

Up until here was busy but it was also pretty pleasant so it wasn't to the point where I minded just managing the people coming to take a look.

I'm sure something like the scales on it's head are dirt cheap so if you want it then it's fine even to give it to you. But, if I can sell it

I'd like to do that.

While I was doing that all of the artisans were called out and arrived at the castle one after another.

The number of them was a surprising 12 people.

Though they were artisans they're still coming to visit the royal castle so most of them were wearing reasonably tidy clothing.

A lot of them seemed to be pretty rich and it wasn't uncommon for them to be wearing clothes several levels higher quality than mine.

Putting that aside, the problem started when his highness Richard invited them and I into the third outer citadel to inspect the scales.

His highness Richard seemed pleased to irresponsibly say, "These four large bags are all filled with scales from the {Wyvern} at the entrance. All of you,

inspect them as you please and attach a price on them."

The bags were casually filled with the torn off scales without being organized so the artisans pointed out that it was first necessary to organize them based on the size. It couldn't be helped so I flipped one bag over thinking of making different piles with each 1 cm as the cutoff when all of the artisan's eye color changed seeing the scales and jumped at them.

Supposedly it's rare to obtain scales that over 3 cm in diameter so from their viewpoint it seems it looked like a pile of treasure. In the end the 13 of us, including myself, spent an entire night sorting them into piles with a 0.5 cm cutoff.

It seems that processing the small ones below 1 cm in diameter is difficult so they aren't worth much at all but even then they're easily worth over 10,000 Z so for the ones that are even bigger than that they're sold at the high price of several tens or hundreds of thousands of Z each. It seems there's several processing methods for each piece of armor so supposedly because I brought them in without any processing done to them they can make any size of armor they please and this will raise the price a bit as well.

And then things were difficult when it was time for each of the artisans to try and attach a price to them. The five piles of

sizes from 1 cm in diameter up to 3 cms in diameter were quickly given a price. Even though we took them all off we peeled off the small ones along with the skin itself so the number of them was the highest. It was confirmed that there were over 3,000 scales in just these five piles.

The prices they were given were from the lowest at 255,000,000 Z to the highest at 315,000,000 Z.

It was decided that they'll be

purchased at the average price these 12 artisans put on them. In other words these five piles were given a final price of 275,000,000 Z. There wasn't any major problem up to here. After all they weren't all that

different in size from the ones taken from a normal {Wyvern}.

The problem was the eight piles(after counting there was just below 5,000

of them) of scales with sizes between 3.5 cm and 7 cm and the pile of

ones even larger than that. There wasn't even 200 scales in the pile of the largest ones over 7.5 cm in size but they were given a price of

680,000 ~ 800,000 Z each. On average that's 750,000 Z and with just

these it totals to an amount close to 150,000,000.

It's too

troublesome so I'll just skip over the fine details other than this but the average price that the artisans estimated all of the scales from the pure breed {Wyvern} at was just below 2,300,000,000 Z.

However.

The above amount is an estimated price in the case of a "normal" {Wyvern}'s scales. All of the artisans said not to forget it was simply attaching a price based on only the size. In other words, in the case that they're processed and armor is made from them they're materials which are likely to create some kind of special named item and that's ignoring the price ignoring the fact that they give off a reaction from magic, they put

even more emphasis that in the case that these are tailored into

armor(supposedly it should be enough for four suits if they use all of them and even if they use them extravagantly it'll be about three suits) that price would be even higher.

Obviously it was a very grateful matter to me.

It was almost like a dream where I was about to jump up and start dancing.

After all with this...

It required almost all of my mental strength to hold back my grinning face and because I was also lacking in sleep, on the next day when it came time to report to the King I almost let out a strange voice on accident.

The high tension from lack of sleep is frightening.

.....

"..Fu...So it seems like something named will made from them.."

After hearing the report from his highness Richard and I the King nodded with a slightly excited face.

"All of the artisans were saying that together. They can be made into named armor of the national treasure grade! No matter how low the quality ends up it still wouldn't be strange for it to end up as the heirloom for a noble family.

However, in regards to the scales this time it was the

common opinion among the artisans that the quality went way beyond the highest so.."

Even his highness who is giving the report while taking the same retainer's pose next to me can't seem to hide his

excitement judging from the tone of his voice. Even in this era there's some art pieces like paintings and sculptures but since something like the patron

system hasn't been developed things like that are extremely rare and have absurd prices. It's common sense for items with unique

names attached to them to have an even higher value than those. It's

also one of the reasons why magic items rarely obtained from the dungeon are worth so much.

"Hm~mm...Though that's the case that's a matter for after the tailoring of armor is finished.."

In comparison while the King was saying something like this his voice had a spring to it.

By the way, I still haven't mentioned a single word about selling them.

No, of course it's not as if I don't want to sell them.

I just thought that if it's at the national treasure class then how about I just present them as a gift and in exchange won't you give me some

territory~

After all, when an adventurer like myself presented the previous King with a {Fire Ball Wand} he received the title of Viscount and was entrusted with a territory as a reward for it right?

I understand that it seems it can be made into {Magical.Armor}.

And not just one suit of armor but three suits..I heard it might even be possible to make four suits of armor.

But, I have no attachment towards something like magic armor.

I have no interest at all in things like national treasure or heirlooms and such.

An item that you just use as an ornament without using has no higher value than a piece of art.

Of course~ even I want expensive pieces of art.

Just by owning one you can brag about it and just by being in possession of it raises your reputation.

On top of that if someone who knows the value of it sees it they'll be impressed.

And above all else, they'll allow, I, the owner to enjoy myself.

However things like that are fine for the generations after my children and grandchildren.

Probably, there won't be enough leeway for things like that while I'm alive. I'll be satisfied as long as I can obtain the achievement of founding father. It's fine if I can just think, I did it!

Also, I think rubber protectors are plenty as the armor for my army.

Last year when I returned home I had them share some seeds with me for the para rubber trees on the condition that I don't export them in the

future. With my mana and the spell {Growth Plant} I can accelerate the growth of 500 rubber trees by 1 month everyday. If I live like in the

past where I spend everyday just eating, doing it with Miduchi, and then sleeping then even 3 months worth of growth everyday is possible. That means it would be possible to gather sap within three weeks. Well,

during that time I wouldn't be able to do anything else though.

In the end, we decided to measure the value once again after the

{Wyvern}'s scales were tailored into armor. For that reason I had to

first bring the materials to an artisan as an individual and request for them to make some armor. Of course, it's fine to sell all of the scales just like this as well. The royal family recommended that. However,

after learning that it's possible for it to be a named item the moment the armor is complete there's no way I could say something like, "Yes, sure". I won't yield on just that point.

Processing the scales will take about four months and tailoring the armor will take about the same amount of time per suit of armor. In other words, the earliest the official price can be determined is spring of next year. Well, it's a

super expensive item, that sounds about right.

Furthermore in regards to the processing of the scales but several of the artisans came forward requesting to let them do it. But, one of those, the person

named Karimu who I heard has a good reputation is the person I intended on asking. At first I thought about splitting them up equally between

all those who came forward to reduce the time it takes but supposedly each individual scale needs to be slightly bent to match up with the figure of the one wearing the armor (according to the King's wishes, first off one will be produced matching up to his highness Richard's sizes) so I heard that it would be best to leave the entire process to a single artisan.

The processing fee for one suit's worth was

estimated to be about 30,000,000 Z. It seems that the fee for tailoring the armor after that is at most 10,000,000 Z. First off it was decided to have them tailor his highness Richard's armor and shield and leave

the remaining scales unprocessed. Supposedly this is to use them to tailor a suit of armor for his highness Richard's son who currently just turned 5 years old. After he reaches adulthood they want to process them again before tailoring them into armor.

A professional armor artisan has a sharp eye for predicting the growth of the one wearing

the armor but as expected it's necessary for them to at least be at the age of adulthood. It seems that if they're at least that old they can

manufacture it while anticipating the growth of their height, arms, and legs in the future to some extent.

As expected armor is the dictionary definition of a high class item~

It's different from the rubber protectors of Bakuddo that are close to mass

production.
I was impressed.

Furthermore, it was decided that I would sell the royal grandchild, in other word

his highness Richard's sons armor at the same price as his armor is estimated to be. In other words, they reserved the exact same amount of scales as are used in his highness Richard's armor and even in regards to the remaining scales they'll keep them for repairs. I'm sure the estimated price put on the first suit of armor won't quite reach four times the amount but it shouldn't be wrong for me to hope for three times the amount.

.....

While making those sorts of over-optimistic calculations(though they've already been made) I returned to my company with a pleased face and invited Rasseg and the others out to eat.

"What's going on? Suddenly inviting everyone out to eat?"
"Al-sama, you seem to be tired today but did something good happen?"

Rasseg and Mili said after suddenly being called out from the workshop.

"Hn? Yeah, that's right. You'll find out eventually. Right~ Harisu?"

"Wa, yes?"

Harisu had a face on like he didn't really understand and didn't know how to reply.
That's only obvious but you should make a bit more overjoyed of a face without getting so tense, right?

"Ah, yeah. Around tomorrow, no maybe even today, I think an official notice will start going around?"

When I said that while unable to endure grinning and it seems the Donneoru couple understood right away. They must think it's because I was able to clear the 10th floor.

"Nfufu. After eating I'll be returning to the store to sleep for a bit. You all, take today off from your jobs and go check out the government office or something, alright? There's no

problem~ Leila and the others will watch the store so there's no need to worry. Right? Go and take a look for a bit."

Since I'm saying that much Resseg and Mili both nodded.
Fufufu.

Supposedly today at noon the {Wyvern}'s head will be displayed in front of the government office along with the official notice.
I definitely want you to take a look!
Since it seems they'll be taking it to a mounting artisan tonight after all.

.....

In the evening when I returned to Baldukk I was relaxing in my room before dinner when I was caught by Miduchi.

"It was decided the scales will be tailored into armor. I don't know how much it'll be worth until spring of next year."

I started talking in my room.

Miduchi's sitting on the other side of the table while drinking bean tea with ice floating in it.

"But you already know the rough estimate right?"

"Yeah.

Each suit should be worth over 1,000,000,000 Z. Depending on how things go it wouldn't be strange for it to even reach 2,000,000,000. Though

how many suits can be made I really won't know until a bit more time passes. But, it's estimated to be at least two suits."

In any case before they actually start the processing it's necessary to plan out the objectives for the processing. Along with that some temporary tailoring is necessary. It's necessary to listen to the wishes of his

highness Richard the one who will be using it and the design needs to be decided as well. By this point a rough estimate of the number of scales that will be used is done. By this point the number of suits that can be made will roughly be determined but just the same as before there's no way of knowing in the end.

After that, the processing of the scales will start based on the design. Obviously it's possible for

processing the scales to fail so there's no way of knowing the yield until the processing is finished. After that they need to sort through the scales

that can be used. Along with that they'll perform temporary tailoring a number of times. At this point the number of scales used of each size is finally accurately identified. It's only at this time that the number of suits that can be made is accurately identified. It's said that it'll most likely be two or three suits. Since it seems they're

intending to use the scales extravagantly after all.

"Amazing! If it's two suits then that's 4,000,000,000!? Even after paying the bonuses and taxes that's 3,000,000,000...It seems like the amulet will sell pretty high as well..If it's like this then"

Miduchi's face got even more excited and it might be my imagination but has a bit of a blush mixed in.

"Yeah.

Though it depends on the prices of the other {Magic.Items} as well.

Putting aside the other {Magic.Items}, with the amulet and everything

I've currently got on hand I think it'll add up to close to

12,000,000,000 Z."

"..I see. Congratulations. You're dream is going to come true.."

Miduchi placed her cup with the bean tea on the table and said with a smiling face like she was about to cry.

"Yeah. Umm..Thanks."

Miduchi and I exchange glances.

A smile naturally appears on my face as well.

Gradually our faces get closer.

It was right then, I heard the sound of someone rudely running up the stairs of

Boil Manor.

There sure is someone rude out there.

..It's not as if we're the only ones lodging here after all.

I felt a bit disappointed.

A bitter smile appeared on Miduchi's face as well.

I shrug my shoulders.

However, those rude footsteps came up to the door of my room and knocked.
Who is it?

"Greed-kun, are you here!?"

It seems they're in a hurry.

This voice, it's not the {Slaughterers}.

But I know it.

It's the leader of {Black.Topaz}, sis Anderson's voice.

Side Story 30 - In the case of Moroi Hisa (Age 16 at time of death)

(Come to think of it today was Valentine's Day..)

Moroi Hisa remembered after hearing the words of the high school girls talking noisily inside of the bus. Seeing the uniforms of the high school girls Hisa could tell they were upper classmen of the Hatsudai High School he attends. In reality he already knew the face and name of just one person among them but Hisa wasn't being conscious of her. He wanted to think that way.

(Yukino-san..She won't notice me at all..)

Up until they entered elementary school, since their houses were close by during kindergarten they would often play together you could say she's a childhood friend one year older than him. When they went up to

elementary school they separated from Hisa moving and that was the end of it. However, soon after entering high school and when he was taking orientation for club activities, Hisa immediately recognized that the manager of the soccer club was his childhood friend Yukino. Since even after entering the club and introducing himself Yukino didn't react to his name at all he hasn't been able to mention it until now.

If you were to say he's just a substitute first year member who doesn't

stand out and isn't even in Yukino's consideration then that would be the end of it.

(That chocolate, after all it's for Sugii senpai..)

"I want the soccer club to give it their best as well. You know Takashi-senpai, because of his sense of responsibility as the former captain even now he still is properly looking after everyone. Isn't that amazing?"

While hearing Yukino talk to a girl who seems to be her classmate next to her Hisa recognized that he was getting even more depressed.

(For her to not even realize that one of the underclassmen of that soccer club is on this bus at this time..)

"Sugii-san, is he still coming to the school? Was the school he was entering already decided?"

"Yeah, it seems he's going to Jonan Music School! And, he intends to make a band! Isn't that cool? Even today he came to the school to coach some juniors! Isn't that great of him?"

Yukino's voice which stretches out the ends of all of her sentences echoed well through the bus.

(Thanks to that I'm greatly troubled though..Even today I was driven out by Sugii-senpai and the others and made to go and buy a present..Well, it's my own fault for losing at rock, paper, scissors though)

The next generation captain after Sugii as well, because even after retiring he often shows his face under the pretext of individual coaching he's gotten sick of Sugii, so they planned a farewell party to try and chase him away.

(Shit, I can't concentrate on my game either)

Every since Yukino and the others got on the bus he's lowered his face to look at his smartphone trying to not to stand out as he plays a boring game.

It's supposedly a popular title recommended to him by friends in his class. He's been playing it since just now but he couldn't understand what was fun about it at all.

He heard a loud squealing sound from the left and the glass windows from the wall behind Yukino and the others went flying. Yukino came flying along with the bench she was sitting on.

.....

(It seems I was somehow saved..)

Hisa could somehow remember up to where the train came plunging in but he couldn't remember anything after that. A pain as if his entire entire body was being crushed, he sort of remembers that but he wondered if he was stuck in between some kind of material of the bus and train when he was rescued.

It seems he was seriously injured as his eyes are blurry and he can't see very well but since he was somehow able to see that the walls weren't white so he thought it must be a considerably

stylish hospital. He must have been injected with a strong pain reliever as even the slightest bit of stimulation causes him to react and cry out but there was nothing like being scolded either. Somehow it seems his head is a bit dim as well, the talking of the nurses or doctors

aren't entering his head at all either. Not just that but it even sounds almost like a foreign language or something.

However, in just a few days he noticed that somehow things seem strange.

And then, while carefully observing his surroundings and touching various parts of his body he gradually started to understand.

(Where is this? Who am I?)

I wonder if this is the so called spiritual out of body experience and possession I've heard about?

The fact that he couldn't speak well, in the end was it really the best for Hisa.

The confusion lasted for at most one day and after that he was able to take his time thinking.

.....

After several months passed and Hisa was able to obtain a considerable amount of information.

Probably because the words were close to English but he was able to somewhat understand what someone was talking about.

Obviously his eyes has started to be able to see clearly.

The scenery he saw was almost like that from some kind of Traveler's

Journal magazine in the remote areas, not to mention some developing country where no convenience electronic goods exist.

On some plains and a forest with not many hills there were just fields cultivated by human power spreading out.

And then he was a baby.

His parents had the appearance of Westerns but they seemed strangely young. He already found out his name. Matthew is new name Hisa was given. Since he energetically moved around for the fir six months after being born, he ended up being tied up to a pillar so he doesn't move around foor

long as he pleases.

It seemed like his family were farmers and they were often seen going to the fields carrying what could be called

considerably primeval farming tools.

It's not like there's anything in particular to do, it's all things that he couldn't understood from just thinking about it.

(What should I do..)

Hisa, now known as Matthew thought but after all there was not a single thing he can or could do.

(After all I, died didn't I..)

Since he was bored he confirmed his current situation countless times and thought about it. It's only obvious that the conclusion he came to every time was the same.

(Father and mother..I wonder how they're doing..)

.....

Von! Von!

He could hear the barking of a wild dog.
Usually even if he hears wild dogs it's just at the level of howling.
It was unusual that he could hear it from this close.

Genbiru Village where Matthew lives is in the inland areas near the center of Duke Belgriddo's territory.
The public order is decently good and it's a land with almost no damage from monsters.

Though thanks to that the Viscount and squires who govern the village have had their sense of danger drop but that's nothing to criticize them over.

(It's considerably close.)

Judging from the volume of the barking he was able to guess it was right near the house.

Unable to control his emotions Matthew started crying in a loud voice.
Since he started crying in the middle of the night Matthew's mother left the house holding him.

Matthew would occasionally cry at night but he would often stop crying right away after circling the house one time.

.....

And then several days passed.
Some nights, just the same as usual Matthew's mother would carry him outside

around the house in the middle of the night when he starts crying, but this day developed in a major incident.

They were attacked by a wild dog.

However, fortunately they were also able to chase it off right away.

Hearing Matthew's cries spurred on by the wild dog attacking and his own wife's screams the father of the household quickly ran out of the house and things ended without a problem.

Though that's the case, there was 4 or 5 wild dogs.

Including Matthew his parents suffered some light bites wounds.

However, the wounds were really light and even to a baby like Matthew they weren't anything significant.

Obviously there was no problems with his bones either.

Matthew himself even thought (it should heal cleanly in 2-3 weeks).

.....

One day around two months later, the abnormality first appeared in Matthew. He felt listless from the morning almost as if it was a light cold and

even though the bites have already completely healed the area where he received it around his knees itched.

The reason is unknown but he felt strong feelings of unease as well.

(Ah, it can't be helped since I've returned to being a baby but I'd like to be pardoned from this~)

Since up until now Matthew had been unable to control his emotions numerous

times he didn't realize he was infected with a disease.

The name of the disease is {Rabies}.

Even since ancient times on Earth it's stolen countless lives and still

hasn't been eradicated, after the symptoms have started to appear even in modern times there's no treatment method, a frightening disease that has tens of thousands of victims every year.

The only salvation could be that it can't be spread from one person to another.

.....

Just a few days after that Matthew completely stopped drinking water.

Every time he tried to swallow soup or water an intense pain ran through his throat.

And then soon after just seeing water caused him to remember the pain, he would get afraid and cry out half in confusion.

Matthew's parents were unable to do anything.

They brought him to the healer in the village where he was diagnosed with hydrophobia and were told there was nothing that could be done.

When asked by the healer if the parents had any idea of how he could have gotten sick they couldn't think of anything. Being bitten by cats or

dogs is a daily occurrence in this sort of remote territory and above all else there's far more frightening monsters out there, the healers have no knowledge that cats or dogs could be the source of disease

either.

In the end they just had healing magic used on him once for consolation and the family returned to their house.

Patients with an outbreak of hydrophobia last at longest a few days before all of the muscles in their bodies go numb and they die.

His parents lamented and were saddened, but the two of them couldn't have even

dreamed that they would follow after their son from an outbreak of hydrophobia as well.

Side Story 31 - In the case of Yazawa Ikuko (Age 61 at time of accident) Part 1

The end of the year before last Ikuko turned 60 years old and retired from the company that she had worked for the 38 years after graduating from college and was now riding the train for the sake of getting a medical exam for chronic disease. Ikuko was a shipbuilding engineer. When she first found employment, female shipbuilding engineer were unusual and she went through quite a few troubles but since she was blessed with

talent she was proud of the fact that she managed to stand at the front line of designing ships through her lifetime.

Since the time she entered the company it underwent reductions as well as business

transfers and mergers, and along with that the name of the company was changed a number of times as well as downsizing. However, since Ikuko was superior and had actual results she managed to overcome all of

those. She never actually got a license for an ocean engineer but she always took part as the representative of the design department on the test voyages of the ships she took part in the design of and didn't

overlook a single abnormality.

When she was still young and

didn't have any experience she was only allowed to take part in the

design of motorized sailboats of the tens of tons class but since she was one of the faster staff members to learn to use the CAD software as it was developed she was able to take charge of the designs when it came to a cargo boat with a max load of over 60,000 tons a panamax (the

maximum size that can pass through the Panama canal). It was a promotion that almost seemed like a lie. Also, she ended up handling a number of large fishing boats that do deep water fishing and smaller coastal boats over the short-term as well. Those sorts of large scale ships down to motorized sailboats which require sails a wide range of actual results made Ikuko's reputation shine.

Before long she was even known as the hope of the hull fundamentals design department of industrial

military vessels both domestically and internationally.

However, no matter the life they all end up reaching their end, she wasn't able to escape the company regulation called required retirement age. There was the route of remaining in the company part-time as well but she

wouldn't be allowed to stand at the front line jobs of designing ships and above all else there were some anxieties about her health so Ikuko decisively cut off her attachment and retired. Also, you could say one of the reasons is her long-time husband who was five years older than her retired from his company around the same time as well.

Her health insurance from her time as an employee was still effective even after retirement as long as the fees were still being paid for it so she was able to take the medical exam at a considerably cheap price.

Additionally, she was looking forward to the trip to the city a bit for the first time in a while after they purchased a house in the remote

areas of Kanagawa prefecture.

As expected she couldn't win

against her age and there were C and even D results on her medical exam.

Ever since the result of her last exam came up with the decision

"requires specialist examination" she's been visiting a hospital in the city one a month. Of course, it's also because this hospital is one

designated by the insurance she has through her company as well so the

amount she has to pay herself isn't much.

(I wonder what I should have for dinner tonight?)

While she was thinking that the train she was riding ended up in accident.

.....

Yazawa Ikuko was born and given the name Kristina as the eldest daughter of the Viscount Hanigan family which is the lord of a village called Avu in the territory of Count Metokafu on the Western edge of Devas Kingdom.

Since Avu village is a considerable distance from the coast she wasn't able to smell the salt from the ocean.

It's not like they were particularly wealthy but if in the worst case something happens to her older brother the heir then Kris would end up having to take over as

head of the family. For that reason she was made to participate in combat training since her infancy as well. However, around the time she reached adulthood her three year older brother married, then two years after that his eldest son, her nephew was born. Another year after that since her nephew was growing up healthy, he formally underwent the naming ceremony, and top on top of that her older brother was blessed with yet another child so the chances of her having to succeed the family had decreased significantly.

Since she had only taken part in combat training up until now and didn't know

farm work her choices were limited. Marrying an appropriate squire and joining their family as the wife of squire family was the most realistic choice but Kris rejected that.

(I wanted to try making wooden ships as well right~)

Kris thinks as she looks back on her life after reincarnating. The reason why the culture of this world of Orth doesn't seem to be developing.

Isn't that because marine transportation hasn't developed almost at all?

As expected she only had the basic surface knowledge on how the internal combustion engine works so that can't be helped but if she makes use of her experience designing motorized sailboats and large scale ships then couldn't she make a proper sail boat, is what she was thinking.

The design plans are still inside of her head.

She also has knowledge about the sextant and quadrant which aren't known on Orth. Though it's just the sun and moon but there should be a revolution table for those in the world as well..probably. Since there's the magic tool clock that is supposed precise then even if they can't see land navigation should be possible during times while looking at the moon as well..if the weather is good.

And then, her Unique Ability which should be able to make effective use of those, {Magnetic.Body}. The

effect Kris recognizes of it is to let her feel and create a magnetic field on her body. After she first noticed her Unique Ability she was only able to somehow tell the directions North and South but as her

Unique Abilities level increased she was able to generate a magnetic field on her body and even discovered she could freely control the lines of the magnetic force and the magnetic field.

It was almost like magic. In regards to that magic as well, after reaching adulthood she learned it well and put it into practice. It seems like she had more

mana than other people so around the time she reached her 19th birthday the three types of elemental magics she could use all had reached level 2 and void magic had even reached the high level of 3. Going off her common sense, it was an unbelievably high level for her age.

Well, putting that aside, as a matter of fact both the quadrant and sextant already existed and were being put to use. Since they require mirrors that make use of glass which is close to perfect transparency they're extremely expensive and Kris just doesn't know. If they didn't then no one would be able to tell the height of mountains and when it comes to creating large buildings unless they knew about the Pythagorean Theorem during the development stages then those would be impossible as well.

The reason why techniques relating to open sea voyages hadn't developed was none other than just the fact that measuring the direction was difficult. After all in the places where mining is possible on Orth there's no minerals which have magnetic fields to them, in other words magnets can't be found. There is geomagnetism. It's just a matter of there being no compass.

One such day, she tried asking her parents about something she had been thinking for a while.

"Father, my water, fire, and wind magic skills have all reached level 2. Please teach me the magic {Cure Light}."

Her father Viscount Hanigan is a skilled magician who can use all elemental magics as well and on the side of his duties as lord he also acts as a healer for the village. He's considerably skilled at using magic but at his age of 42 even water magic which he's the best at is only finally level 4. Healers are only full-

fledged after they can use {Cure Light}. Among those particularly when the user uses it with water magic the effects of it are high and they won't be troubled for food no matter where they go.

That's right, Kris was planning to start off being employed as a healer and look to receive investment capital from a high ranking noble who has a large town or territory in order to make a ship capable of open sea voyages.

"I see, Kris. Congratulations. You've done well giving it your best with your training. However, for all three of your elemental magics to be at level 2 at that age huh..It's quite

something."

While showing admiration Viscount Hanigan was also greatly welcome to the idea of Kris being able to find employment as a healer. Since this Avu village has another healer including Viscount

Hanigan there's no vacancy for Kris but there's any number of towns or villages which would want a healer. It's not as if there's any openings with squire families either so the fact that she's willing to leave the house and support herself was convenient for he, her parent as well. Of course, it's lonely that his daughter leaves his side but if he wishes for the happiness of his daughter then it's something to be glad about.

"Well then let's start right away from this afternoon.."

.....

It didn't take much time at all for Kris to be able to learn {Cure Light}.

She was properly about to learn it within two weeks of starting the Viscount's lectures and she's already proficient with it. Over six months has already passed since then and she's in the middle of making preparations to move to the capital of the Count's territory Rakon. If it's Rakon, while the population doesn't even reach 10,000, they should still want all the healers they can get.

It was during that sort of time. An official notice was issued by the crown prince centering

around the high ranking nobles in charge of each region. The official notice was passed around using fast horses running to the various places high ranking nobles rule.

The below details are the abridged version of what it said.

Recruitment for the imperial guard of his highness crown prince

Alexander.Belgriddo. Through the powerful magic of Royal Court Wizard, sub-Noble Rentia.Geguran, we offer a figure that those who were born with the aptitude will react to. The required distinction for the aptitude is as listed below.

1. Born on Year 7428, Month 2, Day 14
2. Black hair, black eyes
3. One who has said the password

The password is the name of the figure enclosed. Have your subordinates transcribe this figure as accurately as possible and on top of sending it to all nobles who govern towns and villages, make sure it's shown to all social standings of citizens who meet the above listed conditions 1

and 2. There's no limitation on social standing, gender, or race. And then the words that are uttered upon seeing this figure. If it's someone with the aptitude then just that should bring the password to mind.

[Figure](#)

The password is {Nihon} otherwise {Nippon}. As well as words that have a similar pronunciation as those. In the case that someone who has met

these qualifications appears, no matter what the difficulty the lord

should overcome them to escort those qualified to the royal castle. If they are confirmed as being qualified and employed by the imperial guard then for the expenses of that a considerable amount will be paid from the national treasury. Also, along with that a reward will be paid as well. Furthermore, even in the case that they weren't someone with the qualifications you will not be punished for it and money will be paid to cover the escort expenses for up to two people.

There was some other finer details in regards to the reward money and conditions but they're omitted here.

After receiving the official notice Count Metokafu got to having his

subordinates transcribe the necessary password and figure pages for the villages and towns in his territory and had the knights deliver them.

One of those arrived in Avu village.

After Viscount Hanigan

received the official notice from the knight he immediately showed it to Kris. The Viscount knew that his own daughter was born February 14th and has black hair and eyes after all.

"Kris, take a look at this. Do you know what it is?"

A shock ran through Kris's body after she was shown the figure.

"Eh...This..Nippon..."

Kris looked back and forth between the figure and her father's face a number of times.

Why does father have this?

Of course, Japan hasn't ever appeared in their topics until now.

"U~mu. It can't be, for you to have been one with the aptitude..No, but.."

Viscount Hanigan was surprised as well but he did have some thoughts on it. Kris was only a bit above average with the martial arts but she was a superior child no matter what she does.

"Wh..y? This, what is it? Why does father have!!?"

Viscount Hanigan was surprised by Kris approaching suddenly but without losing his calm he stated.

"It seems to be an official notice from his highness the crown prince.

Since you said the password, it should be fine. Will you read it?"

Kris grabbed the official notice offered from her father's hands and stared closely at the details. And then started laughing.

"Ffu. Nfufufufu. I see now. The imperial guard for his highness the crown prince indeed.."

Kris wanted to openly show her delight but she couldn't afford to remain cautious as well.

If his highness the crown prince is a Japanese person then it's fine.

However, the possibility that one of his subordinates is a Japanese person and it's a suggestion from that subordinate can't be ignored either.

For example, the {Court.Wizard} written down here.

Kris was wondering if it was the equivalent of her knowledge of Orth as that of a {Court.Mage}?

However, there's no doubt that it can be thought of as a large, a very large connection.

It's only obvious that in order to make the ships Kris wants to make it will

require an unusually large amount of money.

She thought it would be fine if she spent the rest of her life just for the sake of building one ship.

"Father. It seems I have the aptitude to join the imperial guard of his highness the crown prince. I'm going."

If she wants a far higher and more stable income than something like a

healer and depending on the case she might even have the chance to gain peerage as a Viscount. It's not unreasonable for Viscount Hanigan to

think like that.

From his point of view he felt like the future prospects of his daughter opened up.

"I see. Go and do what you need to do. I won't hold back in supporting you."

Kris arrived in the capital of Randogurizu one month later at the beginning of fall.

Side Story 31 - In the case of Yazawa Ikuko (Age 61 at time of accident) Part 2

"I've brought someone one who has aptitude for the imperial guard of his highness the crown prince. Please convey this."

The sub-Commander of Count Metokafu's knight group started talking to the gatekeeper of the royal castle Gamuroi that towers in the center of the capital Randogurizu. In order to send Kris here the Count sped up the

departure for the caravan of the top company in his territory by one month and sent along an escort of 1/3rd of his knight group as guards that was 12 true knights, true 20 squires, and another 60 conscripted squires for a large unit of close to 100 people. Incidentally Count Metokafu believed that Kris was really someone with the aptitude just from seeing her birth date, black hair, and eyes, so it was just a matter of that being the case.

They split ways with the caravan of the company when they entered the capital but since they had sent an advance notice they were able to step foot into Gamuroi castle without any large confusion.

"Come this way..There's an interview."

Only Kris was invited further into Gamuroi castle. It seems she splits ways with the escorts here. After Kris politely thanked the escorts for

bringing her up to here she followed the official who came to guide her.

Kris started thinking while quietly waiting in the reception room she was

brought to.

(Interview..Well, I guess it's obvious...Now then, I wonder to what extent the crown

prince or whatever understands the importance of marine transportation..)

Obviously, she doesn't think even the slightest bit she'll fall through the interview. Since she thinks it's impossible that someone gathering Japanese people would reject her but that

assumption is correct.

After being made to wait for a bit over ten minutes, around the time she was starting to feel a bit restless,

the door of the room finally opened and three men armed with swords entered the room. All of them have black hair and eyes and nostalgic Japanese facial features.

Two of the three men are Hyumu and one appears to be a dwarf. One of the Hyumu's was wearing some considerably high class looking clothes with high practical use and has on a

superficial expression but his build is reasonably good with tight muscles. The dwarf man was wearing the same design of clothes as the superficial looking Hyumu but he was completely expressionless.

"Umm, Hanigan-san? Born in Metokafu?"

The man with a slightly superficial expression asked. His hair is grown out a bit long and tied up behind his head.

"Yes. I'm Kristina.Hanigan."

Kris said that while standing up and stretching out her right hand.

"{Status Open}..Certainly it seems like Hanigan-san herself..Ho? Three elemental magic skills huh.."

After taking her hand and confirming her status the superficial looking man sat down and urged her to sit as well. Kris only just realized it but

this superficial looking man has some kind of emblem on his left chest.

The design is considerably intricate and it's something like a spear, sword, and phoenix mixed into one.

And then, the dwarf man who's sitting on his left side with short hair and black beard also has the

same emblem on his chest. He has a very sturdy and powerful build that is suitable for a dwarf but there's also a sharpness that can't be felt from him as well. Since the clothes and emblems of these two are uniform it could be possible they're related to a knight group.

It seems the man on the right side doesn't have anything like that on him but he has a brooch that's almost like a true circle that's been polished into a hemisphere shape which leaves an impression. He's the one who feels the most balanced between the three of them and is considerably good

looking. However, he's trying to remain expressionless to not give off any sort of individuality and while his clothes look a bit neat they don't appear to be anything too expensive.

"Now then, let's get down to serious introductions. I'm Myuneil.Sagal. It's fine if you call me Myulu or Sagal, whichever you please. And, this is Tsetto. The one sitting on the other side is Hekkusu."

The two who were

introduced didn't show a single change in their expressions and just nodded when their names were called. Kris thought they would stretch their hands out to confirm status but instead of that they were just nodding. It was a bit of a disappointment.

"Fumu. I think you already know but could you say something for us? Probably, it's just as we imagine but, just in case, right? Ah, I see, even if you're suddenly told to say something it's difficult to do isn't it...Then make it something you're skilled at or something you want to try doing, how about saying something like that?"

The superficial looking man Myulu said.

"Obviously, in Japanese, is what you mean right? I understand. Before I say what I want, is it fine for me to ask a question?"

The moment she replied, the three men showed expressions of relief all at once and additionally relaxed their expressions.

"Umu. It was what we predicted but for it to be this effective.."

"However, if things go this well right from the start it's somehow a bit frightening."

"It was the right choice to make it a simple figure of a Japanese map.

After all if it were to come to Kanji you never know what might happen along the way. Ah, a question was it. Feel free to ask whatever you want."

Kris slightly had predicted it from the moment she saw the faces of the three men. After all these three were reincarnations.

Since she was permitted to ask a question Kris opened her mouth.

"I understand right away that you were trying to gather Japanese people. I can

somehow imagine the reason as well. Putting that aside, what does everyone thing about Orth, No, about how the culture of Devas Kingdom doesn't seem to have developed much at all?"

After hearing Kris's question the three of them exchanged glances once. It's good that they don't have to start from boring conversation but it seems they were

debating who would act as representative to reply to the question they were suddenly thrown.

"..That's a difficult question. Certainly just as Hanigan-san pointed out the development of culture seems to be a bit distorted and we can't help but think that the development speed is considerably slow compared to Earth. But, that's the response in the

case that you're making the assumption the history that's been passed down through generations is correct."

The man with the brooch replied. It's the good looking guy introduced as Hakusa. His hair has grown out in an incomplete way.

"It's said that this Devas Kingdom has 1,000 years of history but if I were to speak my true feelings I think it's just an exaggeration. Even on

Earth there's no cases of a single constitution lasting for 1,000 years.

You could say that the Roman Empire and Japan are exceptions in how long they've have similar constitutions but putting aside the outward appearances of those two, in fact they've undergone a number of internal changes.

Also, in this situation there's no guarantee that the

history that's been passed down is correct as well I'm sure. Even on

Earth there were a lot of countries that claimed "this country has 1,000

years of history" with no proof or basis after all."

After Hekusa said that far he scratched his right ear with his left hand.

"Putting aside the history of Earth, first off there's the existence of magic.

Next up is the yield of mineral resources, No, the fact that there doesn't seem to be any sort of convention to the locations of mineral veins. Ah, this might just be that we still haven't discovered a convention to it though...And then, the existence of monsters. Finally there's the fact that horses and cattle are immensely valuable, you could say those four are the primary reasons."

Since Kris was remaining silent Hekusa started talking again.

"Since healing magic exists it seems the development of medicine is quite a bit behind. Though I say that, it's in regards to surgical procedures and when it comes to internal medicine there's some benefits from nostrums and other things but they're probably just things like those from ancient Earth with a bit of a bonus from magic I'm sure. If Hanigan-san has knowledge of medicine then I think we can promise you good treatment."

Kris silently shook her head as a reply.

Seeing that Hekusa slightly shrugged his shoulders and continued talking.

"Just the same since there's fire magic the techniques relating to metallurgy still seem pretty limited as well. The methods to make alloys are close to secret art only passed on in families of workshops and putting aside purification, we believe that the low level of refining is proof of

this. Almost all of the manufactured metal products are casted and we

think that's the reason why no one seems to arrive at durable forged products. Obviously since manufacturing techniques are still immature when it comes to producing small or fine parts it's impossible unless it's done by a considerably skilled artisan."

Sagal and Tsetto were listening with their arms crossed. They've probably heard this type of conversation countless times up until now.

"There's one more reason why this metal manufacturing technique is still underdeveloped, it's in regards to the matter of ore veins I just mentioned. Inside of the sedimentary rock of the sandstone layer you might find a vein of bronze ores and just as you think that you could end up taking silver ore stones from the mud and rock layers, furthermore you could end up finding high purity iron ores and solder from layers of granite, there's times when pewter alloy comes out as well. The yield of alloy ores isn't high but because their existence has already been confirmed I'm sure it's difficult to come to the idea of creating alloys from scratch. Since metallurgy techniques are something with developed on the foundation of making alloys after all."

It was Kris's first time hearing things in regards to this matter so she was surprised but it

made sense as she listened to Hekusa's conversation.

"And then, the fact that there's monsters wandering around acts as a direct obstruction for different cultures and civilizations to have any interaction. It's difficult to domesticate them and almost all of them are carnivores with a brutal nature. They're also the reason why it's difficult for villages and towns to clearly set borders and expand. You could

say the sole salvation is that they're overall population is low compared to the number of people. Well since they're carnivorous you

could say it only makes sense that they don't exist in a large quantity though."

After Hekusa confirmed that Kris was nodding as she listened he continued his words.

"It's also difficult that cattle and horses are so valuable. One of the

reasons is because it's so easy for food circumstances to end up getting worse. Edible meat can be covered with pigs and chickens but the lack of dairy products should be a good indication of that right? The other direct reason is because a network of transportation is difficult to

develop. Since mass transportation is difficult to develop, industrial manufacturing trade doesn't develop either. I think it's happened many times where a long awaited industry was born but it was unable to grow larger and then ended up dying out while still small."

Kris thought this is it! Since it seemed like his conversation was finally over, from here on is Kris's turn.

"Certainly I think there's a limit to transportation just over land. But isn't it possible to cover quite a bit with maritime transportation? At the very least shouldn't areas along the coast receive plenty of blessing from that?"

But, Tesetto cut into the conversation.

"Open seas voyages can't be done. Handling large ships along the coast is difficult so in the end things go from start to finish with small ships traveling very short distances."

While making a difficult face Sagal continued after that as he opened his mouth.

"There's tools that resemble the sextant and quadrant. They have idiotic levels of prices though. However, the most essential compass doesn't exist.

Magnets don't exist. There's no method of determining your direction on the sea. Since you quickly end up losing sight of land and in the first place since movement is entirely dependent on the wind there's no hope even then."

It's fine come. The details were just as Kris

predicted but so that's how it was. There's already the quadrant.

However, the fact that there's no magnets is the most fatal point. Even on Earth a proper compass was made after the 10th century. Up until then they just measured the direction by floating a magnet in some water and on top of a ship it wasn't very useful. Kris says while grinning.

"Thank you for the valuable information. Then I'll say what I want to do. I

was a shipbuilding engineer. I'll make a ship large enough that can do marine transportation so please give me money and people."

It seems her skills can be sold quite high. She tried changing her tone of speaking.

"However, you. Hanigan-san. For you to start saying to hand over money right from the start that's quite the confidence."

"No not all, isn't that proof of her confidence right. Didn't you hear? She can make large ships, this is amazing."

"A shipbuilding engineer huh..But even if you make just the ship.."

"And? How about it? If you can give me money and people then I can make a ship capable of voyaging the open sea."

"Don't hurry so much. Even if it comes to giving money in the first place we don't have that kind of authority."

"But, if she can make a warship.."

"Yeah. It's possible they could approve of it."

"Then would you let me meet with the person who has that authority?"

"You'll be able to meet soon. However, before that we need to confirm various things."

"Yeah, that's right. First, please tell us about Hanigan-san's Unique Ability."

".."

Hearing that Kris hesitated a bit on whether to put into practice what she had thought about before hand. There's no much meaning in hiding it once

things have reached this point so she had no intention of hiding it from the start.

"..My Unique Ability is called {Magnetic.Body}. I can create wear a magnetism around my body. Putting it simply I can become something like a magnet in the shape of a person. That's why, as long as I'm on the ship there's no problem in regards to a compass."

"..Seriously another cool sounding name..Damn it..Something like {Paralysis.Tolerance}..Shit."

"Hmn. And then, the level?"

".."

Kris looked at Hekusa who was remaining silent on his own but he wasn't paying any mind.

"It's 7. By the way, I'm sure that imperial guard is a means but what would I actually be doing? Even I don't think I would be allowed to just do whatever I want."

"7! Oh~ excuse me. If we know that much then it's a quick conversation. It's a help to us. He's not here but the

crown prince is a Japanese person as well. There's also several others as well.

I'll put it frankly but I'd like for you to cooperate with us."

The superficial looking Myulu changed his expression before saying to Kris.

"I don't mind cooperating. I intend to do anything I'm capable of doing."

"..Anything indeed. Well then first off a question. Hanigan-san. What do you think about the social standing system?"

Tsetto killed his expression again before asking.

"..It's difficult for me to accept personally. But, it's something that's necessary. Particularly in this sort of era I think it's a considerably valid policy for maintaining social order."

Kris looked at the expressions of the three and thought for a bit before opening her mouth.

The three exchanged glances for a bit before nodding.

"Isn't it fine?"

"I guess so."

"..No objection. By the way, let me confirm one more final thing. Teach us your magic skill levels. All of them."

Hekusa who had been remaining quiet for a short while said while evaluating Kris.

"Water, fire, and wind are all at level 2. Void magic is at level 3."

Kris said it while holding her chest a bit high but even hearing that the three of them didn't react a bit. Normally it's something considered quite admirable. Kris felt a bit discontent by that but remained silent.

.....

After Kris was let through even further into the castle she was finally able to interview the remaining Japanese people.

First off was the crown prince Alexsander.Belgriddo. Just as expected of a prince he was wearing magnificent high class clothes and his hair was combed swept back. It doesn't really suit him but the naturally refined gestures give off the feel of a noble person. After expressing a welcome to Kris, unexpectedly he frankly said "When it's just us there's no need to speak politely. I only want you to be aware of public and private when talking in such a stiff way." before receiving the report from Sagal and the others. Everyone calls him Alec* or Alex.

Next up was the distinguished noble family Duke Stahlz family's Senlaid.Stahlz. He wasn't losing to the prince in how he acted like a noble. Just the same as the prince his hair was slicked back but it actually suited him well. However, in terms of purely the features of their faces the prince is much better looking. He has a pretty frank feel to him and on that point Kris was relieved. Everyone calls him Sel.

And then there's the {Court.Wizard} Rentia.Geguran. It seems {Court.Wizard} is a position that was just made the other day. Kris couldn't imagine what kind of position it was at all but it seems it was a position they went out of their way to make just for her.

She has long hair with a bit of a wave to it and her sparkling kind eyes below that leave an impression. Just as Kris felt from her impression, she talked with a gentle way of speaking but you can also feel a firm one-track

stubbornness as well. After hearing everyone's discussion about her and she understood that {Court.Wizard} wasn't just for show. There's a

difference between heaven and earth when comparing Kris's magic skills to hers. It seems her nickname is Ren.

There's one more, a Free Person elf named Arakeru.Karifurorisu. Her long straight hair that's

grown out is healthy and beautiful but what surprised Kris was her

beauty. Even in comparison to a pure elf she doesn't fall behind. Let

alone that, her original looks as a Japanese person were probably quite beautiful as well. Since that still deeply remains it makes her looks as an elf shine even more, even though she's the same gender she felt her heart jump a beat. The actresses of Japan? If she's like the moon

shining in the night sky then they would be snapping turtles, no, just ugly insects that crawl on the ground.

Furthermore,

Arakeru.Karifurorisu was the only one who had on a similar polished ruby brooch as Hekusa. These two might have some sort of special

relationship. Her nickname is Aruko. Incidentally the ko in Aruko is the ko in child and that's how her Aru Ko is spelled. Excluding herself

which she joked as being just a mascot, these were the Japanese people who make up the core of this country.

Here the three from earlier finally showed Kris their status. The superficial looking man is

Myuneil.Sagal. It's something you can't predict from his aloof conduct but

surprisingly his family is a squire that directly serves the royal family and he's even a true knight in the White Phoenix Knight Group.

While she only knew the name of the White Phoenix Knight group, it was Kris's first time seeing the emblem so she didn't notice it just now.

The dwarf is Zuhentisu.Heriosaido. He's a true knight of the White Phoenix Knight Group as well. He's supposedly a commander of 100 at this age. He seems to be considerably skilled. Furthermore, the crown prince and

Duke's son also seem to be qualified as true knights of the White Phoenix Knight Group as well.

And then, the Free Person who left an impression teaching her various important things, Hekusa.Barnes.

Normally he's traveling here and there as an adventurer it seems. It seems this past year he's gone on short trips with Ren to Benkelish Dungeon as well. On those occasions it seems that as many members as possible also try to match up their schedules so they can accompany them. It's a dungeon that's famous enough even Kris had heard rumors of it. Unexpectedly it seems that when this group has most of their members along they've even reached the foremost line on the 4th floor.

After only challenging around 10 times?

Does that mean they have abilities on the level of first-class adventurers that have challenged the dungeon countless times?

Or else Benkelish Dungeon isn't as dangerous as it's said to be?

"First off is this I'm sure."

It seems that the report ended. The one who's called Sel by everyone, the Duke's son of the Stahlz family handed Kris a Ruby brooch the same as Hekusa.

"This is?"

"It's the emblem of a senior imperial guard member. If you have this on you then you can freely enter the

royal castle. However, when it comes to being able to enter this area by just seeing your face you have to do something about it on your own."

It seems that the two of the Free People social standing are also members of the imperial guard.

"It is just the people here that are members of the imperial guard?"

"No, there's around 20 ordinary group members as well. Though I won't make them senior members. Ah, for the time being I'm the commander of the imperial guard. In formal situations call me commander."

"Got it."

And then, Kris started negotiations for constructing a large scale ship.

.....

Since just as expected when it comes to construction of a ship it would

require a considerable amount in expenses, first off it was decided that she would show actual proof by making a middle size ship(Though it's still plenty to be considered large size from Orth's common sense)

capable of open sea voyages. Even that just from what Kris roughly made preliminary calculations of, assuming the transportation and acquisition of all of the dried wood material goes smoothly and she manages to

assemble a group of skilled workers, it will still take "at shortest"

one year or so. There's still a limit to the budget that Alex can

capture.

It seems they intend to try and use this open seas

voyage ship as actual proof for the future construction of a warship to present to the King and Minister of Financial Affairs. Even if it's only limited to marine transportation within the country it has to prove it has a reasonable amount of defensive capability against monsters in the ocean as well and someday it might even be used for pioneering sea

routes to foreign countries. Although in any case it's also welcome to Kris for her to take the first step forward.

However, Alex and Sel had a different expectation for it. Rather than the Dirt Plains

which are stuck in a pointless stalemate, if they can detour around and sent an army of several hundred to around 1,000 people directly into the territories of Rombert then it would be a great achievement with no

comparison and along with that their authority in the royal court would increase as well. If the one who takes command of the invasion plan is Tesetto or Sagal then they would gain an even stronger position in the knight group as well.

Just like Rombert, Devas also has a

permanent army. The difference is that Rombert doesn't use a system of conscription but even without it they still can gather plenty an amount of soldiers. It's a portion where the large difference in national power shows clearly. Just the same it also includes showing one of it's

weaknesses. In other words, the forces they have other than on the front lines of the Dirt Plains is kept to the bare minimum, other than the front lines it's believed to be fine if they just keep forces of a couple hundred at bridgeheads.

A ship capable of voyaging the open seas is a large means to realizing that and a high speed method of transporting people and supplies hasn't existed on Orth until now. There were times in the past for both Kingdoms where they planned to invade using a large number of small size ships moving along the coastline detouring around the Dirt Plains. For example, around 60 years ago Devas prepared close to 60 ships and attempted to invade the Rombert side on the shores of Viscount Yoraizu's territory with a force of around 1,200.

However, while they were in the process of drafting ships or construction new ones to prepare the number needed the information was leaked and a reconnaissance unit was deployed to the shores of Viscount Yoraizu's territory to observe their movements. Rombert had it's proud elites laying in wait along the parts of the shore that were easy to land.

Since there was also the fact that not much speed could be produced along the shore and since being near the rocky areas of land was dangerous at night they had no choice but to lower anchors and stop the ships, it's also in part because they couldn't navigate. If they end up being threatened with fire arrows to the hull at night then it's impossible to oppose them. Even further when it comes to the beaches where there's nothing to block sight they end up an easy target for bows and since they can't bring along horses, the moment after landing they become easy targets for cavalry making it difficult no matter where they try to land.

Of course, in order to support the plan of landing at the time they tried deploying units for battles at various locations across the Dirt Plains but it was leaked from the start that the landing

operation was the main strategy. The Rombert side was by no means making a movement and just focusing on fortifying it's defenses like a turtle from start to end.

After that the Rombert side attempted a

similar plan but the results were more or less the same. Both sides ended up taking a hard blow and the dream of an invasion by sea came to an end.

However, if they can build a large ship and navigation of the open seas are possible then things are completely different. It

would make it possible to bring along horses and if they have transportation boats for provides supplies afterwards then they would be fine for the time being. Above all, they wouldn't have to depart from a place close to the Dirt Plains but it would make it easier to depart

from farther away where they can hope for a complete ambush. Even the landing spot doesn't need to be the area right near the Dirt Plains.

They could send forces directly into the backwoods where there's no decent soldiers. It's the application of a landing warship.

Of course, since it wouldn't have an engine a feat like the hull landing on the shore, lowering a ramp, and departing all at once is impossible.

When landing they would need to make several round trips with small boats loaded on the ship but as long as it's not near a large town if they do the landing in a place which is hard to be seen then it's believed they should be able to gain plenty of time.

Even if they discover the landing there it's easy to predict that it would take a considerable amount of time for the army to be dispatched there. During that time if they smash the brittle remote station troops (even more so if it's an ambush then it should be easier than twisting the hand of an infant) fortify at a bridgehead and depending on the case they may even have enough leeway to have the ships make another round trip to gain even more supplies or a second organization of troops.

"..I see now. If you just provide the funds for it and I have enough time then a ship that can manage that much, I'll definitely build one for you."

Seeing Kris make a daring smile, Alex and Sel decided to cut the seal on a treasured bottle of wine.

Chapter 308 : The Un-Dead 1

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 14

Ah..Really, shit!! Even though we were getting to the good point for the first time in a while!?

In the first place what's the meaning of someone other than a lodging customer coming to someone's room!?

Even Kamu, Kimu, and Rodrick get stopped at the front you know?

Employees of the inn properly do your jobs!

"Let's just ignore it."

I lift up Miduchi's chin.

"Is that okay? Wouldn't it be better to answer it?"

Miduchi said with a slightly worried face.

It seems the moods completely gone cold. Damn it.

"Something might have happened."

I'm sure. If she didn't have any business she wouldn't come here.

"Hey!? Are you here!?"

Along with some slightly more violent knocking I can hear Anderson's voice from outside the door again.

It sounds like she's at her limits.

Furthermore at almost the same time I could hear the voices of the inn's owner, employees, and the brat saying things like, "Customer, please stop!" or "Hey, you, stop her!", and "Is..isn't it obvious that's impossible~"

"It can't be helped, I'll go out for a bit."

"Yeah, I think that's a good idea."

I stood up from the chair and went towards the door.

.....

"..is the reason why. I'll blow up the compensation from father and their parents so wouldn't you lend me a hand?"

I looked down at the middle-aged woman with deep pink hair holding her head down with both hands on the table and looking up at me with upturned eyes and couldn't help but let out a sigh.

After opening

the door just now, Anderson was standing there with her leather armor breastplate on, a crossbow hanging down, and a sword at her side fully armed with a desperate expression on her face. Along with the employees of Boil Manor following her like goldfish poop. When I opened the door while making annoyed expression everyone including Anderson made

relieved expressions. It couldn't be helped so I invited her into the room and started listening to her together with Miduchi.

She started off with saying, "I'll tell you everything without any secrets" before talking.

Last Wednesday(in other words, July 9th), 14 knights came here from the capital on their holiday. Supposedly each of them were split into groups of four or five people. Furthermore, the group was made up of activate duty knights so those with decent official positions in the knight group were mixed in with them as well. It seems all of them took a long holiday from the knight group.

It doesn't even need to be said that hearing this both Miduchi and I started to get a bad premonition.

Just as expected the bad premonition hit the mark and the three groups were each lead by Noirura.Jibekuto, Yorire.Refaisu, and Mimarufokein. All three of them are the King's illegitimate children. They brought along what could be called their group of retainers, squires from their parents households and all of them were the same as them active duty knights in the kingdom's third and fourth knight groups.

They might have been the most elite of the squires from their households.

Putting that aside and the reason they came along to Baldukk was the same. They

were going to have the {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} who have connections with the King accompany them as they gain combat experience against monsters in the dungeon and build up strength as adventurers.

According to what sis Anderson was saying it's because they needed to be useful

talents to me as an adventurer. Well~ I'm sure it will be necessary to hunt monsters to maintain peace in my territory in the future so it's not as if I don't understand. It's also necessary for a new lord to gain popularity with the population of their territory so if an army from the country is willing to hunt monsters without request any compensation anyone would be willing to welcome them.

In other words rather

than bringing in money when they come to my place they wanted to bring along some immediately useful subordinates. Additionally I'm sure it's an appeal that they can combat and defeat monsters themselves as well. It's not unusual for the spouse of a lord to stand on the battlefield and in this sort of era I'm sure it's necessary as well.

Even more so

you could say it's indispensable in a place like the Dirt Plains where combat occurs with Devas once every 4~5 years.

In any case, the

14 people who came along to Baldukk just to get used to combat against monsters first off made contact with Viruhaima and Anderson, and requested that they train them as adventurers in exchange for some pretty good compensation. Putting it simply they were hired as guides.

In regards to their circumstances as illegitimate children not only

Anderson knew but Viruhaima did as well. Come to think of it when I was

invited to the Elm Tree Manor where Yorire-ojosama was staying I ran into Viruhaima but I guess that wasn't a coincidence. It must have been because they were clearing everyone out~ Before even that, there's no way they who worked as spies for the King in Baldukk could turn it down I'm sure.

Also, putting aside the matter about spies, since several members of the {Verdure.Brotherhood} suffered some pretty heavy injuries and they weren't able to do very much during that time, they might have also been interested in the decent compensation as well. If they aren't going to the 5th floor then it's probably just right for rehabilitation. In regards to {Black.Topaz} it seems that Anderson was on pretty good terms with the youngest daughter of the three Mimairu, so I guess it wouldn't be surprising if she happily threw down training the slaves they just purchased to be hired by her for a few weeks.

Noirura and three of her followers jointed with Viruhaima and five of his party to form a party of 10 and Yorire and three of her followers joined with the Basu the sub-leader of {Verdure.Brotherhood} and four other members to form a party of 9. Anderson brought along Mimairu and three of her followers to form a party of 10 and they all supposedly entered the dungeon the next day on Thursday.

Since they're accompanying them they obviously properly confirmed that they had a decent level of skill. They're active duty knights so even if they aren't at the level of first-rate adventurers they can still match up to second-rate or so.

Even the three illegitimate children themselves were forced to train by the knight groups so I don't think there was any doubt about them having decent skills.

Of course, I'm sure they were behind the members of {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} but if they're commanded by adventurers with their expertise and they have backup from first-rate adventurers then they should somehow be able to fight up to the 4th floor.

Putting it frankly the ideal place to increase your combat skills against monsters is the 4th floor which has undead mixed in with them. Attack spells are pretty effective against undead on top of them being particular weak to fire magic after all.

Though they have disgusting appearances and attack methods you can't let your guard down like poison and paralysis but it's pretty important that their movements are often pretty dull. They should be good for building up courage and guts.

Also, the types of traps increase compared to the 1st and 2nd floors and different from the 3rd floor the halls and rooms are damp natural caves so the footing is bad and it's good for earning combat experience in those sorts of situations. It's just right for learning caution against surprise attacks as well. There's even a lot of places where they come out of the walls. Obviously it's more dangerous for that portion but on the 4th floor gaining live experience in everything from

the basics to the advanced techniques is possible for adventurers. It's easy to put the actions you learn here to use outside just like that as well.

In any case, there were five people from

{Verdure.Brotherhood} with Viruhaima leading them. Another party of four with Basu as the leader and then six from {Black.Topaz} with Anderson as the leader as they brought along each of the three illegitimate children into the dungeon.

And then on the 10th of this month,

Friday night, they arrived at the teleport crystal room on the 3rd floor. Since they already had Gwine's map of the 1st and 2nd floors they cleared through to the teleport room of the 2nd floor on the first day. Then starting from the next Saturday they finally started teleporting into the 4th floor.

According to Anderson, at the very least

Mimaru and her followers were very obedient in listening to the things {Black.Topaz} say and gave their best trying to learn all of the know-how. Well, it seems Mimaru has some connections with Anderson and in the first place it's not often you get a chance to receive direct instruction from a first-rate adventurer. Even if it was a true knight from the first knight group I'm sure they'd put in all of their effort trying to learn it. Even I learned quite a bit from {Sun.Ray}.

It

seems the first two days, Saturday and Monday, when they started

challenging the 4th floor things proceeded smoothly with no particular problems. All of the parties properly returned to the teleport room on the 3rd floor at the decided times and got plenty of rest. Obviously there were some small mistakes but they were exploring the dungeon lead by ultra first-rate adventurers so they stopped things before it ever developed into fatal problems. The problem was Monday night, in other words last night.

Since they were camping on the 3rd floor they couldn't afford to break the so-called unwritten rules. In other words, the slightly more comfortable spots in the corners or along the walls belong to the first ones there and you have to respect other party's territory.

Of course, it seems that the young ladies and their retainers endured at first without making any complaints.

However, as expected a group of members all wearing expensive metal armor stands

out. There's also quite a few indiscreet fellows among the second-rate adventurers as well. It's not like there's no rude fellows who shout jeers and whistle while they're removing armor or changing either.

And then, even if they hide behind a cloth both Anderson and Viruhaima understood it would be hard for a young noble woman to wipe their body with a large number of adventurers watching. Above all else while they're illegitimate children they're also of a high class lineage as well. Even by mistake they wanted to reduce the possibility that adventurers would see their skin. That was the same for sis Anderson but

it's kind of late for her at this point and on this occasion her being middle-aged doesn't matter at all.

They wanted to say just endure

it but because of reasons like that it was hard to say. Even if they were to tell the adventurers not to look, there's no one who would listen obediently. Though Viruhaima and the others are ultra first-rate adventurers it's not like they have any influence over other adventurers they have no relation to after all. If they're warned then they might look down or in the other direction but the majority of them would just start looking secretly right after.

Even for the retainers to

make a wall of people there's limits to it and in the end it's the same as a situation where they're wiping their bodies from behind a single sheet of cloth. Just like this the retainers gradually started to complain and requested that they do something about it. And then finally, after camping out in the teleport room filled with dirty adventurers for several days the young ladies reached their limit and started requesting an improvement to their camp situation.

It couldn't be helped so Viruhaima and Anderson discussed moving their campsite to the teleport room on the 4th floor.

Well, it's troublesome but not all that bad of a decision. The knights acted even more carefully than ever and didn't get full of themselves. And it was also a fact that they were obediently learning from their guidance. During combat they would fight considerably carefully but also at times

boldly so you could feel that they were trained decently well. It's also big that they felt it was plenty for them to clear through the 4th floor.

As expected even if the 5th floor is impossible they felt

it was plenty to continue guiding them while camping in the teleport room on the 4th floor. Instructing them in the depths of the 4th floor where even the second-rate and half first-rate parties rarely enter is somewhat more efficient as well. Above all if they make the teleport room on the 4th floor their base camp then they can form a large party with all 30 of them in one spot. The degree of safety will jump up all that much higher.

Also, there's obviously their initial aim as

well. Normally the only ones who use the teleport room on the 4th floor other than them are just {Gehenna.Flare} and the {Slaughterers} after all. Both of them just pass through and rarely ever camp on the 4th floor for long periods. Even more rarely a half first-rate party will appear there but that's a possibility they can just ignore.

The

{Exterminators} now use the 5th floor as their home and repeat combat primarily on the 5th floor. After all having proper kitchen and shower facilities and a bed is a big reason. That's why there was a high possibility that neither {Gehenna.Flare} or the {Slaughterers} would be there. Even if they were it would be at most a single night.

After

discussing those sorts of reasons they the two of them decided to switch their campsite to the 4th floor and spend almost a full day moving to the teleport room on the 4th floor.

Morning, the same

as usual the {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} each teleported into the 4th floor in their parties. And then, Anderson and the others arrived at the teleport crystal room on the 4th floor before 4:00 pm just as they expected. Supposedly the party lead by Basu had already arrived. However, even one hour after the expected time the party being lead by Viruhaima hadn't arrived.

Though that's the case, someone

with high skill was leading five newbie adventurers. There was a good chance that Viruhaima and the others had bad teleport luck and had to take a long way around for the sake of safety. Also, since it was the 4th floor they weren't all that worried about it. However, while Anderson and the others were in the middle of preparing the campsite the Bunnyman spear attacker Renbaru.Korumain lead Noirura and just two of her followers as they arrived in the teleport crystal room on the 4th floor. Other than Renbaru all of them had suffered some kind of injury large or small.

After listening to the circumstances in a hurry

and it seems when they were being lead by Viruhaima they arrived at a monster room 2 km away from the teleport room just before noon.

Supposedly the {Verdure.Brotherhood} passed through that room about one

year prior and at the time there was a nest of ghouls in it. They had the map and things proceeded pretty smoothly up until there so they expected to arrive at the teleport room on the 4th floor by about 2:00 pm or so.

They carefully scouted out things inside of the room but couldn't discover the boss.

They guessed that it must have been soon after {Gehenna.Flare} or the {Slaughterers} passed through. In that case it's possible one of the parties would be in the teleport room but they still expected they would be able to take their time and relax in a spacious room without many others around.

And then, the tragedy struck as they in the middle of passing through the room. She said before anyone noticed the enemy was in the room.

Not noticing it's appearance and being caught completely off guard one of Noirura's followers who was walking at the rear was taken out.

The sound of that person falling over acted as a warning and thanks to that they noticed the attack.

While they immediately switched to attack formation, the enemy supposedly didn't appear to be a monster.

Renbaru, Noirura, and her followers all reported that it was believed to be a different adventurer.

Viruhaima, the {Shield.Holder} Sara.Pachiku, and one other follower all started harshly questioning them while pointing their swords but the follower was easily defeated after being hit by an attack spell from that

adventurer. Spells started being fired at high speeds in close proximity before they could blink. Supposedly they were shocked by their overwhelming skill.

It was at this point which Viruhaima threw the map to Renbaru and ordered him to immediately regroup with {Black.Topaz} and the other members of the {Verdure.Brotherhood}.

Since they were already halfway through the room and the distance to the teleport room was far closer in terms of distance, Renbaru decided to regroup with them without hesitation.

The ones left remaining were Viruhaima, Sara.Pachiku, the dwarf glaive user Rizara.Redflare, and the elf bow user Rokkuweru.Marosutaron, the four of them.

Just as I was thinking it's absurd for that old man Viruhaima to choose to go up against a group of adventurers with just the four of them, supposedly that adventurer was all alone. And then, there for the first time I heard the appearance of that adventurer and understood everything.

Supposedly he was naked.

Naked, fires magic at surprisingly fast speeds, and looks exactly like a person...

I happen to have an idea on who that might be.

The floor he appeared on was the same 4th floor.

If I'm certain last time I turned him to dust in a single shot.

"Who's going to the rescue?"

"The remaining members of the {Verdure.Brotherhood} with Basu as the leader and all of {Black.Topaz} excluding me are heading there. I had the knights return to the surface together with me. I came here right after that.."

And then, we return to the beginning of the story.

After

sighing together with me as we change the atmosphere, Miduchi opened her mouth as she was about to say something when I just said, "Hey".

Miduchi seems to have figured out my intentions right away as she stood up from her seat.

She's even faster than me at switch overs like this. As expected of her.

During that time I'll kill time discussing things.

"But, the opponent is alone right? Even though they were caught off guard at the start, Viruhaima-san had four of them so they should have been able to handle it anyway they want right?"

Miduchi left the room

without making a sound. I stood up while talking to Anderson and went to a corner of the room while switching over to combat mode mentally just like Miduchi. Anderson made an irritated face and replied while looking at me.

"..Are you saying that seriously? It's already beyond

abnormal that he'd be completely naked in the dungeon and it's also strange that he suddenly appeared in the middle of the room. Also, just from what I heard he was considerably skilled at using spells just like you. Probably, he had other allies hiding inside the halls or somewhere to attack them all at once."

Well, since they immediately sent a

rescue party and had the members who would hold them back withdraw right away I can tell they felt it was considerably dangerous. But, as expected they don't seem to have realized it was a monster. They haven't seen it themselves so I guess that's not unreasonable. It's only obvious to think he was trying to get them to let their guard down by attacking naked and the main group would attack from a different direction.

"..Che..It seems I've been underestimated quite a bit..Though it can't be helped."

It's not like I'm particularly underestimating you. I just wanted to confirm what kind of recognition you had of him and there were no ill feelings.

"And, about the compensation. How much would it be fine to hope for?"

I quickly take off my shirt and start taking my socks and shoes off while sitting on the bed.

"..I'll promise at least 10,000,000. However, the condition is that you recover the corpse or magic stone of Noirura's follower. Also, if you can rescue Viruhaima alive I promise to double the reward."

If we consider that it's the 4th floor that's quite the high and good reward.
But...

I'm sure..I won't be able to obtain that reward.

Most likely, I think that old man should have already been killed along with that old dwarf lady, the bunnyman, and elf.

In regards to Noirura's follower and the others since they were bitten by the naked target, I feel like their magic stones would have changed a bit as well.

No, it might be possible that the old man and others won as well though.

"What about payment in advance?"

I threw my shirt and socks into the dirty laundry while saying.

Anderson's still sitting in the chair staring at me.

After putting the shoes I was wearing up until now under the bed and I stood up to go and get some new underwear.

"Do you want payment in advance?"

"If possible that is. Of course~ that's the case."

Both Miduchi and myself don't care at all about getting payment in advance let alone the reward itself.

Honestly speaking, too much time has passed so the rescue itself is probably impossible and almost a joke.

I'm just making small talk to calm myself down from getting too impatient.

In the first place I boast about being number one in Baldukk.

I need to act appropriately for the part.

"Is..Is that so...That sort of..ad..advance payment..is it?"

Anderson seems to have started grumbling about something.

Even if you reject the advance payment I won't say anything stingy~
I put on some new socks with my upper body still naked and took off my pants.
I start taking my newly tailored underarmor off a hanger from the wall near my bed.

"Th..That is..I'm in a hurry..So..Something that will take time is.."

I roughly check over my underarmor and confirm there's nothing wrong with the belts and bands for my protectors. No problem.

I take out a clean shirt from the dresser at the base of my bed and put it on then put on my underarmor pants before putting on the upper part as well.

I continue to calm myself down so my feelings so the blood doesn't rush to my head.

"An..And..I, I, umm..not really.."

I take the sash I had hanging on the hanger along with my underarmor and tie it up around my waist.

I pass my feet through my combat boots and properly put the hems of my underarmor pants inside of my boots before tying the knot.

I briskly kept putting on half of my armor before tightening my belt.

Just like usual whenever I start putting on my protectors I can feel the tension build up.

"Wo.Wouldn't a younger girl be..I..I'll go and call Noirura?"

I equip the parts on my arms, chest, and back.

I pass both of my legs through the loins and attach the girth parts.

I connect the stoppers for the thighs, knees, and shins.

My heads started to cool down.

"Or..Or maybe..Yorire is best? O..Or Mimairu? The..The younger is better right."

She's still muttering about something.

I was just joking about saying I wanted advance payment just now.

Defeating the {Vampire} is our objective.

I'll definitely gouge out it's eyeballs!

It might not be a {Lord} but we need to grasp whatever straws we can get here.

"Ah, please(I) don't mind things like that."

I fix the plate tassets around my back and gave a random reply.

I fix the parts on my shoulders into place. Then put on my helmet and properly fixed it to my jaw.

I put on my elbow guards, pass my hands through the long gloves, and start clenching my fingers.

Alright, I'm starting to get worked up while maintain my composure well.

Furthermore, we chose to call ourselves the {Saviors}.

I need to prove through words and actions that we're appropriate to be called that.

"Eh? You..You unexpectedly..prefer, older women?"

Finally I put on my gauntlets and fixed the emergency supply pack onto the D-ring on my waist.

I pull my knife out from it's scabbard and check the blade. No problems.

I return it to the scabbard and attach it to the rubber belt on my right thigh.

I can do it today. I can do it!

"I..I'm over 30..and..It..It's been a while..Wa, I'm embarrassed.."

There's no problem with the throwing needles in both of my gauntlets either.

I confirm my bayonet leaned up against the wall.

There's no problem here.

Now then.

Eh!!?

What in the world is she doing? This sis.

Anderson was holding her head down as she undid the string to her studded.leather armor.

She's been wearing it up until now so there's no problem right?

I wonder if the string was loose?

"Sorry for the wait, preparations are..it seems you're ready."

Miduchi entered the room wearing all of her rubber protectors just like me. She has her bow and quiver on her shoulder, her scimitar on her waist, and

is properly suited up as her expression has completely entered combat mode just like mine.

"Yeah~ all we need to do is confirm the location of the room."

I guess because I was ignoring her while putting on my armor, Anderson seemed to start tying up her leather strings again in a fluster. She turned bright red as if she was embarrassed falling behind us in making preparations with her equipment.

"You know the location of the room right?"

I took out the map of the 4th floor and spread it out while asking Anderson.

"Room? Yeah~ah, room..Yeah, the room. Oo..Oo..Of course."

She spread out her own map of the 4th floor and showed it to us. Don't get so flustered.

"..It should be this room."

Around that area huh...Miduchi and I confirm Gwine's map that we have spread out on the table again. Since it's drawn down it's a place we passed through in the pass as well.

"Miduchi, was everyone around?"

"No one was there. It's still a bit early for dinner..If I try to search for a bit then the time will.."

"I guess so. Well, they have the map so that's fine. It should be fine with just the members in Shuni. I need to leave a message for everyone and need to buy food and some garlic as well so you go to Shuni and gather the slaves before going ahead."

"Got it."

I had Miduchi go ahead to the inn where all of the slaves stay. If we have Miduchi and I, the six combat slaves, the porter Giberuti, and Anderson then it should be plenty. Furthermore, according to Miduchi and crosses and torii probably won't have any effect so I didn't take them into consideration from the start. I'd really like to test out a silver bullet but unfortunately all of the guns are in the teleport room on the 8th floor. I have no way of getting them.

"Then, shall we go from here?"

Even if we hurry to arrive it should take us until tomorrow morning. We should move around to buy the food first. Furthermore, I didn't feel the need to meet the three young ladies at this point.

.....

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 15

The current time is..2:56 am huh?

We'll take a break in a short while.

We should have entered at around 6:00 pm yesterday so that's 9 hours after

taking a short break in the teleport room on the 3rd floor.

We have Anderson, Henry, Mekku, Rubi, and Jesu with us so the pace is a bit slow.

Well, that's also why we have the time to look at the map in the halls since we don't have Gwine with us.

"Madam..huh.."

Anderson whispered to herself while looking at my combat slaves as they took turns going to the bathroom.

Yesterday, after buying food with Anderson and gathering at the entrance plaza

Miduchi was giving the combat slaves instructions.

"..Anderson-san is even more of a senior than us. Treat her with respect."

""Yes, madam!""

And said something like that.

Even after that they've been calling Miduchi madam, madam over every little thing.

From Miduchi's viewpoint she must be trying to keep the three illegitimate daughters and the King in check through Anderson.

I understand her touching efforts and feelings though I feel a bit of pity and it's pitiful, there's no helping this.

It's about time.

"Lets go."

I give everyone the sign to depart.

Since Anderson is together with us I talk a bit more politely.

Up to here I haven't shown her freezing things but both Miduchi and I were using a decent number of attack spells in monster rooms. The monsters we ran into in the halls were taken out by Miduchi and Anderson's bows effortlessly.

I already have no intention of hiding the fact that

our party can clear through the dungeon at an abnormal speed or we have a detailed map anymore.

Either way at latest I intend to say farewell to the dungeon in the spring of next year after all.

Even the map if they want it in the end they can have it, is what I'd like to say but that's probably no good, yeah.

In any case, even if it's informal, we have the eldest child of the King

and the leader of the ultra first-rate adventurer group {Black.Topaz}

Anderson with us so she's not lacking to be the story-teller about the legends of the {Slaughterers}.

We grab on to the teleport crystal.

"Kudobisu!"

..There's a slightly bad smell. In a matter of ten minutes or so we should get used to it and not smell anything anymore but it's always an unpleasant feeling. I opened the map.

"It's 94, master."

Mekku said after confirming the number on the teleport destination.

..Here.

It doesn't seem like we'll need to teleport back in again.

About 6 km from here huh?

If we assume there's no traps or enemies and we dash then it wouldn't even take 20 minutes but as expected even for me that's way too dangerous.

"Over here. Let's go."

If we can maintain our pace up until here then I'd say around 2 hours to our destination...

The adventurers camping on the 2nd and 3rd floors said they hadn't seen anyone from {Verdure.Brotherhood} or {Black.Topaz}.

That must be why.

Recently Anderson has stopped saying much at all.

Chapter 309 : The Un-Dead 2

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 15

"..Something's there. 70, no, around 60 ahead. I guess there's about 15 of them."

I discovered a group of Goblin Zombies in front of us.

"Again? How can you tell?"

Anderson is surprised about how I've noticed monsters in the distance a number

of times up until here. It seems she thinks that this good intuition is one of the driving forces behind the {Slaughterers} getting ahead. Of course, even if it's someone other than me if they have good intuition then there's fellows who can detect living monsters from this distance up to the 3rd floor or so and when it comes to Bunny-men or Wolf-race people there's quite a few who can feel the presences of monsters from an even further distance using their racial special skills. But, there's also quite a few mistakes and misunderstandings.

However, in my case, up until here I've gotten it right every single time after all.

"Ruby and Jesu go to Miduchi. Everyone else come to me."

While Anderson was acting surprised I calmly gave out the necessary orders.

On the days off my slaves occasionally enter the dungeon with Miduchi, the other members of the {Saviors}, or myself so at times like that they act practice targets for spells. And right now, the spell that Miduchi and I are using is {Grave.Strike}, a spell that specializes in combat against Undead. Recently we've been in the care of this spell on the 4th and 5th floors a lot.

My slaves are all used to it so they held out the weapons in their hands right away.

I touch those in order while using the spell.

Weapons with the spell {Grave.Strike} cast on them give off a light similar to sunlight in the center of the area the spell takes effect. The light given off by each of them individually isn't anything great but even then when you have this many, when six peoples worth gather together it brightens things up almost like mid-day.

"{Balance.Nine} formation. Sweep them away within 30 seconds."

I order my six combat slaves as if sending out hunting dogs to attack and then immediately after Zulu charges off with Mekku, Angela, and Henry right behind, followed by Ruby and Jesu with their pole-arms at the ready in back.

And then, Miduchi, Anderson, and I get into formation with Giberuti at the center while following after the slaves.

The Goblin Zombies are already in a horrible shape with their rotting flesh and juices falling off all over the place but by the time we arrived at the battlefield the damage to their bodies made you want to look away even more as various parts were rolling around the surroundings.

"You..exactly how many spells can you use..."

Anderson whispered in shock.

Well, that's not unreasonable. Normal adventurer magicians use only attack and healing for two types in total, even the ones with a lot use at most three different types of spells. When it reaches the point of the top teams then there's fellows who can use one more type or so but even then there's no mistake in thinking they focus more on using spells for the sake of healing their allies injuries and quickly finishing off monsters with long-distance spells.

It's unusual for there to be people who use spells for things other than that and you could call them oddballs.

It's not even strange for people to take over 1 minute to use the spell {Light}. Or rather that's normal.

We continue on straight towards our destination without attempting to collect magic stones.

After a short while we arrived at a monster room.

"What about scouting?"

Anderson asked once again here but her face was as if she already understood.

"It's a waste of time. Hey"

Without betraying her expectations I cast {Grave.Strike} on my slaves weapons again and had them charge into the room. In over 80% of the cases the room bosses of the 4th floor are some kinds of Zombies or Ghouls and uncommonly there's {Giant Centipedes} or {Gray Wuzu}, something like a miniature slime, at most. Even if there's no undead with Miduchi and I right behind them we can deal with it any way we want.

.....

And then about 1.5 hours later we arrived at a point within 100 meters of the room that was reported to be where Viruhaima and the others were attacked. I've already confirmed that there's no traps or hidden doors at all on the path up to the room.

"Is there anyone who needs to go to the bathroom?"

There's no reply.

"Alright.

The fellow moving around in the room up ahead is an Undead. Judging from the details of the report it's most likely a {Vampire}."

"Eehh!!?"

Anderson unintentionally raised her voice in surprise but as expected of a veteran she didn't let out a loud voice. Furthermore, my combat slaves are all making surprised expressions as well. Even Zulu and Angela only just found out that the target was a vampire right now, so it's only obvious.

"Va..Vampire you say..Why is something like that..."

"There's no time to explain in detail. However, there's something I need to mention ahead of time so I'm bringing it up. I've just judged that it's very likely that the opponent is a vampire from the details fo the report."

After saying that I faced the combat slaves.
It's

already been confirmed that there's {Vampires} on Orth and you could say they're a famous example of Undead monsters. Even in Rombert Kingdom supposedly around 30~40 years ago there was a case where a remote village was wiped out by a single Vampire. Although, it's said that after receiving the report about the vampire the local knight groups all attacked it at once and finally defeated it after countless sacrifices.

The number of casualties until it was defeated was said to be 80% of the villages population of 500 people along with 23 true knights and 47 squires, that sort of tragic number. Prior to that there's been similar incidents in various other places.

In the process of those

there's been a decent amount of investigations about {Vampires}. One, they even absorb the life force of their victims through bloodsucking and depending on the case increase their familiars.

Two, there's

cases where they have special skills like {Paralysis} and {Petrification}. Three, they're also occasionally experts in the various magic special skills as well. Among other things.

This,

"occasionally experts in magic" has a reason for it, since it seems it's not always the case for all {Vampires}. I already can't remember in the case of the vampire last time and in the case this time we can't even determine if the attacker is actually a vampire or not yet. However, it's only obvious that it's best to assume the worst case scenario.

"Giberuti, bring out that item"

I had Giberuti prepare garlic. I have everyone wearing something like a necklace made of several garlic bulbs attached to a string. Furthermore we've rubbed garlic juice on the blades of our weapons. Obviously the same for Anderson as well.

Including my own, we finished rubbing garlic juice all over everyone's weapons.

"Anderson-san.

Depending on the situation please think that it's possible for members of the {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} to have already become {Vampires}. In the case that they attack we'll cut them down without

mercy. I'm not saying this to ask for permission. I'm declaring it."

"..If that's the case then, that's obvious.."

It's fine as long as you understand.

If you really understand.

But, depending on the situation I don't think things will go that easy.

"{Arrowhead.Two}.

After arriving at the room first off we'll determine the situation but if anything attacks us then immediately switch to attack. Have your weapons ready."

Miduchi and I split up using the spells {Resist

Earth}, {Resist Water}, {Resist Fire}, and {Resist Air} on everyone.

Anderson's eyes opened wide once again but there's no time to pay any attention to her. There's a limited amount of time for the spells to remain in effect.

Next we touched everyone's weapons again and

cast the spell {Grave.Strike} on them. I said to Anderson, "Please support us from the rear using your crossbow. Leave the attack spells to us." Furthermore, Miduchi succeeded in cutting down a Hobgoblin on the 3rd floor using {Energy Drain} so her HP's maximum limit is still increased.

"Let's go!"

I head towards the room with my gun raised in high-port.

Miduchi is taking the lead.

With her at the lead Mekku and Henry are on both sides and then Zulu and Angela have the edges fortified behind that.

Since her HP is buffed with {Energy Drain} and she has resistances up, along with her close-combat skills Miduchi is acting as the tank while we've fortified her surroundings with the other members with high defense. Ruby and Jesu will both focus on attacking with their pole-arms.

This time, I'll have the role of attacking with spells but depending on the case we may rush forward and we're prepared for Miduchi and I to take the lead with just the two of us as well. But for now I'm at the rear being careful of an ambush from behind. We want it's eyeballs so I have no intention of using {Disintegrate} after all.

.....

We turned at the final corner and charged into the room.

The room wasn't any different from a normal room. It was a bit anticlimactic since I was expecting a sight of blood and guts scattered all over the place but without letting our guards down, we continued with the formation of Miduchi at the lead. It's because all

over the room there's adventurers equipped with first-rate gear in tatters collapsed on the ground and in the center of that there's a single man and woman standing and looking spaced out.

Both of them are familiar faces.

After they noticed us they both raised their heads.

The man is wearing a helmet that covers his eyes and you can barely see the lower half of his face.

He's wearing a suit of banded mail and has a kite shield in his left hand with a long sword in his right. The man's name is Kaku.Dankel. A bold and brave, steady and honest man who's taken on the burdens of acting as sub-leader for {Black.Topaz} for many years.

The woman is

equipped with a metal headband, splint mail, a round shield, and long sword. I can see her face well. Her name is famous for being a super veteran {Shield.Holder} for the {Verdure.Brotherhood}'s front line, it's Sara.Pachiku.

Their equipment is first-rate the same as those of

the members collapsed in the surroundings but just the same they seem to be pretty damaged. There's marks as if they were cut with a sword and stabbed with a spear.

"Kaku! You were alright!?"

After seeing Kaku, Anderson shouted in delight.

However, the two of them remained ready for combat without putting their weapons

aside before saying two or three things to each other and approaching us.

"Kaku! It's me! Stop right there!"

I guess because he

heard her shout, Kaku hesitantly stopped moving and blocked Sara's way with his shield. Sara stopped as well and looked towards Kaku.

Seeing that Miduchi and the combat slaves stopped advancing as we entered a standoff with shields up.

However, there's no deceiving my {Identify}.

Kaku.Dankel/18/7/7430 Kaku.Dankel/28/11/7413

Male/24/8/7412.Human.Viscount Dankel Family Second Son.Viscount Anderson Knight

Condition: Vampire(First Stage Familiar)

Age: 35 Years Old(0 Years Old)

Level: 18

HP: 171+0(171) MP: 26+3 (26)

Strength: 33(22)

Speed: 33(22)

Dexterity: 30(20)

Endurance: 36(24)

Special Skill: Bloodsucking

Special Skill: Paralyze

Special Skill: Earth Magic Lv. 4

Special Skill: Fire Magic Lv. 4

Special Skill: Wind Magic Lv. 0

Special Skill: Void Magic Lv. 5

Sara.Pachiku/8/12/7414

Female/24/10/7413.Human.Duke Rombert Territory Registered Free Person

Condition: Vampire(Second Stage Familiar)

Age: 34 Years Old(0 Years Old)

Level: 18

HP: 168+0(168) MP: 7+4 (7)

Strength: 32(20)

Speed: 40(25)

Dexterity: 36(23)

Endurance: 32(20)

Special Skill: Bloodsucking

Special Skill: Paralyze

Special Skill: Earth Magic Lv. 0

Special Skill: Water Magic Lv. 0

Special Skill: Void Magic Lv. 0

"Don't bother with it, kill them!!!"

The moment I said that I fired off a {Stone Bolt Missile}.

What can be seen of Kaku's face from behind his helmet is pale-white and no life can be felt.

Sara's face is pale-white as well with no signs of life that can be felt.

I guided my {Stone Bolt} to circle around the two of them with their shields at the ready but it was deflected by Sara's shield.

Deflecting a bolt that can be maneuvered so quickly that easily!?

That reaction speed, after all they don't seem to be human...

Also, Kaku's become able to use elemental magic which he shouldn't have been able to use and when it comes to Sara she's even learned Void Magic along with two types of elemental magic skills.

"Stop it!! That's Kaku!!"

"It's a Vampire! Don't let your guard down!!"

Miduchi and my combat slaves only listen to what I say.

We advance forward without letting our formation collapse and start combat.

"!! All of you, in the name of the Viscount Anderson family! Stop attacking immediately!"

Even then my combat slaves didn't slow down their attacks towards the two of them.

Anderson is a noble but I'm a noble as well. Even though we're both the same ranking as sub-nobles, I'm sure normally it would be proper to respect the orders of Anderson whose family is higher ranking but my slaves have been well trained in taking the time and place into consideration when conveniently interpreting the law. Like they would stop with just ordering them like that.

Miduchi dashed towards Kaku.

She started easily avoiding his attacks head on and soon after Henry and Mekku joined in as well.

Henry and Mekku are primarily focusing on Sara.

Zulu and Angela were moving to circle them from even further on the outside while at the same time remaining cautious so none of those fallen in the surroundings nearby interfere and throwing out feints.

And then, as if they had set their aim Rubi and Jesu start attacking with their halberd and partizan.

All of our attacks were parried by their shields and armor but as expected both Kaku and Sara were driven into a defensive battle in no time at all.

"Stop it!! Greed-kun, make them stop! Kaku, you say something as well!!?"

During that time we continued to attack and finally our attacks slipped

through the gaps of the vampires armor and shields and damaged their bodies. Though I say that it's still just some scratches and nothing too deep but from the parts where our attacks hit there's a thin smoke rising up so it seems it's properly doing damage.

However, the

fact that only the flawed attacks from the two spear users have hit is proof that the two of them have changed into something inhuman. That they can endure for this long against a group composed of my six combat slaves and Miduchi..

Furthermore it's not like I'm just playing around either. I'm even backing them up with consecutive {Stone Bolt Missiles}.

This sort of superhuman display, it's impossible for even me.

Anderson might be acting naive.

But, she's just shouting and not physically interfering.

The fact that things would play out like this was already within

expectation but it seems she was already prepared for it herself.

She just can't make the final step to come to terms with it so you could consider it mercy for us to make it for her.

"..As expected of you, {Slaughterers}~!!"

All of a sudden Kaku roared.

There's fangs showing in his mouth as he shouts.

His red eyes shine from inside of his helmet.

"Kaku!"

Anderson raised her voice in joy that Kaku finally spoke after not saying anything up until now.

"Greed! Stop it!!"

Sara started speaking things as well. Honestly I was surprised but previously I had heard from Miduchi that vampires often maintain their intelligence and actions from when they were alive so I didn't panic. After all her eyes are giving off a red glow as well and there's no mistaking the fangs peeking out from her lips.

"Redddd~!! Make them stop~!!"

Kaku told Anderson to make us stop attacking.

"Kaku, you.."

Anderson raised her crossbow up at the ready.

"Gumu!!"

Henry's thrust finally caught Sara's leg. Just the same as Rubi and Jesu's attacks there's light smoke rising from her wound.

"....!! Is this all you can do~!!"

Kaku yelled while thrusting out his shield and hitting Henry in the chest. Henry lost his balance but Zulu and Miduchi skillfully followed up for him so he managed to get away safely.

"Shit!!"

Sara starts cursing. After all it seems that weapons with the spell {Grave.Strike} cast on them are considerably unpleasant.

They're displaying quite a bit of hate.

Mekku hit with his shield and knocked Sara off balance. Good!
Just as expected from someone who was originally a knight, including
{Shield.Bash} he's considerably talented at using the shield.
I fire off an {Air Cutter Missile} at her throat.

"Geu!!"

At the same time as me, Angela didn't miss the opening and thrust her
broadsword into the side gaps of Sara's armor.
A lot of white smoke started rising from Sara's side.
Sara's face twisted and she clenched her teeth.
It seems the fangs protruding from her lips are tearing into her own lower lip.
Almost simultaneously my spell tore away at Sara's throat.
There was almost no blood.

There came exploding a solid attack from Rubi..or so it seemed but he was a bit
late.

"Ga!!"

Zulu grabbed Kaku's attention as he continued to keep him in check and
Miduchi started slashing towards him without missing the opening. While
she didn't manage a clean hit, Kaku's shield band has already been cut
off and fallen, and his left arm is gradually getting more tattered by
Miduchi.

"Geo..Gu..Go"

Before I realized it Angela had
moved around behind Kaku and started thrusting with her broadsword in

the right hand while punching with the spiked gauntlet using her left hand.

By the time Jesu finished aiming and thrust his spear the red light in Kaku's eyes was already on the verge of disappearing as he was near-death.

And then, a crossbow quarrel pierced into Kaku's mouth as Kaku fell down face-forward.

Condition: Death; Vampire(First Stage Familiar)

HP: -36(171)

Sara as well,

Condition: Death; Vampire(Second Stage Familiar)

HP: -77(168)

had that sort of status. However, these two are undead. They still haven't completely di, no, been destroyed. The negative HP of undead monsters is different from normal ones as they have a large amount of it.

Something

which is already just the remains of a moving corpse just becomes a temporarily not moving corpse and it's no good if you don't damage them even more. But, it doesn't matter as long as you take out the magic stone and even if you don't you can relax for a bit as they'll stop moving for the time being.

I started using {Identify} from the person fallen closest to me.

It was the Laios man who was a member of {Black.Topaz} named

Baruteinesu.Zomu. Other than his condition being {Paralysis} and missing a bit of HP there doesn't seem to be any other abnormalities. There's others whose skin I can see to use {Identify} as well...

Basuraito.Kerutein.

The elf who acted as sub-leader of the {Verdure.Brotherhood}. This guys condition is {Paralysis} as well. Other than that..Julietta.Kamushu.

She's the Wolf-race person who is a member of {Verdure.Brotherhood}. Her condition was {Petrification}.

"Check the corpses laying around. Make sure there's no naked people who are just playing dead. Don't let your guards down"

I ordered the slaves before turning to Anderson.

At first she was trying that hard to stop us but partway through it seems she overcame it.

"Kaku..That you would call my name without using 'sama'.."

Because of that?

But, certainly I can't imagine any of the squires of the Greed family not using honorifics when talking to sister or I as well.

I'm sure it's not just because she was displeased about being called without honorifics.

She must have thought that Kaku's personality had completely changed.

The previous Kaku was a splendid sub-leader with a strong sense of self.

She must have believed that no matter what his willpower wasn't so weak that his personality would change that easily.

That's why I can somewhat understand Anderson was able to come to terms with it.

"Anderson-san. He's already a vampire."

I called out to Anderson who was flipping the fallen Kaku over so he was facing upwards.

Kaku's face was twisted from the pain as his fangs showed from the edge of his mouth with a quarrel stabbed into it, a terrible expression.

Right now it's still fine but if we leave him be he'll revive sooner or later just like ghouls and zombies.

"Yeah.."

Anderson pulled out the quarrel she shot herself and took off his helmet.

"{Status Open}.."

Anderson took off the glove from her left hand and touched Kaku's face while checking his status.

It probably looks like this to her.

Kaku.Dankel/18/7/7430 Kaku.Dankel/28/11/7413

Male/24/8/7412

Human.Viscount Dankel Family Second Son.Viscount Anderson Knight

Special Skill: Bloodsucking

Special Skill: Paralysis

Special Skill: Earth Magic

Special Skill: Fire Magic

Special Skill: Wind Magic

Special Skill: Void Magic

During that time I pointed towards Sara's corpse and nodded towards Miduchi.

"Miduchi, I'll leave Pachiku-san to you. Zulu remain cautious of the surroundings."

Though I don't have any real basis for it but since Sara's a second stage

familiar while Kaku is still just a first stage, I guessed she was at a higher rank. Even when it comes to the increases(?) in their status points Sara's were higher after all.

I crouched over by Miduchi's side in a position so Anderson couldn't see before taking my knife out of it's holder and handing it to her.

"{Bloodsucking}..{Paralysis}..And, {Wind Magic}?"

It sounds like she understood once again after seeing that he had more special skills.
During the brief moment when Anderson seemed to hesitate as I was handing her my knife I cast the spell {Grave.Strike} on it.

"I think this is your duty."

After I said that Anderson nodded and thrust the knife between Kaku's right collarbone, numerous times.
White smoke started rising and the identification result changed to {Vampire's Corpse}.
Partway through, I glanced behind and saw Miduchi shutting away a rubber container into her bag.
I guess it's fine to think she was successfully able to collect the eyes.

Miduchi gave Zulu some kind of order before he handed her his shield and waved
his bastard sword down at Sara's face with all of his strength.

.....

In the end, there were no deceased.

All of the members who had collapsed were either just paralyzed or petrified and fortunately no one else other than Sara and Kaku had become a vampire.

Also, that naked bastard(according to what they said it seems to have been a guy) who should have been the boss of this room wasn't around either.

Additionally, Viruhaima wasn't here either.

After curing them of {Paralysis} and {Petirifcation} were listened to what happened.

After being ambushed two of Noirura's followers collapsed then Noirura and her other two followers were evacuated lead by Renbaru.Koromain under Viruhaima's orders, after which a fierce battle started.

Under

the command of Viruhaima, Sara.Pachiku, Rizara.Redflare, and Rockwell.Marosutaron challenged the naked man with all of their strength. However, the man displayed a terrifying level of physical ability as he evaded all of their attacks.

And then finally, Sara fell after taking an attack from the man then Rizara was beaten next.

It seems the surviving Rizara noticed it was a paralysis attack at this point. However, let alone moving she couldn't even speak, the only things she could do

were breath and blink. Adding to that she can only use earth, fire, and void magic.

With just that there was no way for her to recover

from the paralysis. Although, even if she actually had water magic since she hasn't practiced it at all it would take her dozens of minutes to use the spell {Remove Paralysis}.

Aiming for the opening when it

was attacking Rizara, Viruhaima charged at the naked man but once again here the man showed off his frightening movements as he evaded Viruhaima's attacks and used some unknown magic(most likely it seems to be the paralysis spell) at a super speed before he collapsed too. Rock had started concentrating in order to use an attack spell but he was paralyzed as well.

The naked man checked each persons status one at a time before touching Viruhaima and Rock.

Seeing both of them rapidly change to stone without a trace of spell light

Rizara felt like she would go insane from the fear. Finally at this point she realized that there was no spell light when Sara was paralyzed just like Viruhaima and recognized that the naked man was a monster.

And then, at the edge of Rizara's sight the naked man bit into Sara's neck. It seems the bloodsucking was done slowly during a period of over two hours. During that time Rizara said she couldn't do anything but tremble in fear.

A short while after that when Sara got up she said her eyes were giving off a creepy red light and fangs were showing from her mouth. Sara had

completely changed into a living corpse that obeyed the man's orders. Just as she was questioned by the vampire she gave him all of the information on her allies magic skills and everything she knew.

And

then when Rizara heard the adventurers lead by Basu and Kaku call out for Viruhaima she felt a brief moment of hope but it quickly changed back into despair again soon after.

The naked vampire jumped up towards a corner of the ceiling and then seemed to use some kind of spell before disappearing.

Sara remained completely armed standing in the middle of the room.

When the adventurers came in lead by Basu and Kaku they couldn't hide their surprise at Noirura's followers, Rizara, and the others laying around like corpses as well as Viruhaima and Rock who had changed into stone statues but they were overjoyed that Sara seemed fine as they ran over to her.

And then the tragedy was repeated.

The vampire who had disappeared ambushed the members starting from the ones at the rear.

From the point he attacked the first person the vampire had reappeared but he had already succeeded with his ambush and furthermore they were attacked by Sara who they thought was an ally.

In no time at all they were reduced to half then finally Kaku who struggled to the very end ran out of strength.

Once again the vampire started checking everyone's status before petrifying those who had the possibility of using {Remove Paralysis} and then just left everyone else like that. After that there was quite a few people like Basu and Vikkusu who were just paralyzed so we heard quite a few of the details.

Supposedly the vampire said this to Sara.

"As long as nothing happens the ones who are paralyzed will live for a few more years. We need to treat them carefully."

The vampire told Sara she could pick one of the people who are paralyzed and suck their blood.

The one Sara chose was Kaku and it seems he carefully instructed her on how to do it.

After Sara bit into Kaku's neck she spent several hours carefully sucking his blood.

After quite a bit of time passed and he confirmed that Kaku had changed into a vampire, the vampire walked towards the petrified Viruhaima ignoring the other fallen members then effortlessly picked him up before ordering the two of them to remain and protect their remaining prey until he returns then disappeared somewhere.

After that neither the vampire nor Viruhaima have returned.

Chapter 310 : The Un-Dead 3

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 15

Over there I guess...

This monster room is an almost perfectly square room that's about 50 square meters and is the same as the other monster rooms in the dungeon. Including the passage we entered from there's a total of five cavern-like passages connected to it.

We came in from the northern area of the eastern wall and a bit further to the south on that side there's another different passage. Along the southern wall there's two passages including the one the party that came to rescue Viruhaima entered from as well as one more passage along the northern wall.

Only along the western wall there's no passages at all.

Well, monster rooms like this aren't unusual or anything so it's not like I'm saying it's unnatural because of that either.

But...

According to my {Identify} there's a trap in a corner along the western wall. At three meters high with a width of one meter in the shape of a thin board or door.

That is..that I'm sure.

Eh? If we're mentioning that, then it's that.

In the past, that thing I got caught inside.

The pitfall trap in the wall that sent me flying down to the 14th floor.

If the boss were to disappear from a monster room then there's nothing else than that right?

I think the fact that the hidden door appears with my {Identify} is the best proof that it was opened recently.

I guess because it was opened once the camouflage between the wall and the joints came off?

Normally whether the pitfall is on the floor or the wall I can't tell them apart with {Identify} after all.

Although, just because there's no slit for peeking through doesn't automatically mean it's not a hidden door.

I can't tell at all what's going on beyond that door after all.

It's uncertain whether it could even be the punishment game type that

suddenly leads to the 14th floor just like that one on the 3rd floor.

It might lead to some different place in the dungeon.

Or it could just be a small storage room and he brought Viruhaima in there before removing his petrification to drink his blood.

Putting aside the jokes, what to do?

Whatever the case, the first priority is taking care of one of our jobs of

returning Noirura's surviving followers to the surface. In regards to

the pitfall trap on that wall I'd say there's no doubt the boss of this

room used it and if we're going to follow it then there's no other

option than to jump in. Or rather, other than that there's no choice

than waiting in this room forever for the vampire based on it's words

that it would "return".

Also, there's Kaku and Sara's magic

stones and equipment..as expected I don't really want to take the belongings of acquaintances.

There's still adventurers who were allies in the same party as them up until just a few hours ago in front of us after all.

All of the members of both {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} are giving off a depressing and heavy atmosphere.

Furthermore, not just those adventurers but with the two of Noirura's followers still here is a bit...

I guess I should start around here?

"First off let's return those two to the surface."

After I said that to Anderson she finally seems to have remembered.

"Also, isn't it necessary to take care of Dankel-san and Pachiku-san's funerals?"

It seems they agreed with what I was proposing but the members of {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} gathered together and started discussing something.

"Don't you think we shouldn't be taking things so leisurely? We don't know when the boss of this room might return right?"

But just as expected they seemed to understand this as well so they just wanted us to wait for five more minutes. Although, they spent more than half a day paralyzed or petrified so I'm sure it'll take a bit longer for their bodies to loosen up, whether it's five minutes or one hour either way is fine. Noirura's three knights don't seem to have anything

to do as they just chat with each other. Hurry up for their sake.

Well, this situation is also convenient for me because I can discuss things with Miduchi.

I gathered my combat slaves over and told them to chat so no one can hear

Miduchi and I talking, then pulled Miduchi to the corner of the room.

While glancing at Basu and the others going back and forth in front of that hidden door or trap in the corner I started whispering to Miduchi.

"It was displayed as Second Stage Familiar {Second.Order.Kin}. After all they're different from that {Vampire Lord} or whatever right?"

The {Slaughterers} are all gathered together a bit of distance away as I confirm with Miduchi in a whisper.

It's probably different but just in case.

"Eh?"

Kin? Then in that case I think there's a high chance they weren't even complete vampires..I did something bad to Pachiku-san.."

Miduchi said in a disappointed and somewhat apologetic voice.

Oh~, so after all they were different things?

If that's the case then I feel a bit bad about doing that to Sara as well.

"Then I guess there's no choice other than waiting for the vampire to return to this room? Though there's also the choice of following it."

"Follow?"

"Yeah, there's a pitfall on the wall. The same kind which falls inwards when you lean on it like we got caught by in the past. The vampire probably

used that and went somewhere. Though I don't know what it'll do when it returns. It might not be a pitfall but there could be a passage or stairway on the other side you can use to pass through."

"That huh..."

Miduchi made an expression as if she remembered something unpleasant and looked into the air for a moment.

That was an unpleasant event right.

Though it's certainly true I was able to meet Miduchi and get into contact with Lilus thanks to it but from start to finish that was only time I've ever been so depressed that I seriously thought I'd die alone in the middle of nowhere.

That feeling of being in a pitch black space where you can't see anything enduring hunger, sleep, and sexual urges as worry and anxiety continue to increase. I seriously never want to experience it again.

"But, if it's the same as that even for a vampire I wonder if they'd go inside?"

Miduchi said as if she suddenly realized it.

"Hmm, they were properly holding a conversation so I feel like mentally they might not be all that different from people. Though their urges might be weak because they're undead but considering they drink blood they should at least have hunger remaining..and prior to that if their mana were to run out I think a variety of problems could come up.."

Otherwise maybe it just doesn't drain the mana of monsters?

I personally don't think it's the type of trap that leads straight to the 14th floor.

That's why I don't think it's one that drains your mana.

Though you could also say that's what I'm hoping is the case.

But, it's not as if I have any proof.

Furthermore, I have no intention at all of jumping in without investigating it or any evidence.

Up until now plenty of adventurers other than us have found those sorts of pitfalls where the wall falls inward like that.

Depending on the case there's one where the wall just simply falls backwards and

there's cases where they've been found leading to a deep hole as well. Of course, we've found a number of those sorts of traps as well.

Now that we've determined the location of this room there's no real need to do it right now but I feel like it's necessary to investigate that trap.

"Master, it seems they've finished their discussion."

Zulu came to call for me.

I went over to where Anderson and Basu were before asking what they plan to do.

It seems {Black.Topaz} is planning to bring Noirura's two followers as well as Kaku and Sara's remains and return to the surface immediately.

Well, that's only obvious.

However, in regards to the

{Verdure.Brotherhood} not only was Sara turned into a vampire and killed(though you could say we all killed her but it seems they think of her as being killed the moment she was changed into a vampire) but on

top of that their leader Viruhaima is still missing. It seems they've resolved to wait in this room to ambush the vampire and then tie up before making it spit out Viruhaima's location.

I guess they

think the reason two small groups were beaten by it was because they were caught unprepared and as long as they can ambush it while ready they'll be able to defeat it?

But, somehow that doesn't seem to be all there is to it. Even if he's like that I guess Viruhaima had quite a bit of charisma.

"Though I think it would be best for you all to return once.."

I tried suggesting in a moderate reserved way.

"It's not as if we didn't consider that. But, things would be too late after Roberto turns into a vampire. At the very least we need to wait for the vampire to come back, beat it down, and confirm.."

Is what Basu

said. Ah, well, certainly at this point Viruhaima was only petrified and brought off to somewhere. It's not like it's guaranteed his blood was sucked. Though, even if you say that while massaging your legs...

"Though if you really insist, I won't stop you but..for that there's something I need to confirm as well as a condition."

I said that as an opening before continuing.

"First off, this is a confirmation. Let's presume that everything goes as

planned and you manage to beat up the vampire and save Viruhaima-san who's been petrified. After that how do you plan to return him to normal?"

I coldly stated. The only method I know of returning someone to normal from petrification is the spell.

The reverse magic of {Flesh.To.Stone}, the spell {Remove.Petrification}.

It's an extremely high level spell that demands a high level of magic special skills at level 7. For the time being I don't know anyone who can use it other than the fairies and I. The one who's saying it is I, who returned people from petrification just now, so Basu and the others were shocked.

I ignored their shock and continued speaking.

"The

second thing, this is the condition. If everyone plans to ambush the vampire here or whatever that's all fine and good. However, please do that after first compensating me for saving everyone and curing their paralysis and petrification.

It's strange saying this but the vampire

that was here is considerably stronger than Dankel-san and Pachiku-san from just now right? After all it didn't just defeat Viruhaima-san but it easily beat everyone else as well..Since it seems like everyone from {Black.Topaz} is returning to the surface doesn't that mean the number of people remaining will be less than the second time it attacked?

Certainly we accepted rescue job from Anderson-san. However, rescuing you all wasn't included in that."

I intentionally made an unpleasant and greedy expression as I said it. However, it doesn't seem to have had much of an effect. After all, if I was seriously just after the compensating for saving them it would have been most effective to just save one person before starting negotiations. No matter what I say after saving everyone it has little effect. It's said that everything that happens in the dungeon is your own responsibility but even when saving people you're on your own. If they were to claim I just saved them all at my own convenience there's zero room for me to refute it.

Of course, I'm sure there's people who would say something like that among the adventurers in Baldukk, or at least that few a number of them, and normally you could say it's common sense to thank them and pay a reasonable amount of compensation.

"..Yeah, I forgot about that. How much do you want?"

Basu said acting as the representative for the {Verdure.Brotherhood}. Since we were able to rescue Noirura's two followers alive it should be fine to think we've already earned 10,000,000 Z. Well, it's weird to mention a small amount like that as this point. It doesn't matter at all.

"Since

this is the 4th floor, according to the market price I'd like about 2,000,000 Z. Also, I'd like 2,000,000 per person in compensation for restoring someone from petrification and 1,000,000 per person for paralysis. Marosutaron-san and Kamushu-san were petrified and the five other than that were all paralyzed for a total of 11,000,000 Z. I have

no intention of discounting a single Z less. If you can all gather it up and pay here on the spot right now then feel free to do as you please."

I'm sure there's no way they can pay 10,000,000 right here and now right? Or can they? In the past, I remember when they paid 1,000,000 Z on the spot in full for some medicine we had.

"..First please return to the surface together with everyone from {Black.Topaz}. If it's on the surface then I'll accept negotiations about the amount. But right now it's a waste of time. An ambush is fine but everyone is far from their best condition after being stuck in the same posture for a long period right? Do you really think you can compete with the vampire in that condition?"

"Hmph. So you mean baggage should just hurry up and disappear...We sure are being looked down on.."

Basu said while grinning in comparison to his words.

Shut it~ I'm saying it for your sake.

In the first place, even if you say it while you're all massaging yourselves it's not persuasive at all.

"No matter how you word it that's fine. However, if everyone intends on remaining here then it's possible we won't be able to receive our compensation. Ah, in regards to Viruhaima-san he's included in the conditions of rescue so you don't need to worry about him."

It was when I said up to here that the situation changed.

"Ah!!"

As expected there's no way it would be overlooked with this many people here. The first one to notice was Vikkusu from {Black.Topaz}.

Hearing his yell everyone put up their guard.

The pitfall door started opening without a sound and from there a naked man entered the room.

At almost the same time as Vikkusu I noticed the door start to open and immediately charged in between Basu and the others and it. And then, momentarily after getting in front of everyone I used a spell.

{Anti-Magic Field}.

Whether lightning giving off a blue light came from the right hand of the naked man was faster or my {Anti-Magic Field} was able to deploy faster.

With only a slight difference it seems I won the battle.

Lightning ran across the surface of a 2 meter long and wide power field with an area of 5 meters that appeared from my hand and offset the naked man's spell.

"Miduchi!!!"

This guy uses magic. I leave attacking to Miduchi and I should just focus on blocking all of his attack spells.

Ganbiru.Wazumun/13/1/7209

Male/24/11/7207.Human.Wazumun Family Eldest Son

Condition: Vampire

Age: 39 Years Old(239 Years Old)

Level: 18

HP: 172+201(222) MP: 59+47(112)

Strength: 38(19)

Speed: 54(27)

Dexterity: 44(22)

Endurance: 46(23)

Special Skill: Bloodsucking {Drain}

Special Skill: {Paralysis}

Special Skill: {Petrification}

Special Skill: {Energy Drain}

Special Skill: {Mist.Form}

Special Skill: {Bat.Form}

Special Skill: Earth Magic Lv. 7

Special Skill: Water Magic Lv. 7

Special Skill: Fire Magic Lv. 6

Special Skill: Wind Magic Lv. 6

Special Skill: Void Magic Lv. 7

A powerful enemy!

The vampire made a surprised expression seeing the {Anti-Magic Field} not only offset it's attack spell(I think it was probably a strengthened {Chain Lightning}) but still maintain it's mana.

It seems it has emotions.

"What, are you.."

The vampire said something in a whisper along with a hissing breath that rings the ears.

"Aaaah!!?"

"This guy!!?"

"Where did you take Roberto!!?"

"You bastard~~!!~"

Basu and the others are all shouting as they take out their weapons. Thanks to the vampire which suddenly appeared it seems they missed the fact that I used a spell while running just now. I'm saved..though, if this bastard hadn't come out just now there would have no need to worry about it either way.

"Stand back! Leave it to Al and I!!"

Miduchi shouted while charging over.
That girl, she's gotten desperate to finish it off!

"Miduchi!! Don't recklessly charge at it!! Keep an eye on the situation and attack when you're certain!!"

I didn't want to have to say it while using a spell but it can't be helped.

"..!"

I guess the vampire saw me speaking as an opening so he started using magic again.
This time it's a {Fire Ball} or something like that. Judging from the size, one with plenty of extra power.
I immediately shifted the position of my {Anti-Magic Field} to receive it and erased it.

With this I'm sure it's been exposed...
But, I was able to get Miduchi to stop her charge.

"Sorry, I'm calm now."
"Yeah, I'm depending on you."
"What should we do?"
"First off cast {Grave.Strike} on my weapon."

For some reason we can't cast the spell {Grave.Strike} on Miduchi's scimitar. Although, even without using the spell her scimitar does plenty of damage so you could say it's unnecessary.

"..What are you saying..."

The vampire spoke once again with an unpleasant sound as if he was breathing while talking as he gradually started to move away from the wall with the surprised expression still on his face. However, Kamushu and Marosutaron are firing arrows keeping him in place. I guess he's the spell {Shield} or something because those arrows are giving off a light blue light before falling to ground as if they're hitting an invisible wall.

Then {Grave.Strike} was cast on my bayonet still held in my right hand. Sunlight lit up the area and revealed the vampire that was difficult to see. I need to be careful that the tip of my bayonet doesn't touch the {Anti-Magic Field}.

Pale skin that doesn't seem to have any vitality, regardless of whether he's lived for several hundred years his hair isn't all that long. He's got just a bit of stubble on his face as if he just shaved several days prior.

He's making an unpleasant expression as if disgusted by the sunlight and garlic coming from the blade of my bayonet. The glowing red eyes on his grimacing face and the fangs that show when he's speaking.

His physique is pretty good and his height should be about the same as mine at 180 cm. Though he'd be considered the slim type it's no good that he

doesn't even try to hide his nether regions.

Furthermore, there's no

change in the disgust he's showing towards the light given off by my blade or the garlic smell smeared on it. After all it seems to be effective.

"..It seems that those two were defeated..With that level of skill it makes sense.."

Thank you for your praise.

But, I don't feel even the slightest bit happy being praised by a monster.

"..That spell..It pisses me off.."

After all you don't like it?

However, my specialty isn't this.

It's freezing.

"Let's all charge at it together!!"

Basu shouted.

Stop, idiot!!

The moment I took a breath to say that.

The vampire suddenly charged forward with almost no preliminary movement! This bastard, he used wind magic against his back!

I move to counter him with a kick.

Miduchi is circling around to cut at his back.

A good combination.

There I heard the sound of a string being released from behind me on the left. The sound of a crossbow being fired.

It's Anderson.

Great timing!

Geeh!!?

I almost spontaneously let my voice out.

Th..There's seriously someone who can manage that...

Of all things, the vampire grabbed the quarrel that was flying at it and used it as it's own weapon like a knife!

I shortened the distance of my kick like a feint and barely managed to avoid the quarrel by rolling.

I wanted to maintain the {Anti-Magic Field} while rolling but this is a chance!

I stopped maintaining the {Anti-Magic Field} and fired off an attack spell.
{Stone Javelin}!

Seriously! He evaded it!

The vampire used wind magic again and changed his movement to avoid my {Stone Javelin}.

Even if missile had been added to it that's impossible. There was no way for it to hit.

However, the fact that he used wind magic with that timing means he noticed my real finishing move.

But, beyond the point he dodged my spell Miduchi was waiting.

Miduchi skillfully twisted her body with the scimitar still held in her right

hand and just like that elbowed the vampire in the head!

Completely taking the elbow to it's head the vampire fell to the ground on the opposite side.

Nice.

After jumping up I started charging towards it with my bayonet ready.

I lost sight of it when I rolled so the identify window disappeared.

"Uoo~!!"

While yelling to put some fighting spirit into it I thrust my bayonet towards it's back while it's on the ground.

However, just like usual the vampire showed a frightening level of reaction speed as it rolled to evade but still ended up getting kicked in the stomach by Miduchi.

The vampire who rolled back this way from the recoil was once again kicked by me.

Both Miduchi and I are wearing combat boots with hardened ebonite tips. Even with just this we should have done quite a bit of damage.

I felt a response as if the kick broke it's ribs.

Ah, since it came to this I wish I had cast {Grave.Strike} on my combat boots.

On the opposite side Miduchi raised her right leg once again preparing to kick him once more.

It was for just a moment when I thought to kick him to death like a soccer ball. The moment the naked bastard fell flat on his face after being kicked by me

he stabbed the quarrel in his hand into the ground and used that as a pivot with one arm to jump straight ahead escaping our encirclement.

Frighteningly fast.

A tremendous level of physical ability!

Trying to freeze something like this is impossible without being prepared to blow myself up together with it!

However, beyond that Zulu was waiting and completely ready to swing his bastard sword with both hands.

That's great!

"Yao~!!!"

A shout filled with fighting spirit came from Zulu's mouth.

Fwooosh! As expected of him seeing through my special attack, the naked bastard used wind magic on himself once again.

Miduchi and I who were following after him were hit with a large amount of air and had to brace ourselves.

Fwooosh!

A loud sound of the wind being cut by the bastard sword echoed around.

"Guaaaaa!!"

Zulu's scream rings out.

And then shortly after that several screams overlapped.

Paralysis huh...

Zulu isn't the only one that collapsed.

Basu, Bennoko, and Renbaru from the {Verdure.Brotherhood}, Zomu and Vikkusu

from {Black.Topaz}, as well as Henry and Mekku from the {Slaughterers} all collapsed along with Zulu. The only one remaining who can manage close combat is Angela.

Miduchi and I can't use magic because everyone is in the way.

Even though he's just a naked bastard he showed off some abnormal moves and defeated eight people in an instant.

Though almost all of them still have symptoms of the paralysis and petrification remaining, they're super first-rate adventurers.

"Fushi~~fuffufuffu. Not bad, you're quite skilled."

In the middle of the collapsed eight the naked bastard said while casually standing up.

He stepped on Bennoko's stomach who can't move from the paralysis.

The quarrel he had obtained is still stabbed in the ground between Miduchi and I.

If there's this many people laying around I really can't freeze it.

"..!!"

Bennoko can't seem to speak.

And then the vampire with a satisfied smile on his face.

"Benno!!!"

"Shit, I still can't move my body well.."

"Yeah, it's still stiff"

It seems everyone still has the effects from the paralysis and petrification remaining.

It's not unreasonable considering they were stuck that way for over half a day.

Bennoko's face is pale.

Hn?

HP: 186+201(222) MP 0+27(112)

Eh?

HP: 220+201(222) MP 0+26(112)

Fushi~ ..Well this much should be fine.."

It can't be!

Shit. {Energy Drain} was it...
Bennoko's level decreased by two.

"There's quite the catch today..And, of all things for there to be a dark elf{dyurou}.."

So you're just realizing it at this point? Though this room is pretty dark
so I guess it's hard to notice without the light coming from my bayonet
huh?

"The vanguard mentioned by my master the {Lord} has
finally...Woman, you alone won't be able to interfere with..... This
dirty dark elf{dyurou}...I'll make sure you definitely die here."

What is this guy saying?
It seems like Miduchi has no clue either.

The vampire suddenly stretched out his hand towards Miduchi before a faint
blue light appeared.
He's certainly fast!
At the same level as me!
In opposition I raised mine as well..!

"Nn!!"

My {Anti-Magic Field} barely made it in time.
It seems it was an attack spell that fired a stone type warhead.

"Nu..After all considerably..Gu!!?"

A {Fire Javelin} was fired at the naked bastard.
It seems he was barely able to react in time so it just grazed his side but even
then it was effective.

I don't know who fired it but it was good timing.

"Let's go!!"

I yelled while charging.

While still maintaining the {Anti-Magic Field}.

"Ku..you bastard..I'm amazed you could put that much into it..but"

Without paying any mind I stopped maintaining the {Anti-Magic Field} and used wind magic behind me.

It's the same strategy the arrogant bastard who's pale-blue to the tip has been using over and over up until now but it's extremely effective at throwing off the balance of everyone but me.

I'm using it in the same way but I put quite a bit more mana into it.

I used it to the point where everyone who was behind or beside me would only trip.

Someone might end up injured because of it but they should just endure with just that for now.

Rather than that any more careless attacks would be more dangerous right.

"Keaaaa~!!"

A flash of fighting spirit, I slash down with my bayonet.

The naked bastard twists his body to evade.

I barely grazed the surface of his skin.

However, my bayonet was just a feint from the start!

Instantaneously I used {Grave.Strike} on the left foot of my combat boots before kicking into him.

Dobu!! along with a dull thud he went flying with his nether regions swaying in the wind.

I somehow managed to land but fell off balance and wasn't able to move right away.

"Eeee~i!!"

Ahead of that Angela was waiting and landed a solid hit with her broad sword before jumping backwards.

I used {Identify} once again and it had become HP: 94+201(222) MP 0+13(112). It's decreased by quite a bit.

After that Miduchi charged in and cut at him with her scimitar. His right arm was completely cut off from the upper arm.

"Fushuaaa~!!"

However, the naked bastard is still the naked bastard. Even though he's just a naked bastard.

With his expression still twisted showing he felt the pain he stretched out his left arm with perfect timing and thrust it into Miduchi.

"Agu"

Miduchi's movements stopped.
This is bad!

However, it seems she immediately used magic. Her entire body was covered in a faint blue light.

But right after she took the attack before the light from {Grave.Strike} being cast on her entire body appeared I felt like there was a much weaker light that appeared for a moment.

Miduchi quickly regained herself and made a sneer as if ridiculing him.

"It looks like it doesn't work on me?"

I was relieved. Most likely it was his {Paralysis} special skill or maybe a spell?

Whatever the case it seems you can still use spells after being paralyzed. Miduchi's practiced quite a bit with {Remove.Paralysis} after all.

"Im..Impossible.."

As expected the naked bastard couldn't hide his shock as Miduchi coldly stared him down and started swinging down her scimitar. It seems she's planning to cut off his left arm next.

"Guwu~!!"

With something swaying in the wind it seems he tried using wind magic again attempting to escape from peril.

But, it's already impossible for him to use magic anymore than this. He's become a great target.

{Stone Trebuchet Missi}..!

I cancelled it.

"You bastard~!!"

At almost the same time as I started pouring mana into it Angela started charging at him again.

And then while the vampire couldn't properly regain his balance as he landed on his ass she started slashing at his back like crazy.

"How dare you with your dirty hand!"

"Guo!!"

His remaining left arm was almost completely cut off.

I'll just use identify and keep an eye on the situation. I should stop them at an

appropriate point.

But, I wonder if torture would work on an undead?

"To the madam~~!!!!"

"Gebu!!"

Her broad sword was thrust into his stomach and then withdrawn before cutting off his left foot.

The {Grave.Strike} cast on Angela's weapon has already worn off so the damage itself isn't all that high. But, an injury is still an injury.

"Lay your hands on her~!!"

"Ga~!!"

Though it seems that the injuries themselves still hurt so torture might actually be effective.

Even if his HP goes into the minus he would just lose consciousness as well...

"So you still won't die!!"

"Gupu!!"

Nn, I guess it's about time?

"Angela, that's fine. Good work"

"You sure are sturdy!!! You~!!!"

"That's already fine, stop"

"Ahahahaha!!! So you're still alive~!!~"

"Hey, stop already"

She finally stopped...

..Barely safe.

Miduchi's increased maximum HP disappeared and returned to it's original value.

She must have been hit by {Energy Drain} at the same time. Her level hasn't decreased.

I guess he wasn't surprised because of {Paralysis} not working but {Energy Drain} not taking effect...

We cornered the vampire until it was on the verge of annihilation.

He's still barely conscious with 3 HP remaining.

His remaining left arm is still barely connected by just the skin. His left

left is tattered and I can see the bone. His guts are sticking out and

there's a horrible smell as well.

Furthermore, he only has 4 MP remaining.

I checked over all the sub-windows of all of his special skills. It seems

that bloodsucking {Drain} and {Paralysis} are basic special skills of

vampires. However, it seems they can't use {Petrification} and {Energy

Drain} unless they're perfect vampires. Furthermore, it seems

{Petrification} takes about 10 seconds for it to take effect. In regards

to {Mist.Form} and {Bat.Form} they both take about 20 seconds each for

the transformation to complete as well.

Additionally, the members

of the {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} who were fine were

dumbfounded seeing Angela but still requested that I cure their paralyzed allies so I cured them. But, they still couldn't seem hide their shock over how I used spells.

Also, it's only obvious but

they asked the naked bastard with only a single limb remaining intact about where he took Viruhaima but not only did he not talk, he even used the spell {Cure} on himself and went into a state of apparent death. Since it couldn't be helped I ordered the combat slaves collect his magic stone and cut off his head as a trophy. The magic stone had a value close to 700,000. So it's on the same level as that crazy strong Minotaur! Even though it shouldn't be a floor boss, amazing~!

"Further in there is suspicious."

Basu and Renbaru both said.

That's true but you know...

Well since it was going in and coming out I guess that means it's safe?

Hn? Berserker Angela is pulling my woman towards a corner.

Chapter 311 : The Un-Dead 4

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 15

What in the world are Miduchi and Angela doing discussing something?
While glancing at them to the side I declared.

"Well then, it's about time for everyone to return to the surface."

"It was 11,000,000 right? It's fine as long as we pay it right?"

Basu is making a face as if I was making fun of them as he said it.
They're seriously carrying it!? Shit.

"..Just a moment ago I cured Basu-san, Hyuruni-san, and Flameshaft-san once again. It's only obvious for the price to go up right?"

I'm glad I remembered before replying.

"That's not something you should be acting so cool about."

He completely saw through it. But, if I were to admit it here then
regardless of whether I go or not they'll probably go all on their own.

"..Eh?"

What are you saying? You understand from just now right? It was my party that defeated this vampire you know? None of you did any work at all right? Even Basu-san didn't you just get paralyzed again and lay

around?"

It's already gotten too annoying to act discrete~

Even if you all want to continue down this passage and get killed it doesn't...matter to me at all.

If you all come along with us it's just a bother.

If you end up being paralyzed and collapse I can't freeze things and if

anyone gets taken hostage it's not like you can just abandon them right? In worst case their blood might be sucked and it would just increase the number of enemies.

It's plenty with just Miduchi, my combat slaves, and I.

Just that is more than enough for battle.

..That's right!

"And even if everyone comes along didn't it say something as if there's still vampires remaining?"

"Huh? Did it say something? Like that?"

"I panicked from being paralyzed so I didn't notice."

"Me too."

"I, was a bit further away so I couldn't hear anything."

"Did it say something?"

"I could hear it say something about being skilled about magic."

..Is that so.

It sounded like something important so properly listen!

"In any case, it's true there still seems to be some vampires. Do you want to be paralyzed and end up having to trouble me again?"

I intentionally made an arrogant expression as if making fun of them as I said it.

"That's fine already. It's certainly true that we're just a burden to you."

Anderson said in order to smooth things over.

Well, you weren't paralyzed so you wouldn't be as much of a burden as the others though.

But, if there's no one to lead {Black.Topaz} and the followers then they won't be able to return~ to the surface.

"That might be fine for you all but not only did Sara from our party get killed but even Roberto was abducted. We can't back off that easily."

The spear attacker Bunny-man from the {Verdure.Brotherhood}, Korumain complained.

That is~ I can understand those feelings.

I'm sure there's also your pride, you want to save your leader with your own abilities or at least be of some help towards it, I can understand.

"Han? Are you picking a fight with our {Black.Topaz}? Even our Kaku was killed. If you say too much I'll kill you~!?"

Anderson replied in a threatening tone almost like a yakuza.

"Ah?

Who do you think you're talking to? A coward who runs away without even getting revenge for their sub-leader being killed should just back off!"

"That's right, these ball-less bastards! If your leader has no balls then it means none of you do!"

"What was that, bitch!"

"Ah, sis! These bastards, saying whatever they want!"

Ah, really~ They're all bickering back and forth while massaging themselves like idiots.

"Shut your mouths~!! All of you underlings just be quiet! Second-rate adventurer trash who are stuck just wandering around the mere 7th floor should be quiet and listen to what master says!!"

Zulu roared. If you hadn't said it I was about to.

"Come now, Zulu. You shouldn't speak so rudely...Putting that aside, I really wish everyone would just understand already. What can you do with your bodies in that condition? We can't just wait around here for everyone to return to their best condition you know."

I attempted to speak

in a soft tone almost like Koumon-sama scolding Suke-san. Kaku-san is..I guess Angela? But, he seems like he'd be bad at making speeches like that.

Personally I think there's either some room that {Lord} is hiding in beyond that door or otherwise a teleport crystal kind of like on the 8th floor which teleports to a different area on the 4th floor. Since there's no guarantee that there's only one vampire on the 4th floor it would be troublesome if any other adventurers are made into the vampire's familiars and increase their numbers. Furthermore, now that Viruhaima has been abducted there's no time to waste taking our time and letting them make even him into a vampire increasing their combat strength.

Suddenly I noticed Miduchi in a place a bit of distance

away looking at me as if she wanted to say something. At the same time the orders "caution", "don't make noise", and "discuss it" appeared in my head. I guess she has something she wants to discuss without anyone else hearing it.

"Excuse me for a moment."

And I just said that before heading to where Miduchi and Angela were standing. After going to where they were Miduchi started whispering to me with an expression as if it was somewhat difficult to talk about.

"Sorry, it's started"

"Eh?"

What has?

"I, don't think I can go with you today."

What is it? She must have noticed my confused expression. Miduchi brought her mouth to my ears while making an expression as if I'm dense.

"That's why I'm saying, that. It started. It seems Maruso noticed it when she was using her special skill."

Ah, her period huh..Against vampires that is..I wonder?

Just because they suck blood I wonder if they're sensitive to the smell of blood? Like sharks.

If that's the case then it would mean our surprise attack will completely fail. Putting aside whether or not there even is a chance for a surprise attack, it means we could completely lose that possibility from the start.

"Also, this. It seems Maruso noticed it just now. At the end she managed to grab it in the confusion. Look look~"

After Miduchi took a potion out of her emergency pack she handed it over to me together with that.

A ring made of some kind of stone that's been crafted extremely thin almost like wire. It's considerably damaged and along with how thin it is unless you were paying pretty close attention you're almost certain to miss seeing it.

"Don't hurry like usual. Take your time and drink the potion."

I open the cork on the potion and slowly drink from the bottle while using {Identify} on the ring.

Invisibility Ring

Hiyashinsu Zircon

Condition: Good

Manufacture Date: 2/5/6631

Value: 1

Durability: 4

The same effect as the spell {Invisibility}(However, it includes this ring itself):

Charge Count(47/999)

The one who equips this ring can become invisible along with the ring for as many times as there are charges remaining. For every charge used the user can stay invisible for up to one hour maximum. If the user makes any sort of attack actions then regardless of the remaining time the effect will immediately be cancelled.

..Hmm, a {Magic.Item} is it.

So this is the reason Angela was aiming for it's left arm?

It's big that she was able to obtain a precious {Magic.Item} without anyone

realizing it.

She must have noticed it when she landed her first attack.

So everything after that was half an act I guess?

So it wasn't unnatural to chop him up when gathering the magic stone.

Everyone, was looking away after all.

Ah!!?

That vampire we met the last time..I guess I turned it to dust along with the ring?

Well there's no point bringing it up at this point.

In any case, I offer cheers to Angela in my heart.

.....

In the end, it seems all of the remaining people are going to return carrying the corpses.

They're just a burden(they were mostly useless just before after all) by being here so that's for the best.

However, I can't afford to return.

Though I'd really like to go back once and return with Gwine and everyone else but the more time that passes the chances of Viruhaima being made into a vampire increase(though, judging by the amount of time that's already passed..), and if the vampire we just annihilated was periodically in contact with the others then things would get troublesome if they notice there's no further contact.

If I were that {Lord} then the first

thing I'd think after being unable to get into contact with my underling is that they may have died. After all it's in the middle of a dungeon with adventurers wandering around.

And then if a pawn with

that level of skill is taken down I'd immediately start preparing my defenses assuming my information was leaked. I'd also consider increasing my number of pawns. Considering the vampires abilities it seems possible.

In that case, in order to obtain their eyes there's choice other than to hurry and attack them as soon as possible.

After all we've already confirmed the fact that there's a being he considers {Lord} to exist here. In other words, it's very possible that just having his eyes might be insufficient.

..However, it hurts that Miduchi's period started...

If Miduchi, who's the next strongest after me, isn't around then it'll be even more dangerous. But, putting it frankly if the number of enemies with strength on the vampire class of the one just now increase it's even worse. Even newcomer vampires like Kaku and Sara were powered up considerably.

I still have close to 7,000 MP remaining. With all

six of my combat slaves here there's plenty of combat strength. In addition to them Giberuti is here as well so if it's just two days or so

there's no problem with supplies.

"Miduchi, follow the passage those guys used and return to the surface."

"But.."

"Even Angela was able to notice it. I'm sure the vampires will notice it as well. Relax. We'll definitely gouge out that {Lord} or whatever's eyeballs for you."

I take a storage bottle from Miduchi and carefully packed it away.

I hesitated on whether or not to leave the ring to her but in the end I decided to bring it along.

It's too scary to get naked against vampires so I don't know whether or not

I'll use it but it's still big being able to turn invisible for an hour

without consuming any MP.

In the worst case it's possible to use it to run away as well.

But I think there probably won't be any chances to use it.

I walk over to where all of the {Verdure.Brothers} are making displeased faces.

"Right now we're about to start investigating that door and if there's no problem we'll be heading inside. If it's just one or two people then it's fine if they accompany us. But.."

"Got it. That you can't guarantee the safety of anyone who comes along. Jiru and I will come along from our party."

Basu said while pointing to the Wolf-race bow user Jurietta.Kamushu.

She's also the magician that managed to back us up in combat just now with the {Fire Javelin} with pretty good timing.

"Don't worry. Even if I don't return once you get back to the surface our party will properly pay the compensation."

I couldn't care less about spare change but as long as you understand then it's easier on me.

Of course, I don't mind even if we were to bring along over 10 people as well but there's no guarantee that things beyond here will still be the 4th floor.

"I understand. The two of you, how is the condition of your bodies doing?"

"There's already no problem."

"Me too."

The two of them replied immediately. Well they're still super first-rate adventurers. If there were any problems remaining I'm sure they wouldn't volunteer.

"Well then, from here on out I'll be taking command of this party. You'll properly obey my orders right?"

"Yeah."

"I don't mind."

The two of them quietly nodded.

"Then, first off one of you two please enter that door and confirm what's beyond it. After confirming things, if possible please return right away to report about it."

Just in case I tried saying that.

"Ku..Greed..you...the most dangerous job.."

Renbaru started making complaints.

"Stop it, Ren. I'll abide so there's no problem."

Basu said that restraining the members of the {Verdure.Brotherhood} who were about to have an outburst and briskly walked in front of the door.

"..Hmm, here I guess."

After saying that he put his hand on the door without hesitation and started putting strength into it.

The door started opening upwards almost like a shop curtain.

Including me, everyone was watching over the series of events with their weapons ready.

Of course, it's just in case there's any monsters lurking on the other side of the door.

However, the only thing on the other side of the door was a hallway just like everywhere else on the 4th floor.

The difference was that it was only one meter or so wide and three meters high.

Several meters in the passage turns to the left.

After all it wasn't a pitfall I guess.

If it were a pitfall then I'd have no idea how he managed to come back.

Just in case Basu tied a rope around his waist and took a step into the passage. In the worst case we can always pull the rope and safely recover him.

"..Something is here!?"

Basu said in excitement while peeking at something from further down the curve.

"Something you say, what is it?"

Jiru tried asking Basu. Certainly.

"If I don't get a bit closer then I can't..Something's flashing..Also, there's something written here. Ah, no, it's floating..waiting Hanumin? What in the world is this?"

What in the world is our line.

Since it seems like there's nothing that would have an effect on our bodies I went in to take a look.

A bit ahead of the curve inside was a dead end and above the floor there was a plate giving off a pink colored light that seemed to be floating slightly.

It reminds me of a hologram.

On the center of that plate there were words written in the Ragudariosu language.

{On Standby}

If I were to forcefully try and translate the Ragudariosu language written on the plate into 21st century Japanese then that's what it would probably mean.

I glare at the plate while thinking.

First off, what is this?

Most likely it seems to be some sort of teleportation device.

The destination is unknown.

But, there should be a method to return.

Next up, what to do about Miduchi?

Should I bring along Miduchi or the other reincarnated people to investigate that kind of suspicious place?

However, right now investigation isn't the goal.

Of course it's not rescuing Viruhaima either.

The primary objective is to gouge out the eyeballs of a {Vampire Lord}.

Investigating things can be done afterwards.

It's unknown whether there's an a single or multiple opponents believed to be waiting beyond there but there's almost a 100% chance that vampires are included in them.

If were to question whether it's possible to negotiate with those individuals then I think it's probably impossible.

If someone were to ask you for your eyeballs there's no one who would say, "here you go".

Then, in that case there's definitely going to be a battle.

It's fine to carefully take our time investigating things after that.

I forcefully restrain my rapidly beating heart.

I returned from the passage and stood in front of everyone before starting to talk.

"We're about to go further inside to take a look. I intend on returning once within five minutes but if five minutes passes and no one returns then with Anderson-san as the leader, everyone please depart for the teleport crystal at the center of the 4th floor. Just in case from our party

we'll send along Miduchi as an escort."

And then I immediately ordered Zulu.

"Zulu.

Stand on top of that flashing floor. I think it'll probably teleport you to somewhere. After you teleport if there's nothing you need to battle then just take a glance around before coming back as fast as possible. Most likely if you take one step forward from where you're standing then take a step back to where you were I think you should be able to return. If you end up having to fight something then get as far away as possible and endure it for one minute. If you don't return within 30 seconds then we'll all follow after you inside."

Zulu

immediately followed my order and disappeared further inside the passage. If it's the same as the teleport crystals then you won't know where you'll be teleported to but my intuition is telling me that this goes back and forth between a specific location. If that wasn't the case then the fact that the vampire was using it in the first place is too unnatural.

While watching over from the back, Zulu took a step

onto the flashing plate before turning into a powder of light and disappearing. It's completely the same as the teleport crystals.

Different from the teleport crystals the flashing plate didn't lose its radiance shortly after being used.

And then in less than 10 seconds Zulu was reformed from beads of light and

returned.

"Master, just as expected beyond here is somewhere in the dungeon. It was some

kind of place made of stone that I've never seen before. I think that was different from the 3rd floor as well. Also, the light only seemed to be coming from the ceiling but I think it was brighter than usual."

It seems the location Zulu teleported into was a small room five meters in every direction. There was something like a door that was left open and after taking a step forward shortly after teleport the floor regained it's pink colored radiance in the shape of the flashing plate. Beyond the opened door appeared to be made of the same kind of stone as the room and spread out like a hallway.

"Alright, let's go in order.

First off is Jesu, then Henry, Rubi, Mekku, Angela, and Zulu. After teleport in remain quiet and don't leave the room. Next I'll go. After that Basu-san and Jiru-san. If there's no problem to the end then Giberuti. If there's no problems after Giberuti finishes teleporting inside then I'll send someone back once."

.....

Just as Zulu reported the place we teleported into was an empty storage like room made of stone.

Even if I say it was made of stone it's certainly different from the 3rd floor and almost feels like unfaced concrete. There's dust and such covering the walls so I can't really tell for sure. Then the only light appears to be coming from the ceiling but it's true it seems to be pretty bright. It falls behind the spell {Light} but even then it's considerably brighter than other places in the dungeon. Hn~ it almost feels like being in the hall of a hospital or subterranean tunnel lit up by a weak fluorescent light.

After waiting for Giberuti to

teleport in I then sent Jesu back once. The details of the message were "No problem. We'll start exploring so everyone else start returning".

While

waiting for Jesu to return I tried going into the hallway outside of the room. The width of the hall is about four meters. I realized it after taking a step into the hall but I feel like the floor of the hall is smooth almost like concrete as well. The borders of the floor, walls, and ceiling all seem to be at a perfect 90 degree angle as well. I can't help but think that it was artificially made.

On the floor there's footprints of bare feet that come and go, and after coming out of the room they continue to the left.

I looked around both sides but couldn't find any other footprints.

However, looking down the left side and it seems to loosely curve to the right. It seems like the right side curves in the same way to the left. It's something we can tell because the light is brighter than other places in the dungeon.

This hallway seems to be in the shape of a considerably large arc. It might be possible it's a large arc that goes around the outer circumference of the dungeon or something close to that.

"How is it?"

Basu asked Jiru. Probably confirming if she can sense anything with {Super Sense of Smell}. Ah, come to think of it, I wonder if Jiru noticed Miduchi's period started? Even if she did notice she must have ignored it.

"..It's hard to tell..I don't think there's any particularly strange odors."

Hmm, even though Viruhaima passed through, it's made of stone after all, as expected it doesn't seem to leave any odors behind...

In any case, it's not like we have any other clues so we decided to start off by following the footprints.

Though normally we should be proceeding carefully while on alert for traps but there's no particular disturbance in the pace of the bare footprints. I stopped at just saying "be careful of traps" to Zulu and Henry who are standing at the lead before I periodically used spells to detect traps.

Our movement speed is about 20~30 meters per minute.

Furthermore, there were a bunch of empty storage like rooms similar to the one we

teleported into all along the left wall as we were moving but we couldn't find anything like a flashing plate on the floor in any of them.

Around when we had proceeded for about 10 minutes?

We arrived at a place that seemed to have something like a board stuck to the right wall.

If you're wondering how we could tell then it's because on just a square portion of that wall on the right side there was less dust than the surrounding walls.

There was nothing below it.

"It's almost like the place where you return from the 1st floor at."

Basu whispered to himself.

Hearing that it certainly does seem to be the case.

Though there's only rooms on the left side of the hallway but if there were rooms on both sides it's true it would look just like the first room you enter at the entrance of the dungeon.

Though the light isn't from torches.

I quietly gave out a signal and entered a random room.

"Try not to talk as much as possible. In the hallway sound might echo pretty far."

After I made a complaint my slaves all looked at Basu as if to blame him for idle talk.

But, I can understand the feeling of wanting to say something.

I was about to say something myself.

"Yeah, I guess so. My bad."

It seems Basu was aware of it himself.

He honestly admit his mistake.

It's fine as long as you understand.

There's still nothing at all in the hallway.

Not a single trap or monster is coming out.

.....

It's already been over one hour..No, I think we've walked for close to an hour and a half.

The hallway still appears to be the same as usual.

However, a change finally appeared.

Ahead of the right curve at the point which we can barely see the light seems to be a bit stronger.

Chapter 312 : The Un-Dead 5

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 15

Just now was the 40th is it...

Of course, I'm talking about the number of small storage-like rooms along the left side of the hallway.

There's a small room every 50 or 60 meters.

Just in case I had them write a large "one" in ink on the floor and wall of the entrance to the small room we came out from so we won't miss it on our way back.

As far as I can tell from looking ahead this seems to be the end of the small rooms.

We walk into that last small room.

It's still the same tasteless room with nothing but dust and dirt.

We haven't discovered anything recent enough to consider them footprints except for the ones from the first room.

"It seems there won't be anymore rooms ahead. I'd say there's about 300 meters until we reach the area where that light gets brighter. I'm thinking of heading over there. Does anyone have any opinions?"

It seems neither Basu nor Jiru have anything to add.

"It seems there's not much traffic..."

Henry whispered while looking at the footprints leading along the right hall.

"I guess so. But, there's quite a few footprints nonetheless. Just from a glance I wouldn't say every week but they're probably making a round trip at least once a month.."

Basu replied after observing the footprints in the hallway up until here. True, it's just as he says.

There's several new footprints on top of the old footprints and even more new footprints on top of those.

Judging from the layers of dust covering them the history of these footprints should go beyond just the last 100 years or so.

It looks like this hallway might have existed for either several hundred years or maybe even several thousands of years.

In that case there must have been a number of round trips made before the birth(?) of even that vampire.

No problem.

Let's head further down the hallway.

.....

Further down the hall it suddenly turned once to the right at a right angle and then several meters further turned again to the left at a right angle.

And then a few meters ahead of that continued into a small room.

It's a slightly twisted circular room that's about seven or eight meters in diameter.

When we noticed the room I was wondering if the ceiling would rise as well?

but that wasn't the case.

The height of the ceiling is the same as the first small room we teleported into and the hallway we've walked up until now, 3.5 meters or so.

On the opposite side from where we entered there's another exit that continues into a hall and then on the right wall there's one more similar exit.

Also, there were monsters in the room.

One of the boss types from the rooms on the 4th and 5th floors, ghouls.

There were 8 of them.

All of their levels were over 10 so taking that into consideration they're way higher than just the 4th or 5th floors.

They seemed pretty strong.

After using {Identify} to check it seems that they don't have the usual

goblin or ork as their base as well. Hyumu, elf, dwarf, gnome, the races of all the ghouls were pretty mixed up.

But, different from the 4th floor the humidity isn't all that high so most of them are in relatively good condition and none of their faces are collapsing.

I don't know if that's the reason why but all of them still have their unique names remaining.

But well, something like this still just takes a single spell of freezing.

Normally I freeze the entire lower bodies of ghouls so they don't tear off their own legs to start moving around but trying to form the ice so we can

climb on top of it is a pain and in the first place it takes a decent

amount of time for them to tear off their own legs.

If we all attack them at once then just freezing up to their knees with level 5 fire and water magic is plenty.

I had the slaves attack them and finished them off all at once.

It seems Basu and Jiru aren't very surprised by my magic anymore.

"Leave the magic stones for later. Let's hurry ahead."

After just confirming that the ghouls are completely dead and won't revive I started walking down the hallway on the right.

Judging from a quick look the hallway in front of us is the same as the hallway we've come down until now and should bend at the same times as when we first came out of the room. If I were to say both sides are mirrored

with the room at the center would it make more sense? Also, we found a different set of old footprints from the ones we were following but all of them seem to continue down the hallway on the right.

The hallway on the right continues straight ahead.

However, about 100 meters ahead it splits up two directions like a T.

The footprints are still remaining so if we go that far we should be able to tell which direction to go down.

Blame yourselves for being too careless and not cleaning up the dust. Lord-san
yo~

After advancing up to the T split and just as we expected the footprints all go back and forth down the left side of the hall.

There's no footprints that continue down the right side at all.

Ah, I forgot to use trap detection spells from the last room up until here.

There weren't any traps up until here but there's no way of telling beyond this so I need to remember to use them.

..Nn, there doesn't seem to be any as far as I can see.

With Henry and Mekku at the lead we continue down the hall following the footprints again.

.....

The hall we were proceeding down bent to the right and just as Mekku was peeking around the corner while sticking to the right side of the wall I remembered that Henry and Rubi were both about to level up. Angela's done quite a bit of damage to a number of powerful enemies lately as well so she should have leveled up too. I guess I'll confirm it.

I use {Identify} vision.

But, when I went to take a look at the back of Henry's head I noticed it.

Roughly 10 meters ahead of where I'm standing, there's a door-shaped board where the brightness of identify vision increases along the wall that bends to the right.

The door extends from the floor to the ceiling and is about 2 meters wide or so.

I almost spontaneously flinched.

After that I tried checking all of our surroundings and there was a similar wall on the left side with a door that I could identify.

This is bad.

I turned around to look in the direction we came from and there's several similar doors along the hallway.

Additionally there was one along the wall right beside me.

However, they don't seem to be the type of doors that open in a direction for a surprise attack.

In the first place they look like they're completely fused with the surrounding wall so it's difficult to even tell them apart, or rather more or less impossible.

Other than with {Identify} that is.

I quietly gave out a sign and ordered everyone to standby in place without advancing forward.

I pretend as if I'm thinking while carefully observing the door that was beside me.

I put the back of my arm against the wall and then put my hand against my forehead.

Then I tried groaning a bit.

Just as I thought if I don't use identify I can't tell it apart from the surrounding walls.

Furthermore, I can't even find a gap with the naked eye.

For the time being I decided to try identifying it.

Sliding Door

-

Condition: Deterioration(Aging)

Manufacture Date: -/-/-

Value: -

Durability: 854692435

Ability: -

Effect: Through the sliding of the entire body it's possible for it to arbitrarily block or release the entrance between two rooms.

Well the Condition makes sense and the Durability is abnormally high but

there's nothing unusual other than the obvious under the effect. With this much durability even I would have trouble breaking through it with my attack spells.

In theory it's not as if I can't break it, but rather, it's basically the same as the dungeon walls.

Putting that aside and I guess it was a sliding door instead of a hinged door. Incidentally if it were a hinged door it would say "revolves around a single point to" in the effect text.

However, even putting aside the fact that it's missing various information it's still unnatural.

Prior to that if it's really a sliding door then it would need some place for it to slide into. It's impossible for it to be fused together with the entire wall itself like this. It's impossible to open unless it slides

further inside or to the sides. Unless it's something that comes straight from the world of 2D.

Even if I check the floor there's nothing strange in the volume of the dust in the hallway so if it were

to pull back inside and then rise to one of the sides..ah, I guess it's possible for it to slide up and down?

Hmmm...

No matter how much I look at it I can't tell where the boundary between the door and the wall is.

Even when I try touching it I can't feel any difference.

It would be too unnatural to take off my glove so I didn't go that far though.

This is something necessary to investigate.

Later though.

It's a bit strange to be facing the opposite wall for too long so I decided to

continue advancing.

.....

Just like this we continued walking for a considerable amount of time.

Jiru is drawing a rough map but everyone's long since realized it.

This isn't the 4th floor.

The 4th floor doesn't have this much extra space.

Everyone's remaining quiet but I(probably, Zulu and Angela as well) am sure of it.

This is either the 12th or 13th floor.

Along the way we ran into two more spacious rooms like the one with ghouls.

One of them had three {Wights}, which were kind of like ghouls or zombies

but covered in a yellowish light, though I looked at them with

{Identify} from quite a bit of distance away. One of their special

skills was {Energy.Drain} and they seemed pretty dangerous so I shot

about 10 {Fire Balls} with extra mana added from the place I used

identify at and wiped them out.

My experience points increased by over 200,000 and I leveled up. I regretted it a bit if I had known

they'd increase this much I would have frozen them in ice and let my

combat slaves finish them off. It seems you can't injure them without

using magic weapons but they're undead monsters so I think

{Grave.Strike} would have taken effect.

In the other room there was a single monster called a {Specter} which had a name like some

rampaging bandit from years past. But, it was half-transparent almost like a ghost so I didn't think freezing it would work and ended up just trying to kill it by rapid-firing magic again, though it was pretty fast. In a hurry I poured 500 MP into a super powered {Flame Thrower} and roasted it.

It had {Energy.Drain} as well so it's dangerous right. Unexpectedly this fellow gave 180,000 experience points for just it alone. I felt like it was saying something as well but it's voice was too quiet, it felt kind of like "who the hell are you" so it might have been something like a gatekeeper to where that {Lord} or whatever is holed up inside.

Incidentally this ghost impertinently used magic and when I first used {Flame Thrower} it tried to block it with

{Anti-Magic Field}. But, it only had about 400 MP so in the end my spell won over it and it died with a cry like "gya~~". It was pretty loud in the end.

Just this guy dropped three separate magic stones so(it didn't leave a corpse) I picked them up as some bonus income. Ah,

monsters that drop multiple magic stones are already well known. Though this is might first time seeing once, dragons and other giant monster types are examples of ones that do.

I've said it before so you still remember right? The size wasn't anything great but the color was beyond white and close to perfectly transparent and beautiful. When I used

{Identify} each of them had a value a bit over 1,000,000. Uhho~ just

this is worth over 20,000,000.

Basu and Jiru are looking pretty jealous but I don't mind it at all.

Furthermore there was a mountain of dirty trash or dust in a corner of this room.

While I was identifying the magic stones I ordered Jesu to investigate but it seems it was just a pile of some kind of small dirty board so after all it was trash.

There's no time to be digging through trash so I put off investigating things for later.

I've found doors all over the place but for the time being I've decided not to bother with them so we're hurrying ahead.
For now I still haven't found any traps.

.....

And then I regretted hurrying ahead.

It happened after turning at a certain corner and proceeding for a short while.

"Bzzt..zaza...tsugudafu..above de.missu...mukaru.meinri..zaza...is..distance biku recognition baru to group hivu plate desshi...sai..place..removal that's why.fiku..inside ni rogu.hi sa ne kuryugu..mai tsu mimu"

Huh?

It sounds like the ancient Ragudariosu language.

I was unnerved by the sudden broken announcement as if it was coming from a speaker on the verge of breaking and was unable to decipher the meaning of what it said.

We all stopped at once and started

concentrating on our surroundings to determine where the announce just now came from but no one could find anything suspicious.

However, I was somehow able to figure out the meaning of what it said.

"Bzzt..zaza...(Warning)..(forbidden from proceeding beyond this point)..zaza..(qualification

holders)..(immediately present your identification)..(otherwise you will be removed as dangerous individuals)..(please depart within 3 seconds)..3{Three}.."

It's probably like this.

"2{Two}"

"GO back!!"

I turned around to the right.

"1{One}"

Everyone obeyed my warning in a hurry.
However..!

"0{Zero}"

However, Henry who was walking at the front was hit by an invisible attack and

collapsed!

Mekku who approached to save him ended up taking damage in the same way and fell on the spot.

It must have been because they were one corner ahead of from where we were walking in the back.

Zulu and Angela dragged them along in a panic and returned back to the corner of the hall.

And then by the time we went around the corner of the hall the announcement stopped.

"Where were you hit!!?"

I asked Henry and Mekku who were being dragged by Zulu and Angela.

"Ggu. M..My leg."

"M..Me too."

Henry.Okonnell/23/9/7445 Henry.Okonnell/27/8/7445

Male/19/4/7422.Human.Greed Viscount Family Owned Slave

Age: 25 Years Old

Condition: Burn

Level: 16

HP: 89(119) MP: 5(5)

Strength: 19

Speed: 20

Dexterity: 19

Endurance: 18

Special Skill: Small Magic

Experience: 562269(680000)

Meisun.Garuhashu/23/9/7445 Meisun.Garuhashu/27/8/7445

Male/14/3/7424.Human.Greed Viscount Family Owned Slave

Age: 23 Years Old

Condition: Burn

Level: 15

HP: 90(120) MP: 15(15)

Strength: 20

Speed: 20

Dexterity: 13

Endurance: 18

Special Skill: Instantaneous

Special Skill: Night Vision

Special Skill: Earth Magic Lv. 3

Special Skill: Water Magic Lv. 3

Special Skill: Void Magic Lv. 3

Experience: 524256(560000)

It seems there's no danger to their lives. I was a bit relieved.

"I'll heal you now! Do you know what you were hit by!!?"

There was a wound almost like they were hit by a gun on both of their thighs. A hole that's several mm in diameter and has burn marks went through their tough leather pants and a bit of blood is coming out.

The wound goes through from the back to the front and there's only a small hole where it seems to have entered.

The starting point of the wound almost looks like it was burnt and that also acted to stop the bleeding.

This..isn't a gun.

Is it a spell?

But, I don't know of any spell like this.

In any case, right now I need to heal them up.
I used {Cure All} on them consecutively.

Both of them had a single wound on their right legs.

"I..I don't know. Just as I turned around in order to retreat it suddenly.."

"I don't know either. I'm very sorry, master."

After I finished healing them and was looking around everyone was standing on edge while scanning the surroundings.

Other than that there wasn't anything particularly unusual.

There's no more attacks.

"Mekku, lend me your sword. No, just the scabbard is fine."

Makku took the scabbard off his sword band and handed it to me.

After receiving it I returned to the edge of the hall and slowly stuck just the scabbard out beyond the corner.

Nothing happened.

I stuck it out even further and waved it around.

Still nothing happened.

Hm~mm...

Spontaneously with my left hand..scary~

Should I use my combat slaves here..No, I should do it myself.

Even if my fingers are blown off I can heal it.

Ah, it would be unpleasant if my gauntlet is broken.

Thinking that I took the gauntlet off my left hand and it was just as I was about to take off my glove.

"Master, that's dangerous! Please stop!"

Zulu stopped me.

"If you need a decoy leave it to me!"

Angela started advancing.

..I guess leaving it to these two is fine as well?

No, that's no good.

If it's me I can use {Anti-Magic Field} in an instant.

In the first place I was just planning to stick my left hand out while using {Anti-Magic Field}.

Or at least that was what I was thinking but I also thought it wouldn't

attack right away even if I showed my hands, legs, or entire body.

When it attacked just now it was after something like a warning announcement happened and that was after advancing about 10 meters past that corner.

The details of the announcement was that if you approach within a fixed distance it'll drive you away.

Adding to that the attack seemed to be aimed at the legs and there's no major bleeding from the injuries so even if you were to leave it alone you

wouldn't die right away.

In other words, if you just approach that close it won't try to kill you.

"No. I'll go. Give me the rope"

I tie the rope around my waist and if anything happens I'll have them pull it to bring me back right away.

If it aims for and shoots the rope that's the end but it still better than nothing.

First I covered my left hand in an {Anti-Magic Field} and stuck it out just a bit. Several tens of seconds passed as I waved my hand up and down but nothing

happened.

I tried stretching my hand out a bit further and did the same thing again.
Even then nothing happened.

I go all out and expose my entire body.
Nothing happened.

Just as expected.

I returned once and put my glove and gauntlet back on.
I went back out from the corner to the right and showed myself again. This time without an {Anti-Magic Field}.

And then I used the spells {Find.Trap}, {Detect.Snare}, and {Detect.Pitfall}.

Found it!

Roughly 150 meters ahead I can feel traps set on both sides around the floor where the hallway bends to the left!

It's too far so I can't really tell but..that shape is..!

Cannon!?

No, a gun!?

Aa.De.Ra~.Ku-Type 3

-

Condition: Deterioration(Aging)

Manufacture Date: -/-/-

Value: -

Durability: 1269

Ability: Mode I/30: Mode II/90

Effect: Anti-intruder automatic defense system {sentry.gun}. Heat ray gun
{blaster} made by Hauza and Rekon Company. K.L.Ru 43 with connected
sensors to make it automatic.

"Wha!!?"

I reflexively let out my voice.

Ah the "Aa.De.Ra~.Ku" is lined up with the {Common.Letter} characters of

the Ragudariosu language so it's probably some kind of model number.

I froze for a moment with my eyes opened wide but immediately remembered to slam some attack spells into it.

{Fire Cannon}!

One more!

{Ice Cannon}!

I focused solely on rapid-fire without adding the missile effect to them.

Also, in reaction to the dangerous sounding explanation about it being a heat ray gun {blaster} I used two different types of attacks just in case.

The {Sentry.Gun} was effortlessly destroyed by my spells without a chance to intercept them.

It seems that sensor or whatever doesn't react to spells.

"Bzzt..who is it, out there? Is it you again Wazumun? I always say not to forget your identification card when you're carrying prey in..Even though you had it just before..This is why barbarians are..I'll be there in a moment so wait there..Bzzt"

There was announcement.

But, it wasn't a recording or synthesized voice but a natural voice.

However, what in the world was with the content just now!?

On my right, everyone is dumbfounded in the shadow of the hall.
Basu and Jiru seem to be speechless for a variety of reasons.
It must be the first time they've seen attack spells that flashy.

"I've removed the trap. Let's go! Hurry!"

After saying that I took my bayonet from Zulu who recovered first and then ran off.

I run while calling out to my slaves and cast the spell {Grave.Strike} on their weapons.

I cast it on Basu and Jiru's swords as well.

I don't know if the owner of that voice is that {Lord} or whatever but it should be moving to somewhere from where it just was.

We pass by the remains of the {Sentry.Gun} I destroyed.

Up until here just in case I confirmed if there was anything like a sensor but unfortunately I wasn't able to find anything at all.

It must be either very well hidden or inside of the walls of the hallway.

Right after the remains the hallway turned to the left again with a 90 degree angle.

Several meters beyond that is..a dead end!

However, my {Identify} vision shows that the wall of that dead end is a door.

There should be a switch for opening and closing it somewhere. No, it would be strange if there wasn't one.

It was when I approached to investigate it, the door gave off sounds like, "Psshhh..ga~ ga~" as it slowly started to sink into the floor.

An automatic door?

And then further inside of the automatic door is probably the owner of the voice from the announcement just now.

The moment I saw what seemed to be the top of someone's head I used

{Identify}.

Masetto.Deioku/13/3/5912

Male/1/1/5911.Hyumu(Immortal).Deioku Family Second Son

Condition: Vampire(True Ancestor Lord)

Age: 268 Years Old(1536 Years Old)

Level: 28

HP: 498+1269(498) MP: 508+50(558)

Strength: 90(30)

Speed: 90(30)

Dexterity: 90(30)

Endurance: 90(30)

Unique Skill: Resistance(Abnormal Status)(MAX)

Special Skill: Bloodsucking{Drain}

Special Skill: {Paralyze}

Special Skill: {Venom}

Special Skill: {Petrification}

Special Skill: {Energy.Drain}

Special Skill: {Mist.Form}

Special Skill: {Bat.Form}

Special Skill: {Create.Familiar}

Special Skill: {Immortal}

Special Skill: {Growth.Fix}

Special Skill: Earth Magic (MAX)

Special Skill: Water Magic (MAX)

Special Skill: Fire Magic (MAX)

Special Skill: Wind Magic (MAX)

Special Skill: Void Magic (MAX)

On the other side of the automatic door that's descending at an almost

irritating speed what appeared before my eyes after using {Identify} on just the top of his head was a shocking status window.

Rather than that what caught my attention were the words {True Ancestor

Lord}.

As well as {Immortal}.

And the characters mixed in there that were red like blood.

Above all else his experience point field had disappeared just like Kaku and Sara as well.

I won't let him make a single move! First move wins!

Chapter 313 : The Un-Dead 6

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 15

I wanted to use the {resist} spells but I was at my limit just using them on myself.

Sorry about that.

The automatic door was descending at the extremely slow speed of 5 cm per second or so.

It seems to be breaking down somewhere from age.

It's pretty shaky.

The moment I identified the top of his head I quickly took my left hand off my bayonet and started making a {Delayed Blast Fire Ball} with 10 times the power.

The delay timer is set to 2 seconds.

At the same time I gave out the order to everyone for them to crouch down and maintain a low posture.

Basu and Jiru were one breath later than the others but they still crouched down right away.

"..Really, even though it's troublesome for me to have to cut the security every single time.."

I can hear the grumbling voice of an older man complaining from the other side of the door.

It seems he's still misunderstanding.

Judging from the details of his announcement just now, I guess from inside he

can only determine that the "defense system activated"?

Either

there's nothing like observation equipment or a camera setup in the hallway where the sentry gun was or I guess even if there originally was they've already broken down from aging.

If that's not the case then our identities should have been exposed the moment the defense system activated.

Also, the activation switch for the security system is definitely near this door, most likely on the other side of it.

Since he probably came over to hit the switch and opened the door in addition to that.

His kindness towards his subordinate(?) ended up backfiring on him.

"Wazumun. Either you've got some bad taste or you're pretty patient..this light..take off the preys equipment before you.."

It seems he can feel the light coming from a weapon with {Grave.Strike} cast on it.

How carefree~

Although, I don't know if it's several hundred or several thousand years but I'm

sure no one other than his subordinates has made it this far.

It's not unreasonable for him to misunderstand and be a bit careless.

I just need to take advantage of that.

The mana continues to gather in my hand and becomes a crystal almost like diamond a bit smaller than a fist.

It's done.

The moment this thing explodes it'll turn into a giant {Fire Ball} with a diameter of 50 cm.

It'll then send countless burning stones flying in every direction.

Whether it was faster that the other side noticed me or faster that I threw my

grenade to the other side of the door like "Enjoy~" Of course the moment I threw it in I didn't forget to use {Anti-Magic Field} and create a defensive wall.

"Wha!!?"

He raises his voice in shock.

Well, I'm sure.

It seemed like he wasn't expecting an attack after all.

Soon after a large explosion echoed out and a few burning stones flew through the half open door before bouncing off the ceiling and flying over here.

I had expected it but this door is pretty sturdy.

Soon after the stones were offset by my spell I stood up, quietly walked over to the door and put my left hand on the top of it, then jumped over into the room.

Of course I'm still maintaining {Anti-Magic Field} all the while.

On the other side of the door a hallway continues for roughly 30 meters and beyond that seems to be another T shaped split.
I guess this hall is the base of the T.

Along the wall just before the end of the T shaped hall.

I can see the shadow of a person that must have been blown away.

His clothes are completely in tatters though rather than saying they were blown away by the {Fire Ball} they seem to have originally been pretty worn out.

I can see quite a bit of gray hair growing out of his

lowered head but considering how he was exposed to the {Fire Ball} it's probably been quite a while since it was taken care of either way.

With his back to the wall he has his arms crossed in front of his face as he takes a defensive stance.

Including his arms there's stones embedded into his entire body almost like bullets as smoke rises from them.

He seems to have been blown away but it doesn't seem that he was smashed into the wall.

I was able to guess after seeing the top of his head from the other side of the door but he's probably about 20 cm shorter than I am.

I can't

really tell his physique because of the worn out clothes but judging from his forearms he doesn't exactly seem to be like a dead tree.

HP: 0+367(498) MP: 508+50(558)

But I'm surprised.

Even though he took a direct hit from a {Delayed Blast Fire Ball} with 10 times the power he still isn't dead!

Though he's taken some serious damage.

He quickly lowered his crossed arms to their original position then raised his head to look over here.

Below his hair was the wrinkled face of an old man just as could be imagined from his voice and his eyes are giving off an evil red light.

Honestly speaking there's a variety of things I'd like to try asking him about but right now there's more important things I need to think about than conversation.

In the first place I'm sure anyone would be pretty

pissed at someone who suddenly hit them with an attack spell when they were off guard.

I can hear the sound of several people jump through the door behind me.

The wrinkled old man's face twisted into a sneer.

I understand everything. These people are unexpected intruders.
Or at least that's sort of expression he made as he stretched his hand out.

"It's coming!!"

I gave out a warning and continued maintaining my {Anti-Magic Field} while charging forward.

Now, come!

I'll take on all of your attack spells!

The old man made a slightly surprised expression seeing me run over while maintaining my spell but soon after electricity was fired from his hand.
It's a narrow hallway so it's probably {Chain Lightning}.

The
electricity gave off a crackling noise as it cut through the air and was received by my {Anti-Magic Field} before disappearing with a small discharge.

Even though his own attack spell was erased the old man just made a slightly impressed expression.
Without panicking he fired off another attack spell.

A giant stone spear was fired from the old man's hand.

This is, {Stone Cannon}!?

But, if it's just this level then I'll you I can take it even easier than the {Chain

Lightning}!

I adjust the position of my {Anti-Magic Field} that's floating in front of my left hand and took the hit.

The head of the stone spear gave off purple flashes off light as it was swallowed by my {Anti-Magic Field}.

During that time the distance between the {Vampire Lord} and I continued to shorten.

Now~ what do you plan to do next?

No matter what spell you use I'll take them all.

And, suddenly the vampire lord jumped to the side and disappeared.

Wind Magic is it?

I was able to kill off a larger portion of the wind but I can't erase the

air that was pushed by the air produced from wind magic with

{Anti-Magic Field}.

The speed I was running at was slowed down by a bit.

From where I'm looking the old man vampire lord took off running to the left.

Further down the T shaped hall, it seems the left side leads into a room while

the right side leads into a dead end about 10 meters ahead. Though it

might not be a dead end but just a closed door.

Down the hall

near the entrance to the room the vampire was bent over with his left

hand to the ground as he knocked on a portion of the wall with his right

hand.

Behind me I can hear the same sound as when the door opened just before.

"You all, protect me! Earn me some time!"

The old man ordered someone before using wind magic once more and retreated further into the room.

I guess he intends to come back when he's ready.

In that case.

While looking over my shoulder I cancel my {Anti-Magic Field}.

Right after I cast the spell {Acid Cloud} with 20 times the mana in front of the door that started to open.

Down the hall is filled with 5 meters of yellow gas.

I still don't know what was hiding behind that door but it would be good if this can slow it down for a bit...

Even if they're vampires there's no way they can pass through highly corrosive acid gas without taking any damage right?

"I'm leaving the rear to you! Team up and take out everyone that comes out!!"

Now, the real thing starts here!

Those eyeballs, I've already got a reservation on them!

.....

The room was 20 meters or so wide and about 50 meters long I guess?

Most likely it's the vampire lords living room.

Chairs made of bones and skin.

What seems to be lighting magic tools are embedded all over the floor so it's pretty bright.

Even though the hallway was bright from just the ceiling, it seems this room has magic tools embedded at fixed intervals.

With just the light coming from below these vampires have bad taste.

Inside of this room I'm engaged in life or death combat.

Both of us are using wind magic to instantaneously move at high speeds while firing off attack spells with the missile effect added to them almost like throwing knives.

However, it's absurd to do that with my normal living body, there's no way for me to keep it up.

Now I'm standing in a place about 5 meters from the entrance of the room where there's no furniture as I deploy an {Anti-Magic Field} in front of my left hand and wait for the vampire lord to run out of MP, that sort of conservative fight.

The vampire lord was making light of me with movements and stamina that are unimaginable from his appearance..and seems to intend on continuing?

No, that's wrong.

The expression on his face is impatience.

HP: 0+997(498) MP: 164+50(558)

...

.....

Several minutes prior, just as I was charging into this room following after the vampire lord as it escaped.

From behind I heard Zulu's shouting voice say, "Basu, Maruso, and Mekku you all act to split them up!! Advance! Stay on the defensive and don't let them reach master! Henry and I will block them here! Rubi, Jesu calm down!?" It seems Zulu is skillfully taking command disregarding Basu and Jiru. At the same time I can hear things like, "Come on!! " and "Slow them down! Aim for the legs! I can't hit!" and such but I have no leeway to mind it.

The reason being that my opponent isn't just the vampire lord that retreated into the room but there's three others as well.

The three people in the room that seem to be vampires(they have red eyes and fangs) don't seem to fall behind the vampire we just killed on the 4th floor several hours ago. Furthermore all of them are geared up.

One of them seems to be a middle aged Hyumu woman.

She's wearing the remains of leather armor that's so damaged it normally wouldn't be useful at all and has a round shield and long sword in her hands.

The next one seems to be a male tiger-race in his late 20s or so.

Just the same as the woman, he's wearing a set of banded mail that was probably pretty high quality at one point but is now completely damaged, as well as holding an ellipsoid shield in one hand and a large sword in the other.

And then the last one. Wearing a set of splint mail armor that could be considered a wazamono with a long sword specially made from Fuggusu sword shop in his right hand and a custom made spiked buckler with it's surface dyed in a brilliant emerald green color in his left hand, it's a middle aged elf. Miduchi called it a "Rikugan Shield" or something like that. With this it's been confirmed my bonus is up in flames.

These three are standing at the front showing a frightening level of cooperation as they earn time for the vampire lord to use some kind of spell to heal his wounds. Since the vampire lord is an undead he doesn't seem to be using healing spells but some other kind of spell to heal them but he doesn't seem to be used to it so it's taking him some time.

Properly practice your recovery spells.
Though I'm sure he's never actually been injured before now.

At first I was able to freeze both Viruhaima and the middle aged woman with good timing.

During that time I stabbed the tiger-man twice with ym bayonet as well as landing one hit with {Stone Bolt} and was fortunate enough to deal quite a bit of damage.

I ended up taking a single good hit as well and

while thanks to my armor I wasn't directly injured, the force of the impact broke a couple of my ribs on top of sending me flying into the entrance wall. Obviously I immediately healed it and erased the damage

though.

In any case, while I was playing with the tiger-man like

that either Viruhaima or the woman used {Anti-Magic Field} to erase the ice. Since it would probably take quite a bit of time for Viruhaima to concentrate in order to use {Anti-Magic Field} it was probably the woman.

Though I don't have any time to use identify so I can't tell.

Seeing that I panicked for just a moment(they used {Anti-Magic Field} in less than 20 seconds or so) but on the contrary since I was able to cool my head I was able to calmly use spells.

When the tiger-man started swinging his sword down towards me I used {Disintegrate}.

Of course, against the sword that is.

These fellows aren't vampire lords so it would have been fine to just quickly use {Disintegrate} and turn them to dust but as expected the amount of MP required to change an entire person into dust is too huge.

The tiger-man had the sword he was swinging disintegrated and then tripped over after making an empty swing in a flashy way.

I guess even for a vampire he couldn't gain his balance right away after something unexpected happened.

At that moment I used the spell {Vacuum Blade} and sent it flying towards the back of his neck.

The tiger-man's head was sent rolling on the ground without any blood spraying out.

As expected it seems even undead can't survive with their heads cut off.

What was it again?

Miduchi mentioned it.

Ah, Durahan or something like that.

If they aren't one of those then they'll die I guess.

After facing the woman who erased my ice and Viruhaima I fired off a {Flame.Strike} to keep them in check.

It seems Viruhaima opened his eyes in shock for a short moment but soon after laughed in scorn as he brought up his shield to deflect the baseball sized {Fire Ball}.

However, in a hurry the woman blocked all three of the shots flying at her with her shield and body. Since she's an undead she obviously should have taken quite a bit more damage than normal.

?

Did she not want her masters bedroom to be set on fire?
Or does she want to commit suicide?

"That's dangerous! Put it out!"

The woman ordered Viruhaima with a strong tone of voice.
After nodding once Viruhaima stopped moving towards me and started concentrating once again.
As if spells from someone of your level could offset my spells!

In that case I'll just fire countless more.

{Flame.Strike}!

This time the woman didn't try to use her body to block them but jumped over

the fire balls and started coming at me from head on.
I guess it's Viruhaima's turn to sacrifice his body?

Now then, this woman, how should I cook her up?
Since she's not the naked vampire she shouldn't use paralysis or whatever else for as long as she's using the sword.
Though her skill with the sword itself should be quite superior just like the tiger-man vampire thanks to the increases in their physical abilities but against a weakened vampire that's taken two hits from small fire balls...

In that case!

After firing off the spell I immediately went on guard with my bayonet and charged towards the woman.
At the same time I used {Iron Skin}, {Stone Skin}, and {Bark Skin} one after another.

My body is covered in the blue light from the spells.

On top of that I twisted my body so that her long sword would hit my shoulder guard in order to reduce the damage and then from a close distance that can't be dodged shot 8 {Fire Javelins} straight through her.

Huh?
It didn't hurt as much as I thought it would.
Or rather, I don't feel like I took any damage at all.
This, could it be pretty useful?

I brought my bayonet covered in sunlight up as I sliced the woman from below her jaw and cut her face in half as I thought it was strange and

looked behind her.

Why? Because I couldn't hear the sound of my {Flame.Strike} exploding.

I was so surprised I thought I might fall over but Viruhaima was deploying the purple colored power field that I'm used to seeing. How in the world is this possible!? That old man, he was able to deploy an {Anti-Magic Field} this fast? Was it the old man who erased the ice just before?

"Fushi~!! Feels good..Greed, you seem useful, come over to this side!"

Viruhaima said that while laughing to himself.

You sure are taking it easy even though I just defeated your senior.

Also, he seems to have lost his human emotions.

Chapter 314 : The Un-Dead 7

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 15

Though I'm sure he

didn't willingly become like that I have no intention of listening seriously to what someone who's given up their humanity and fallen to being an undead says. Even more so we're in the middle of combat right now.

I silently brought up my bayonet and face off against Viruhaima.

It'll be bad if I don't do something about this guy now while the vampire lord is still recovering.

A {Stone Bolt Missile} firing from my forehead was the signal for the start of the battle.

I control the {Stone Bolt} while charging towards Viruhaima.

"Fushi~~~~!!"

Viruhaima spit out air almost as if raising his fighting spirit as he skillfully deflected my stone arrow with his small buckler.

Aiming for that

opening I thrust forward with my bayonet which was brushed away by his long sword, expecting that I fired off one more {Stone Bolt} and landed a

hit on his side through the gaps in his armor.

"Gu..."

For an instant, Viruhaima's movement slowed down as if he couldn't breathe.

However, pretending as if he couldn't breathe was just a feint.

This guy, he intentionally left an opening on his side!

As he brought his blade back down he came to cut at me.

I twisted my bayonet around and swiped away the long sword with the gunstock then took a bit of distance.

Undead don't breathe after all.

Even I had already seen through this far.

However, I've figured it out with that.

Originally Viruhaima's close combat strength is below mine. Or at least I think so.

But, through being made into a vampire or familiar he's powered up and at the very least seems equal to me.

His reaction speed and the speed which he cuts in are strengthened to a completely different level.

It might be even higher than that fellow from the 4th floor...

If he were to get naked I feel like he might even be able to display better movements than him.

I guess it's still better that he's wearing heavy armor and swinging a sword around?

"Gre~~ed~ Aren't~~ you~~strong~ It's quite something to be able to go that far with a living body~ right~ think it over again~"

He sure seems easygoing...

Viruhaima exaggerates with an easygoing smile about four meters away.

Even though I'm feeling uneasy not knowing when the vampire lord might return to battle.

I still have over 4,000 MP remaining.

Though I can't tell exactly how much without using identify, but around there. Most likely this guys mana has increased as well but it's minuscule compared to me and since he just used {Anti-Magic Field} it's probably decreased by quite a bit.

Roberto.Viruhaima/24/2/7404

Male/19/3/7403.Elf.Viruhaima Family Fourth Son

Condition: Vampire

Age: 44 Years Old(0 Years Old)

Level: 20

HP: 175+6(210) MP: 7+16(70)

Strength: 38(19)

Speed: 50(25)

Dexterity: 48(24)

Endurance: 42(21)

Special Skill: Infrared Vision

Special Skill: Bloodsucking {Drain}

Special Skill: {Paralyze}

Special Skill: {Petrification}

Special Skill: {Energy Drain}

Special Skill: {Mist.Form}

Special Skill: {Bat.Form}

Special Skill: Earth Magic Lv. 6

Special Skill: Water Magic Lv. 6

Special Skill: Fire Magic Lv. 6

Special Skill: Wind Magic Lv. 5

Special Skill: Void Magic Lv. 6

Around there I guess.

I guess that means the vampire lord can make someone into a vampire in one go.

In any case, I should finish this match off before he completely gets used to the body of a vampire.

He was still managing until just now but things won't be so simple this time!
I use wind magic behind me to the left.
I take off at an angle while adjusting the direction I'm going and use an attack spell.

{Flame.Strike}!

This time I poured a bit more MP into it. The small {Fire Balls} started to launch from the central point not just to the left and right but to highs and lows as well.

That's not all. I also increased the speed by quite a bit.
Those spread out almost like a square pyramid as they fly towards Viruhaima.
If you dodge them they'll hit your boss who's focused on recovery!~

"Gu!!"

As expected a bit of impatience showed in Viruhaima's expression as he remained in place.

And then I can tell he's gritting his teeth as he prepares to use {Anti-Magic Field} at a speed as if he's already used to using it.
However, it seems he didn't make it in time.

Of course that's the case right~
The first time took him around 20 seconds. And while the next time only took him a short 2 or 3 seconds of concentration to use {Anti-Magic Field}, I increased the flying speed of my spell this time by almost double.

Additionally the distance between us was close at around two meters.

All five shots of {Fire Ball} landed hits on Viruhaima.

As expected he didn't try to evade or deflect them...

It's difficult to fight while protecting something after all.

If it's something spiritual then there's times it'll become a great strength but if it's something physical then...

"Guao~~!!!"

Leaving behind an excessive dying scream Viruhaima collapsed with both knees to the ground.

The leader of the super first-rate adventurers the {Verdure.Brotherhood}

died pathetically without even decently displaying his power.

I made a slight frown before glaring at the vampire lord further inside.

I exchanged glances with the vampire lord.

"Not only intruding in a person's house but even killing their servants, you have some guts brat."

What he said was so close to the truth that I couldn't think of a reply.

However, in exchange my slaves replied for me.

"It's weakened, don't let your guard down!!"

"Chase it over here!!"

"Mekku! Now!!"

"Rubi, move!!"

It seems they're splendidly in the middle of surrounding and beating the crap out of something.

Furthermore, the opponent doesn't seem to be a vampire as I can hear growling an

occasional voice of "Kyan!", so it's probably a guard dog.

They seem to have already done quite a bit of damage to it so it shouldn't be a

problem to just leave that side to them.

Now then, I need to confirm.

There's no problem with exposing my origins.

Since either way I have to kill him.

The vampire lord is wearing tattered clothes and damaged boots with his toes showing through.

I can't tell what his boots are made of but probably some kind of leather.

His messy hair is grown down to his shoulders and he's got a light grey

beard the same color as his hair growing from his wrinkled face.

"Old man, what's your name?"

The vampire lord in front of me didn't show even the slightest reaction when hearing my Japanese.

Since he was born 1,500 years or so before me, I guess he doesn't understand modern day Japanese?

Otherwise, maybe he was a foreigner?

He doesn't really seem to have a Japanese looking appearance after all.

Though he's a wrinkly old man so it's hard to tell.

"Shuailao sherao, zhege myoji..kumintsu?"

I guess he can't understand.

Well, he doesn't look oriental and his eyes look green, so it can't be helped.

"?????? shitadikku, ??? eto ??? bashu ??? imya?"

Still no good?

"{Hey dotage, what's your name?}"

Just in case I tried asking in English but as expected there was no

reaction. Well, among those the only ones that are similar to the

Ragudariosu language are the first and the last parts, so the only part which the meaning is conveyed should be the last part.

"..This country bumpkin. What dialect is that?"

The vampire lord replied.

If Japanese, Chinese, Russian, and English don't get across to him then it's beyond me.

"..{Name} I'm asking what your name is~, {Name} {Nemu}"

I use {Identify} to confirm how much he's recovered while asking.

HP: 0+1245(498) MP: 269+50(558)

He's recovered quite a bit.

All in all I did spend a good bit of time to finish off those three.

"If you want to ask someone's name then you should first give your own."

That's quite right.

"I'm Alan.Greed {Kawasaki Takeo}."

"That's a long name..This lord's name is Deioiku."

"Not that one. I'm asking your previous name. The name you had before you reincarnated. Person with a Unique Ability. What country are you from?"

For the first time surprise appeared in the vampire lord's expression.

"Ho?"

How did you know that...Greed {Kawasa}..was it, how about it? If you

know about reincarnation then how about serving me? If you do then I'll give you eternal life."

"Ha...By becoming an undead? Sorry but no thanks."

Ah, though it might be the non-aging{Immortal} instead but I'd rather not have that either.

I remain cautious with my bayonet at the ready.

"Mu..A {Tseru} is it..No, just in shape?"

seeing the wooden bayonet the vampire lord's expression changed to caution for

just a moment but then quickly regained his composure.

"Hmph, something like a fake {Tseru}.."

After saying that he stuck his left hand into the surface(!) of the desk just

to his side as he took out something and pointed it at me.

Th..That is, a pistol? Is it?

Just from a glance it looks like a pretty strange gun.

He's holding onto the grip with his finger on the trigger.

Above the grip there's a barrel shaped almost like a large acorn or a tear

and then from there's it's streamlined to the muzzle..but I can't see it.

The tip of it is just like a spike.

It's shaped almost like a toy beam gun.

Is he messing around with me?

Hn? Beam gun?

Do.Tsu~~.Ku-Type 52

-

Condition: Broken(Aging)

Manufacture Date: -/-/-

Value: -

Durability: 6

Ability: -(?30)

Effect: Heat ray gun{blaster} made by Wido Company. Officially adopted in Himunosu calendar year 43648. It's a masterpiece gun with an extremely high reputation for the many meritorious deeds made with it during the third great Enkudo war.

It's seriously real!? But, isn't it broken~

However...

I, wonder exactly what kind of face I'm making right now?

I don't know why but a vampire lord is pointing just the muzzle(though there isn't one) at me while slowly waving the gun back and forth.

"I thought there was no way but, are you reading it...It can't be, Gein?"

This time for sure the vampire lord's eyes are opened wide in shock.

Though I'm being left behind.

Or rather~ that movement, does he know about {Identify}?

If the target being identified is in my field of vision then the window doesn't move.

Therefore my eyes shouldn't be moving all that much while reading the window.

Furthermore, it doesn't require following the targets movements with the eyes.

"Th..There's no way that can be..Definitely..I definitely killed him..Zugutomore, No, Gein should have died back then!"

What are you getting all agitated on your own about.

"You, what country were you born in? Do you know about {Japan}? {Yamato} or {Wanokuni} are fine as well. Do you understand the {Gregorian calendar}? {A.D.} or {Anno.Domini} is fine as well. Do you know about {Christ}?"

"What are you saying?"

"I don't know which country but you're an {Earthling} right? Though {Earthnoid} is fine as well."

He was making a strange face.

"So you aren't..Gein. I can't understand a lot of the words you're using."

"Same for you."

"I am..No, it doesn't matter. I'll ask once more. If you're a reincarnated person then become my subordinate and cooperate with me. We'll return this mistaken planet back to normal."

Wafun?

Mistaken planet?

Seeing that I was speechless the vampire lord continued his words as if he was irritated.

"You..is that not the case? Well whatever..Then I'll say it so even you can understand. Kamira, No, do you know a woman called Lilus? The dark elf {Dyurou}"

Obviously I know her but somehow I got a back premonition so I didn't say anything.

"..So you don't know. It's already been several hundred years since I heard anything so as expected I guess she's given up..No, that shouldn't be the case..was it. We'll stop that woman's objective."

"Objective?"

I reflexively said out loud.

"That's right. Without trying to correct mistakes, solely insisting on her initial objective to the point where it's now just a grudge."

Judging

from your appearance as an old man who hasn't taken proper care of himself, I'd say you look more covered in grudges to me though. Even without looking at it in a biased way.

"What is?"

But I still have no idea what it's about.
I wish he'd explain everything from the start.

"There's no need to explain it to someone who couldn't understand everything until now. Now, become my servant and gather fresh energy."

This is no good~

He's basically saying to become his servant vampire and go kidnap adventurers from the dungeon right?

I don't really get that bit about fixing mistakes but like I would do that.

"I don't understand what you're saying at all. Like anyone would accept an invitation without receiving a decent explanation. Rather than that, either leave behind your eyeballs, or die, pick whichever you want."

I say something worse than armed robbery while holding my bayonet ready. It seems Zulu and the others still haven't finished things up. They're still in combat as I can hear them giving out commands and the sound of weapons hitting the walls and floor.

"I have no personal grudge against you but I'm going to start killing you. Though if you'll give me your eyeballs I'll quietly leave."

"Hm~mm..Other than us..I guess we should investigate? No, at this point.."

He lowered the useless heat ray gun he was holding up and grumbled about something while looking over here.

"..If you have no intention of serving me then I'll force you to obey..Ke~!!"

The vampire lord threw the broken heat ray gun at me with just the snap of his wrist. And then he used wind magic behind himself and charged over from where he was.

"Mu!!"

At the same time as he charged over he fired a {Stone Bolt}. Though I don't know whether it has missile added or not but I immediately used {Anti-Magic Field} to erase it. However, the vampire lord maintained his charging speed just like that and raised his right hand in a chop towards my shoulder.

He must be aiming for paralysis or something like that.

He's stretched out his right hand. The thrust moved at a considerable speed but since I was able to predict it I was able to dodge.

I countered him by smashing the gunstock into his stomach.
However, it was blocked by his left hand.
Not a parry but a block seriously..without his bones breaking..what a guy.

Right after I cancelled my {Anti-Magic Field} and sent five {Stone Bolts} flying.
I guess he saw through it as he used wind magic to evade them.

"Nu..You use spells at an astonishingly fast speed.."

Just like this, we started a high speed battle using spells and physical moves.

.....

And then we arrive back at now.

"Ku..So it's not getting anywhere.."

The vampire lord whispered with an expression of impatience.
If my body lasts then I'm sure it would eat up a bit of time but continuing to
shave him down like this would be fine.
However, as expected my bones are creaking and continuing to fly around like
this is pretty harsh.

Just as the vampire lord says I'd like for some new developments.

Both of us gradually shifted our positions while glaring at each other and
trying to find an opening while holding each other in check.

I stand behind the female vampires corpse.
He stands behind the tiger-man's corpse.
I guess he's trying to pick up the knife stabbed into the tiger-man's waist, he's slowly stretching out his hand while looking over here.

Like I'll let you!

I immediately used an attack spell to interfere.
The knife should have been crushed.
He's glaring over here with a disappointed face.

I stand behind Viruhaima's corpse.
Additionally I used my leg to kick the long sword he was holding behind me.
Seeing that opening the vampire lord tried to jump for the woman the female vampire was holding.

It's an invitation, you fool.
My {Stone Bolt} hits the hand he was stretching out to grab the sword in the woman's hand.
Being hit by my spell the vampire lord's arm shifted and grabbed onto the woman's hand.
During that time I used one more {Stone Bolt Missile} to knock away the long sword.
Don't make such a hateful expression~

Whatever the case, even if you're a vampire lord it's impossible to use spells while doing something like me. Though his spell casting speed itself is considerably fast. However, on that occasion there's always at least one moment where he doesn't seem to be able to do anything, so as expected that's where I should aim.

I want to use {Identify} to check the sub-window but I can't cut my sight from him while we're glaring at each other like this.

We've come to a point with good footing where there's no corpses, tables, or chairs.

Right before the vampire lord Viruhaima's corpse is laying around.

Since I've got him locked in such a good position I don't really want to move...

However, I was surprised when he used an attack spell while flying over after using wind magic.

Something like using wind magic again to change his trajectory, if it's just using the basic elemental magic then the vampire on the 4th floor did it as well though.

Even for complex spells..that he can manage something like that...

But, now that he's brought it into a stalemate I'll carefully observe his actions and if he tries to use some kind of spell I'll immediately hit him with an attack spell.

If he tries to directly attack me with a spell then I'll calmly offset it then it's just a matter of taking action after that.

And then, finally the vampire lord got tired of waiting and took action.

Even though we were over 10 meters apart facing each other he slowly took a step forward to the side and then just stopped though.

What's he aiming for?

However, it's doubtful why he stopped his feet in that sort of place.

This guy, he isn't familiar with combat?

Was he just getting by using his extremely high physical ability and his abnormally fast spell casting speed?

I don't really get why he seems so attached to having a weapon either.

Is he particular about the reach?

Though I'm more afraid of when he's barehanded.

It's reached to where Viruhaima is laying right to his side.
It should be a considerable impediment to his movements if I were to move.

Stopping his feet in that sort of place..does he not understand?
Viruhaima's long sword is in the other direction you know?
He probably at least has a knife on him but in order to get it you'd probably have to flip him over.
What's he aiming for?

But he's stopped moving so it's obviously magic just like up until now.

However, no matter how long I wait there's no spell light coming from his hands.
I can't determine if he's concentrating on the spell or just pretending to be.

"To the right!!"
"Uwa!!"
"Jesu, be careful!!"
"Gwaruru.."
"Ou~ch!!"
"Even though it should be weakened!"
"Shit!"
"Gwon!"
"Aim carefully!"
"Sorry!"
"Henry, Mekku, we'll go with Riku 6, 4, 8!"
""Understood!""
"Say it so I can understand"

It seems they're still pretty busy over there.
Though they shouldn't count on reinforcements anytime soon.

I need to carefully observe his actions so I can immediately switch between attack and defense.

"Fuffu. This match is settled."

His lips raised into a sneer as he whispered with his hoarse voice.

"Waa!!!"

The vampire lord shouted in a loud voice as he stabbed his hand into Viruhaima!

His actions were unexpected but the {Stone Bolt} I immediately fired pierced into the vampire lord's side.

One more shot!

This time I fired off eight of them with missile added.

"Ogo~!!"

All of them hit!

HP: 0+289(498) MP: 164+50(558)

It did huge damage!

Just like this I'll finish him off all at once..What!?

"Go! Defeat him!!"

The vampire lord squeezed out his hoarse voice which is even more desperate after taking the direct hits from the stone bolts as he said.
It's certain that he's in quite a bit of pain.

During that, appearance that quickly stood up.

With his body covered in wazamono splint mail, while his right hand is empty, he still has the emerald green spike shield in his left as his

characteristic, the middle aged elf.

Viruhaima was revived.

Condition: Vampiric.Death.Knight

Shit!

Chapter 315 : The Un-Dead 8

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 15

That bastard Viruhaima, his HP has recovered..Hn?

Between Viruhaima and the Vampire Lord, I wonder who I should finish off first?

Obviously the more troublesome one.

In that case it's the vampire lord but I'm sure he'll interfere.

Viruhaima's looking at me with his shining red and empty eyes but judging from how he moved when he stood up just now and this will be pretty troublesome.

If it's just this guy then it'll only take one shot of {Disintegrate}.

It would be fine to just quickly turn him to dust.

I still have more than enough mana for just that.

However, Basu and Jiru are here as well so I want to at least leave the corpse and magic stone for them.

In regards to the vampire lord I still need to take it's eyeballs so there's no way I could use {Disintegrate}.

I hesitated for a moment but decided on a plan.

First off I'll defeat Viruhaima.

After that will be the vampire lord who's started recovering his HP again.

Just as expected this guy seems to be an amateur at fighting.

If you have magic skill levels that high and MP remaining then use it on a {Lightning Bolt} or {Fire Ball} instead of something like recovery.

I'm not worried about the woman and tiger-man becoming {Death.Knights}.

The reason being, I used {Identify} on Viruhaima and the maximum values in the parentheses of his HP and MP are slowly dropping. Though in exchange for that his ability points are slowly increasing. Since I was curious about it I tried using {Detect.Magic} and there's a mana line connected between Viruhaima and the other two vampire corpses.

I guess he sacrificed several other vampires in order to power up Viruhaima or something like that?

Just before, I guess the reason he was trying to take weapons from the two corpses was just pretending so he could touch them...

That bastard Viruhaima is currently in this state.

Roberto.Viruhaima/24/2/7404

Male/19/3/7403.Elf.Viruhaima Family Fourth Son

Condition: Vampiric.Death.Knight

Age: 45 Years Old(0 Years Old)

Level: 20

HP: 200+36(200) MP: 60+16(60)

Strength: 39(19)

Speed: 51(25)

Dexterity: 49(24)

Endurance: 43(21)

Special Skill: Infrared Vision

Special Skill: Bloodsucking {Drain}

Special Skill: {Paralyze}

Special Skill: {Petrification}

Special Skill: {Energy Drain}

Special Skill: {Mist.Form}

Special Skill: {Bat.Form}

Special Skill: {Double.Acceleration}

Special Skill: {Magic.Resistance 100}

Special Skill: Earth Magic Lv. 6

Special Skill: Water Magic Lv. 6

Special Skill: Fire Magic Lv. 6

Special Skill: Wind Magic Lv. 5

Special Skill: Void Magic Lv. 6

Whatever the case it shouldn't be a spell(?) that can be used consecutively.

"Gryeee~dwo~~~you bastardddd~!!"

Viruhaima roared with a considerably hoarse voice.

His face looks like he's rapidly losing moisture as his skin dries, his eyes cave in, and his cheeks thin as well.

There's still fangs showing from the edges of his mouth and his eyes are giving off an even stronger red light than before.

If I leave him be it feels like he'd continued to power up even more so I can't waste anymore time.

Though if I drag it out I feel kind of like he'd destroy himself all on his own. I can't imagine that the vampire lord will remain quiet forever though.

It's unknown whether {Grave.Strike} will pass through {Magic.Resistance} but the duration of the effect should continue for a bit longer.

Fortunately this place is a bit open.

There's plenty of space to thrash around.

This is the critical moment.

Let's go!

"Uuu~!!"

I charged at Viruhaima who was holding up his small buckler.

I twisted my body to avoid the spikes embedded in the shield but Viruhaima displayed a frightening reaction speed as he shifted the direction of his shield thrust.

Reflexively I knocked away the spikes with my gunstock and kicked him in the stomach.

Viruhaima fell backwards on his ass.

Thinking it's a chance I twisted around my bayonet and thrust it towards the gaps in his knees and thighs while looking at the area around his chest.

I guess he was tricked by my line of sight as he quickly tried to cover his chest with the buckler.

Thanks to that my thrust splendidly went through.

However, in that instant the sunlight disappeared from my bayonet. But, I still felt the real sensation of piercing flesh. The damage properly went through to his HP as well. Though not very much.

Viruhaima quickly rolled over.
{Double.Acceleration} I guess?
He was a lot faster than I expected.

But, I found it just a bit unexpected.
Why evade?
Don't let this chance go!

I decided on eight shots of {Stone.Arrow} aiming at his sides and the areas with no or thin armor as I fired them one after another. It's fine even if it misses a bit.

In any case I fired them consecutively as fast as possible.

Until he got up I landed several tens of hits.

Of course there were some that missed and were deflected by his shield and armor as well.

"..It doesn't work."

He jumped up while happily saying.

Although it seems he was surprised by the fact that I increased the number of attacks and the speed I was firing them.

"What!!?"

The one who was considerably surprised was the vampire lord as his voice was trembling in shock.

Furthermore it seems his concentration was broken for the spell he was using so the spell failed.

When he jumped up I charged at him with my bayonet and thrust it towards his face!

The edge of my bayonet was caught up in two of the spikes on his buckler as he quickly dodged it.

What an amazing reaction speed!

However, I made the thrust for things to end up like this.

This was the decoy!

I let go of my bayonet with just my left hand and then the grip left my right hand as well as I grabbed on to the sling strap and fired off an attack spell once again with my left hand.

This time it's eight {Flame Arrows}!

Even though they were fired at close range Viruhaima deflected almost all of them with his super reaction speed and the ones he couldn't deflect he used wind magic with his open right hand to evade them.

I take back my bayonet.

Hmph. Just as I thought.

Just in case right after firing the {Flame Arrows} I used wind magic in front of me and put some distance between us though.

It seems that undead feel pain but it's only for the instant of the attack.

As expected I can't imagine him being able to ignore the pain from when I stabbed between his knee and thigh in order to use spells.

Though he just took a number of attack spells from me, he still has plenty of {Magic.Resistance} remaining.

Even though that's the case he still put priority on evading and defense.

It seems his awareness as a vampire still hasn't completely overwritten his awareness as a living adventurer.

If it was me then I'd rather endure a bit of damage to throw away evasion and defense in order to focus it all on attack.

In actual fact that's why I did against {Franken} and {The.Gazer} after all.

In that case, there's only one thing to do.

I just need to shave down his {Magic.Resistance} while Viruhaima still isn't used to it.

Since there's some distance between us there's no problem with using spells..he's fast!

While swinging down the spikes on his shield the momentum with which he came charging at me was tremendous.

Even though his knee should be injured..is it because it didn't reach the bone!?

I use wind magic behind me once more and flew backwards while once again firing eight {Flame Arrows} this time with missile added as I aimed them towards Viruhaima's legs.

"Ja!!"

Viruhaima tried to evade as he jumped up.

Just a bit late my {Flame Arrows} suddenly shifted upwards and all of them hit. Obviously they disappeared the moment they hit though.

I obviously aimed for the moment he was going to land and fired off some more!

Several of them were deflected but there wee some that hit as well. Of course, one again they disappeared the moment they hit.

"You'reeee goooood~!!!"

Viruhaima said that as he charged at me the moment he landed. I didn't have any time to do anything but recast {Grave.Strike} on my bayonet.

It seems Viruhaima intends to challenge me with the spike shield in his left hand using speed.

I evade the spike and hit his body with my gunstock.
Just as he evades that with his super reaction speed I crouch down and do a round kick towards his injured right knee.
My leg was obviously diverted and evaded.

Without losing my momentum I roll and while rolling cast the spell {Grave.Strike} on my throwing needles before throwing them.

They hit him in the ass!

"Tha~t hurtsss~!!"

We changed standing positions.

Still another 23 left on his {Magic.Resistance}.

Hurry!

"So I'm at a disadvantage against you with attack spells..But, I can break your bones with just a single blow~!!"

It seems you get it~

I fire off one {Stone Arrow} and as he evaded that one more shot!

It was deflected by his shield.

Another shot!

It was deflected by his shield again.

And then one more shot!

Obviously, it was deflected by his shield.

This time it's a shot with missile added!

I slightly shift the center of my gravity of my body before firing it.

Viruhaima cautiously held up his shield.

Aiming for the instant he deflects it I throw more throwing needles without magic cast on them(it was timing where I couldn't cast any).

"Gu!!?"

They hit his flank.

I immediately fired off eight more {Stone Arrows}.

Then charged at the same time!

"Kwu!!"

Viruhaima rolled to the side to evade.

As expected it seems he can't immediately use wind magic after taking damage!
My charge was a feint as I quickly used wind magic to jump backwards and returned to where I was but it seems he still got caught up on it..Shit.

Viruhaima picked up his long sword in the direction he rolled.

However, I've finished aiming there with a {Lightning Bolt}!
Obviously it disappears.

There's no way you can deflect this right?

And then while his muscles should still be contracting {Flame Arrow}!

..And it was deflected again.

Something like not experiencing muscle contractions, that's cheating right!
Though if I think carefully about it the spell was erased so I guess it can't be considered a hit.

Something like muscle contractions didn't occur.

Err, I was tricked!

Now there's only 10 meters distance between us.

He twists his face in joy seeing my surprised expression.

Get full of yourself and charge at me!

"Fushi~aa~!!"

Along with a small shout he charged over.

Now!!

{Fire Wall}!

Instantly a three meter high wall of fire appeared.

I'm sure you'll just erase it as you come over just like that right?
How unfortunate, there's a {Growth.Spike} right in front of the wall of fire!
A large serving set of 150~!!

The speed at which the stone spikes grow from the ground isn't all that fast.
However, even if it's half-assed the goal is to have his charges of
{Magic.Resistance} get used up so that's fine.
For that reason I took distance and used {Fire Wall} to seal off his vision.

The spikes grew up to a height of 10 cm.
On his first step he stepped on two of them with his right foot as they
disappear.

20 cm.
Another seven of them were kicked by his next step with his left foot as they
disappeared.

I fire off a {Fire Arrow} aiming above Viruhaima!
I won't let you jump up!

"Shit!!"

30 cm.
Another 10 of them disappeared as they hit his body.

Viruhaima made a sudden stop with his frightening physical abilities.

Obviously the moment the {Fire Arrow} flew over him Viruhaima went to jump
over the remaining stone spikes.
They've already grown to 40, no, 50 cm after all.
And then...

{Fire Catapult Missile}!

Of course there's eight shots.

"Gugya!!!"

The best you can manage is deflecting one of them right?
Like that he shouldn't even have any negative HP remaining.
It should be pretty close to instant death.

Now then, next up is finally the vampire lord. It's your turn~

My remaining MP is just below 2,000.
It hurts that the {Growth.Spike} trap consumed over 1,500.
But that can't be helped.

It seems Zulu and the others are still struggling.
It's only about two or three minutes since I charged into this room but
aren't they taking too long...
Though it can't be helped.

HP: 0+751(498) MP: 32+50(558)

Hmph, it seems he was able to recover a decent amount.
His MP has decreased by quite a bit as well.
Though that's the case, as long as he can use {Cannon} it's plenty enough to kill
me several times over.

"This is plenty.."

The vampire lord stood up from what appears to be a bed a bit further in the
middle of the room and smiled in satisfaction while looking at me.
He's too far so I can't tell what he's saying.
Is that so?
My position has returned back to around where I entered the room.
I guess there's over 20 meters between us.

"Mwun!"

He came flying at me with no preparatory movements!
Wind magic I guess.

At almost the same time I erased the {Stone Bolt} that came flying with {Anti-Magic Field}.

The vampire lord continued his charge just like that.

I guess he wants to continue our high speed close combat battle with spells again?

Honestly speaking this is the hardest to manage against the vampire lord.
My body is already creaking from continuing to blow myself around with wind magic.

Added to that the vampire lord's physical abilities are above even the powered up Viruhaima.

Even though he's an amateur the speed he charges over and thrusts forward his chops is still more than enough to make up for it.

I pass under his thrust and swing my bayonet, that is evaded and then my kick is parried as well.

"So you aren't running away with wind magic?"

seeing my station the vampire lord put on airs.

Shit.

In any case should I fire off a big one to blind him then put some distance between us?

The moment I thought that..!

The vampire lord in front of me stepped in at a super speed almost leaving behind an afterimage!

"Gu..Oaaaa!!?"

I felt a sensation as if all the power in my body disappeared at once.

His chop has stabbed into the inside of my left elbow!

Paralysis!?

I immediately used the spell {Remove.Paralyze} and then in desperation used wind magic to retreat.

Then used a healing spell on my left arm.

Additionally I used {Identify}...After all that was the case...

Alan.Greed/5/3/7429

Male/14/2/7428.Hyumu.Viscount Greed Family Second Son

Condition: Normal

Age: 19 Years Old

Level: 31

HP: 249(251) MP: 1828(7453)

Strength: 40

Speed: 57

Dexterity: 36

Endurance: 42

Unique Ability: Identify(MAX)

Unique Ability: Gift of Natural Talent(MAX)

Special Skill: Earth Magic(MAX)

Special Skill: Water Magic(MAX)

Special Skill: Fire Magic(MAX)

Special Skill: Wind Magic(MAX)

Special Skill: Void Magic(MAX)

Experience: 3300001(3600000)

What the hell!

The larger portion of my injuries are healed but I lost the level I just gained!

That's a big problem as well but the sensation of losing all the power in my body is harsh.

If it's come to this then I'll to use my final method.

{Delayed Blast Fire Ball}!

15 times the power!

Delay time 1 second!

Seeing the diamond like crystal that rolled on the ground the vampire lord's face twisted.

"You bastard! Where do you think this is..!"

Like I care!

At the same time I used {Anti-Magic Field} with 700 MP which I'm most used to!

The giant {Fire Ball} over 60 cm in diameter exploded.

No matter how high his physical abilities are there's no way he can avoid all of the stones!

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Year 7447, Month 7, Day 15

Boom!

The {Delayed Blast Fire Ball} with extra power exploded.

Furthermore, at the same moment as I used {Anti-Magic Field} the vampire lord seems to have used his super reaction speed to cast earth magic alone for defense.

Also, he jumped to the ground at the same time.

From a place a bit lower than the ceiling of the room dirt started to fall and cover the ground.

However, an earth wall won't be completed in such a short time as one or two seconds.

As if a half-assed earth wall without it's maximum volume would be able to completely block it.

As proof of that a large majority of the flaming stones continued to fly and pierce through it.

"Uooo!!!"

At the same time as the {Fire Ball} exploded and the flaming stones were offset by my {Anti-Magic Field} I charged at him!

I jumped over his earth wall!

On the other side of the earth wall I could see the vampire lord taking several flaming stones as he was on the verge of death.

Gon!!

Something hit me in the face as stars appear in front of my eyes.

"Buge!!"

If I wasn't wearing a helmet I would have been seriously injured.

I ended up falling to the ground just before the earth wall in a pathetic way.

Though it was still better that I didn't fall on the back of my head, since I ended up being shocked from the pain I wasn't expecting at all I let go of maintaining my {Anti-Magic Field}.

Shit, instead of acting

cool I still had my {Anti-Magic Field} left so I should have just charged through while erasing the dirt...

However what in the world happened!?

I spontaneously looked around.

But I couldn't find anything.

However, around the ceiling of the room. There's something like small sparks coming from here and there but...

Could it be...

But, something like that can wait for later.

Thanks to the visor of my helmet while I was hit by a bit of the shock from it hitting my head, I guess I should just be grateful a tragedy such as my neck breaking didn't happen.

It couldn't be helped so I made

another {Anti-Magic Field} with the bare minimum mana(just from a glance it

seemed to be earth magic at around level 5 after all) and erased the already completed mountain of dirt.

On the other side of the

dirt mountain the vampire lord was on the verge of death from being hit by the flaming stones on half of his body but was still trying to run

further inside the room.

It seems his left arm has carbonized from the elbow down where he was hit by the flaming stones and is completely useless.

His left leg is barely still attached below the knee by a layer of skin

and there's several holes opened up in his left flank as well.

Though there's nothing coming out from those holes I can see a portion of his guts being cooked from the tears in his skin.

HP: 0+8(498) MP: 0+5(558)

With this recovery should already be impossible so he probably can't do anything but crawl.

If I gouge out his eyeballs his HP will probably go into the minus and he'll die.

If I leave him be he might revive but it's unknown whether he'd revive

together with his eyeballs and thinking about it with common sense it's hard to imagine his gouged out eyeballs returning to normal.

Though if he uses the spell {Regenerate} they'd probably come back, since he's an undead there's a high chance that the remaining eyes would become

useless.

Ah, maybe the reverse magic {Deficit} would work?

My remaining MP is..556.

Just in case I can use it without a problem.

Room for negotiations I guess?

"Fu..Fu..Fu..."

I don't know if he really needs to breathe but he's breathing pretty heavily as he runs almost like an inchworm.

I raise the edge of my bayonet up and slowly took a step forward standing about three meters behind him.

"Wait."

I have a lot of things I want to ask.

The vampire lord trembled in surprise hearing me call out for him and slowly turned around to lay face up.

"You, Greed{Kawasa}..was it. As expected of a reincarnated person, is what I'd like to say. Let alone defeating that fellow even me is quite..something...How about it? Do you want to team up together?"

The vampire lord asked with a stiff face.

At this point?

Putting aside at the start, it's already too late~

But, just as I said before there's a lot of things I want to ask.

"Have your guard dog back off."

The moment I said that I heard cheers coming from behind me.
I guess they were finally able to finish it off.

"..It seems there's no need to have it back off.."

The old man said slightly disappointed. And then, right after asked me.

"Who in the world are you?"

"I said it before right...Alan.Greed. I'm an eyeball robber."

"You're reincarnated right?"

"You could say that's the case."

After I replied the vampire lord looked at me hatefully before whispering.

"{Japan}..{Christ}..I see, I remembered..The natives from Duvain 4-3 huh..I guess it could be considered a pity.."

"What are you.."

"It should have been siphoned after advancing quite a bit..Hmph, I guess he has a decent amount of knowledge...Up to here huh..Hey, Greed or
whatever"

"Ah?"

The vampire lord made a grin before slightly opening his clenched right hand. In his hand a small black box about the size of a match box was being held and at the edge of it there was a green light lit up.
It can't be!?

"Oh~

don't move. That face, it seems you can somehow guess what this means
right? Whether it's fortunate or unfortunate that the first one I've met in so long could understand that much..Fufu, it's already been
activated. Just the impact from falling at this height is plenty."

Could it be..

A self-destruction switch!?

No way!?

Seeing my expression change the vampire lord made a smile in satisfaction.
Shit, even though it's reached this point it's the same as if he's taken the priority for negotiating.

"Master!"

With the sounds of footsteps Zulu and the others came over.

"Have them withdraw."

The vampire lord demanded.

Damn it!

However, it's hard to negotiate with the fellow that turned Viruhaima into an undead in front of Basu and Jiru.

That's just fine, you could say it works better that way for me too.

"Don't come over! Return!"

I yelled without looking at Zulu and the others.

I'm sure Basu and Jiru are here as well but if my combat slaves are here then they should definitely bring them back.

They should be able to think of the possibility that we're using dangerous spells.

However, this is bad.

Bad bad bad!

This is a bad situation!

Something like a self-destruction switch I've never heard of it outside of jokes in a manga.

Ah, though I guess the SDF does use it in missiles and such...

Though it's not used like this.

My face distorts as I glare at the vampire lord.

It would probably feel good if I could kill this guy with a look but

whether I use magic or anything else it's probably impossible to steal that box faster than he opens his hand on top of not causing any shock to it.

If it's true that even the slightest shock will activate it, but, it's probably true...

"Old man, if you obediently give me your eyes then not only will I fix them with magic but I wouldn't mind letting you go?"

Even though I say that, it probably looks like I'm completely bluffing. However, I think it should still be a reasonably attractive proposal. Or at least I think?

"Ho? Even though you've used that many spells still you have that much mana remaining? Do you think I'll honestly believe that?"

"What you want to think is up to you, but.."

It was when I said up to there that I heard something the old man was grumbling about to himself.

"Now that I've already lost my original body, there's nothing that can be done about the Ikusu gene gon(?) information..Even though I fell to being an undead and spent this much time after all this was the limit..the primary body of the {Ban} mechanical {Vein} has already been lost..already..I'm tired.."

Primary body of the {Ban} mechanical {Vein}?

The primary mechanism?

Primary machine?

Engine?

"At least..nothing left but to entrust it, I guess"

Entrust?

"Kamira..Please stop Lilus"

"Stop?"

"That's right. She's making a mistake. Even to the point of twisting Providence..No, it's fine. Please kill Lilus."

Huh?

"Like I could do something like that. She's the woman that was my wife."

"..What..are..?"

The old man made a dumbfounded face for a moment but soon after returned to normal and continued speaking.

"Hmph, you're just being deceived. Her real name is Kamira. Kamira.Erisuna was her name in the past..before she reincarnated."

This guy, what in the world is he saying!?

Kamira.Erisuna?

It's not some strange name like that!

It's Miki. Kawasaki Miki was her name!

If that wasn't the case then why would she have Miki's face!

How would she know about it!

He's screwing around!

"After reincarnating it was Lilus.Jinzelin. After marrying Gein, no,

Rusukku.Zugutomore she changed her name to Lilus.Zugutomore."

I guess I must have been making a face revealing my feelings towards Miki. Seeing my face the vampire lord let out a small sigh before starting to talk in a

low voice.

"Using Sharaizudan and Neral's relationship as a trick she defeated them and ascended to divinity herself, that woman is possessed by mad delusions..putting that aside and..it seems it would be best to tell you this. We were originally..Hmph, I guess it doesn't matter anymore..Kill me, you need my eyes right?"

"Wait"

"You don't need to worry. It just fixes it in place. Here"

"Ah!!"

The vampire lord smashed the match box he still had in his hand against the floor.

The green light on the lamp changed to red and that broken announcement started echoing around again.

"Zaza...Pi~

the fixed wreck of the natural {Mofosu} will..please..demise {Mindo}
shima..bzzt..zzt...within rogu.hi..operation Mahetto Takudaru..self
{Kane} destruction {Somunbu} management {Damin}..10{Ten}"

This is...

"Not just defeating my servants but you were able to drive me this far..I guess it was worth it holding out to the point of becoming an undead.."

"9{Nine}"

"Hey, what is this {Countdown}!? Stop it!"

"I can't understand a lot of the words you say. Is it the native language of Duvain 4?"

Just before he said "Duvain 4-3" I think it was right...

"..You won't be buried. But, I'll have you let me hide what can be hidden. I have no intention of showing everything."

Damn it!

"8{Eight}"

"What are you..!"

"How about killing me? You want my eyes right? Right now I can easily be killed right?"

"7{Seven}"

"Tell me!"

"About what? Fu...I thought about saying it but like I'd tell you. If I carefully think about it I was just capturing the natives of Rugu 3 and obtaining life energy from them. And even that was a small number.."

"6{Six}"

"A small number you say!?"

Don't screw with me. In just today he's killed three people on top of making them into vampires, I'm amazing he can so shamelessly!

"The

amount of life energy I need is at most one per month. It's only a small number compared to you who is eating the primitive animals of Rugu everyday right? Barbarian"

"5{Five}"

"Don't screw.."

"Oh~ even plants are native creatures of Rugu 3 {Orth}? right? You've consumed far more lives than I have right?"

It's not that sort of problem!

"4{Four}"

"Rather than something like that, stop the {Countdown}!"

"..What are you saying again..Ah, it already won't stop. Even I have no way of doing it."

"What...!?"

"3{Three}"

"Don't panic so much. It won't do anything in particular to you. Just, I've given up on it."

Just now that announcement was,

..starting preservation of (somethings) environment. Completed. 10 seconds later the console will begin disintegration. 10..."

I guess?

"2{Two}"

"It would be best if you don't remain standing?"

Shit.

"Crouch down! Lower your posture and protect your body!!"

I don't really get it but for the time being I warned Zulu and the others.

"That's right, that's for the best."

"1{One}"

"You bastard! I'll have you tell me everything!?"

"I have no intention of that. Intruding my residence as you please,
injuring my servants, and on top of that trying to steal my eyes..That
power is quite impressive but why should I act friendly towards someone like
that?"

Gu...When it's put like that I can't deny it.

"If you want to know then figure it out yourself. Although there's not much data
left"

"0{Zero}"

From all around the ceiling I can hear sounds like "Bang!" and "Bzzt!!" as if
circuits are shorting out.

In mid-air several holograph like monitors appeared for just a moment before
disappearing.

After all that was it.

I use the spell {Detect.Illusion}...

I realized that including the ceiling the upper half of this room has some sort of illusion cast on it.

Of course, there's several illusions cast on the floor as well.

For example, the desk that the vampire lord took the heat ray gun out of at the start.

I use the spell {Dispel.Illusion}...

Over half of further inside changed into the appearance of a rustic console almost like the CIC of the command center of a battle ship.

In other words, everything that I thought was the floor until now was actually

the ceiling and what I thought was the ceiling was actually the floor...

The automatic doors weren't buried in the floor but instead rise up into

the ceiling and the reason why the floor of the room was giving off

light was because it was the lighting of the ceiling. Originally the

floors of the hallways must have been lit up.

The {Sentry.Gun} seems to have originally been suspended from the ceiling and not the floor.

Now it makes sense why the female vampire told Viruhaima that

{Flame.Strike} was dangerous and to erase it while charging into it with her own body.

Even during battle it was only when they had their

backs against further into the room that they didn't show any openings

for me to use attack spells.

Since Viruhaima was a newcomer he either must not have known or not been educated yet.

The thing that appeared to be a desk was something like a large box and

other than the heat ray gun there's several things in it but all of them are broken.

Hn? A battle ship?

Baldukk is a basin town that's shaped like a crater...

Shit, there's too many things to think about.

"So it's finished..Now, feel free to kill me. Take my eyes or whatever else you like."

"I can't do that. I'll have you tell me everything you know."

I cast {Grave.Strike} on my bayonet again and walked towards him with large strides.

"I have no intention of saying anymore than this...If you stab that into me then it seems like I'll be able to die.."

It's a spell which greatly increases the damage to undead but if it's just that then killing a single hit is difficult.

Particularly for a vampire lord who should have a lot of negative HP.

"If it comes to that then I don't mind. I'll fix you up with {Bruise.All} or {Bruise.Critical} as much I need to."

Since his sense of pain still seems to remain torture should be effective as well. Ah, that's right, I guess the reason he was taking so much time with his

recovery was because he couldn't completely ignore the pain.

Even then it's quite impressive he was able to use spells at that speed. It's not up to my level but I've never seen anyone else other than me.

"That's quite frightening. I might end up speaking everything I know."

Isn't that the case.

"Let me heal myself."

The vampire lord made a powerless smile before saying as if he was begging.

It's more difficult to think logically when you have lower mana.
However, before I could even reply he quickly seems to have used a healing spell(the reverse magic that is).
And then, without hesitation stabbed his hand into his own chest!

"Ah!!"

If he takes out his magic stone then it's all over!
I immediately moved to cut off his right hand with my bayonet but didn't make it in time...

.....

Just in case I gouged out both of his eyeballs and carefully put them into the preservation bottle.
Before calling Zulu and the others over I took a look at the nearby console but I can't tell how to operate it at all.
In the first place it's unknown how it even gains electricity(?) and I guess because of the short circuit the mesh itself was giving off quite a bit of heat.

The match box the vampire lord used was just a small switch with a slider and a lamp, and considering there's no crevices it almost seems to have been made all at once.
After making up my mind I tried moving around the switch but it didn't change from the red lamp.

It couldn't be helped so I called for Zulu and the others.

"Master, I'm glad you're okay.."

I cast identify on my combat slaves who are humbling themselves before me. Including Basu and Jiru who are calling out for Viruhaima in shock there's

several people who are injured but none of them have lost any levels. It seems Jiru and Mekku used magic to their limits as their mana is less than 6. While healing the injured I heard Basu and Jiru's voices.

"..{Status Open}"

The two of them are checking Viruhaima's status.

"{Vampiric.Death.Knight}?"

It probably looks like this for them.

Roberto.Viruhaima's corpse(Elf(Vampiric.Death.Knight))

My {Identify} can see a bit more.

Elf(Vampiric.Death.Knight)

Condition: Good

Manufacture Date: 15/7/7447

Value: 1715398

Durability: 21

I always think it but I can't help but think that the Condition of a damaged corpse being Good is some kind of bad joke.

Although, if I were to take it as meaning that it's a clump of meat that has no chance of reviving then a part of the Condition being Good makes sense.

..I guess saying there's no chance of revival is saying too far huh? As

expected after that Condition becomes Death there's no way for them to revive no matter how hard they try after all..Or maybe there could be? Miduchi said something like "it's possible for that sort of spell to exist" but in our situation where we can't even properly heal light illnesses that sort of thing is a dream within a dream.

Nevertheless the Value sure is amazing.
I'm sure it's also because we haven't taken out the magic stone yet but isn't it because all of his special skills and his high level added up?

I ordered Zulu and the others to search the room to see if there's anything else worth something.

Around the area where the vampire lord was living the only things found were old worn out clothes and some parts that seem almost like a trash.

I wonder if it's possible to repair the heat ray gun?
The structure is unknown and obviously I have no clue what kind of principle it works based on.

Other than the small button that seems like the trigger in front of the grip and below the acorn part it appears to be a single whole and there's no visible seams.

But just in case I collected a total of six heat ray guns.
Also, I managed to obtain several types of magnifying glasses from a shelf along the wall.
After that, there was also various handmade tools(even something like a tester) so I helped myself to them as well.

There weren't very many things that could be sold for money but we were able to find several {Magic.Items}.

In a small box on a shelf further in the room we found two more {Invisibility.Rings} with 451 and 226 charges left on them.

Furthermore on the same shelf where the tools were lined up we found the right hand piece of {Dexterous.Working.Gloves}.

In another where trash seemed to be piled up we found an

{Invisibility.Ring} and a {Chain.Lightning.Ring} with no charges left.

Other than that there was a {Fire.Ball.Wand} and {Lightning.Wand} with no charges left. Also, two more {Bruise.Staffs} with no charges left.

Well since we can't recharge these they're just trash.

Hn?

{Fire.Ball.Wand}..

Charge?

When I realized it I almost started grinning to myself.

If it's the {Invisibility.Rings} with not many charges left then I don't really mind.

Ah, come to think of it I still had one on.

Though it only has about 40 charges left.

I wonder if this will be enough?

Though I guess it's impossible because you have to be naked?

Other than that for things that'll be worth money there's the Vampire Lord's magic stones(four of them each with a value of 4,000,000 or so), two

magic stones for each of the vampires for a total of four more(each with a value of about 500,000), and then two more magic stones(each with a

value of about 10,000) from the {Zombie.Dog} that Zulu and the others

killed. Just the same there was another considerably large dog called

{Ortoros} with one magic stone with a value of about 600,000. I didn't

include Viruhaima in the calculations.

From just magic stones it totals over 130,000,000.

I wonder if Viruhaima has multiple magic stones?

As expected in regards to him I'll be handing the entire corpse over though.

Somehow, I feel like things are about to get very busy...

Chapter 317 : A Distant Journey 1

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 15

While we were looting anything worth money, Basu and Jiru were taking the armor off Viruhaima's corpse.

I'd feel a bit sorry for making them wait too long.

There was an original objective for entering the dungeon this time.

Rescuing Viruhaima was one of those.

However, it was impossible because he was made into an undead.

In other words, the request ended in failure.

Whatever the case I should quickly report the results of the job I accepted to the employer.

I still haven't finished investigating the rooms but I wonder if we should return once to report things?

Obviously not!

I think there would be no problem in coming back to this location on the floor. Since the lighting of the room is still alive there should be no problem with the supply of energy as well.

The teleportation device from this floor to that place on the 4th floor is probably fine as well.

However, what about the door to this room?

I wonder if we can leave the automatic door open?

Thinking about it with common sense and it should have already long since closed.

Since we're inside it right now I think it should be possible to at least open it. Thinking that I went to check and as expected there was a switch near the door so you can freely open or close it from inside.

However, the method of opening it from outside is unknown.

I feel like if we don't obtain that identification card or whatever we won't ever be able to get back in once it closes.

At least until we find that I can't afford to leave this room.

I feel sorry for Basu and them who are depressed after losing their leader but we're continuing our house looting.

"Master, how about this?"

Henry handed over something like a tablet.

Strangely enough when I used {Identify} it came up with a proper model number

{I.Mi~.Ku-67 Do} but when you use {Status Open} it just appears with a

hyphen in the name field.

Since a name didn't appear it seems they

thought it was trash but since it has something like glass covering it

they thought it might still be worth something.

But there's quite a few scratches on the surface of the display.

However, the mesh seems to be made of some kind of resin and it appears to be well used with no sign of dust covering it.

In the first place he said he found it on the sofa along the wall.

I'm sure this is some kind of terminal.

Most likely some kind of general purpose one.

It's well worth investigating.

"However, what in the world is going on with this room? It's filled with stuff I've never seen before..but, almost all of it is trash and there's few things worth any money right.."

Basu whispered while looking around the room.

Zulu and the others seem to think it's strange as well but they won't speak needlessly.

While I was playing around with the tablet-like thing that Henry discovered, Jesu handed me some trash.

"This is..probably trash. Place it all together over there."

After looking at it for a moment I gave out my judgement.

"You can tell?"

Seeing that Jiru asked in doubt.

"No, I don't know. But as expected that should be trash right."

What Jesu had brought over was some kind of rod-shaped object filled with various kinds of unknown parts.

It seemed almost like it was made from a gathering of random parts.

There was no uniformity in the design of all the parts being used.

Most likely it was some kind of device the vampire lord was trying to put together with various parts and ended up in failure.

It was covered in dust after all.

While we were doing that we finally discovered something like an identification card.

Several small cards like ID you can stick on your chest came out.

There seemed to be something written on the surface but it felt like it was already chafed away and barely readable.

A small portion of it was remaining but I was only barely able to decipher one or

two characters.

However, I can understand the characters.

It's the alphabet of Orth.

As a test I had Angela carry one then go outside and closed the door.

I told Angela to hold the ID up while wandering around in the hall.

After a short while the door opened even though we didn't operate it from our side.

If we have these then it's possible to come back to this room again.

At this point I decided to pause our search and return.

I'm bringing along the tablet.

There's only a single button but it seems this is the button to turn on the power.

After turning it on a cursor prompting some kind of entry appeared in the center of the screen.

There's a hole that seems almost like a microphone so it's probably possible to make voice commands.

Though it might be a speaker.

Most likely in order to login you need to use the Vampire Lord's name as a keyword or something.

Since it seems like he reincarnated as well I don't think there's anything like a voice print recognition.

In regards to the voice commands I decided not to try it here.

There was nothing like connectors and the method of recharging it is unknown so I quickly cut off the power.

It's possible it's not operating using electricity but that's not something to investigate right now.

"Let's start heading back."

I declared after acting like we've already gathered everything worth any money.

"Is it already fine?"

Basu asked so I honestly nodded.

However, "we're planning to come back here again."

I didn't forget to add that.

Additionally, I said a few more words.

"Now then, Basu-san, Jiru-san. Before we return there's something we need to discuss."

"I know. We have no intention of blaming you for the matter with Roberto. I think it couldn't be helped."

After replying Jiru nodded next to Basu.

"I apologize for not being able to make it in time. Also, I offer my sincerest condolences in regards to Viruhaima-san."

It feels a bit strange as the person who killed him to say but it can't be helped.

"It can't be helped. Even though you all cleared through that fast you still didn't make it in time. In the first place if it was just us then.."

"That's true. There's no way you could have made it in time and in the first place whether you even could have made it up to here.."

There were almost no monsters on this floor.

They might have been able to take out the ghouls or so we met along the way.

But, the combat strength of the {Wight} and the {Specter} is still unknown

so even if they were lucky enough to clear through I'm sure getting past

the security system would have been impossible.
I think they would have been beaten by the Vampire Lord or Vampires there and all had their life energy absorbed together.

"And about the route leading here?"

Basu continued with a face as if saying he understands.

"Eh?"

That doesn't particularly...We've already gathered everything that seems like it would be worth money and in the first place it's all stuff that Vampire Lord saved up over time after all..I think I have the right to pick through it first since I defeated it but after that.."

"..I guess that's true."

Basu replied while looking around.

The only thing with glass used on it was the tablet and the coating of the console and such are all peeling off so while they do look like a clump of exposed metal they don't look like valuable metals like silver, platinum, or gold.

Since we're carrying out all of the {Magic.Items}

even including the ones with no charges all that's leftover is trash that even I couldn't figure out what they do.

However, on our way

back while I was walking at the very rear I didn't forget to bury the hallway in dirt right before turning at the corner. I can only bury the area as far as I can see and I didn't have much mana remaining but the hallway had a lot of long straight lines so I think I was able to bury

quite a bit of it.

Even if someone were able to wander into this floor unless they're able to use {Anti-Magic Field} they should only be able to go as far as the hallway after the first small room they teleport into.

Even if they can use it then they probably won't be able to advance very far as well.

I don't know if Basu and Jiru realized I was burying the hallway with earth magic on our way back. Of course I was careful when using it so they wouldn't notice but even if they did notice it seems they ignored it.

Incidentally, it was determined that the pile of board shaped trash in the room the {Specter} was in was the ID cards. It seems Jesu couldn't tell they were ID cards and reported they were trash. It's not unreasonable so I can't blame him. After all they did look like nothing but trash.

.....

We were safely able to return back to the room on the 4th floor. Additionally by the time we returned to the surface it was several hours after the date had changed.

Toris and two others were waiting at the entrance plaza.

Rizara.Redflare from the {Verdure.Brotherhood} and Vikkensu.Barukemi from {Black.Topaz}.

It seems everyone else is at a bar called Merukku which the {Verdure.Brotherhood} use as a gathering place.

Seeing that Basu was carrying Viruhaima, Rizara.Redflare scratched away at her head for a moment seeming to try and calm herself down. After saying a single word, "Thank you" to me she quietly took the remains from Basu and then steadily walked off somewhere. Probably heading towards Merukku.

Basu as well as Jiru who was carrying Viruhaima's equipment just silently followed after her.

Since it seems the {Slaughterers} were gathered at Merukku as well we ended up having to head there along with all the items we found.

The time was already well past midnight but the bar was still lit up and doing business.

In the bar was all of the survivors from the {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Black.Topaz} along with Zenom and Rodrick from the {Slaughterers}.

Including Toris that's three people. Other than that there was an old man I don't know, a young man who I've seen somewhere before, and a

woman in her mid 20s sitting at a corner. It seems these three are in a guardianship type position of those three young ladies.

Also, the remains of Kaku and Sara who had become vampires are wrapped in blankets as well.

There's ice surrounding them.

It's not all that unusual to be able to recover the remains of your members killed by monsters in the dungeon.

These sorts of parties appear once or twice a month.

It's not as if everyone ends up being wiped out in every case.

Though they often enshrine them in the inn the person them self was staying at.

I wet my throat with some lukewarm beer while reporting the series of events to the employer Anderson.

Since we weren't able to save Viruhaima it's impossible to get the compensation doubled so it's necessary to report back as soon as possible.

"..Got it. Thanks for your work..Here.."

Anderson replied with an expression of exhaustion and mental fatigue after losing Kaku.

At the same time she handed me the compensation in gold coins.

After taking the compensation I paid off the bill for the combat slaves and I eating and drinking and then we quickly left the bar. All that should be left is about the funeral and such for Kaku and the others and I don't particularly have anything to talk about with the young ladies attendants.

However, when everyone was walking out the bar one of the attendants called out to me.

"Please wait just a moment, Greed-sama. I would like to request a bit of your time but.."

If I remember right he was..James. James.Nokkufyuri I think it was. That second daughter the eldest daughter of Baron Refaisu, Yorire's attendant.

But you know, I want to quickly return to my inn and smack Miduchi awake so I can discuss the items we found and the information I learned. If possible I'd like to gather all the reincarnated people and return there once more by this afternoon. I'm getting tired after just eating as well.

"What is it?"

I guess that's why.

I ended up speaking in a displeased tone of voice that surprised even myself. Though, in the first place if those young ladies hadn't acted so spoiled then old man Viruhaima and the others wouldn't have gone to the trouble of switching their base to the 4th floor..though I guess it's kind of late to bring that up now.

And even if they hadn't tried to switch bases they might have ended up going to that room.

I guess that was a bit cold. Sorry about that.

I guess they saw that sir Nokkufyuri came over to my side, the other two attendants also came over to start greeting me a moment late. Sis Anderson was just glancing at us from the side. She just let out a small sigh and didn't say anything.

..So the real reason they were waiting here until this late was this.

Honestly speaking, I don't really like these sorts of things when we're still near several of their escorts and mentors that died. The only thing worth respecting is how hard they're trying to be useful to their masters. Though it's ironic.

"Yes nice to meet you. However, please think of the time and place. Right now I have no intention of having a discussion that's not appropriate for this place. And rather than discussing things with me don't you have something to say to the adventurers you hired to escort you?"

Since I stated it outright from my end before they could state their business all three of them made expressions as if they couldn't argue back.

Well, plenty of time has passed so I think there should have been plenty of time for them to finish offering condolences for the victims.

What I want to say is there's no need to specifically do it right now in front of {Black.Topaz} and the {Verdure.Brotherhood} right.

"Well them, please excuse me."

I coldly said before heading towards Boil Manor. I sent all of my combat slaves including Giberuti back to Shuni.

.....

"It seems like we made quite a bit of profit this time. First off is this, {Invisibility.Ring}."

""Oh~""

"Moreover 3 of them!"

""OH~""

"Also, this. Though there's only the right hand, it's called {Dexterous.Working.Gloves}."

""Hohou~""

I took out the {Magic.Items} that are useless with no charges as well but said "they have names attached but I couldn't detect any mana with {Detect.Magic} right..I don't really get it but I'll use identify on them later".

I didn't take out the tablet and ID card.

"Sorry but first let me get some rest for today. After I wake up I'll discuss things in more detail. I used up quite a bit of mana this time so I want to recover it. That's why I'm sorry but it doesn't seem I'll be able to go running at the usual time tomorrow."

Since it's the first time I've said something like this everyone obediently left the room.

Of course, I told them that we'd be going back into the dungeon again in the afternoon.

In the first place today was normally a day where we would be going into the dungeon so everyone should have returned to their inn.

The

members are the four who returned from Merukku with me, Miduchi, Bel, Ralpa, Gwine, Basutorial, and finally Giberuti as the porter.

For the women just this time they're not allowed to have the day off because of their period.

I'm sure Miduchi is tired since it's her second day but we can't afford to

be missing even one more reincarnated person to investigate that place. It's hard to tell who might notice what after all.

Ah, that's right.

It's late at night so I think she's asleep but just in case...

I go to Miduchi's room and after lightly knocking on the door it was opened right away.

Oh?

Miduchi came out with a worried expression on her face but smiled after seeing me.

I guess it would have been best if I came over right away.

"Did you not sleep?"

"Yeah..Umm..are you, hurt?"

Her expression says she was waiting for me to return.

"Nn, well, I was injured a bit but I've already healed it so I'm fine."

"Sorry.."

"There's nothing for you to apologize about. It's something I did because I wanted to and..Umm..Even though there was the problem of your condition, I know you really wanted to go and the one who stopped you was me..as a result it's for the sake of my..my future fa..family after, all."

"Fufu. Thanks~"

"Sorry for the wait. This..I confirmed that it was properly from a former Hyumu."

First off I handed her the bottle with the eyeballs in it.

"Th..Thank you.."

While holding two bottles with eyeballs in them to her chest he smiled with tears coming from her eyes.

Well, the bottles themselves are resistant against shock with a rubber coating and they have a cloth tied around them so you can't see the contents.

"With this all that's left is.."

A {Dragon}, is it.

"Yeah. One more to go."

"Just act like you're riding a large boat. No matter where it is I'll definitely find and defeat it."

I was acting cool as I said it but that's assuming it actually is somewhere I can go..

"Yeah..But, don't"I'll do anything even if it's impossible.""

"Eh?"

"I'll do anything even if it's impossible. A present is necessary when I go to greet my older brother-in-law for the first time right. At least let me act cool."

I smiled while saying.

"Really~, just come in.."

Let alone taking a shower I still haven't even taken off my armor though...

"Um..Umm, I want to recover a bit of mana so just a bit of, mugu!!"

She put her hands around my neck and sealed my mouth.

You always get really forceful during your period.

Well at least today it isn't in my room so the one the brat will glare at after dirtying the sheets won't be me, I think.

.....

We decided to camp in the teleport room of the 2nd floor.

Since we entered the dungeon in the after noon I thought there was no reason to push ourselves.

In regards to the {Butchers} and {Exterminators}, Rodrick skillfully

explained to Kamu and Kimu so they and Zulu are acting as the leaders in each party as they enter the dungeon.

According to Rodrick it seems he was able to explain it quickly because they know about us being reincarnated.

Taking into consideration the fact that my combat slaves are tired he put emphasis on not overdoing things this time and just carefully acting around the lower floors.

We were luckily able to take up a corner in the room so even though I say the teleport room of the 2nd floor it's still reasonably comfortable.

Miduchi was looking a sluggish but she still gave her best without complaining. I guess the timing just coincidentally matched up but Gwine was on hers as well so she was complaining right and left though.

.....

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 17

We cleared through the 4th floor and then from the teleport room went back towards the room from before.

Using the teleportation device(?) behind the hidden door we were all successfully able to teleport to that one floor.

The time was 1:30 PM.

We decided to have lunch in the hall.
Since there's no light in the room after all.

"Now then, I can finally talk about it.."

I bring up everything I didn't say much about until now.
The reincarnated person from the distant past. Vampire Lord.
Though it's just my guess that he was an alien.
Though I don't know whether it covers the entirety of the dungeon of Baldukk
but at least a portion of this floor is supposedly a space ship.

While everyone was speechless I took out the ID card and tablet.
I even turned on the electricity(?).
The climax was showing them the six broken and useless heat ray guns.

Furthermore, I had trouble trying to explain what a space ship was to Zenom.
Exactly how high level of scientific technology is required for it.
Rather than that I had to explain things about the universe and planets to him
but it seems it was a good review for everyone else including myself so
it wasn't a waste of time.

The things about how Lilus might have
been pretending to be my wife or about the being called Zugutomore I
still haven't told them about.
It's because I thought I shouldn't make a light decision until we obtain some
kind of information during this search.

We ended up using up over two hours in total but since it also acted as a rest
break then it should be fine.

When we went into the first room I was on guard expecting the ghouls to revive
but that wasn't the case.
They were still laying around after we took the magic stones out on our way

back last time.

Beyond that, they were amazed at how the hallway was buried in dirt but we smoothly advanced forward and were able to pass by the rooms where the {Wight} and {Specter} were without any problems.

Without the

automatic security system reviving and not seeing even a single monster we were able to arrive in front of that one room.

Everyone held

up an ID card(when I alone held one up it said "please display one for every person") and the automatic door opened before we went inside.

Chapter 318 : A Distant Journey 2

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 17

The interior of the room was just as we left it last time.

Starting with the Vampire Lord's corpse the other two vampire's corpses are laying around in the same condition with their magic stones taken out.

Around the entrance of the room where the battle took place I chose a slightly open area as our campsite and had Giberuti prepare dinner.

We all split up to see if we could find any kind of information.

Last time because we didn't spend much time at all searching I think there's quite a few things we probably overlooked.

I'm going to take another look at the things I determined were trash last time.

Several hours later, it was time for dinner preparations to be over.

We were able to gather several pieces of informative material.

First off, their living necessities.

There was cloth, string, and needles for repairing clothing and such.

Just these were different from the tablet and stuff as their name properly showed up in the status so the results of identifying them were just as I thought. Most likely they're different from the things that were originally in the ship(?) and they're items the Vampire Lord or someone else brought in from outside.

Furthermore there's a number of {Magic.Items} we overlooked last time.

One Ring of Sustenance{Glut.Fill.Ring}.

A single {Giant.Control.Horn} with five charges remaining.

A single {Climbing.Rope} with a hook attached to the end.

An {Illusion.Scepter} with 238 charges remaining.

And then the items believed to be important.

Two more tablets similar to the one I brought back.

However, we can't turn on their power(?) and my {Identify} says one of them is

broken while the other one comes up as {Remains of I.Mi~.Ku - 67 Do}.

Also, there was another two more broken heat ray guns.

These I can use {Identify} on but can't see the status of them.

Including alcohol for fluids and such if you use {Status Open} on them they come

up as a hyphen but just the same as that there's not even a name

displayed in the status window.

All of the items that seemed to originally be on the ship(?) are kind of like that.

And then finally the equipment.

Above one of the shelves further in the room, in a place where you can't see

from just standing on the floor(ceiling) we discovered several types of

switches similar to a control panel. However, in the first place almost

all of the switches are just the hardware and even if we try to switch

them on or off nothing seemed to happen but there was just one useful

thing we found.

Though it's just half of the lighting in the room.

Putting aside the jokes, among the consoles growing from the ceiling(floor) we

discovered a slot that perfectly fits the size of those tablets.

Almost

all of the console slots were covered in dust so even if they could be

used it seemed completely impossible without cleaning them first but just two of the console slots were cleaned as if they had been in use.

I wonder if they can be used like a docking station for recharging?

If that's not the case then I'll be troubled.

In the first place I can't even tell if they're operating using electricity so I can't say anything at all though.

If we were to carelessly put it in and break it then it would be the worst

so for the time being I decided to start with investigating the tablet

we have on hand.

I press the switch and turn on the power(it's already a pain explaining so just power is fine right?).

After a short wait I can confirm the flashing cursor prompt requesting entry.

"What do you think I should do?"

Ralph looked between me and the screen while saying but that's my line..the

screen display suddenly changed to say that "what do you think I should

do" is a "incorrect".

I turned off the power in a hurry.

"It uses voice commands right."

I nodded as Miduchi asked. But, I didn't think the sensitivity on it was this good...

Well then, after collecting ourselves once more.

I'm sure it's just that Vampire Lord's name right?

"Masetto.Deioku"

The tablet display showed "Ma~setto deio~ku" along with "incorrect".
I cut off the power.

"Huh?"

"You were wrong."

Ralpha said as if making fun of me but I thought it would be this~

"That name, is it the one from before they reincarnated?"

Miduchi said.

Ah.

It's true I don't know what his name was before he reincarnated.

The names I heard from before they reincarnated were..first let's start with this one since it's a full name I guess.

"Kamira.Erisuna"

The display of the tablet showed the text "Kamira.Erisuna" along with the words, "This equipment belongs to the Engineering Department. In order to operate in a different department please enter the group password".
I cut off the power.

I don't know it!

However, there's one more I know, though this one isn't the full name.

I turn the power back on again.

"Gein"

The display of the tablet showed the text "Gein" along with the words "Gein.Fu~guria.Ba~haddu". It came up for a short moment before suddenly displaying the words "Welcome, First-Rank Engineer Gein.Faguria.Bahaddu. Activating personal operation mode."

"Oh!"

After that

there was several icons displayed on the desktop screen just like the smartphones and pads I used in the past. On the top right there was something like a bar graph showing the remaining battery so I was able to confirm it had about 80% remaining.

"Alright.."

.....

I tried messing around with it for a bit but without a manual I can't really figure this stuff out.

I left Bel, Miduchi, and Toris to flipping it upside down since they seemed like they would be good at it and then we decided to have dinner first.

Of course, we tried calling out to Miduchi and the others as

well but they just said "We're at the good part now" and told us to eat

first.

It couldn't be helped so Zenom, Rodrick, Ralpha, Gwine, Basutorial, Giberuti, and I all had dinner without those three.

"I feel like the scenery in this room is just a bit nostalgic.."

Everyone other than Zenom and Giberuti nodded at Rodrick's words.

"Machines.."Computers" I guess..something like this, it's the first time I've seen it since reincarnating."

Basutorial said while taking another look around the room.

"That's certainly true but I still get the feeling it's somewhat strange right. Like the design"

Gwine whispered with a hotdog in one hand.

It's just as she says.

All of the consoles and such hanging from the ceiling(floor) in here don't have the scent of Earth.

The designs seem to put emphasis on slippery curves and when you sit down on the chair in front of the operation table the console seems to have a slope coming down from in front and the sides.

Not even the surface of the desk is a level surface but rather the center of it is caved in with a curved surface.

There's not a single thing resembling a button on the console and not even anything like a keyboard.

It's not like there's a mountain of gauges either(not a single one).

Of course, there's nothing like liquid crystal or CRT displays as well.

Ah, didn't the monitor project into mid-air like a holograph was it?

We can't find a single switch but I wonder how in the world you operate it?

"Certainly..It's not a design that gives off a very good feeling.."

While saying that Ralpa continued biting into her hotdog and washing it down with soup without seeming to be bothered by it at all.
Eat your food a bit slower.

"However, it's unbelievable that this could fly through the sky..you said it was different from that aeroplanes as well.."

"I don't understand anything about what's going on here."

It seems Zenom and Giberuti have abandoned trying to think about it as they stare at the box we're using as a trash can while eating cabbage salad and soup.

"..!"

Suddenly voices were raised from a bit of distance away where Miduchi and the others were messing with the tablet.

Ralpa seems to have gotten a bit interested in it as she ran over with the hotdog still in her mouth.

I thought about going as well but since I was still in the middle of eating I decided to go after I finished.

After all they've been acting like that every time some insignificant software application or whatever opens up so it's been a while since everyone stopped reacting.

"Giberuti, pour me some more bean tea."

"Yes, master. Please wait just a moment."

I watch Giberuti make a pot of tea while talking with Rodrick and the others.

"..Probably, that guy wanted to repair this spaceship..Giving it his best for over 1,000 years.."

I glance at the Vampire Lord's corpse while whispering.

"If you become an undead then I'm sure you wouldn't even need to sleep after all.."

Basutorial added while making a slightly sad expression.

"Even I would if I had some kind of method to go back.."

Rodrick said while looking into the air.

"Me too..But, I don't understand it at all so there's no helping it~"

Beard-san made a lonely looking face at just the start but soon after started eating salad without a care in the world.

Seeing that the three of us all exchanged looks with bitter smiles on our faces.

Around the time I started drinking some bean tea, Miduchi and the others finally put down the tablet and came over to eat.

"How was it? Did you figure anything out?"

"Nn~ Several things I guess."

Oh!?

"That tablet, it seems the real way to use it is after putting it into the console."

Bel said but that's something everyone was somehow able to guess.

However, we've already confirmed that nothing at all happened after sticking it

into the console slot.

"Even though we used it that much it didn't seem to use up much of the "battery" at all. It seems like we'll be able to mess around with it for another two full days or so without "recharging" it."

Toris said
the good news. In the worst case if we can't recharge it then it'll just become a useless pile of junk so this is good news. At the very least we'll be able to test various things out for another two days.

"Was
there any problems with the characters or language? It seemed like it didn't use "English" but the language of Orth after all."

What Miduchi said was just what I had expected.

"I see. After eating, we'll trying searching for any hidden doors that might open outside. There's still places we haven't gone to on this floor after all. During that time, I'll leave the tablet to you three."

I told everyone the simple plan and sipped on some bean tea.

.....

Starting from the conclusion and even if we presented the ID card none of the hidden doors(?) would open.

Even when we tried touching the door itself or the wall nearby with the card it wouldn't move at all.

In regards to this we guessed that all of them are locked because even

that subordinate vampire had to go back and forth from that location on

the 4th floor when he had an ID card.

In order to unlock the doors it's probably necessary to perform the operation from the console.

Also, we tried investigating down the other split paths but in the end they

were dead ends and all that was there was more hidden doors that don't

open along the way, there weren't even any monsters.

However, what was waiting for us when we returned with our shoulders drooping down was a major development.

It's getting pretty late at night and close to midnight.

Certainly it's true that it would be best to get some sleep but with some new

developments right in front of us there's no way I can fall asleep.

By putting the tablet into the console with a certain application running the console started running.

However, it seems the majority of the functions of the console were lost(of

course I'm sure my {Delayed Blast Fire Ball} was the number one reason)

and on top of that we struggled quite a bit with operating it because

it's still attached to the ceiling(floor).

This time excluding Zenom and Giberuti all of us spent over two days with almost no rest gathering information.

First off I'll start talking about the reasonable important points.

I'll bring up the really important points last.

There were limits on the information we were able to access using the authority of that tablet's owner(Though I don't know if he was the real owner or not. According to Miduchi and the others and it seems the original owner was a different person). Even then we were able to find out quite a few things.

This ship(?) itself was in fact not a spaceship.

It seems when the main body of the spaceship(we couldn't figure out the ship's name) crash landed on Orth it was completely lost. However, it seems this isn't an escape ship either. Though it's nothing more than a conjecture based on words with meaning close to the one's displayed but it seems the real name of the place we're at now is called the "Sixth Collection Terminal and Denaturation Device".

On the spaceship

that could be considered the mother ship there was a total of eight ships with similar functions and this one of them.

It seems you

can't call this device(?) a spaceship as its primary function is to perform Terra-forming of a planet and in the first place it was fired into the ground of this planet in order to remodel it.

Furthermore,

this planet that we call "Orth" seems to be formally called "Rugu 3" by the civilization that made the spaceship. It seems that the star system

where Rugu 3 is the primary planet is an extremely unique star system even in the universe where the star that acts as the sun revolves around it.

Both the primary moon Karutari and the sub-moon Neitari were actually planets that revolve around Rugu 3 as well. Furthermore, Rugu 3 itself is rotating. This star system has a total of nine planets but the two moons are the first and second planets, and the sun is the third planet.

Beyond that there's another six planets.

And then,

the solar system(the formal name this civilization uses for it is the Duvain 4 star system) which is where we originated from is in another spiraling galaxy in the galactic system.

It seems the original

objective of the spaceship was to absorb some kind of data from the gathering terminal and denaturation devices that it fired into several habitable planets in the distant past including Earth, and then separate from that they were also supposed to fire eight more new terminal and denaturation devices into Rugu 3.

Normally there's no interaction between these two operations.

Each of them are independent and should have been done as separate operations.

However, while no problems occurred in regards to gathering the data and they

were able to progress with it without delay, after that it seems some kind of accident occurred in the middle of {hyper drive}. It's unknown exactly what kind of thing happened.

They returned to normal

space and then it seems some kind of trouble occurred when they were firing the gathering terminals into Rugu 3. This trouble was the cause and their spaceship crashed straight into Rugu 3's sun causing all of the crew to die.

But, by the time they realized it they had received new life as inhabitants of this planet.

You could say they're the same us on this part.

One of these people was Kamira.Erisuna. And then, Gein, also known as Gein.Faguria.Bahaddu. Furthermore, it seems the original name of the Vampire Lord Masetto.Deioku was Tarubo.Fakuna.

Of course there

were several other people as well. In one of the easiest places to access on the working console there was a file which was most likely a list of as many details as Tarubo the one who made it could remember.

Other than this list of people's names in the stuff I'm about to talk about I think all of our conjectures are probably included in it.

Though whether or not it's all true is something only God knows I'm sure.

It seems among the crew members who reincarnated there were those that encountered others and those who died without ever meeting anyone else.

In

regards to this I couldn't think much of it because it's suspicious whether someone who they never met was actually reincarnated but that's what he guessed and since the list of reincarnated people was shown to him by God when he leveled up after reincarnating so it seems that was his confidence to conclude they had all "reincarnated".

And then among those who were fortunate enough to meet it seems before long they had split into two factions in a dispute.

Kamira.Erisuna and Gein were members of one faction while Tarubo seemed to be a part

of the other faction. It seems that the faction Kamira.Erisuna and Gein were members of had the superiority but it seems that some member of a certain department in Tarubo's faction had deciding information about the spaceship so they were never able to settle things between them.

Tarubo

and the others faction wanted to somehow search for the spaceship, repair it, and return, while the other faction had some similarities it seems they had a different ideology or some kind of understanding.

Additionally supplementing further and including when this spaceship crashed it wasn't listed what date all of this happened.

Of course, we couldn't figure out or even guess when the spaceship with this gathering terminal was made or when one was fired into Earth either.

In the distant past right, is the best guess we could make.

In that case the time difference with Earth becomes completely unknown but

considering how I'm talking with you like this, I don't think they're all that far apart.

It seems that Toris and Miduchi were into SF

novels in their previous lives so they came up with the hypothesis, "Was there some kind of time slip?" but when everyone rejected it they got stubborn and started going on about all kinds of crazy ideas like, "if you go at a speed beyond light then the possibility of connecting between the past and future is.." and "even with just a tremendous distance apart the way time advances is.." so everyone ended being unable to close things up as we all just replied "Yes~yes" to whatever they were saying.

Next up is an idea based on these facts which is a lot less credible, something considerably close to a delusion.

In regards to whatever the data that was being absorbed from several habitable planets including Earth but normally they were collected into a data-bank on the spaceship. However, because of either the accident during hyper drive or artificial accident, though the reason is completely unknown, a portion of that data ended up influencing the gathering terminals that were fired into Rugu 3.

It's believed

there's no mistake that these gathering terminal and denaturation devices are capable of gathering information about the culture and civilizations of living creatures through brain waves but through what method it's capable of modifying the planet is completely unknown.

The

speculation was that at the very least this sixth gathering terminal ended up spreading information about aspects of English and Japanese culture to the area. Putting aside the characters there's aspects of the language that appear all over the place.

Isn't it same for the

monsters? or at least that's what we were discussing but we couldn't come to a conclusion. Some of us thought that it might be possible for a portion of cultural data from Earth to be influencing things here while others said there's no way that's the case.

Miduchi and Toris

even went to the point of advocating that legends and such told in various places on Earth might be some kind of adverse phenomenon where the data from the gathering terminal fired into the Earth caused a bit of influence there.

Bel and Rodrick fiercely argued back that it sounded idiotic.

There's no way we would be able to figure out any of that just by thinking about it and even if we did figure out I couldn't imagine it being of any help to us from here on out so Basutoral and I said to think about more useful things.

Meanwhile Ralpa and Gwine gave up on

thinking entirely as they played games using the small round parts

rolling around in the pile of trash.

Zenom couldn't keep up with anyone from start to finish so he just started maintaining his beard.

And Giberuti started cutting up vegetables while glancing at that from the side as if saying that making food was his job.

In any case not only did we not have access to very much information but we weren't able to obtain any definite information(things we could conclude were definitely facts) so no matter how many guesses we make right now there's not much meaning to it.

I activated the power of the leader and forcefully made them continue investigating the information.

Regardless of that the amount of information we obtained was far too little so in

the end it doesn't really close well with tons of conjectures but it can't be helped.

According to Bel, it seems that the dungeon of Benkelish in Devas is also shaped like a crater like this Baldukk.

It's probably a different gathering terminal and denaturing device from this Sixth one.

I decided that in the future I want to try investigating there as well.

Putting that aside and in regards to the dungeon but it seems that this gathering terminal and denaturation device is performing some of the management of this dungeon of Baldukk. Though I say that it seems it's been a long time since a number of functions have malfunctioned so it

isn't working normally.

We weren't able to obtain any information

at all about the monsters in the dungeon but it seems it was originally some kind of experimental facility to create carbon based lifeforms.

And then we found out that the data is different from what it was originally supposed to have. It's even possible that it's meant to cause changes or sudden mutations in lifeforms. At this point Toris and Miduchi's assertions were put aside and they were making depressed expressions.

Finally is the really important parts.

First off about magic.

Though we weren't able to obtain any defining information but the sole thing we figured out was that the crew members only touched magic for the first time after they were reincarnated.

In other words, there's a high chance that magic is something unique to this Orth.

Next up about the Gods.

It seems that after all the Gods actually exist.

Whether they're a higher order being or the will of the universe, or whatever else is completely unknown.

But, it seems through some kind of method it's possible to ascend to become a God.

Other than that we couldn't figure out much else.

And, about the other hidden doors.

This ended with the extremely unfortunate result of only learning that we wouldn't be able to figure out anything without a higher access level of

the data since that was also necessary to unlock the doors.

Going

off that Tarubo's words and it seems like there's still another terminal or something where we should be able to gain more information.

After that in regards to a map of Orth.

We searched as much as we could thinking there might be some kind of geographical data of Rugu 3 Orth from the spaceship but not a single piece of information like that was rolling around in the areas we could access.

In regards to this we'll either have to login with an account with higher authority or somehow find a way to open the hidden doors and access the terminal that we're guessing might exist beyond them, otherwise there's no choice but to give up.

And then in regards to the facilities including the console where we obtained this information.

We were able to determine that the energy used to maintain the dungeon and the energy used to recharge the tablet and console are completely different, and the energy used to maintain this console is already on the verge of running dry.

For that reason we decided to stop investigating things here.

Anything more than this would require a higher level of authority for operating the tablet or console.

Furthermore, in regards to methods of forcefully opening the hidden doors with attack spells we had no choice but to give up.

The reason is because we obtained the information that if someone intrudes into the room through any unlawful method the facilities in those rooms will automatically start erasing all of the data on the terminals in

them.

If the facilities aren't running then in the first place we wouldn't be able to look at the data.

If it is running then it would be erased. In other words a stalemate.

We also gained understanding about why several heat ray guns were left laying around without being repaired.

It was simply because Tarubo didn't have the knowledge required for

repairing them and didn't have any data on the structure or method to

fix them.

He didn't even have the right repair tools.

It seems

from the start he was giving it best trying to somehow repair the broken

console but in the end he wasn't able to properly fix it.

Now that it's come to this there's nothing left we can do at the current point.

There's no choice but to be satisfied with obtaining a decent amount of information.

Chapter 319 : Cashing In 1

Year 7447, Month 7, Day 19

After returning to the surface just like that we all returned to our inns. Putting aside Zenom, Giberuti, and a small number of exclusions like Ralpa and Gwine, everyone's steps are somewhat heavy. Ah, for it to be two out of eight reincarnated people then that's 25%. I guess 1/4th isn't a small number but a decent sized faction.

In any case the primary cause is that we learned about things we never would have expected going into the dungeon this time. Of course, it's not that the mood is dark but the amount of things we found out is just too many that everyone is a bit confused.

The other

members of the {Slaughterers} are supposed to return from the dungeon tomorrow so I want to organize everything by then. There's a lot of positive topics after all.

During dinner whenever everyone was gathered together we all went over things again.

In the first place, even if aliens came along in the distant past there's no relation to us right now at all.

If we mention that they were gathering some kind of cultural data from the Earth and Orth, all I can say is so what?

Even if they were trying to modify the environment, in the end thanks to

that it's a fact that we're able to live here, so normally it would be something to be grateful to them about. Somehow it's vexing though.

"In the first place you know~ Orth, no, Rugu 3 was it? Isn't it doubtful that it would be the central planet of the star system?"

There were those who nodded at the question I raised and those who made confused faces at it as well.

"Why?"

The representative of those who were making confused faces, Ralph replied.

"Why you say? You, stars are normally unreasonably heavy you know? The diameter of the sun is over 200 times larger than the Earth and its weight should be some tens of thousands of times greater. There's also the fact that the star isn't shining but normally they're "pulsar" after all. In that case gravity and such.."

Tori started a lecture.

In other words, if by chance Rugu 3 Orth has the same size as the Earth, then thinking about the mass and it's extremely unnatural.

For a

fixed star(the normal meaning of a fixed star is that it's constantly in place and doesn't move around. It's not just a planet that gives off light) that acts as the primary star of the star system it has too small of a mass.

We also mixed in the conjecture that the sun of this star

system is probably about the same size as the sun from the solar system.

After all stars that shine are extremely big and heavy.
Interruptions joined in from multiple sides over this.

It's because in that case we'd need to assume that the distance between the Earth and the sun in the solar system and that the age(?) of the sun on Orth are about the same.

If the distance is closer then it's fine if

the sun is much smaller and even if the mass of Orth is heavier then it doesn't hold true.

Although, if it's far heavier than the gravity

would increase as well so the same kind of carbon based lifeforms as Earth wouldn't be able to grow.

As the alcohol started to make it's rounds we kept repeating discussions like that.

Rather~

you know. Why are we always bringing up the Earth as the comparison?

What was it again? Ah, that's right, even in astrology there are countless things we still haven't found an explanation for right?

Couldn't Orth just be that sort of planet we can't explain? I don't think there's much meaning even if we knew the size or mass of the planet though."

Ralpa started questioning the meaning of learning itself.

Of course, she received quite a few retorts but asked in a carefree way,

"Then explain magic and monsters and such to me. We might be able to explain magic as super powers so just monsters is fine. I can't

understand how something like undead could exist even less." and shut them up.

Hearing that said and it's certainly true.

Putting

aside undead, things like Minotaurs I really don't understand how they could exist. How in the world could they have evolved to become cow people? Even the {Wyverns} flying through the air with that body size completely goes against the laws of physics. In the world there's even giants with a height of over 5 meters and {Frost Lizards} that spit out frost. Something like a Treant that's a tree walking around, no matter how I think about it's a phenomenon close to a nightmare. That fellow, even after disassembling it we couldn't find a single trace of anything like internal organs, even the structure of it's body after death no matter how I looked it couldn't be anything other than wood.

It's true that monsters themselves are the much closer mystery.

"It ends up that there's no meaning in thinking about it right? Let's just stop. For starters, it wasn't a spaceship, and even if it was I can't imagine that we'd be able to repair it."

Bel closed things up by saying that.

It seemed like Toris and Ralpa hadn't had enough of arguing but what Bel said was what Bastoral and I had been saying all along and since Rodrick and Miduchi stopped participating the topic gradually changed to a different direction.

About the {Magic.Items} that we obtained in the control room(?) of that gathering terminal this time.

Remembering that we suddenly obtained a large number of treasures all at once and everyone's faces loosened up.

Though you know, I don't want you to misunderstand but things like the {Fire

Ball.Wand} and the {Lightning.Wand} had no charges left.

Even the method to charge them is unknown so unless we use them for fraud or something they're dirt cheap right.

After I said that they objected saying there were things with charges still left and things that are unrelated to the charges.

Yeah.

That's true.

My bad for throwing cold water on your conversation with such a boring topic.

Right now, the amulet we have an auction going for is expected to land a

considerable price so the topic gradually shifted to what the final

price tag will be.

However, it's already in the middle of

investigation so when I mentioned that we should get news on the initial

estimates soon they started getting excited over this and that again.

.....

Afternoon, before the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} returned from the dungeon the

caravan from my family arrived. One day sooner than planned. Sean the squire leader was leading the caravan again.

Around the same time as the caravan arrived a messenger from Tokerin the healer in the capital arrived as well.

The survey of the four territories along the northern parts of the Dirt Plains must have finished.

It was right before our allies return from the dungeon so I told the messenger that I'd go and listen to the report after I finish making deliveries to the castle tomorrow and let them return, then suggested Sean and the others have a night's rest in Baldukk.

After talking

about how we finished off a {Wyvern} on the 11th floor and starting with Sean all of the squires were considerably surprised and pleased as if they had done it themselves.

"However, to bring down a {Wyvern}, as expected of Al-sama."

"We wanted to see the head as well."

"Eeeh..Is it really that big!"

"Ho~hou~ So it's become that popular even in the capital!? Doesn't that make you a hero!"

They started making a lot of noise again praising me for defeating the {Wyvern}. But, honestly speaking it feels good.

By the way, are Kuro and Mary still not coming?

I think they're also doing something like a newly-wed trip so it's fine

even if they take their time a bit but I hope they at least come within the year.
As expected I'm sure it won't take that long huh?

.....

Year 7447, Mont 7, Day 21

After delivering the armor, Miduchi and I went to Tokerin's clinic.
Of course, we're bringing along some sausages as a gift.
This time it isn't the usual five varieties but some new products that still aren't being sold yet with crushed nuts, liver mixed in, and 100% beef.
After we arrived, we were politely lead further inside.

In the inner room other than Tokerin there was a good-looking man with a good physique and a sharp glare sitting on the sofa.
A tall dark elf.
Deep purple skin that's close to pure black.
His hair that's white as snow is trimmed up short but the border at the back is grown out long and braided as it looks extremely well on him.
The clothes he's wearing are simple linen but the design is loose and it's clean as if it had just been washed.
On the parts of his arms coming out from his sleeves I can see quite a few old wounds similar to Miduchi, in comparison to his beautiful face without a scratch.

There's a considerably high quality long sword on his waist.

The moment she saw that man Miduchi jumped up in surprise and lowered her head.

"Ch..Ch..Chief warrior! It's been a while!"

Chief warrior? I guess that means he's an important person.

"It's nice to meet you. My name is Alan.Greed."

After entering the room and greeting him the good-looking man stood up from the sofa to greet me by stretching out his right hand.

I stretched out my right hand and said {Status Open} while using {Identify}.

Edomarin.Zageruforu/12/3/7422

Male/9/10/7409.Dark Elf.Lail Kingdom Commoner Lilac

Condition: Normal

Age: 38 Years Old

Level: 17

HP: 128(128) MP: 290(290)

Strength: 19

Speed: 26

Dexterity: 24

Endurance: 19

Special Skill: Infrared Vision

Special Skill: Inclination Sensing

Special Skill: Earth Magic Lv. 6

Special Skill: Water Magic Lv. 6

Special Skill: Fire Magic Lv. 6

Special Skill: Wind Magic Lv. 6

Special Skill: Void Magic Lv. 7

Experience: 769256(810000)

Uho~ this is quite impressive.

He can put up a good fight against the commanders of the first knight group! Even his MP is extremely high on the same class as Tokerin and Miduchi, and close to my older brother.

If older brother's level were to go up I wonder if it would be like this?

Listening to his conversation and it seems this chief warrior called Zageruforu lead several subordinates himself to investigate the Dirt Plains.

Hearing that and Miduchi started lowering her head again like subordinate.

"Rank one warrior Chizumagurol. There's no need to humble yourself to that extent. We accepted a job and just accomplished it accordingly."

He said with a quiet smile and a calm tone of voice.

But, even though it's not anything important when this kind of handsome person says it it sure sounds cool.

In comparison to Toris who has the blood of a Japanese person mixed in and you get the impression of a delicate and beautiful elf but still the overall balance is good in combination with his age he gives off a cool and tasteful aura.

"Tokerin-san. This, it's nothing great but it's the new product of our company. If it's alright please enjoy them."

"Hohou! A new product is it!?"

When I handed over the package Tokerin's expression loosened up. Sausages are one of his favorite foods after all.

"Yeah, I think they'll be delicious again this time. They're still products we have yet to put up for sale but please try them."

Tukerin accepted the package and immediately started to confirm what was inside.

Take your time eating them later on.

The chief warrior looked at that Tukerin with a slightly bitter expression.

I'm getting along with him reasonably well after all.

Please don't hold that much against him.

The chief warrior handed over a booklet.

"Now then, Greed-san. This is the report you requested. Please confirm it."

The booklet was made up of several tens of pages of cheap parchment with a decent width gathered together.

It's lighter than it looks but it's certainly a width that has some feedback to it.

"I'll take a look at it then."

I flip through the pages glancing at them.

Ho? So that place was like this...

He~ that territory, so it isn't making tobacco...

Mu. 70% tax rate..Seriously?

An? Damage from Centaurs..Those Centaurs?

Hmm..the words written down have quite a few strange usages of words just like

Miduchi used to speak but it still feels like they did a good job

investigating. Though I can't say much without taking a better look just

from a glance it seems pretty well put together.

There were

several places where I thought, "they investigated this much but why is

just this part missing?" but I think the details in the report are still plenty useful. It doesn't seem like there's any problem with the amount and quality of information.

Several minutes after flipping through the pages.

"I think it's a sufficient investigation. Thank you very much."

I lowered my head and thanked him.

The amount of crop that can be harvested per area is completely missing(when I asked Miduchi about it afterwards because they aren't knowledgeable about field crops she said they were probably satisfied with just investigating the types of crops. However, she didn't think they had enough time to investigating the area of the fields) and most likely the local information like the distinction between the kingdom knight group, the local knight group, and the local squires hasn't been done either.

However, I'm sure Kuro and Mary will keep an eye on those things so it should be possible to complete the data.

"No, please raise your head. Our country has been greatly in the care of Greed-san's company so we want to maintain a good relation going forward as well."

Ah, come to think of it, Miduchi said they were struggling quite a bit to obtain foreign currency.

I guess they think I'm a good customer to earn a stable amount from investigations and such from here on out?

That must be why the chief warrior himself came out...

Though I say that something like surveying isn't done all that..No, periodic

surveys are necessary right.

"Of course, I'm also receiving a great amount of help. These are important pieces of information."

I made a friendly smile and continued speaking.

"Also you know, this is about after next year..Depending on the case it might be a bit later but I would like to ask for another investigation different from the one this time."

"Ho? What is it?"

Zageruforu and TUkerin both leaned forward.

Both of them are putting up faces almost like a Noh mask to not convey their expressions but the only one succeeding is Tukerin while Zageruforu is giving off a pleased, "Alright!" kind of feeling.

"There's two

requests I'd like to make for the time being. First, I've heard that in your country those who break the law are sold outside of the country as slaves as a punishment. If possible please tell me the information on where they've been sold in the past. Also, it's fine if I buy them from here on out. In regards to this it's fine even right away. The other one is.."

I watch their expressions while speaking.

There's no impression on either of their faces that they heard something unpleasant.

I couldn't see anything particularly unusual.

Although, I heard from Miduchi that something like a criminal being sold outside

of the country as a slave almost never happens in Lail Kingdom where the public security is high and there's almost no crimes. It seems it barely even happens once every 10 years or so.

However, even if they

have a bit of a problem with their personality if it's an adult dark elf then there's a considerably high chance they'll be able to use magic.

On top of that taking into consideration they have MP in the triple digits and there's no way I can miss them.

If they're hopelessly beyond my ability to manage then I'll just kill them to prevent future trouble.

In that case, I'll end up wasting quite a bit of money(it seems that

fundamentally when dark elves are sold as combat slaves they have a considerable price) but if any other foreign reincarnated person sets their sights on them it's much better than them cooperating. Rather than their combat strength including their magic skills, my main objective is preventing Lail Kingdom's efficient method of raising warriors from spreading around.

Well in regards to this after I obtain my

territory I'll have Miduchi return to her country once then I intend to have her give out the prohibition from selling others off as slaves so it's just something like insurance.

According to Miduchi and if she

uses Lilus to give out the command then there's pretty much no problem with prohibiting it after all.

"I'd like to enter a stable

mercenary contract. The warriors from your country are extraordinarily excellent after all. Even as an adventurer I think being together with people like that makes it somewhat easier to relax.."

Their expressions moved a bit.

"I was thinking of carrying out the contract over a span of years. If it's possible that is..I guess so, setting within half a year as the target I'd like to ask for an estimate on the price."

The rank one

warrior class? I think it was? that underwent harsh training to be assassins just like Miduchi are probably without a doubt impossible.

When it comes to the second and third ranks then the compensation drops quite a bit as it seems there aren't many who receive more than

2,000,000 in wages per year.

It should still be considerably cheaper than employing knights.

After that we went over the small conditions like their age and commander class while I conveyed my simple requests and then left Tukerin's clinic.

Incidentally, I received a polite letter of thanks for the gift of sausages with both of their signatures on it at a later date.

Supposedly Zageruforu was moved almost like when he first ate a Baldoggie. It was that they would definitely love to purchase them the day we start sales of the products.

Well, it seems he's got quite the high salary so he should be able to purchase

them without a problem.

.....

Year 7447, Month 8, Day 5

Miduchi and I, the two of us have come together to the Sandak Company in the capital.

Yesterday was the cutoff date for bids on that amulet.

While I said the two of us, Zulu, Angela, Henry, and Mekku, my four combat slaves are along as escorts as well.

They're waiting at the entrance to the company.

Obviously we're not empty handed.

We've brought along a reasonable amount of luggage.

"Welcome and thank you for coming."

The company president politely welcomed us.

"Now then, about the bidding on that but.."

Miduchi and I both gulp.

"The winning bid was 7,050,000,000 Z."

Ooooh!!!

Miduchi and I spontaneously exchanged looks.

"Please confirm it."

He showed us a copy of the proof of sale.

I took out the sales proof for Greed Company from my pocket and with a trembling hand wrote down the price of 5,992,500,000 Z, 85% of the 7,050,000,000 sale amount. Since it was such a high price, my fingers were trembling from excitement so the characters looked like earth worms squirming around. Furthermore, in regards to a thumb print it already had a wax seal ahead of time.

After going through the paperwork

when I finally thought we would receive the cash I went to hand over the proof of sale that we just made and I was stopped as he laughed. As expected the opening of the bids only just finished so it seems they haven't received the payment for the goods yet. Thinking calmly about it and that's only obvious.

I doubt there are very many people out there that could pay that amount in full on the spot and even if there were if they live in a foreign land it's necessary to transport it over. Even if they're in a nearby area the amount was only decided yesterday. Yesterday and today, not to mention in the morning there's no way the payment would already be finished right...At best they'd be going over to the shrine to take out money by now.

The proof of sales is something you hand over in exchange for the money so it would be strange to hand it over ahead of time, so it was a bit embarrassing that I couldn't think that far(I even brought along the slaves as escorts) as I tried to change the subject to something else.

"By the way president. Today we've brought along some different items. Is it possible to auction them again?"

I turned red while saying that and the company president was slightly surprised before happily laughing that it was fine. Since there's the people who missed out on the bid this time there's no reason to overlook a chance to profit.

What I brought out was two of the {Invisibility.Rings}. The one with 47 charges remaining and one with no more charges left.

The president looked at the status very interested and used the spell {Detect.Magic}.

"These two both have the same name. However, I can feel mana from one of them but I can't feel any kind of mana from the other."

I didn't mention how there's charges on them.

"Hm~mm.."

After confirming the ring the president made up his mind and put it on his finger.

For a lot of the {Magic.Items} you can equip you can understand how to use them after you put them on after all.

"I see..It's true I can understand the method to use even this ring.."

Even when it comes to the {Invisibility.Ring} with no charges left if you put it on your finger the method to use it will float into your head when you focus on it. Of course even if you attempt to use it nothing will happen though.

"Obviously we tried using both of them. When you use one of them you can become transparent for a considerable period of time and can't be seen by other people. Nothing happened for the other one. It's strange right?"

I tried saying that. It's testing out whether he knows about the concept of the "charge usage count" but I'm trying to appeal that I "have no knowledge" of that concept.

"Mwu..What in the world is this..."

Seeing the confused president and I felt a bit disappointed and just a bit of dark happiness.

Of course the disappointment is that "it seems impossible to recharge" and the dark happiness is because I think "there's a high probability that the {Fireball.Wand} that's considered a national treasure probably has a charge count to it".

"As a matter of fact, there's still more."

Next what I took out was the {Loincloth.Of.Daring}.

What kind of evaluation this will get I can't even imagine...

Chapter 320 : Cashing In 2

Year 7447, Month 8, Day 5

"Uh..This is.."

The

moment the company president saw me take the {Loincloth.Of.Daring} out from my bag without even using {Detect.Magic} he was lost for words.

That's not unreasonable.

We've already washed it so the bad smell is long since gone(if you carefully try sniffing it then it'll probably still be there) but it still looks like nothing more than a worn-out and dirty piece of leather.

Even then he still took it in one to check the status and additionally used the spell {Detect.Magic}.

"..{Loincloth.Of.Daring}

is it..It certainly seems to be a {Magic.Item} but...However, this..for a piece of leather that looks considerably worn out, that is..."

Here, it's a loincloth so try winding it around your waist.
Even if you put it on nothing will float into your head though.

However, just as expected from the president of a major company.

The president quickly stood up from the sofa and put on the loincloth.

Of course, it's normally not underwear.

The Mino was only wearing that so it was like underwear but you can wear it over your waist above armor almost like a miniskirt.

"I can't feel anything in particular.."

Just as I thought...

For items where the main effect has an influence on your status even if you put them on you won't feel anything.

This is something we figured out from testing the {Bracer.Of.Might}.

Eh? The only one who put the loincloth on was Zulu.

Somehow, that is..isn't it unpleasant right?

Even when I asked Zulu he said, "I don't feel anything in particular" so I thought that was the case but after all.

No~

between the bracers and the loincloth I think the loincloth is more powerful but when it comes to wearing it the slaves should start first right.

There's no meaning other than that.

The president took off the loincloth and carefully put it on top of the table.

"What do you think about that? Do you think it would sell?"

The president remained silent and looked at me before saying, "It will be difficult..however, the mana that can be felt from it is quite impressive so it isn't like there wouldn't be anyone interested in it."

"Putting aside an auction do you know anyone who might know the effect or a

method to investigate it similar to the previous ring?"

"Hm~mm.. Well I can at least try asking.."

"That's true. Putting aside whether or not we'll sell it, if I can get you to even just investigate it then..there's no way to put a price on it just like that after all.."

"I understand. Please leave this item to me. The fee for the investigation will be determined based on the magic used on this loincloth and the degree of it but is that alright?"

"What kind of price do you think it'll be?"

"It's just a general estimate but the if effect on it is converted into magic levels then please think that every 1 level will add about 2,000,000 Z. Also, in the case we can't determine the effect within 2-3 months then there's no need to pay the fee."

"I understand. Please investigate under those conditions. I'll leave it in your care until then."

Miduchi and I lowered our heads to the president and then excused ourselves from Sandak Company.

Something like a lender's note for the loincloth there's no need to write one over every little thing.

We've made a number of transactions and trust each other a reasonable amount,

and above all else we're even slightly distant relatives.

Furthermore,

it seems they expect the payment for the amulet to come in either today or tomorrow so the person who purchased it must be from the capital. It was decided that we'd come to pick up the payment tomorrow evening.

.....

"That president sure is amazing at reading right."

On our way back to my company from Sandak Company, Miduchi whispered in admiration.

"That's right. He almost deserves a reward for it. And it's quite impressive that he has connections and clients that can pay that much money."

It's close to impossible for me right now.

Eventually I want to develop connections with rich merchants and nobles but it's impossible for the time being.

"But, with this.."

"Yeah, if the money from this time comes in then after paying taxes I'll have just over 9,000,000,000 on hand..I'm sure that one {Wyvern} armor will be even higher so.."

I looked at Miduchi over my shoulder and she was gently smiling.

"Yeah, that's great isn't it."

"It was really fortunate that I was able to reach my goal with money before turning 20 years old..If it was just me alone then.."

I'm sure it would have taken a lot more time.

"Isn't it fine not to worry about that? I don't think everyone would like it if you paid too much attention to things like that right?"

That's certainly true.

After arriving at the company we went up to the second floor and took a break.

However, I can't afford to laze around without doing anything.

After a short break while drinking cold tea with ice floating in it I got to sorting out the account books in the morning.

In the afternoon after having lunch I went around greeting our suppliers.

Obviously bringing around something like a gift for being in their care but including negotiations for the ranch owner to move and such, there's a mountain of things to do.

.....

Year 7447, Month 8, Day 7

"Uo..."

"Pretty.."

"How big right. Chomp..So they're harder than gold."

"Don't bite them..It's dirty right."

"This is..{Status Open}.."

"Hohou, me too. {Status Open}.."

After paying the taxes for the sale price on that {Earth.Amulet} and the remaining was 5,287,500,000 Z so I gave out bonuses.

All of the reincarnated people and Zenom excluding Rodrick and Bastoral were targets of it.

It's over 100,000,000 Z per person so I decided to give platinum coins to those people.

The size of platinum coins is about two sizes larger than gold coins with a diameter of roughly 70 mm. They're considerably thick and the weight is probably over 200 grams.

After spending some time staring at the platinum coins in my room at Boil Manor, we all went together to leave them in our lockers at the shrine.

"Hey, we made quite a bit of money this time right? Is it over 10,000,000,000?"

Ralpa asked with an excited expression but hearing that everyone's attention fell on me.

"Nn~ I'm still about 1,000,000,000 short. But, after the Wyvern armor from last month is completed it should easily exceed it."

I smiled in a good mood while replying.

"Around Spring of next year was it?"

What Gwine is mentioning is probably the period when the armor should be completed and delivered.

"That should be the case."

"But, we don't know what kind of price it will be so until then I think we should continue earning in the dungeon."

Toris nodded as he said. Bel agreed.

It seems they're thinking about purchasing some slaves as well.

For that sake it's necessary to earn a lot more money.

In order to create some surplus I want to earn a bit more and it seems everyone else is in agreement with thinking that.

Of course, it seems that the Wyvern armor will end up with an outrageous price on it so there's an extremely high chance that it'll go way over the amount of my goal(other than the 10,000,000,000 Z that I'm paying to the King I think I'll need another 1,000,000,000 Z or so that I can use for shopping and various strategies). If it doesn't reach it then we still have various valuable {Magic.Items} so it's fine to just make up for it by selling those. Excluding the {Breeze.Horseshoes} there's nothing else that I feel is absolutely necessary after all.

And

the Wyvern armor will be completed in the Spring of next year. It's just a matter of diligently exploring the dungeon and earning as much as we can until then. Although, while earning is important there's also investigating that gathering terminal..though I wonder what we should do about it? Well, I have some interest in it. Though either way something

like repairing the spaceship is definitely impossible so rather than that I'm more interested in the information on Rugu 3 Orth that should have been stored in the data-bank.

There's not a very good outlook that we'll be able to find anymore information than this but I intend on investigating it until we're sure that we won't be able to find anymore information than we already have. If we don't then one day we might think, "if only I had searched more properly at that time.." I'm not the only one thinking that way. It wouldn't be strange for anyone to think of it.

.....

Year 7447, Month 8, Day 13

In the evening we returned to the surface from the dungeon. Even in the middle of the summer Baldukk doesn't get very many evening breezes because it's a basin. We met up with everyone who were wiping away their sweat as they wait for us to return and then went to eat dinner.

In order to change from our equipment we returned to Boil Manor and the head clerk called out for me. It seems there was a message for me. It's probably either one of the young ladies trying to get into contact with

me or some random adventurer asking to join the {Slaughterers}.

Since it's always the same when I'm called out by head clerk everyone went ahead up the stairs towards their rooms.

...

"When did you take this message?"

According to the head clerk it was yesterday. It seems they said they would return after hearing that we were in the dungeon and would return today. Supposedly they came once in the morning and around noon today to see if we had returned yet.

Hmhmm~ They were quite a bit faster than I thought.

I take off my equipment in my room and Miduchi came over as I was changing.

"About Kuro and Mary. It seems they've already arrived in Baldukk."

"Eh? Ah, those people. Didn't you say it would take them a bit longer?"

I said it but that was just my guess. If you go from Kiru to Baldukk without a carriage then it takes three weeks while hurrying. If you come normally then four weeks. Even if you take your time coming it's about a month. If there's a carriage as well then plus two weeks or so I guess. They had contacted me saying they would leave Kiru in the middle of April so it comes out to them having spent over two months investigating things.

"And, where are they now?"

"For the time being it

seems they're staying at Matoson Inn. Since they probably don't know Ginger or Hisu's faces I left a message at the front for them to come to Murowa if they come again today."

"Should I go and get them?"

"Nn~ even if you end up missing each other..Well I guess it's fine. Let's go together."

Then I'll hurry up and change.

A short shower is fine.

I left the message at the front just in case we end up missing each other.

I told everyone to go ahead to Murowa as Miduchi and I went towards Matoson Inn.

.....

After arriving at Matoson Inn and checking Kuro and Mary were there but Giner and Hisu had just left. We were invited to their room so we went into the room Kuro and Mary were staying in. These fellows, how cheeky taking a two person room. Even though they're underage..err I guess they're already adults now.

"Sorry about that. We were in the dungeon until now."

I said that while sitting on one of the two chairs. Miduchi took the

other chair while Kuro and Mary are both sitting on their beds. We finished up greetings.

"Umm, Al, this.."

Mary handed several gold and a dozen other coins to me.

"It's fine. Hold onto them. If it's just an amount of 20,000,000 or 30,000,000 then we can earn it back quickly so it's fine if you return it all to me at that time."

When I laughed while pushing back the coins and the two of them exchanged looks in surprise.

"Hey, rather than that the two of you got married right?"

When Miduchi asked them while smiling they both stretched out their hands with an embarrassed expression.
I guess they mean to check their status.

"{Status Open}.."

Kroft.Baladik/5/1/7447 Kroft.Baladik/11/6/7440
Male/14/2/7428.Hyumu.Head of Baladik Family.Marquis Webdos Knight
Condition: Normal
Age: 19 Years Old
Level: 7
HP: 104(104) MP: 22(22)
Strength: 15
Speed: 20
Dexterity: 15
Endurance: 15
Unique Skill: Charm(Lv. 6)

Special Skill: Earth Magic(Lv. 2)
Special Skill: Water Magic(Lv. 2)
Special Skill: Void Magic(Lv. 2)
Experience: 59189(60000)

Marissa.Baladik/16/4/7447 Marissa.Binsil/10/4/7447
Female/14/2/7428.Hyumu.Baladik Family First Wife.Marquis Webdos Knight
Condition: Normal
Age: 19 Years Old
Level: 7
HP: 106(106) MP: 27(27)
Strength: 14
Speed: 21
Dexterity: 17
Endurance: 16
Unique Skill: Resistance(Poison){Poison.Tolerance}(MAX)
Special Skill: Fire Magic(Lv. 2)
Special Skill: Water Magic(Lv. 2)
Special Skill: Void Magic(Lv. 2)
Experience: 54196(60000)

Mu..Kuro's {Charm} has increased in level.
Sorry about that.

And Mary's ability points are still a bit higher.
It's most likely because she was able to get proper nutrition and exercise
helping out around their restaurant while she was still a child.

Stuff

like farming and training wit the sword are heavy labor for a child in
the single digits so I guess that means the way she was raised was
optimal for increasing ability points.

Just as expected other than MP there's various things before 10 years old.
Though they do say anything is bad when taken too far...

Well, it's not a significant difference and if it's just this much then after training them in the dungeon for half a year it'll be like a measurement error.

Also, it seems that the proficiency level of the ability points is completely different so I can't exactly say that it's better to have higher ability points after all.

Rather than that I can tell how much effort they've put in from their experience points.

They haven't participated directly in combat during any wars and stuff like defeating monsters was at best once or twice per year.

Even that was

surrounding a {Horned Bear} with several tens of people and beating it from all sides so it's still a pitiful amount.

In that case, most of those experience points should be earned from training.

Even for the magic skills they shouldn't have been able to use it to damage living creatures so everyday in and out they must have put in effort for them.

"The two of you, congratulations on getting married."

"Congratulations."

I said it blessing them from the bottom of my heart.

I thought Mary would turn bright red from embarrassment and lower her head but she was just laughed shyly.

"My bride is over 20 years ol..ow!!"

"I've told you not to talk about my age right!!"

However, it's something I thought when I met him last year but the naivety I used to see in Kuro's face has disappeared.

I guess being chafed by the knight group he's grown up a good bit.

I think he should have been forced to take some amount of responsibility.

In that sort of meaning I don't think Ralpa and Gwine have grown up very much..is it my fault?

Even if they reincarnated Ralpa and them were originally high schoolers.

After that they've spent a number of years as adventurers so they don't have

any of that sort of naivety but I still feel like a lot of their actions

are like brats.

Adventurers aren't all that different from homeless

vagrants so wandering around exploring with just Zenom, I guess she's

just spent two childhoods without having to shoulder any kind of

responsibility...

Until we met up with Gwine she should have been

under the protection of her parents who were merchants so she shouldn't

have had very many responsibilities either.

They don't seem like people who've lived for over 30 years since being born right...

Well, whatever.

I've gotten bored of smiling while watching their couple gag.

"By the way, what about investigating the Dirt Plains.."

The two of them pulled out the report made of a pile of parchments similar to the ones the dark elf gave me.

Hmm...

It seems reasonably well put together. There was no way they could take proper measurements so it was just estimates but this one actually has two tables of the estimated harvest amounts and the types of crops. They also mentioned the industries other than farming and while it's insufficient there's some notes on the types of ores that are mined.

There's also quite a few details on the army and local knight groups that are stationed in them.

Unfortunately there's not a single note about the public safety situation but it's fine to reference that from the dark elves report.

The only thing

worth taking note of is that the reputation of each of the lords of the various villages and towns they passed through are written down.

After

I obtain the territory quite a few of the people who were acting as governors of those villages and towns will return to the capital as well so it's not like they all remain in my territory as low ranking nobles but there's some that were originally settled in those places so they'll remain and you could say this will be a good reference point for them.

"Thanks. This will be a big help."

After thanking them Kuro and Mary exchanged looks once. And then Mary nodded once before speaking.

"Hey, because you told us we investigated it pretty seriously but what do you plan to do?"

"Yeah. What in the world are you going to use it for?"

Ah, I never told them about it.

"In the near future I'll receive peerage as an high ranking noble and receive a territory. One of these four territories will become mine and I'll raise my flag there. It's the preliminary investigation for that."

Hearing the details for the first time the two of them made expressions as if they were lost for words for a moment but soon after leaned closer to me.

"Hey, you'll take ownership of it you say? What do you mean?"

"You'll become a high ranking noble?"

I simply explained the situation and told them to confirm the small details with everyone else at the restaurant we're about to go.

.....

I introduced Kuro and Mary to everyone at Murowa.

I had mentioned before that I threw the two of them into the knight group in my home town and Gwine and Angela had already met them before so there was no problem with them mixing in with the reincarnated people. However, the two of them seemed a bit timid in front of the non-reincarnated members.

Well, they are the strongest adventurers in Baldukk so I guess it's to be expected.

Rokko has the face of a good guy but his actions are pretty rough and then Kamu, Kimu, and Misu who has a bouncy image all originally gave off the atmosphere of strong adventurers so they can feel that.

Of course the

other members are pretty similar as well, I guess Mary and Kuro who have barely risked their lives are being swallowed by the atmosphere so it can't be helped.

"Now then, starting next time I'll be

changing our lineup for entering the dungeon a bit. It's fundamentally the same as up until now but I'll be leaving the {Saviors}. For a short while I'll be threshing these two on the 1st floor."

An unpleasant grin appeared on everyone's faces.

They must be remembering how after we absorbed {Sun.Ray} they were forced to

slaughter monsters on the 1st floor day in and day out for a while.

Kuro and Mary who don't get it are confused about what part of that would cause such a mean looking smile.

"The two of you probably won't be able to keep up with everyone else at all just like you are now. Well tomorrow morning I'll check your skill so if my reading is off then I'll think about it again."

"Mu..Of

course~ as an adventurer..we've never entered the dungeon but both Mary and I have officially received investiture as knights. I don't think we'll fall that far behind when it comes to using the sword or spear."

Kuro seems to be getting a bit stubborn. Mary said as well, "I won't be luggage. Even I'm a knight you know" seeming a bit angry. Of course I didn't say it intending to make fun of them at all. In some ways I just gave out the obvious evaluation and though it would be difficult if we don't force them to earn some experience but...

"Hey now~ the two of you. It's fine for you to have confidence but you should honestly listen to what Al says. Or are you underestimating the dungeon of Baldukk? Han?"

Kevin quietly scolded them.

"But, we came here to help become Al's strength. Not to weigh him down."

Kuro argued back. I'm grateful for those feelings but you know. Don't get so on guard.

"That's right. I think the skills of the Webdos Knights are reasonably high."

Ah, I see. These two think we're underestimating the Webdos Knight Group.

"It can't be helped~ Hey, Henry, Mekku. Tell these two your history."

Binsu activated his authority as a noble and ordered Henry and Mekku.

"Yes.

I, Henry.Okonnell, joined Duke Stahlz Knight Group in Devas Kingdom 10 years ago and received investiture as a true knight 7 years ago. After that I was taken as war prisoner the year before last and on that

occasion was purchased by master. I had a good bit of confidence in my skill but I was far from reaching everyone else. Even though it's almost been two years since I started entering the dungeon I still feel like I'm holding everyone back. However, master. I'll definitely show you I can be useful."

Even though he was born in Devas Kingdom a

foreign country, they were a bit surprised hearing that someone who's been a true knight for five years was even struggling as an adventurer.

"I, Meisun.Garunashu, joined the Viscount Makaraito Knight Group 8.5 years ago and received investiture as a knight 6.5 years ago. After that just the same as Okonnel I was taken as a war prisoner and purchased by master. I thought I was skilled just like Okonnel but after all I'm still far from everyone else..However, I'll definitely show you I can be useful as well, master."

Since a Laio like him was the same as

Henry and said he couldn't keep up with us right after being purchased

Kuro and Mary were considerably surprised.

Of course, it's not like he couldn't match up at all.

Even just from learning sword and spear techniques formally under someone they were a decent combat strength right from the start.

"Don't

bully them so much...Kuro, and Mary as well. It's fine if you feel unsatisfied but I need to confirm your skills first. Right after you've just married it doesn't concern just your lives but everyone else as

well. And no one here is looking down on the Webdos Knight Group. It's strange putting it this way but it's fine as long as you can prove your abilities after all."

Well, even though everyone is reincarnated

if the newcomer suddenly says not to treat them like luggage then it's only obvious to tease them a bit for acting cheeky. It's something they'll learn right away after all.

Furthermore, just as expected

during the combined training the next day, Kuro and Mary were beaten left and right. However, I can read the feelings behind everyone.

They're afraid that there are more competitors trying to enter the {Saviors} with the two of them joining. Even more-so when the two of them are reincarnated people and on top of that skilled enough to receive investiture as true knights. They aren't like Rodrick who almost automatically received investiture because he was the eldest son of a Count.

Ah, for the sake of their honor I'll add on this as well

but they certainly had a decent level of skill. It's not as much as Fio in the past but they were quite a bit better than Rodrick was back then. If it's this then they should be able to manage the 2nd or 3rd floor as long as they don't let their guard down. It should be fine.

In other words, that means I can push them a bit hard.

There's no time to be taking it too easy after all.

I need to train them as thoroughly as possible in the time available.

Chapter 321 : Rapid Growth

Year 7447, Month 8, Day 17

The entrance plaza of the dungeon.

After finishing our morning run and having breakfast it's around nine in the morning.

There's already no one that seems to be an adventurer left in the surroundings. All that's left are the stalls trying to do business with people who walk past them.

Obviously, everyone else from the {Slaughterers} has long since gone inside as well.

Furthermore, I finished taking care of Kuro and Mary's contract yesterday.

..The same one as Basutorial is fine I guess.

1%

of the earning from magic stones during their period as apprentices and other than that a fixed salary of just 200,000 Z per month.

I

guess it's because they heard the average amount Basutorial was earning but the two of them signed the contract without a single complaint.

"Did you confirm the condition of your weapons?"

"I did."

"It's fine."

Of course.

"What about a knife?"

"I have one."

"On my waist."

Having a knife is extremely convenient for gathering magic stones, making a marking somewhere, or in the worst case if you have nothing else on you so it's something adventurers should always have on hand.

"What about the emergency pack?"

"I properly have it."

"I've brought it."

From just a glance I can tell that they have the emergency use pack we bought yesterday with a rope, potions, and hard biscuits in it on them but it's a necessary confirmation.

"What about the condition of your armor?"

"It's fine."

"There's no problem."

The two of them are wearing leather armor that isn't very well made. It seems they were made fun of quite a bit in the knight group but it seems after learning the two of them were Free People there were those who courteously taught them how to maintain it as well.

"Did you confirm the contents of your bags?"

"Of course."

"I just confirmed it twice."

It's in the worst when you're missing this and that when you need them.

"Then here, take this."

I handed them the lunch Giberuti prepared.

"Oh, a bento is it. But.."

"I prepared some as well."

It seems they prepared some bento for themselves.

The fact that they didn't give me one is..Well, that is, fine.

"Alright, the two of you. Are you ready?"

"Yeah."

"Yes."

Kuro and Mary replied with a dispirited expression.

As a result of 14 days of combined training, it seems the two of them have some thoughts so they've been participating in the running since the morning of the day before yesterday. Obviously enough there's no way you can suddenly start running 20 km. Though I say that because they're reincarnated people they have a deep understanding about training. That's why even in the knight group it seems the two of them went running everyday.

But, according to what they said it was just running 5 km a day without any equipment on after all~ They knew about how I would run around wearing

my rubber armor when I was in Kiru so at least try and do that much. If it's without any equipment on then even in the normal departments of the SDF the serious members would run it everyday so running 5 km naked everyday was nothing more than a warmup.

But it's still much

better than nothing. In the knight groups they carry out sword and spear form training and the always promised sparring matches which are normally done while wearing armor so they build up a decent amount of stamina but running is far more efficient for obtaining endurance.

I don't really get why but it seems after seeing Kuro and Mary's growth rate Knight Leader Sendhel started to include running in the training of the knight group since a year or so ago. Come to think of it when I was in Kiru I met with the knight leader when I was in the middle of running as well. I think I said it was because I can train (swinging a wooden sword and doing forms doesn't cost any money but when it comes to sparring matches the pain from those tools is fast so just in case it costs some money) without it costing any money at that time was it?

And while I was thinking about things like that we arrived at the teleport crystal.

"Zabuhodoku!"

After chanting the teleport incantation we teleported into the 1st floor.

"Uwa! Amazing!"

"So it ends in an instant.."

It's their first time so it can't be helped but it's possible for there to be monsters right nearby so don't let your guard down. I said it that many times so let's raise our awareness~

But, was I like this at the start as well...

Well, I didn't know about things like this at that time so, just cut me some slack.

"Don't let your guard down."

I opened up the map and taught them how to confirm the number.

"Then, this way. Since it's the first time I'll lead but after proceeding for a bit I'll hand you the map and you two lead the way."

"N."

"Got it."

.....

"" ... ""

After I cleaned up over 20 goblins the two of them were speechless. I told them to watch over my blind spots before charging in so I defeated almost all of the goblins this time.

"The value of magic stones from goblins is low after all. They're about 1,000 Z each so it's a waste of time and there's no need to gather them."

"Al, you.."

"Amazing.."

"Hey now~ putting aside Mary, you've fought against Goblins before right Kuro?
These guys are

the weakest monsters that use weapons. If it's just this much then any
of our members can.."

Probably not.

As a matter of fact I'm saying this and acting cool but something like 1v20 with
just close combat was really pushing myself.

Though I had them watch my blind spots, it's close to a miracle that I ended up
not taking a single hit.

Honestly speaking I challenged them expecting to take a few hits.

"Well, in any case you can say goblins are the weakest individual monster in
this dungeon of Baldukk. Though because there's a lot of them they
aren't exactly the easiest either."

I let Kuro and Mary each experience standing at the lead during an assault.
I'm sure they'll get injured and it'll take some time.
However, freezing things will come after that.

.....

Just around lunchtime.

We started having our meals in the middle of a hallway with a clear view.

Their bento was sandwiches that Mary made using bread and ham they
purchased yesterday.

No matter how you look at it the hotdog(cold) lettuce(more expensive than cabbage), cucumber, cut carrot-like vegetable, along with diced crunchy bacon salad with a dressing the reincarnated people had Giberuti make based on rapeseed oil is better. Of course it includes soup as well.

Well, they're still young so I'm sure it's fine to overeat a bit.

In the afternoon I don't have any intention of letting them participate directly in combat after all.

"After all sausages are delicious right."

"Yeah, really."

"You're supposed to call them Baldoggie there. The naming was done by Basutorial though."

They were moved to tears after eating them the other day but right now they're challenging a sausage that's over 30 cm long made from the large intestine of a cow. If this is completed then it'll be possible to supply more at a lower price than ham which takes some time to make. There's no mistake it'll become popular.

"By the way, about that contract but"

A short while after having some after meal tea Mary started talking with a bit of restraint.

Hn? Is there something she's not satisfied about?

"Ah, I don't want you to misunderstand but it's not that I'm unsatisfied you know? But you know, I really have to wonder about that 1%?"

"It's

the apprenticeship period after all. I said that after your apprenticeship ends and you enter one of the three parties it'll be different right?"

"Things like that, did no one make any complaints about it?"

I see, so what Mary wants to say is that sort thing?

It seems Kuro heard about this matter from Mary last night and is just silently looking at me.

"There weren't any. I've heard that when it's newbies who have just come from the countryside they'll sometimes split things up equally based on the number of heads. But, well, when it comes to about second-rate parties it's normal for the leader to foot the bill for the entry tax into the dungeon and the consumables for the entire party. They also need to buy a map and such so there's various expenses."

"But the danger is the same right?"

Mary said as if she was a bit unsatisfied.

"Eh?"

Like they're the same. The weight of the responsibility is different.

The leader holds responsibility for everything that happens in the party. There's no time to discuss things while in the dungeon. The

leader has to quickly decide everything and give out orders or it just

gets that much more dangerous. That's why there's a lot of adventurers

who want to be together with a leader that makes quick judgements and

can earn well while preventing injuries. It's precisely because the leader receives the biggest share that they can make proper decisions."

"But you know, if you think about it with common sense wouldn't it be best to take a portion out for the expenses then split up evenly and make the amount taken out at that time just a bit extra to create a pool of funds just in case?"

Finally Kuro started joining in as well.

Kuro said he spent a lot of time playing games and such in his previous life. Mary nodded at that opinion as well.

Also, when it comes to

the average adventurer who doesn't enter the dungeon in most cases their compensation amount per person is decided before hand. When it comes to escorting caravans with a lot of people then it seems the leader receives quite a bit more but that's just the employer adding a bit more the compensation amount.

However these guys, they really don't understand dungeon adventurers at all.

Different from normal adventurers the ones in the dungeon have tendency to focus

on exploration and combat so there's a high probability that they'll fall into life or death situations. On top of that depending on the case you might even come across an amount of money that could change the rest of your life. Things like, try to get a bit more creative with your imagination.

"Yeah, it's not as if there's parts about what Kuro is saying that I don't understand. But, in the end that's just a game right? It doesn't have any relation to real money or your life, it's just for play. That's why it's fine as long as everyone is okay with it.

However, in reality things aren't that easy."

In regards to splitting things up you could say I'm already doing that there's just a lot of people to split it between.

Even for normal parties above second-rate it's normal for them to split it up between over 20 to 25 people.

In my case, we have more people than others and it's just a matter of splitting it between 50 or 100 people.

That's why in terms of percentage per person it's less than half of other parties though.

Though that's just a matter of the {Saviors} and the others are splitting up their portions to the point where you'd have to question if they can really do maths.

When it comes to the half first-rate parties the leader decides the shares. You do a good job so you get 7% this time, you get injured right away and barely did any work so you get 2%, and such, it depends on the number of people in the party but as a general standard it seems each person gets about 4~7% every time they enter the dungeon and some places give out bonuses as well.

Otherwise every month they give out a certain amount in wages and depending on the earnings for that month there will be plus alpha as a bonus, there's quite a few places like that.

"Why?"

"Why?"

"Hey now, just think about it for a bit. You two, in the morning we only fought against goblins but how many did you defeat?"

"U.."

"That is.."

Kuro defeated 3 and Mary defeated 4.

And even that was where they probably would have died if I wasn't covering their blind spots.

Well, if it was just the two of them and I wasn't around they probably wouldn't have been fighting them in the first place though.

Also,

in the case that we discovered a group of goblins or such on a T shaped hall, we'd wait for them to pass before attack them from behind, or next time starting from the one on the right, pay attention to the left, endurance while focusing on defense, keep an eye for an opening on the left, thrust with your sword now, using heal spells is a waste of mana so don't use it, the one giving out all the orders was me.

"In

the first place do you get that while splitting things up equally based on the number of people may look fair it's actually not? In that sort of way my way is unfair as well though."

I said with a bitter smile.

"Then, since the front line are always getting hurt wouldn't it be fine for them to get a larger share? Also, those who have to spend more on

equipment and such."

"You can't consider people who can use magic and who can't use it the same right..Though it also depends on how proficient they are with it."

That's a reasonable opinion.

However, it's the leaders job to decide by what standard to evaluate them right.

In my case, I originally started by hiring Zenom and Ralpa with a fixed salary with added bonuses and then we came along to here with it slightly distorted.

It's because I didn't want to set any differences between the father daughter relationship they had. Because I thought that Ralpa would be able to do a better job than Zenom early on since she was a reincarnated person. Though in reality I just didn't want to pay Ralpa more than her adopted father. But as expected now Zenom holds an immobile position as a super first-rate front line fighter. Also, several days after we arrived at Baldukk we met up with Bel so I hesitated a bit to put any differences in how much I give everyone.

After that when we met up with Toris and Gwine I gave them the same treatment just like that so it was hard to change at that point, even then I feel like I can boast that I was able to pay everyone plenty of compensation for them to be satisfied.

When Basutorial joined us I tried to somehow put a difference in the treatment but it still ended up at the same place.

Also, things like it costing money for equipment or being a part of the front line might be worth taking into consideration but in the end sooner or later it's normal for everyone to fight monsters on the front line so paying any one person extra for a high class item like armor or pooling money to purchase would just be a reason to cause conflicts. Everyone wants equipment that costs more money and if it's capable of increasing their survival rate then they want to use it. In the first place, if that person were to die and you have to retreat before you can collect it you'd suffer a heavy loss though.

"You know, I don't know what kind of dreams you're seeing in adventurers but you should try about it a bit more realistically. First off, about pooling money. What would you do if someone takes and it runs away? It's fine even if that's the leader. If a reasonable amount of money builds up I think there are a good number of people who would be blinded by the money."

"That's why you should gather together allies you can trust.."

"..Wait just a minute Kuro. That's certainly true."

"How will you decide that someone is a trustworthy ally? If it was a parent, sibling, or relative then they're probably fine. Though it's strange saying this but even between reincarnated people it "might" be considered another standard as well. But, even among reincarnated people you never know? In the past Bel was tricked, almost raped, and about to be killed because of that."

Hearing that their eyes opened wide in shock.

"And you know, Kuro. Think about yourself. Before you met Mary, what about the you when you were teamed up with Begulu? Let's assume that the you from that time were in my current party. And, everyone month we were pooling together a considerable amount of money. Since I'm softhearted I reported the amount without withholding anything and even borrowed a shared locker at the government office. The lockers at the government office are cheaper than the shrine and for the most part you can relax so normally that's plenty after all. It's fine even if it's not you. Do you really think no one would try to steal it?"

"..Gu."

"It's the same even for Mary. What would you do if your family needed a bunch of money? Even if you discuss the reasons they might reject loaning it to you because, "this is everyone's money". It's a bad example but listen without getting angry. It's fine if it's the previous Mary and you're being hounded by the yakuza or it's fine if your little brother gets abducted and they're demanding a ransom as well. Though something that's even more likely would be the restaurant burning down in a fire or something. No, I don't want you to reply to it. But, if I were in that sort of situation then I'd have stolen the money and disappeared."

Come to think of it, Zenom and our reincarnated members were all sharing a locker in the shrine.

..No matter how I think about it everyone's already considerably rich so I can't imagine anyone stealing the money and disappearing at this point.

Also, they might be afraid of me as well.

After all if anyone were to betray us and run off they probably think I'd chase them down and kill them...

And it wouldn't be strange for them to think I'm capable of doing that after all~

..Well, someone who is unable to trust others is unfortunate.

Though I say that previously I wasn't able to trust other people very much.

Because it was necessary to worry about all of the risks after all.

But, now it's different.

I can trust my current allies.

Even if they betray me, haven't I changed to just honestly think it was my own fault?

Come to think of it, in my previous life I think I used to trust people like this.

No, or maybe it would be more correct to say my hurdle for trusting people was low?

..Hm, I guess~ I've grown up a bit myself?

Kuro and Mary seem to have accepted what I was saying at least on the surface.

"You need to think of all possible risks and how to deal with them right.."

"It seems that being a leader has a lot of things to worry about."

"But, it's true that we know about Al and feel a debt towards you..However,

when it's put like that I don't think we could leave our money in the care of other people after all.."

"I guess so..There's things more

important than money, or at least I've heard that only people who are really rich can say that."

Yeah, there's no you would leave your entire fortune in the care of some random person you're just going into the dungeon with.

It's difficult to make even a relative co-sign for a loan right?

Since you're entrusting your life which is more important than money with them so anyone who says to trust them just because of that is begging to be preyed on.

"Well, it's still normal for people who have spent several years together to build up a decent amount of trust. Even then there's times when new members join like you guys this time. At times like that the leader has to set terms that both the original members and the new ones can accept. If a lot of the members don't accept it then they'll be dragged down for their position and thrown out of the party. If it's just a few of the members then they might split off from the party and make a new one or just join a different party. In either case the combat strength of the remaining party will definitely drop."

Just like how outsiders saw our party during the {Sun.Ray} incident a few years back.

.....

"Then this time it's Kuro's turn. Finish it off in a single hit. It'll be hard to sleep if you cause it more suffering right?"

I froze the lower halves of monsters for them to defeat almost as if mowing down grass.

At first they were saying things like, "no matter what this is too

pitiful" and throwing up when it came time to take out the magic stones.

However, while forcing them to do it over and over they've completely gotten numb to it I guess as the two of them are silently working away now.

Just like this my first day with Kuro and Mary ended after dragging them around until seven in the afternoon.

Both of them were completely exhausted and devoured dinner as if they were starving.

Today we didn't go up against any room bosses but even then I had them finish of a decent number of orks and hobgoblins so they earned about 4,500 experience points in just today. After all, it was 9 orks and even 13 hobgoblins. Even just that adds up to over 3,000 experience points per person.

After that is the portion earned from killing goblins and gnolls. Kuro's level went up and Mary's level should go up tomorrow.

The earnings from the magic stones was only a bit but was still over 1,000,000 Z.

The last time I earned this much on the 1st floor was several years back when I would go into the dungeon with Zulu or Angela on our days off.

Well, it's a good start right.
We rarely encountered this many orks and hobgoblins after all.

.....

Year 7447, Month 8, Day 18

Starting today we'll be fighting against room bosses as well.

They already don't need an example.

Just the first time, when they were having trouble with a {Gargantuan

Spider} I supported them using magic but they properly defeated it using close combat.

After that was freezing in the ice the same as usual.

Starting today we don't have Giberuti's bento so we're having hot dogs with

baldoggie that are sold by Murowa. It seems Mary's energy ran out as she

didn't have any leeway to make the bento herself. Well, I did say that

I'd be taking care of all the meals in the dungeon so there's that as

well.

Today I dragged them around until 7:30 pm.

The experience points were less than yesterday as we only earned just below 3,000 but Mary was still safely able to level up.

Now then, with this they've graduated from the 1st floor.

Let's try going to the 2nd floor tomorrow.

..Hn?

In just two days, three days since they've started entering the

dungeon, going to the 2nd floor might be some kind of record in Baldukk.

...Though if I think carefully about it we suddenly brought Basutorial deep into the dungeon right from his first day.

.....

Year 7447, Month 8, Day 19

The 2nd floor isn't all that different from the 1st floor so we should quickly just clear through.

Just today should be plenty.

If we continue at this pace then the 3rd floor should be the same so it

might be correct to copy the {Verdure.Brotherhood}(now they're still

giving it their best as a first-rate party with Basu as the leader) and

{Black.Topaz} when they were training those young ladies by camping on the 3rd or 4th floors.

It seems Kuro and Mary aren't as exhausted

for the portion that we slowly walk through the dungeon so tomorrow

maybe we should try going all the way to the teleport crystal on the 4th floor.

After say that, since the two of them don't have much knowledge about the dungeon they happily nodded.

"I want to hurry and return the favor after all."

"I want to be useful."

Being clueless sure is scary.

Starting tomorrow whether it's the room bosses or the monsters in the halls they're all getting frozen.

There's no point in gathering magic stones from gnolls either.
Orks and hobgoblins..I guess it's fine.
Let's just gather them from the bosses.

.....

Year 7447, Month 8, Day 20

"We'll spend today going to the 4th floor. You've brought along food right?"

"I brought quite a bit."

"Just as you said, we properly split it up and brought it along."

The only adventurers who bring along daily necessities to camp in the teleport crystal room on the 4th floor are the {Verdure.Brotherhood}, {Black.Topaz}, {Gehenna.Flare}, and several other half first-rate parties who are trying to switch to first-rate. Among them, we {Slaughterers} have all graduated from camping on the 4th floor while the {Verdure.Brotherhood} and {Gehenna.Flare} are often spending long periods camping on the 5th and 6th floors.

That's why, there's not very many people camping on the 4th floor.
There's bedding so as long as you can solve the problem of food other than when

you're sleeping you always remain in that area earning experience.

If things go smoothly then it's just a matter of going to the 7th floor and

continuing against ogres.

Against ogres if I let my mana speak for me and freeze them to where they can't get out then it's possible to earn over 5,000 and maybe even 10,000 experience points in a single day.

This time I'm acting under the

pretense of teaching Kuro and Mary how to act in the dungeon and intend to continue with them like this until the end of this month.

The {Saviors}, {Butchers}, and {Exterminators} are all moving according to this schedule.

The {Exterminators} should be in the teleport crystal room on the 5th floor while the {Saviors} and {Butchers} should be in the teleport crystal room on the 6th floor.

I thought we wouldn't be able to meet up this

time but if we continue like this then might be better to meet up and camp together with them.

Chapter 322 : Interval

Year 7447, Month 8, Day 30

By the end of last

month when we returned from the dungeon Kuro and Mary's levels had increased by another two and they had reached level 10.

If they

continue like this then it's not just a dream to reach level 15 by the start of the next year but they should easily be able to make it into reality.

Matters such as the gathering terminal and denaturation

device sleeping in the depths of the dungeon, things about the spaceship, and about Miki and Lilus.

There were a lot of things I

wanted to take my time thinking about but I told myself now isn't the time to be thinking about them as I almost mechanically concentrated on leveling up Kuro and Mary.

Also, after we cashed in the magic

stones and I handed them their 1% plus a bonus they were making expressions that were somewhat grate and somewhat embarrassed by how much it was.

After all I had them kill close to a total of 150 ogres.

Including the magic stones from monsters we obtained along the way the bonus was over 1,300,000 Z.

They were extremely surprised by this amount and seemed to be satisfied with it.

Ah, we didn't go into the ogre mage rooms.

After all, even if I freeze them just leaving their heads out of the ice they can still use magic.

And we didn't go to the 8th floor either.

In terms of efficiency to time for earning experience points(magic stones as well) it's certainly true that going further into the dungeon is more efficient.

However, whether it's the crickets or the praying mantises they're all pretty fast so it's difficult freezing them.

It's not that I can't do it but I end up needing to freeze almost the entire hallway that they're coming down as well.

Doing something skillful like leaving just a part of their body out of the ice is difficult so in the end I end up aiming to suffocate them to death.

In any case, while the two of them were surprised with

gold coins in their hands I said, "Repay the 20,000,000 debt with each of you paying back 1 gold coin." and took back the 2 gold coins I just gave them.

They're gold coins after all.

They shrugged their

shoulders as if accepting it while still reluctantly watching as I put

the gold coins into my wallet as I suggested, "Even then you earned over 300,000 this time and you should still have the money I lent you before so how about going to play in the capital once?"

The two of them showed reservation saying it's unreasonable to take a break when they

still haven't properly worked in the dungeon yet and if they're not going to the dungeon then they'll train but I said, "Since we were in the dungeon for a long period this time starting tomorrow is a five day break and the last day of the break is combined training so it's fine as long as you return by then. And you two should have accumulated quite a bit of stress and exhaustion. Go and stretch your wings. Miduchi and I are just about to head there ourselves and we have horses so do you want to come with us?" and almost forcefully brought them along. It's because I felt like they wouldn't rest unless I did this.

Training is important but right now they've been constantly under stress so it's best for them to relax and rest their tired bodies.

Of course, Zenom, Ralpa, and Gwine all want to go shopping so they'll be heading to the capital on the days off as well. It seems Rokko and Kevin are going to play and unusually it seems Binsu wants to buy something too. Toris and Bel don't seem like they'll be coming to the capital this time. They plan to relax and spend their time in Baldukk.

Rodrick is bring his two combat slaves, Sanno, Ruttsu, Ginger, and Hisu as they go to a city roughly 40 km to the south of the capital to play, it's called Rasuho and has a population of about 8,000. Supposedly they started selling a new type of cooking using lamb meat this year so they're going to try some.

It seems Kamu plans to spend it sleeping and Kimu is excited about playing with her cat. Misu said she was going to do some running and Jeru plans to accompany her. Keep up the good work I guess.

When Basutorial came out of the dungeon

Cathy was worried about Maru and Rinbi and waiting for them so just like Toris and Bel he's not going to the capital this time but going to watch over Jesu as he teaches Maru and Rinbi.

Out of my combat

slaves excluding Zulu who wants to get along with the sister from Murowa, it seems they plan to go to the factory in the capital centering around Giberuti.

I told the members going to the capital that

we'll be going ahead and sending Kuro and Mary to the inn they usually stay at in the capital. After telling them to help them out a bit in the capital, Miduchi, Kuro, Mary, and I all went ahead towards the capital.

Along the way we talked about various things as they opened up quite a bit with Miduchi.

After throwing the two of them into the inn, we immediately went to the dried goods store and bought some dried fish.

This time it's dried fish from the capital but it's pretty much attached to Baldukk so the products aren't all that different.

And then we showed our faces in my company once before taking the long route back around to Baldukk.

Thanks to that the month changed before we returned to Baldukk.

.....

Year 7447, Month 9, Day 1

We went to the fairy village and met with Mila-shisho and Karl. After feeding them dried fish until they're full as usual and before we started magic training I said I had something to talk to them about so I tried asking them about the spaceship and such right away.

However, I only figured out that the fairies didn't have any information at all in regards to this matter.

Also, when I tried asking about the method to recover the charges on

{Magic.Items} they said, "The majority of {Magic.Items} are said to have been made by high order beings using special skills and magic so let

alone how to make them we have no idea how to even recharge them". This can't be helped.

In that case the things with no charges aren't useful for anything but bluffing..Shit..

In that case it might be best to just sell them off while saying they can't be used. Otherwise pretending not to know and just sell it like that..though I'm sure they'll figure it out in no time at all and beat down the price.

The only thing we figured out was the method of entering the fairy village from the 3rd floor.

They didn't know about the method of singing the Japanese national anthem that we heard from Lilus.

Previously, when we tried bringing up the topic we only ever talked about them knowing this much but I never confirmed what the method Lilus taught to them was.

Rather~ I didn't feel there was a need to bother asking about it.

Even if we knew we would still have to go down to the 3rd floor in order to use

it so it would be the same...

The method they knew about involved grabbing the crystal rod before making a special symbol and then touching the top of the crystal rod before making a different symbol. After that if you grab the crystal rod once more then the incantation that appears on the surface will change. If you chant that incantation within one minute then it will transfer you to this area.

In the past, it seems that's the method Lilus taught the fairies when leading them into the dungeon.

In doubt Miduchi and I immediately went to try it but we were able to teleport in using it without a problem.

Shit. Did she think I wouldn't be able to remember this symbol so she said that the Japanese national anthem was the key...

Of course, what that Vampire Lord Tarubo.Fakuna, or, Masetto.Deioku said about Miki, no, about Lilus being the reincarnated person Kamira.Erisuna I don't believe at all in the slightest.

I wouldn't believe a

single thing said by a person so obsessed with the delusion of returning to his hometown that he'd fall to become an undead. Though I think the records are the truth but that undead only said it with words. It was also on the list of crew members and their names after reincarnated but it's definitely some kind of mistake. That's obviously the case.

Seeing me feverishly insist that Miduchi was making a vague expression but in regards to this matter she didn't say anything.

Sorry.

No matter what you think, I think Lilus is Miki.

Didn't even Miduchi say it?

Chopsticks are used in Lail Kingdom and the entry sign to Lilus's bedroom under the palace is written in Japanese.

That's why, Lilus is Miki.

That's why, she was nostalgic for Japan and looked at your memories.

That's why, she continued looking at your memories and searched for me.

..That's why, worrying for my sake and to apologize to Miduchi even just a bit she gave her various advice and helped her out...

Until she was about to run out of mana.

While I was grumbling to myself and organizing my thoughts and Miduchi had properly started learning some spells.

It seems it's a spell called {Enchant.Weapon}.

I look vaguely at Karl who's got his hand on his waist while holding his chest out as he arrogantly teaches Miduchi.

...

Karl.Milais/21/6/6811

Male/21/6/6811.Fairy Race.Baldukk

Condition: Normal

Age: 636 Years Old

Level: 12

HP: 22(22) MP: 241(242)

Strength: 1

Speed: 31

Dexterity: 25

Endurance: 1

Special Skill: Naming

Special Skill: Fairy Eyes
Special Skill: Water Magic(MAX)
Special Skill: Fire Magic(MAX)
Special Skill: Earth Magic(MAX)
Special Skill: Wind Magic(MAX)
Special Skill: Void Magic(MAX)
Experience: 239994(270000)

Other than his age I don't think it's changed much at all.
Well I don't remember every little of details everyone's status though.

...Ah. Come to think of it.

Baldukk: The Sixth Seed

Yeah..I remember checking it the first time I met Karl.
And, I let it go just like because I couldn't understand it.
The gathering terminal and denaturation device sleeping deep in this
dungeon of Baldukk is the sixth one of eight units. It's full name was
the, "Sixth Gathering Terminal and Denaturation Device".
Somehow I think there's some kind of relation between them.

Karl is different from his grandfather in that he doesn't know the outside world.
Starting from his parents generation they were born and raised in the dungeon
of Baldukk.

Since it seems there's priests even among the fairies they're properly named.

Humans and monsters all have the information about their birthplace written
on their status from the moment they're born. Like ** Race or ** Family
Eldest Son and such.

I only know a general outline of things about the naming ceremony.
They say there's roughly three different types of the naming ceremony.

The first one is attaching a unique name to a living creature.
In most cases this is done when they're a baby. Though there are exceptions.
The amount of money you have to donate in compensation is fixed.

The next one is attaching a unique name to non-living things.
The amount isn't fixed but in this case the name doesn't always stop at just a single item.
There's times when the name changes for every instance of the item under the same group.

And then the last one doesn't change the unique name but adds or changes the details relating to origins and nationality.
When buying or selling slaves, marrying someone, or receiving investiture as a knight should be representatives of this case.

They put all three of these together into the single definition of the naming ceremony but it's not hard for anyone to imagine that the actual details of each of them are different.

Well that's exactly the case

and it's said to be well known that, "there are priests who can do it and those who cannot", and obviously I knew about it as well.
It seems to be said that the {Special Skill: Naming} might have levels similar to the magic special skills.
Even if you ask the priests they'll supposedly never tell you so it's just rumored and there's no basis for it though.

I check all of the fairies flying around using {Identify} on them one at a time.

...

.....

Hmm.

"..Shisho. There's a bit of something I'd like to ask but?"

"Hn?"

I doubt that's the case though.

"How many priests are there here?"

"We only have a small shrine so it's plenty with just one."

Yeah. I'm sure the number of fairies in the fairy village is known, so it's just as I thought.

"What about the naming ceremony when you get married..."

I couldn't find a single fairy with the proof that they've been married like the ** Wife or ** Husband.

"We don't have one. The priest here can do that much after all."

Just as expected.

But, I want to confirm this.

"Why does shisho and the others origin come up as Baldukk?"

"Ah, that. It's said to be because we were born here."

Mwu..then, if a pregnant woman were to give birth to the child inside of the dungeon, what would happen?

According to the common sense that I know no matter where they're born they should come up as ** Family Eldest Son and such.

I wonder if that "Denaturation Device" or whatever has some kind of influence

on it?

I tried bringing things like that up but shisho just said, "Even I have some things..that I don't know." But well, I guess that's exactly the case.

Switching gears and I started to learn a new spell as well.

It's a spell called {Blade.Barrier}.

It took me quite a bit of time to acquire this spell.

When it came time to leave the fairy village Miduchi and I courteously lowered our heads the same as usual.

"Shisho. I'll come again four months later. Other than dried fish is there anything you want?"

"..No, nothing in particular."

"I see. Also, I have a request."

"What is it?"

"Most likely the next time we come will be the last time. It seems I'll be able to obtain a territory in the Spring of next year. If it comes to that then we'll be too busy so I won't be able to come visit here for the time being. There, I'd like you to decide by the next time I come but if it's alright with you would everyone be interested in moving to my territory?"

"Hou~n?"

"I think I'll be able to provide you with a reasonably sized area. If you live on the surface then you'll be able to eat as much dried fish as you want everyday and..That's

right! I can even make the area everyone lives a protected area and prohibit any entry! I'll guarantee the peace in your lives."

Mila-shisho replied after making the first gentle thinking face I've seen since I met her.

"..Thank you. But, we'll restrain ourselves from that. We like this place.."

"However.."

"It's fine. It's plenty just to accompany the people who occasionally wander in like Al. We want to live quietly...And it's been said since our parents generation. This land is the final paradise given to us...We can't afford to waste Lilus-sama's good will."

"..Is, that so..

However, if you ever have a change of heart then please tell me. In that case I'll come to get you near the end of next year."

After saying that we temporarily said our farewells with Mila-shisho and the others.

.....

Year 7447, Month 9, Day 2

I open my eyes in the inn in a corner of Baldukk where we left our horses. In the morning we returned to the surface and were tired when we entered the inn so Miduchi and I soon collapsed on the bed and fell asleep. Right now it's already 8:00 pm.

..We need to go to capital again.
I need to take a look at the company and the factory.

The two of us crunch of some hardtack while entering a considerably expensive inn in the capital.

In any case, things are looking good as Kuro and Mary's levels are quickly going up.
It seems like things will be difficult for a short while but if we continue like this then...

{Enchant.Weapon} Enchantment

(All Elements Lv. 6, Void Magic Lv. 7, Consumed MP 31)

Any item the user recognizes as a weapon can be the target. However even if the user recognizes something as one, it won't work on a natural object such as a rock laying around the ground. It's necessary for it to be

worked on by human hands to some extent. For example a branch cut off from a tree, if the end is crafted into a grip then the magic will recognize the target as a club but just a random log laying around there that's just the right shape won't be a recognized target. Also, it's necessary for the target to be completed as a weapon. For example, this

spell can't be used on just the arrowhead of an arrow. If the arrowhead isn't attached to the arrow shaft ahead of time then this spell will fail.

Furthermore, it's obviously possible to cast this spell on the firing device but the objects fired from it won't be under the effects

of the magic. Though it would take effect if you hit something with the firing device itself.

If you touch the target weapon while using this spell and the entirety of the weapon will continue to give off a faint

spell light. Because this light is extremely faint it won't act as a substitute for a torch. Also, the light will continue in the center where the effect is being displayed.

The effect of this spell is that it will temporary grant the weapon a magical effect. It only slightly

raises the ability but the weapon will become effective in dealing damage to living creatures that can only be damaged using magic weapons.

The duration of the effect is the casters level multiplied by 60 seconds.

The volume of the weapon that it can take effect on is within 500 cm^3 added to the casters level multiplied by 30 cm^3 .

If it's within the effective amount of volume then it's possible to target multiple weapons but in that case the total volume of the weapons that can be a target

will decrease as $1/2$, then $1/3$, and so on. In other words, if a level 10

caster uses this spell on 2 knives with the same shape and the one

knife can't have a volume of $(500 \text{ cm}^3 + 30 \text{ cm}^3 * \text{level } 10) / 2$ or 200 cm^3 .

Example: The average long sword has a handle length of 15 cm

and a blade length of 70 cm so the volume is 700 cm^3 . Also, the average arrow is at most 40 cm^3 .

{Blade.Barrier} Enchantment.Phantasm.Evocation

**(Earth Magic Lv. 4 Double, Water Magic Lv. 4 Double, Fire Magic Lv. 4 Double,
Wind Magic Lv. 6 Triple, Void Magic Lv. 8 Double, Consumed MP 58)**

Magic long swords appear and start rotating in the surroundings of the caster at a high speed and automatically intercept anything that would do harm to the caster that enters within a radius of 2m from the caster's head.

The long swords that appear are of a standard size with a blade length of 70 cm. Also, the number of swords that appear is the level of the caster multiplied by 2 swords.

The hit rate is dependent on the caster's skill with the sword.

The duration is the caster's level multiplied by 6 seconds but for every

level the caster has the duration decreases by 1 second. However, at

minimum 1 second of duration continues to accumulate.

Example) if a level 20 caster uses this spell the duration of the effect will be $6+5+4+3+2+(1*15)=35$ seconds.

Chapter 323 : Greater Depths

Year 7447, Month 11, Day 23

As expected it's starting to get sluggish.

What is you say? Kuro and Mary's rapid growth.

Even then it's true I had them earn experience at the terrifying speed to

where they're one step away from level 14 within a mere three months.

If we maintain this pace then they'll reach level 15 by the end of the year, or at least it's not just a dream.

Everyday on the 7th floor after defeating ogres I confirm there's about 200 meters that are before we do 50 laps of running for a total of 20 km.

Just in case to be on guard I have them wear their armor so at first it took around three hours to complete.

Now it's been shortened to around 2.5 hours.

Ah, of course, I'm not forcing them to run.

The two of them are running of their own free will.

On the side of them running with expressions as if they're about to die

I'm running together as well but keeping up with a considerably slow pace is pretty tiresome.

I also wonder about having to take a close to 30 minute break after running just to be able to move properly.

They're still lacking quite a bit in basic stamina.

..Though I guess they're still better than Bastoral was at first.
I never had Bastoral wear armor after all.

On our days off and such when everyone is running together the only one who wears their armor is me though.

Putting aside the running, let me talk about everyone in the {Slaughterers} over these past three months.

Don't be surprised? Of all things each of the parties obtained a different {Magic.Item}!

When the {Exterminators} defeated what seemed to be a leader individual among a group of hobgoblins wandering around the 3rd floor they obtained a wristwatch magic tool that let alone being super high class could be considered top class, worth over 10,000,000 Z. And in an altar on the 5th floor they obtained something like this.

In great

anticipation with Ralpa as the leader, Rodrick and the eight of them brought this thing for me to use my identification spell on it.

Since

there was a chance that it could be e a {Cursed.Item} they didn't try equipping it and just confirmed the name before bringing it to me.

Of course I was excited as I used identify as well.

Sword of Light {Light.Saber}

Bashuto Steel

Condition: Normal

Manufacture Date: 18/10/7447

Value: 1

Durability: 4096

Ability: 89-159

Effect: A sword with a powerful light spell contained within it. If you properly hold on to the grip while pulling it from the scabbard and the entire blade gives off a white colored light. This light is brighter than 10 large braziers.

I don't know what Bashuto Steel or

whatever is. After checking the sub-window and it's considerably better than the average cast iron but it still seems to be just at the level of steel that doesn't reach the level of stainless.

It seems like

something somewhat unusual. Well, you can still expect it to be at the level of a sword from the middle ages on Earth it seems.

By the way..a light spell? If it's the mana of light then is it not Light Magic? Could it be it's only got the spell Light cast on it with no duration to the effect? There's not even an explanation about it having any sort of magical effect other than giving off light.

But, a magic sword is a magic sword.

"I can feel mana and it seems to have a spell of light cast on it so it's certainly a magic sword. What do you want to do with it?"

By asking them what they want to do with it, of course I mean confirming if they want to sell it or someone wants to use it.

If they sell it then excluding my two combat slaves, the final price will be split up among the seven of them including myself.

"Wouldn't it be best to keep it?"

Ruttsu agreed with Ralpa saying that.

"No, it doesn't seem very impressive as a {Magical.Weapon} so wouldn't it be better to sell it?"

And Sanno agreed with Rodrick and his combat slaves Denda and Karimu. Even if I were to agree with Ralpa the majority would still be for selling it. Rather, there's no point in holding onto something like this and it's appearance is flashy so it's possible it'll fetch a good price.

"If you're going to sell it I'll act as the middleman?"

In the end it was decided that it would go to Sandak Company together with the wristwatch.

And then the item that the {Butchers} obtained from an altar on the 6th floor was.

{Poison.Dagger}

Mithril Steel

Condition: Normal

Manufacture Date: 2/11/7447

Value: 1

Durability: 25000

Ability: 28-52

Effect: When the user succeeds with an attack(in the case that over 2/3rds of the blade enters the body of the target) a powerful poison is secreted from it. However, in order for the poison to take effect there's a relationship between the levels of the user and the one being attacked. If the one being attacked is the same level as the user then the poison has a 50% chance of taking effect. For each level that the one being attacked is higher than the user the chance of the poison taking effect is reduced by 2% and for each level that the user is higher the chance

increases by 2%. In the case that the target is poisoned, they'll be attacked by a strong fatigue, chills, a fever, and due to the effects of those they'll suffer a decrease of 1 HP every 10 hours from both their current and maximum HP. And then if an effective recovery method isn't used by the point where their HP reaches half of it's original maximum value the target will lose consciousness and be unable to take any actions. In order to recover you either need to use a spell that removes the effects of poison or have a spell which removes the effects of poison cast on the target.

Since the name is what it is I was pretty nervous when they asked me to identify it.

"It doesn't have a curse on it..Hmm, it seems that it has a 50/50 probability of poisoning the person stabbed with it. But, in order for it to take effect you have to stab it in up to about here it seems. Just a scratch is no good. Also, it seems the poison is the type that slowly deals damage over time. It seems after being hit by it you'll survive for a pretty long period of time. Even a normal person should be able to survive for about a month but after that point they'll collapse and be unable to do anything so without curing it they'll probably die from starvation before the poison. In order to recover from it supposedly using the spells {Neutralize.Poison} or {Remove.Poison} is fine."

This time the one who was acting as leader was Zulu.

However, after Rokko whispered, "It seems like it'd be pretty useful for torture when you capture someone during war" everyone agreed on not wanting to

sell it.

Hearing that I thought, torture indeed..but didn't say anything.

Everyone has a decent amount of leeway when it comes to money so as long as they accept it that's fine.

Since he was the one who said it, I told Rokko to hold onto it and forced it on him.

Rokko seemed pretty happy.

Even as a joke don't lick the blade?

I think you'd probably be fine but still.

And then the {Saviors}.

During September they finished making the teleport crystal room on the 10th floor into a base and then the 11th floor during October. On the occasion where we made the 11th floor into a base Kuro and Mary joined the {Exterminators} for the first time with Toris as the leader, so I was able to return to the {Saviors} for the first time in a while.

Just around that period Ginger had her period the night before they were supposed to enter the dungeon so a big part of it was that there were two openings in the {Butchers}. I dispatched Angela and Basutorial as leaders to the {Butchers}.

The Wyvern still hasn't respawned on the 11th floor as the fog is still just whirling around.

Without the lightning bolt cage coming down, the rainbow colored pillars rising up, or encountering a single monster we arrived at the teleport crystal room.

And we just took a peek inside of the 12th floor.

I'll talk about the 12th floor later but during that time we found three 10,000,000 class magic tools, one 30,000,000 class magic tool, and one magic tool that's worth more than 100,000,000. Also, we obtained one {Magical.Weapon}.

{Sword.Of.Aiming}

Mithril Steel

Condition: Normal

Manufacture Date: 3/11/7447

Value: 1

Durability: 65000

Ability: 90-160(+10)*

Effect: It looks like a completely normal long sword but it's made with an extremely good balance making attacks easier to hit exactly where it's being aimed. Through making attacks easier to hit where they're being aimed there's a high chance that it will deal a lot more damage than normal.

You could say this is another item worth a good amount.

However, because of the craftsmanship of the hand-guard, once again it didn't seem like it would fit into the holding space of my bayonet.

Miduchi is already using a magic sword on top of it almost definitely being more powerful than this.

Zenom and Ralpa are both using magic axes.

And putting aside Zenom, Ralpa is bad at using the sword.

Bel doesn't use the long sword and already has the infantry-use short sword, and that's a magic sword as well.

The {Flame.Tongue} Toris is using is probably more powerful than this as well.

Zulu normally uses a bastard sword with one hand so I feel like it might

work as a low-grade replacement but if the reach changes by 10 cm I'm sure it would be difficult, and if he can't make two-handed attacks when he the time calls for it then...

Since Angela is using a broad sword I guess it's possible to exchange them just like that I guess...

Rather since the knuckle guard will disappear she should be able to change to a slightly better right gauntlet..I guess the weight would change by quite a bit huh?

Gwine and Basutorial use spears as their main weapons and haven't even properly tried using swords.

Kamu uses a small sword and Kimu uses a spear as well.

Using it in the {Saviors} is a bit awkward.

Then in that case I guess we could use it in the {Butchers} or {Exterminators}?

I wonder who would be good?

The ones using long swords are Rokko, Binsu, Rodrick, and Sanno. Also my combat slaves Henry and Mekku I guess.

Taking their skill into consideration and Rokko is two or three heads above the others.

Or rather, among adventurers who stand at the front lines in the dungeon his skills are close to Zenom.

If it's against monsters then he could put up a good match with me though only limited to when I'm using just a long sword and not my bayonet.

The only one among the members that stand on the front line and have enough leeway to swing a sword is Rokko.

Of course, the other members attack as well but the front line usually

focus mainly on defense and the sword is mostly used in defensive ways. In comparison because of how high is skills are Rokko is good at creating openings and attacking with a pretty high ratio.

No matter how I think about it Rokko would be the best.

When I handed the long sword to Rokko he accepted it with trembling hands as if he never thought it would go to him.

"It's a {Magical.Sword} you know!? Is it really okay for me to use it!?"

I just said, "protect everyone with that". Including the combat slaves
almost everyone else said similar things and pat Rokko on the shoulder.
However, Zulu and Angela were both making unsatisfied faces.

Since it seemed like they had something they wanted to say I asked them about it later and,

"I think that master should be the one to use that magic sword this time."

"Letting that elf lacking in brains use it..Even though those 5 {Troll.Kin} were powerful opponents."

and said things like that.

No, I wanted to use it too you know?

But, if I don't use my bayonet it's a power down right?

It can't be helped~

"However..!"

"Even then..!"

They were stubborn.

I'm grateful that you're willing to say that to raise me up and worry about me but you know~

Isn't it something I said before?

Do I really look so weak to you that I need to use something like that magic sword?

"But, it's a magic sword!"

"That's right! Didn't the madam say it as well! There's monsters which attacks don't work on unless you use a magic sword!"

If an opponent like that comes out then it's fine because I'll just use magic... Since it seemed like they'd never give up I,

"What is it? Do you have any complaints about something I decided on?"

said that and they finally shut up.

..minus one point for each of them.

Though I don't know what the points are for.

..However, permitting my slaves to speak back to me like this so many times, I guess I'm still to softhearted right?

.....

Year 7447, Month 11, Day 29

Once again this time I left Kuro and Mary to the {Exterminators} to have them experience the uncouth battles of the 5th floor. The leader of the {Exterminators} is Bel. Kim is taking care of the {Butchers}. And, I've returned to the {Saviors}. We've already finished making the 11th floor into a base so this time Giberuti went to the factory.

Last
month, when we were making the 11th floor into a base we took a look

into the 12th floor but I wanted to try investigating it.

Well, just from a glance it was..that is, how do I put it. The 11th floor could definitely be said to be below it...

Yeah. It's the same in that there's no walls.

And after that it's almost as bright as daytime so the sight range is as good as the 7th floor.

Clouds can be seen above and in the distant central region we saw a pillar thinner than a toothpick.

Also, it's the same in that you always teleport to somewhere along the outer wall.

However, there's a much bigger problem.

Most likely, the 12th and 13th floors are stuck together.

No, stuck together might be a bad way of describing it..maybe I should say they're connected together?

The ground is shaped almost like a giant abura kiri where the inner circle of the dungeon is spread out like a cylinder...

In the air there's just something like a 10~100 meter or so wide esplanade or suspension bridge remaining(?) and the larger portion of it was a giant hole.

The hole is a distorted circular shape without a fixed form and the size was different on each side.

Also, the diameters of the smaller ones were believed to be at least 200 meters across while the larger ones seemed to be in the kilometers.

In regards to the esplanades the ground was dry and depending on the area there were some mountains and valleys with some lows and highs but there didn't seem to be any sudden slopes at all.

In various places along

the walkway there's large rocks up to 5 meters in diameter similar to

the ones we've seen on previous floors laying around. Incidentally, in regards to plants we couldn't even find a single blade of Penpen grass growing anywhere.

And then, obviously from that hole we were able to see the floor below which is the base of the 13th floor.

Looking down on the floor below and you can tell right away but frighteningly enough this ground is only 10 meters or so thick in some of the thinner areas. Since it seems like it's attached to the outer wall with a width of about 100 meters it looks like an overhang so you can still relax feeling like you're standing on the ground. However, the gaps of the several holes that almost make the esplanades seem like a floating island attached by several slightly large suspension bridges is the problem.

The rear of the floating island is covered in something like stalagmites or stalactites and the ground is hanging down thicker than the other areas.

On those narrow esplanades with no thickness from one connection to the next between the holes if for some reason it were to collapse it gives off the impression that the entire island might fall with it.

And then, the best part is that you can see an artificially made structure stabbing into(?) the lower floor when looking down from the hole. It's diameter should be several hundred meters and it's height should be several times more than that. Most likely that should be that gather terminal and denaturation device or whatever.

After all it seems it wasn't the spaceship as we couldn't see anything like engine nozzles coming from the back of it like a rocket. Though they might just be below it. Also, it's difficult to tell from the distance but the surface seems to be made of metal and it seems that there's some uneven parts and structures sticking out from it in some places.

After that the ground in the center of the 13th floor rises up almost like a mountain.

The location the gathering terminal is stabbed into is considerably high on that mountain.

Whether it's because of the impact from it stabbing into it or whatever else but the surroundings of it are largely collapsed and it almost looks like a large hole was being drilled into the mountain.

In the center of the circular dungeon there's a pillar that almost seems to be growing out of the center of the mountain.

Including the surface of the mountain a large portion of the ground seems to be covered in a deep forest and it almost looks like a green carpet is spread out.

I don't know if it's because there's a mountain on the lower floor so there isn't a hole opened up in it like this 12th floor but the difference in height from this floor is..even the summit of the mountain is too high so I can't tell.

10 km?

In that case it's higher than Everest.

But, considering the diameter of the dungeon is 10 km then it seems like it should be about that?

I guess the base of the mountain is about 10 km?

In that case the height of the mountain should be about 2 km?

But if that's the case then there should be clouds in front of our eyes..it's not the surface so what in the world am I thinking about inside of the dungeon.

Well, the 12th floor has this sort of feel.

The view is good so we tried meeting up again after teleporting in from the 11th floor.

If it's close then we can see each other.

Nothing happened when we walked along the outer wall so regathering itself should be easier than the 11th floor.

Even when it comes to aiming towards the center, the narrower areas of the suspension bridges are at least 10 meters so there shouldn't be anything like your legs stiffening up and not being able to move.

..This, should we bring along the {Butchers} and {Exterminators} as well? It looks like there aren't any monsters around but there's no guarantee there isn't something like the Wyvern from the 11th floor.

If we assume there is something then would it be a smarter move to bring along more people?

"For the 11th floor and the 13th floor? that we can see below then that's probably fine. But I wonder about this area."

Miduchi said something that caught my interest.

"Why?"

"Somehow, just somehow you know? I don't have any basis for it but.."

"Stop putting on airs."

"I feel like there's a {Dragon}."

Hohou, a {Dragon} is it.

In that case it's greatly welcome so we can take it's heart right!

And what was it again, that's right, we can call ourselves "{Dragon Slayers}" right?

Isn't there no better achievement than that?

..And putting aside counting our chickens before they've hatched, something like a {Dragon}, I have to wonder about that?

There's nothing like a protuberance high in the sky along the pillar like on the 11th floor.

Even below there's nothing that stands out within the range we can see.

It might be on the opposite side of the pillar from where we're standing

right now but even after teleporting over and over again in the end we

still haven't found it.

There's no place where a {Dragon} might be?

Hearing our conversation before we realized it everyone from the {Saviors} had surrounded Miduchi and I.

"Normally, {Dragons} fly just like {Wyverns}."

I've heard about that before.

"Also, they spit out breath."

I've heard that too. But, isn't the effective range only about 20~30 meters just like the {Frost Lizard} and the {Lesser Yowie}?

If the distance is any further than that it should spread out and accelerate the speed it weakens right?

"Yeah, that might be the case. But, since we don't know the size of the

dragon, I don't think we can make any guesses. Thinking about the size

of that Wyvern and it wouldn't be strange for it to be several times larger than that right.."

In other words at two times larger a

length of about 30 meters or so? If I think about the size of all the enemies that spit out a breath until now then you could say the effective range should be about five times larger.

That means 150...

That's certainly makes grouping up something to think about.

If it continues to spit out breath while we're all gathered in one place then we might end up taking an irrecoverable amount of huge damage.

"It seems there's not many places on this floor where we can hide from an opponent flying in the air after all.."

Certainly.

"I can understand what Miduchi is saying."

After quietly listening with his arms crossed Zenom lowered his arms while saying.

"However, that's if we were to fight in this net-like area, right? If we were to fight on the floor we can see below then the trees should be in the way so I think it would be best to bring along as many as we can and regroup though.."

Certainly it's just as Zenom says.

If we don't fight on this floor but the one we can see below...

Suddenly I realized it.

How did that reincarnated Vampire Lord get to that device in the first place?
Did he coincidentally find that teleport plate on the 4th floor?
It can't be! It's an astronomically low probability right?

Most likely, there's a high chance that he knew ahead of time the location of the device was in the dungeon of Baldukk.

After all it was supposedly something they fired in themselves from the spaceship they were on.

It's not strange from him to remember the general location.

If when he arrived in the nearby area he heard about the crater and the underground dungeon then wouldn't he realize it?

It's possible he was already a Vampire Lord by the time he entered the dungeon of Baldukk as well.

His direct combat power was high. And with that skill at using magic and his massive amount of MP then wouldn't exploring from the surface to here be possible?

If that's the case then what did he do about the floor guardians...

Maybe only undead aren't considered as intruders from outside by the dungeon...

If that's the case then it's possible he might not have to fight against the floor guardians.

..Or at least I can't think of anything but that.

Author's Note: In regards to skill with the sword but Rokko is just that strong.

He can also use the shield. Al is considerably strong as well but he also has a portion where he depends on his stats.

Not only

the maximum values of ability points increase during level up but at the same time there's a bonus addition to the proficiency degree of the ability points as well. The proficiency degree bonus granted during level up is based on the actions taken prior to leveling up and the base level (normally it's about 10) is decided based on luck when you're born with a coefficient factor (minimum of 1, maximum of 50 but the median is about 5~6. reincarnated people generally have a relatively high trend at 7~8) that acts as a multiplier.

The numbers guided by that is

the proficiency degree bonus granted on level ups. Furthermore, 1000 of this value is equal to 1 point of "this ability point actually be made use of". Of course, even without relying on level ups you can slowly raise this number through accumulated training.

That's why in

terms of pure sword technique let alone the commander or leader class of the first knight he would even fall behind Zenom. However, this is in regards to technique and at the current point in terms of ability and proficiency values Al's overall close combat strength is in the upper ranking of this world.

The speed you can swing the sword or bring

them back, body balance, and such are unrelated (though not completely).

These things are included in how well you're making use of your ability points.

Also, when using a weapon the proficiency degree of that weapon will become the basis. The degree of proficiency for that weapon is equivalent to the experience from training with that weapon.

Incidentally Al's coefficient factor is 7 while Fan's is 47. If we were to assume that the basic value is 10 then during level ups Al receives 70 proficiency degree points towards his ability points (equivalent to his ability points increasing by 0.07) but Fan's increase by 470 (equivalent to ability points increasing by 0.47).

Translator note: If

you can't understand that basically it means that whenever you level up the stats like Strength, etc... that increase by 1 that Al can see using Identify are just increasing the max value, and the actual value the matters is the proficiency degree which Al only gains 0.07 of each stat for per level up, and requires 1,000 points of to reach 1 full stat point increase towards str, spd, etc... In comparison his talent sucks compared to Fan because fan gets 0.47 per level up, basically every level his Strength increases by a solid half a point. Not to mention it goes up from training. Ex. Al's actual strength would be something like Strength: 28.37/40 when what he sees with identify is just Strength: 40. The 28.37 is the proficiency degree of his strength from training and the 0.07 bonus per level up, basically how strong he actually is.

Chapter 324 : 12th Floor

Year 7447, Month 12, Day 15

I dragged along Kuro and Mary up to the teleport crystal room on the 8th floor. These two have have realistically entered the range of level 15 and beyond that they were already taught the fundamental combat techniques from the knight group.

They're not lacking to the level where they could join a second-rate party. Well, the kinds of people who have received investiture as knights all have a somewhat decent level of combat strength so as long as they get used to the combat and actions in the dungeon then it shouldn't be wrong to hope they can manage this much.

However, this time raising their levels wasn't the primary objective.

The {Butchers} being lead by Zenom were already taking a break and the

{Exterminators} were dragged up to here by Miduchi and Kimu.

Of course, everyone from the {Saviors} arrived long before and have all finished taking showers already.

"So this is what it meant by there being teleport crystals all over the place on the 8th floor.."

"Tomorrow is the 9th floor, so that will come out right?"

"That?"

"Crabs, the crabs."

"I'm looking forward to them right. I've only eaten them a countable number of times after all."

"By the way, I wonder what kind of price that {Light.Saber} will sell for?"

"Of course~ it's that flashy of a sword after all. I'm sure it'll be amazing~ right?"

Just from the conversations I can hear it seems the {Exterminators} are still able to take it easy up to here.

Although, they're normally active primarily on the 5th floor so in terms of combat strength you could say they're equal to the first-rate parties of a while back.

Furthermore, the matter of the {Light.Saber} came up

so I'll mention it but I was told they still need a bit more time to get an estimate on the {Loincloth.Of.Daring} so it's still left in their care jsut like that.

Putting that aside, we all entered the dungeon this time the day before yesterday on the 13th of December.

On the first day we all regrouped on the 3rd floor.

And then yesterday, we all regrouped once again in the teleport crystal room on the 6th floor.

Today we cleared through the 7th and 8th floors.

Tomorrow we'll be clearing the 9th and 10th floors including regrouping in the teleport room on the 11th floor assuming we don't encounter any combat and can make it straight to the teleport crystal there.

"In

regards to tomorrow. Miduchi continue just like that, Kimu you reutrn to the {Saviors}. Kamu, you enter the {Exterminators}. They need a rear guard. Also, Sanno and Zulu you exchange places. After that Binsu and Jeru. Tomorrow the two of you should accompany the {Saviors}. In exchange Zenom, Toris..and also Gwine go to the {Butchers}."

As long as I have a map there's no problem.

The {Exterminators} will have Miduchi so they should have plenty of combat strength.

She's skilled at freezing things in ice with magic just like me so as long as they have the map they should be fine.

If the {Butchers} who I sent Gwine over to have Zenom there's pretty much no problem.

With Zenom and Rokko at the top I have Kevin and Henry acting as assistants. Ginger, Gwine, and Rubi will deal a lot of damage with spears and then Misu can back them up with magic and her bow.

Toris normally fortifies the front line but if need be he can support them with magic.

Zenom can lead the front line unit and Ginger can lead the spear unit.

Of course Toris will take the overall command but if things come to it

then he can move to the front or fall to back so it's possible for him to move in a fluid way.

The {Saviors} ended up with the lineup of

Bel, Ralpha, Basutorial, Kimu, Binsu, Jeru, Sanno, Angela, and Giberuti so Ralpha and Sanno act as the front line, Binsu can act as a half front line similar to Toris, though even including the spear unit they technically have 8 combat roles so you could say their formation is pretty fragile but I'll be having Angela and Bel equipped with the rifle and net gun so there shouldn't be any problem with their combat strength.

Obviously all of us will regroup before battling the 7 Minotaurs that act as the guardians of the 9th floor.

It's for that reason we already decided on the gathering place ahead of time.

.....

Year 7447, Month 12, Day 16

"Have you finished checking your equipment? Then starting from the {Exterminators}. Go"

"Alright, let's go. Zentomofu!"

Zenom is acting as the leader of the {Exterminators} but he's teleporting in bringing the newly organized {Exterminators} with Kuro and Mary included.

Several tens of seconds after they turned into beads of light and disappeared into the 12th floor the teleport incantation reappeared in the crystal.

"Then next up is us. We'll be going ahead~ Robukoniha!"

After confirming the incantation Miduchi and the {Butchers} she's commanding all disappeared teleporting over.

"..Let's go. Meketeruho!"

And then leaving Giberuti behind all of us {Saviors} teleported into the 12th floor as well.

...

"Th..They're over there!"

Ralpa was the one who noticed first. I reflexively looked in the direction she was pointing but it was too far so I couldn't see anyone. It seems they're over 7 km away in terms of distance straight to them. Taking into consideration that the outer circumference is shaped like a circle and we're separated by 1/3rd of the distance around.

According to

{Party-ization} and I can feel Zenom and the others from the direction

Ralpa is pointing so that should be the {Exterminators}.

Even further beyond that I can feel the reaction for Miduchi and the others as well.

The distance between them and Miduchi and the others is pretty close, probably within 1 km.

"Miduchi-san is a bit further ahead..It seems like they're both pretty close to each

other. It seems that we were the unlucky ones."

Bel said.

Certainly. We're the only ones who teleported into a place pretty far away.

We've already gone over what actions to take after teleporting into the 12th floor.

If the distance between the three parties is close to the same or at least

5 km apart then the {Exterminators} will remain in place while the

others will try teleporting again.

If the distance is less than 5 km

between two parties then those two will regroup while the remaining one

will try teleporting again.
Doing that is more efficient in covering the distance after all.

This is the case where we're the only ones who have to teleport again.

Last week, without me the {Saviors} tried repeatedly teleporting into the 12th floor so at the very least they've already confirmed there's no traps along the outer wall.

And the 12th floor is just as bright as the 7th floor with the ground being close to a level surface so it's possible to walk a normal speed.

40 minutes later we were safely able to regroup with all the members of the {Slaughterers}.

After teleporting for the 12th time we finally were in a location less than 2 km away from them.

Now then, we've safely finished gathering together.
Next up is marching towards what appears to be a pillar towering in the center which should have the teleport crystal room inside.

We didn't change the member lineup of the parties.
Though it's a combination of three parties, it's because we decided that taking action all grouped together was too dangerous.
It should be fine to just keep an eye on each other's location using {Party-ization}.

Of course, all three of our parties are departing in order with a distance of about 100 meters between so we can back each other up with projectile weapons and magic in a few seconds if anything happens.

First off is the {Saviors} taking the lead.
In the case that the floor guardian comes out we should be the ones who

have the highest chance of encountering it first after all.

If the lightning bolt cage appears it would be useless if the party with the highest attack power gets left behind after all.

Although, if it's a {Dragon} or a monster that flies like the {Wyvern} on the 11th floor then the lightning bolt cage shouldn't come out in a way that limits it's movements.

In that case just as expected it should appear close to the outer wall just like the 11th floor and should at least be several hundred meters behind the party advancing at the front.

Which is why we thought there's not much to worry about with this kind of division.

.....

On the extremely large mid-air hallway leading across almost like an abura kiri net.

What can be seen of the 13th floor below is at best a hazy forest when straining your eyes.

If you gently look down even if you don't have a fear of heights it's enough to make your legs tremble.

Nevertheless even on the narrowest of the walkways they're over 10 meters wide and

in the wider areas over 100 meters so it's possible to pass by without needing to look down at all.

There's nothing like the strong winds or snow storms that can hit you in the

mountains on the surface either.

There's a slight breeze that's almost even comfortable gusting over the skin and the humidity is just barely slightly chilly similar to the other floors of the dungeon.

Normally it would be a tasteless sight

that you could never experience but combined with the grand scenery and it's almost enough to make you forget this is in the greater depths of a dangerous dungeon.

Through that we continued walking for two hours while remaining cautious of any attacks from monsters including the guardian.

Without anything happening at all we arrived at the pillar in the center of the 12th floor that leads to the lowest part of the 13th floor.

The pillars in all of the floors up until now were at most 50 meters per side and shaped like a square but just from a glance this one looks even thicker than 60.

However, when looking at it from nearby the

shape of this pillar is close to a circle and it's diameter should be around 100 meters.

Just as expected it's huge.

It's thick to the point where the Tokyo Government Office seems like nothing.

"The entrance is..on the opposite side I guess?"

While waiting for everyone to regroup we tried going around to the opposite side of the pillar and just as expected we discovered the same 2~3 meter

wide and high cave opening as usual.

Just in case we remained on guard while entering and were able to confirm that it was the teleport crystal room.

It's still not even 10:00 am yet.

"I wonder why there wasn't a guardian?"

Miduchi asked in doubt but no one had an answer.

"Indeed I wonder why...It can't be because they were already defeated by that Vampire Lord enough times after all.."

I couldn't do anything but grumble in response.

"Could it be, because the period that no~ one came in was long that they all died of old age?"

Ralpa is still saying slightly odd things as usual.

"There's no way that's the case right. The floor guardians just remain standing in place without moving as long as they don't discover any opponents. Just like you've seen plenty of times up until now.."

Toris replied in amazement.

Since we spent a long time observing the Minotaurs on the 8th and 9th floor there's some things we've guessed.

For as long as they don't recognize an intruder or are meddled with from inside of the teleport crystal room they seem to be close to being in something like a deep sleep or hibernation.

Well, prior to even that I wonder if monsters in the dungeon even die from aging in the first place?

More-so when it comes to the floor guardians...

"Since it wasn't around it might be fortunate.."

Hearing our conversation Ginger said there's no way of explaining it so we cut off guessing why the guardian of the 12th floor wasn't around.

"But you know~ not being able to get our hands on the {Magic.Item} is.."

Everyone nodded to what Jeru said.

About half of the reason why we went to the trouble of coming to the 12th floor was to obtain valuable {Magic.Items}.

The majority of the other half was because I'd definitely like to defeat that {Dragon} or whatever and use it to raise our reputation.

We came based on calculations that we can defeat it.

According to what they say, if this many first-rate adventurers fight it in cooperating then it should be possible to defeat it.

According to what they say, while they're still newcomers, Kuro and Mary aren't just true knights but these past few months they've been trained by AI using a special menu.

..And above all else, they say that I(AI),

Miduchi, and the others are reincarnated people(though this just for the people who know about reincarnated people), so I(AI) am most likely a special talent.

Furthermore, all of the former members of the {Slaughterers} who can control powerful spells are here as well.

Everyone is thinking like this so when we discussed defeating the {Dragon}(a high possibility of there being one), everyone agreed without first or second thoughts.

In addition to that they've heard the story

about how just Miduchi and I defeated the {Death=Tyrant.Kin} on the 14th floor. A big part of it is how Miduchi said that depending on how you think about it that monster might be stronger than a dragon.

Since

it was that sort of powerful monster and we were able to defeat it with just the two of us, they probably think it's fine as long as Miduchi and I are here.

Also, Toris and Bel are thinking the same thing

as me that the title of {Dragon Slayer} will be an extremely useful weapon to us in the future.

If you ask me I want for everyone to be able to use that title.

In the future, when the time that will definitely come where they have to deal with stubborn old men and women who say, "even though your just dirt adventurers who weren't even born as nobles after all" I think they'll be able to gain some respect without being underestimated that way.

But, in the end that thought was useless..though I guess there's still the 13th floor.

However, it's also true that it was a bit of let down, it's only obvious but

everyone has some desire for the reputation and treasures as well.

Obviously, going through all the trouble to come here without even having the

chance to defeat a guardian and going back empty handed is unprofitable
so we're still moving ahead.
Either way, I want to see that device from nearby.

In the end, after taking a short break we decided to teleport into the 13th floor.

.....

The 13th floor was a dense forest just like the 11th floor.
This time we started off with the {Saviors} teleporting inside excluding Zulu and Angela.
It's just a measure we took since we didn't know what kind of monsters could be lurking near the teleport crystals there.

Immediately after teleporting we spread out and scanned the surroundings but we couldn't find any monsters.

As a result of carefully investigating the surroundings and just the same
as the 11th and 12th floors we seem to have been teleported to somewhere
along the outer wall of the dungeon.
However, it's not like we determined it by teleporting a number of times so it's not good to let our guards down.

We returned to the 12th floor where everyone was waiting and reported the details of what we saw.
After that just the {Saviors} continued teleporting over about 10 times.

All of the teleport locations were along the outer wall on top of not being
able to discover any monsters nearby so we were able to guess that the

13th floor is most likely the same as the above two floors.

During

the roughly two hours until lunch, our three newly organized parties repeated teleporting inside over and over to confirm but there was nothing outside of our expectations.

However, after investigating

around the outer wall a bit away from the teleport destination and in most cases within 20~30 meters away there's a slightly large 2 meter wide path almost like a mountain climbing route and we were able to discover a similar path that seems to circle all around the surroundings of the floor.

Since this path exists it seems that we should be able to regroup relatively easy.

After having lunch, our three parties teleported inside and we all agreed to pass through the forest while climbing the mountain towards the central area after regrouping.

.....

The time is about 4:30 pm.
The location the 30 of us are at is in the middle of the outer circumference and the central area.
Roughly 2.5 km from the outer circumference.

Since either way I wanted to see that device from as close as possible we

regrouped based on the location facing the device.

If you were to think of the lowest point along the outer wall as zero altitude then just from a glance the mountain towering in the center of the 13th floor should have an elevation of about 1,000 meters or so. In that case it should be a steep hill with an average incline ratio of about 20%. Though that's if there's a path that leads straight towards the center. Well, the fact that it's a winding path is something we determined in the early stages of investigation so you could say it's a salvation that it isn't that much of a steep incline but for that portion the overall distance we have to walk increases.

In order to reach this point

it took us close to four hours to regroup and start climbing but it isn't just because we've been careful in passing through the forest. After all the greatest enemy is the fact that the hill and it's distance are stretching out. The path started out winding around but after that it started to slowly rise up almost like a whirlpool so it was pretty exhausting.

Also, there's some things we only noticed for the first time after starting the climb.

We took a bit of time in investigating those things as well.

Rarely a bit off from the path there's places with no trees growing.

We tried going to investigate those places a number of times but it's not like anything happened.

However, all of the bald spots scattered across the forest almost seemed like they had been somewhat dug up.

It's unknown whether or not a monster dug them.

Since it seems that giant stag beetle, the {Great.Underground.Vojanoi}

specializes in digging tunnels so it might be that thing.

But, it wasn't to the extent of being a tunnel either.

A lot of the bald areas had large holes but even then the largest of them was at most 10 meters or so.

Even the depth was at most 30 meters.

Because of the time as expected opinions of returning once for the day started to come out.

Those opinions are quite right so we decided to return after everyone takes a short break.

We all stood up preparing to head back.

.....

..And now.

We {Slaughterers} are facing the crisis of being wiped out.

There's still not a single person who's suffered any injuries but almost all of the members are in a state of panic from the fear and they can't stand up.

The ones who have fallen into a panic are all crawling along the ground as they try to hide behind the nearest bush.

However, I guess because of the fear, their bodies have stiffened up and won't move as they please so they're just trembling in place.

I can't

say anything for sure but I think it happened shortly after a tremendously loud roar as if you'd think it was Godzilla crying out

reached us from the direction of the top of the mountain.

..I know this!

I've experienced it during the time with the {Horned Bear}.

But, when I used {Identify} to confirm their {Conditions} almost everyone has changed to the {Condition: Panic}.

They've completely skipped past things like (Small), (Medium), and (Large) and are suddenly in a complete state of Panic.

There's only a mere two people that didn't fall into a panic.
Myself and just one more person.

Incidentally I don't know of any method other than time to escape from a state of panic.

Author's Note: TL: author explains how the MC learned the spell {Remove.Afraid} but it's

different from the spell {Remove.Fear} that would be requires for the Panic status condition. He also goes on to explain some other potential counters for it like legendary spells {Bravery} and {Resistance.Fear} which offer a slightly chance of countering it but basically just mentions them in passing and that not even the fairies would know them/Al didn't ask about them, etc...

Chapter 325 : Dragon People

Year 7447, Month 12, Day 16

This time we were

proceeding through a forest with low visibility so you could say it was fortunate that we weren't putting as much distance between parties as we were on the 12th floor.

Before it can find us we can hide in the forest off from the path.

It seems that the lightning bolt cage still hasn't appeared so it might

not have specifically been menacing roar because it had found us. Angela wasn't influenced by the effects of the roar but she doesn't seem to understand what in the world happened.

Well, if you don't know about it then that's not unreasonable so I scolded

the panicking Angela while herding everyone and hiding them in the grove of trees.

Of course, kicking and dragging the ones who are too slow, in any case I put the highest priority on quickly retreating.

They were originally trying to run away because of the overwhelming fear but because their legs stopped working they all couldn't move.

I guess the only salvation is that because I was treating them roughly it didn't take all that much time to finish finding them shelter.

However, judging from the {Roar} of that dragon(?) just now and the power of the {Horned Bears} is not even worth comparing.

Even Miduchi and Bel who have a lot of MP were sent trembling in fear in a single blow.

Though they only lost 4 MP.

Although, thanks to that Jesu who's young on top of having a low MP went straight into mana exhaustion and stopped moving without even trying to escape

just threw his spear to the side and held his head while crouching down and sobbing, praying to the God of Battle Onuwasu.

It seems he pissed himself from the fear as well but maybe he should be praised just for not losing consciousness.

Though I think it would have been easier to carry him if he did pass out.

Angela is the only one who not only didn't lose any MP but I couldn't find any abnormalities with her at all.

Her level is 24 so she holds the next highest level after me.

After that Miduchi, Zenom, and Zulu are all lined up at 23 but these three

just had their MP reduced by 4 and their faces are stiff as tears come

down from the fear.

Everyone else below that was the same.

Damn it. It's impossible to bring everyone along and retreat from this place.

..In that case, there's no choice other than to fight.

Not to mention, I should drag it out to a place a bit of distance away from here so it doesn't cause any damage to everyone.

"Alright, we've already finished hiding everyone right? Angela, you use this sword. I'll use Gwine's spear."

I handed Toris's sword to Angela while I lowered my bayonet and grabbed Gwine's magic spear.

"No..No way! This is something that Karosutalan-sama takes great care of.."

"Don't worry about it. If the opponent is a dragon then it's better to have a magic weapon. It's not that I can't use the spell mana enchant but if

the battle drags out I don't know if there will be enough time to recast it..though.."

Going off the abilities I think the sword Miduchi uses would be the highest but neither Angela or I have confidence in

skillfully using a scimitar. And taking the reach into consideration the spear is best but Angela's never used the spear before, her main is

also the rifle so it's better if it's a sword that won't get in

the way. Even I'm not exactly the best at using a spear but I was taught how to use it when I was a kid and bayonet fighting was originally

based on spearmanship after all. Most likely, I don't think I'll need

any other techniques then thrusting upwards so that much should be plenty.

"Hand me a bullet."

In the bullet bucket that Angela has attached to her waist I cast the spell {Enchant.Weapon} on one row or about 10 bullets.

We haven't tested it against monsters in live combat yet but I already

knew that they would work as a target for the spell {Enchant.Weapon}. I'm sure it won't be anything more than a consolation though.

There's no time so I can't cast magic on any more bullets than this.

"Alright, I cast magic on the bullets from this row. If you determine that the gun isn't working then even if you have to throw out the remaining bullets in the cylinder change to these."

I said that while taking several {Arrows.Of.Blindness} from Bel's quiver and

sticking them into the back of my belt.

In the past Basutoral showed live proof that as long as they stab into the target even if you don't fire them from a bow the effect will work.

"I'm going to cast defensive spells on you now. After I'm finished then we'll fight as far away from everyone as possible."

"Yes."

I cast all elements of the resist type spells on Angela and myself and then the two of us ran towards the summit of the mountain at our full speed.

.....

The change occurred when we were running through the mountain paths and could see up the mountain.

They're still far away to the point of just looking like sesame seeds but I could see several flying creatures circling around the mountain top.

For another five minutes we ran up the mountain path at full speed.

On the top of the mountain it seems there's something like a cave entrance with it's mouth open.

The flying creatures seem to be jumping out from there.

"...That is..!?"

Angela said from my side while out of breath.

But, they're still too far so I can't really see them.

The number is..9, 10..No, they keep increasing.
And...

"Ha...The..they look like humanoids..{Imps}?"

It would be strange for it to be {Imps}.
They seem a bit larger and the shape as well...

It was then that high in the sky above a loud bang as if the air was being torn echoed out.

Since it was so far away the sound only faintly entered my ears but judging from the distance away it should have originally been a thunderous roar.

"This is sound is..!"

Just as Angela said, this sound is the one made when the lightning bolt cage appears!

In a hurry I looked around to our sides but all I could see was the outer wall of the 13th floor in the distance and nothing else...

No, I can faintly see something like consecutive lightning coming from the gaps in the net floating above.

The lightning bolt cage on the 12th floor activated!?

At this point?

..I'm sure that's the case but I noticed the reason right away.

The sesame seeds that were circling around above the mountain have become the size of rice.

I guess we should assume we've been discovered.

In other words, those flying insect like things were the floor guardians of the 12th floor!?

That was the case.

The sizes went from sesame seeds to rice and are rapidly increasing in size as they fly over.

"Angela, pull them in until they reach a distance which you're confident in hitting them then fire away!"

I said that then put some distance between us and used the spell {Audible.Clamor} while climbing further up the mountain path.

Together with Bel I've had Angela practice shooting moving targets at every chance possible.

I lower the speed to an appropriate amount and have them fire at spell warheads that have been shaped relatively short in size.

As expected they can only hit {Arbalest Class} warheads with a 50/50

chance but {Light Catapult} is better than 50% and they can almost

always land hits on {Heavy Catapults}.

If they're the size of humans and she can quietly take her time to aim then there's no doubt she'll hit within 200 meters.

I guess they're almost about 500 meters away..They've entered the range of {Identify}.

..

Female/16/11/7445.Bazu Dragonian

Condition: Normal

Age: 2 Years Old

Level: 17

HP: 155(155) MP: 1(1)

Strength: 33

Speed: 22

Dexterity: 17

Endurance: 30

If it's just this level then we should be able to manage.

..Hn?

It seems there's several types of them.

..

Male/14/7/7444.Gabaku Dragonian

Condition: Normal

Age: 3 Years Old

Level: 17

HP: 149(149) MP: 6(6)

Strength: 30

Speed: 24

Dexterity: 17

Endurance: 31

Special Skill: Poison

Is something different?

Ah, poison.

It's necessary to finish it off before it gets close.

"Angela! After you fire a shot change your position!"

Either way I've already been discovered so I have no intention of running or hiding anymore.

Shouting is an important factor if you want to lure over the enemy.

Bang!

When the formation of Dragonians was 200 meters or so away Angela fired the rifle.

Though it was within the forest there was nothing to block the sound so the gunshot spread out pretty far.

A short moment later my {Audible.Clamor} echoed out covering up the gunshot. One of them started falling from the group of 20 or so.

I couldn't tell which type it was but I guess it only takes one shot if they're hit?

Alright, me too!

First off as a test case and in order to reduce their numbers I used the spell {Chain Lightning} on one of the weak looking Bazu types flying at the lead.

The dragonian that was about 150 meters away was hit by electricity that tore through the air!

Additionally it split off the same as usual and hit another two, no, I guess just one because of the distance..However, it split off even further from there and hit more, then split again and hit three, then..I guess that was the limit.

After seeing seven of their allies dropped from my spell the dragonians quickly split up out of caution.

But you know...

I immediately cast {Stone Javelin Missile}!

I fire off five {Stone Javelins} with missile attached to them.

Oh, their reactions themselves are pretty fast.

But, there's a limit to their mobility in the air.

Also, the speed they're flying at is only just a bit faster than an adult running so about 30~40 km/hour I guess?

I'm sure it's faster than continuing to run on the surface for a long time but like that Bundo birds are a lot faster.

In the end, the one who shifted their body to try and dodge was chased by my five stone spears and let out a scream as they fell to the ground

after being pierced through by them.

When their distance got closer I noticed yet another type mixed in with them.
What's with this guy!?

There's only a few but guys like these are mixed into the ground.

It seems they were positioned at the rear of the group so I couldn't see them from the distance.

Though I might have finished off several of them with the {Chain Lightning} just now.

..

Male/23/6/7443.Vozaggu Dragonian

Condition: Normal

Age: 4 Years Old

Level: 17

HP: 100(100) MP: 22(27)

Strength: 23

Speed: 22

Dexterity: 20

Endurance: 14

Special Skill: Mana Flight

Special Skill: Earth Magic Lv. 2

Special Skill: Water Magic Lv. 2

Special Skill: Void Magic Lv. 3

It doesn't have the same bat-like wings!

I guess it's flying use that {Special Skill: Mana Flight}?

..Magic from above might be a bit troublesome.

..

Male/11/4/7439.Seibaku Dragonian

Condition: Normal

Age: 8 Years Old

Level: 18

HP: 143(143) MP: 36(36)

Strength: 33
Speed: 25
Dexterity: 20
Endurance: 24
Special Skill: Clone Body
Special Skill: Earth Magic Lv. 3
Special Skill: Water Magic Lv. 3
Special Skill: Fire Magic Lv. 3
Special Skill: Void Magic Lv. 5

This one properly has wings.
It's body is the biggest and it's magic levels are high so is it the boss?
It also has a special skill like {Clone Body}.
However, this one is quite...

..
Female/19/3/7435.Worakku Dragonian
Condition: Normal
Age: 12 Years Old
Level: 20
HP: 146(146) MP: 53(58)
Strength: 31
Speed: 27
Dexterity: 20
Endurance: 25
Special Skill: Mana Flight
Special Skill: Earth Magic Lv. 5
Special Skill: Water Magic Lv. 5
Special Skill: Fire Magic Lv. 5
Special Skill: Wind Magic Lv. 5
Special Skill: Void Magic Lv. 6

..There's no mistake!
This one is the boss!

It's level is high and it can use magic at a considerably high level. Additionally mentioning it and the other ones have a tail that stands out quite a bit but this one either doesn't or it should be pretty small so it doesn't stand out.

However, now that they've approached this close I can finally tell what they look like.

Every single one of them is almost like a lizard, no, almost like a dragon shaped into a humanoid.

I've never seen something like a dragon before so I don't really know though. But, they look quite a bit more ferocious and threatening than a lizard.

The Bazu.Dragonian is covered in brass colored scales with almost no glaze to them.

The Gabaku.Dragonian has old looking copper color scales, the

Vozaggu.Dragonian looks bronze colored but with green rust mixed in, the Seibaku.Dragonian has dark grey scales, and the Worakku.Dragonian has dull gold color scales.

It seems like they also have equipment on them but they're just wearing clothes like worn-out cloth and holding what appear to be clubs.

We were able to finish off two more before the group was able to reach a distance where they can fire attack magic.

Since my magic levels are high my attack range is a lot farther after all.

One of them was hit by my attack spell and the other was sniped by Angela after she changed positions.

Angela didn't miss her mark. Great!

"Hmph"

Several of the dragonians started firing attack spells aimed at me.
I was surprised they can use magic while in flight but you're too far away.
If you don't accelerate the speed of something like attack spells then they just fly at the speed you can throw a ball.

Just by shifting my position a bit all of the spells missed.

I immediately fired off spells in counter attack and shot down one more dragonian.

Nuhhawwa, shooting birds from seven sides is it?

And just as I thought that the enemies aren't just targets, the Worakku.Dragonian fired an attack spell with missile attached!

I had to give up on controlling my missile and offset it with an {Anti-Magic Field}.

I should have carried along a shield, shit.

But, it's big that we were able to bring down 11 of the dragonians up to here.
Only half remain.

First off it would be best to get rid of that Worakku.Dragonian that's using missile.

"Start with that gold colored one! I'll act as the decoy!"

After ordering Angela I ran off in a way that stands out.

"Go~~ga~~!!!!!"

Once again what seems to be the roar of a dragon echoed around.
It might just be my imagination but it sounds a bit more irritated now.
The dragonians flew into the air after the first roar so I was already able to

guess it wouldn't have an effect on them.

Due to that, I didn't have any strange hopes.

However, I can feel something like impatience from the dragonians after the roar sounded out.

This is, something's happened...

I don't know what kind of relationship there is between the dragon(?) and the dragonians but it seems there is one.

If that wasn't the case what seems to be the guardians of the 12th floor the dragonians wouldn't be on the 13th floor.

The dragonians have arrived several tens of meters away from before starting to descend.

I guess since they can't make quick movements in the air they're planning to try finishing me off in a ground battle.

It seems Angela's shooting didn't make it in time.

However, if it's a ground battle then I'm all for it.

Around the path I used earth magic to create several dirt piles.

Using these dirt piles as bunkers, first off is a shooting match.

The reason I didn't make them the shape of a wall is to prevent it from being harder to flee if I get surrounded.

Though I say that, the dragonians are about the same size as people or maybe a bit larger depending on the individual.

It might have been a mistake to leave behind my bayonet.

A gunshot echoed out.

One of the ones that was in the middle of descent let out a dull scream before falling at the edge of my sight.

Sorry, Angela.

It seems I underestimated you.

So they wouldn't try to focus on Angela's gunshot I used {Audible.Clamor}
several times again.

Look over here!

Chapter 326 : Suicide Attack

Year 7447, Month 12, Day 16

The {Audible.Clamor} I used was successfully able to grab the attention of all the dragonians.

I hide half of my body behind the bunkers I made and fire a {Stone Javelin Missile} with extra mana at one of them that's late to land.

The dragonian twisted it's body to try and dodge but it's chest was pierced by a javelin moving at a considerably faster speed than normal and crashed.

In my case, in order to raise the flying speed using void magic it actually consumes less mana than a normal usage for others. It's one of the benefits of having void magic at MAX level.

Nine remaining is it?

I guess it can be considered good that with just two of us we were able to reduce the enemy forces by over half before they made contact with us.

From around the area where the dragonian crashed a loud explosion echoed out with a "Boom!"

Th..These guys, do they have gunpowder or something on them!?

Since the only thing they had in their hands was a club I couldn't believe it. Unintentionally, I clenched down on the {Spear.Of.Piercing} with my left hand to confirm the grip.

There's four dirt piles dotted around the mountain climbing path. I'd like to skillfully use these while getting backup fire from Angela to reduce their numbers.

On both sides of the path I used the spell {Quagmire} to make a large moat of mud in the forest.

Of course I've left gaps in just once place on both sides.

If they use these gaps then it'll be easier to aim.

Above the mud I used the spell {Gas.Sleep.Cloud} but I can't hope for much of an effect from it.

I only used it because the gas created with this spell is transparent and with no scent.

If they try to glide at a low altitude with those wings and just happen to

flap them into the gas then they should fall and if it even has a bit

of an effect it helps.

Depending on the case a {Fire Wall} or {Stone Wall} would be fine as well but those would block our sight after all.

Even if a mountain fire starts in the dungeon and it ends up bald I couldn't

care less so it's not like I didn't use it because of the trees.

My aim is obviously, nothing other than freezing them in ice.

Though I say that, the visibility in the forest is bad so it's impossible to freeze them all together.

It would be great if I can freeze at least half of them but even if I'm lucky wouldn't it be at best three or so?

If it's the magic type then they'll probably erase the ice as well.
But, the aim is just to slow them down for a short period of time.

At the same time I'd like to reduce their numbers by even just a bit more.
In any case with this the simple fortifications are done.

...

There's one..two dragonians looking over here from the shadows of the trees.
Another 10 meters until they reach the 10 meter wide quagmire I made on both sides of the path.

I'll pretend not to notice them until they approach at least up to the quagmire.

If I use the ice now it would just end with those two frozen.

..Three..just this many?

Get a bit closer.

Mu, Angela, she's in that sort of place...

I saw Angela in the shadow of a tree about 100 meters away from the lower parts of the path I'm on.

She's in a position where it's difficult to fire upwards but I guess it's still better than firing downwards.

There's not much wind though at this distance there's not much meaning to gravity or wind gusts so it's just a problem of feeling though.

Come to think of it, including myself I still haven't done any outdoor shooting practice.

I guess it's fine after I obtain a territory.

Putting that aside and it seems Angela is making good use of an old tree and a thick branch to secure a difficult to find position.

With her skill,

as long as I don't make any strange moves and get in the way she should

be able to fire two shots from that location.
If I can skillfully cover up the gunshot then maybe even 3~4 shots.

I scanned the surroundings and after confirming there's a bit of leeway
left I started controlling my mana to use the spell {Telepathy}.
Angela is in my sight range so I can use it without a problem.

"Angela, hold out so you can fire three shots from there."

The only flaw is that if you don't at least speak in a whisper the other
side won't be able to hear it but it's a convenient spell.
If it's like hearing a person right in front of you talk with a normal volume in a
quiet room so there's no problem.
In other words, even a whisper is fine.

"For the time being, I intend to leave my right side from where you're
looking to you but depending on the locations of the enemies I might use
magic over there first. In that case I'll use it so you know it's
coming and leave the ones on the left side to you. Right now, there's
three on the left side and one, no, two on the right side. Alright?"

We're on the same slope so if I face in the same direction as Angela the sides
we're looking at will be the same.

"I understand, master."

I heard Angela's voice as if she was whispering in front of me.

"And after that, among the ones that have wings the copper and bronze
colored ones can't use magic. Put aiming priority on the other ones. The
highest priority is the gold looking one without wings."

"Understood."

The three on the left side from where Angela is looking slowly started to approach.

Judging from the color of the scales it should be two Bazu.Dragonians and 1 Gabaku.Dragonian.

Unfortunately I can't tell how many are hidden behind them still keeping an eye on things.

And then the two on the right side slowly started to approach as well. Both of these seem to be Bazu.Dragonians.

I guess this is the limit.

If I don't move a good distance away from here then I can't see both sides at the same time so after all I should freeze the left side here!

I was successfully able to lock all three of them in ice!

It's impossible for these ones to escape on their own so it should be fine as long as that Worakku.Dragonian that can use all elements isn't nearby.

And then at that moment a thunderous roar sounded out once again.

This time I could clearly feel anger and irritation from the sound of the roar.

I reflexively looked towards the top of the mountain.

I guess it means, hurry up and kill the intruders?

In a hurry I turned around to look behind me at the ones coming from the right side but they were looking upwards as well.

I can somehow feel like their actions are a bit human-like.

They're humanoids after all so I guess that can't be helped.

I use {Lightning Bolt} on one of the two!

At the same time as I started to use my spell they both started dashing at me. Their wings are still folded up against their backs.

The {Lightning Bolt} arrived in an instant and surrounded the Bazu.Dragonian. A direct hit!

"Goke~!!!"

The dragonian let out an unpleasant scream while falling over.

The other one flew off to the right as if it was hit in the head. I immediately use {Audible.Clamor} in the surroundings.

Angela, nice support.

The Bazu.Dragonian that was shot fell over and stopped moving. Judging from how it fell it must have been hit in the head by the bullet. I can't tell because blood and brain matter didn't scatter in the surroundings but..I'm surprised. For it to take a hit from the M80 and not pierce through..but, it seems to have died instantly when it's brain was destroyed.

With this just four remaining!

I raised cheers in my heart but my eyes opened wide. The glaze-less brass colored scales of the two Bazu.Dragonians we just defeated rapidly started turning white and in no time at all..changed to two stone statues in the shape of the fallen dragonians!

What in the world is this!?

Shortly after thinking that an attack spell came flying from the forest behind the two stone statues! I somehow managed to evade it by hiding behind the bunker.

There's ice behind me so it should be fine for a short while.

Even if the Worakku.Dragonian is in that direction I should have some time before it can erase the ice, go around, or fly up over...

But, of all things!

From above the mountain, in the area where the dragonians came out... I can see something massive taking flight...

I saw it.

I ended up seeing it.

Now that I've seen it, there's no way I can take my eyes off it.

For an instant, it was to the point where it completely drove off my awareness of the dragonians that..

My awareness returned hearing a gunshot ring out again.

Did Angela not see that thing!?

I guess her sight was blocked because she's crouching in the forest so she didn't see it.

Not only did I forget to use {Audible.Clamor} but being caught up looking at the massive thing created a lethal opening.

The Worakku.Dragonian that came out from the forest started using magic.

Impudently it even seemed to intend to use earth magic and bury me in dirt. However, because of it's low level of earth magic(it's plenty high though) the amount of dirt it can make wasn't high so it didn't try to directly bury me but just created it above me.

Immediately I fired another shot of {Lightning Bolt}.

I ended up being buried but at almost the same time the electricity arrived at the {Worakku.Dragonian}.

I can't tell if I was able to defeat it or not.

I immediately used {Anti-Magic Field} to erase the surrounding dirt.

At the same time as I erased it seems I erase an attack spell that one of the dragonians fired at me.

It seems the Worakku.Dragonian from just now didn't fall but it's on it's knees suffering from the electricity.

With that MP even if it can recover from the electrical damage itself, it won't easily be able to escape from the numbness and pain.

"Dadda.godo.buru.ka~!!"

The dragonian with it's knee to the ground let out a voice as if spitting out it's breath and pointed towards the base of the slope while giving some kind of order.

Angela, it seems several of them are going to head over there?

By the time I Realized it a different Worakku.Dragonian was using {Anti-Magic Field} to try and release the first three I froze.

A Gabku and Bazu were already released and are heading towards me!

I fire a {Wind Cutter} at the Gabaku.Dragonian to hold it back and fight back against the Bazu.Dragonian with the spear in my hand.

Once again a gunshot rings out and I can hear a scream in like "Goga!!" from behind me.

Alright, Angela! Keep it up!

At the same time as that before the Bazu.Dragonians club could reach me I thrust towards it's chest with the {Spear.Of.Piercing}.

"Nueee~!!"

With a single shout filled with fighting spirit, I used all of my strength to pierce straight through the center of it's chest.

The response was plenty!

I quickly pulled out the spear and aimed it towards the Gabaku.Dragonian I was holding back just now.

At the same time I used {Audible.Clamor} right in front of it's face!

It's a feint.

I guess it was no good.

This, in most cases it doesn't work.

Since it's not like suddenly clapping your hands in their blind spot I guess.

Incidentally, {Light} and {Darkness} are effective but it's only limited to when the opponent isn't moving around.

The Gabaku.Dragonian moved to parry my spear with it's club.

If it doesn't first close the distance then it doesn't stand a chance, so it can't be helped.

But, even at a time like this I can use spells.

I fired a {Fire Javelin} at point blank and finished it off.

And then, I fired off the spell {Ice.Cone} towards the last Bazu.Dragonian

that was freed from the ice and the Worakku.Dragonain that was about to cast a different spell at me after freeing it.

The charge of the Bazu was interrupted and the Worakku's concentration was broken.

But.

"Emeron!"

I heard Angela's voice from below the hill.

I guess she's finally entered close combat.

Since {Flame.Tongue} is a powerful weapon, she should have the advantage.

I don't cut my concentration from the {Ice.Cone} I'm using on the Bazu and Worakku in front of me.

However, the corpse of the Gabaku I finished off with a {Fire Javelin} just now has..started giving off a lot of smoke while melting down!

This, is it the gas from {Kill Cloud}!?

I maintain my focus on using {Ice.Cone} while falling back.

Just as I was about to change direction and move down the hill to regroup with Angela and...

The Worakku that I damaged with {Lightning Bolt} was behind me!

Shit!!

I remembered before taking an attack so I was barely able to dodge it.

I somehow managed to regain my posture as I faced the Worakku that's attacking me but it seems there's still some pain remaining as it's movements are dull.

However, my spear is useless at this distance.

"Shi!!"

I drop the spear and punched it with my fist.

A hook with my brass knuckles.

The Worakku that took my punch staggered.

In order to finish it off I throw one more punch from the opposite arm!

This time on that huge jaw..it isn't effective!?

"It was a mistake to let go of your spear, brat."

The dragonian's face twisted into a sneer as it spoke with a hard-to-hear voice.
The {Common.Language}!?

It swings down the club it was holding with its claws.

I sway backwards and evade the club, if it's come to this then an attack spell,
and just as I thought that.

Boom!!

The dragonian that should have been twitching on the ground a bit of
distance away and the Vozaggu that was shot by Angela before both
exploded in an instant and..exploded into pieces!

And at the same time with a "Bang!!" an impact that shook my entire body hit
me.

When I was caught up with the sudden explosion and covered with the spray
from the corpse I ended up taking a hit from the WOrakku's club on my
left shoulder.

But, I succeeded in firing a {Fire Cannon} into it while falling!
Get blown away along with that sneer on your face..!?

Along with a loud boom the corpse of the headless WOrakku.Dragonian
exploded!

The explosion was huge to the point where it was incomparable to the Vozaggu
from just now.

I desperately grit my teeth in order to not pass out.

That massive fellow I saw just before flashed through my mind.

Chapter 327 : Shadow of Death

Year 7447, Month 12, Day 16

Not only are my ears ringing with a ki~~n but I feel dizzy as well.

I had intended to at least somehow cover my exposed face with both of my arms..but I didn't make it in time.

Several fragments of the Worakku.Dragonian that exploded(most likely scales or something) have pierced into my jaw from my left cheek.

The

dizziness and ringing in my ears is severe to the point where I don't

even have the leeway to concentrate on using a healing spell.

Picking up the {Spear.Of.Piercing} that I dropped on the ground and pulling out the foreign object in my left cheek was the best I could manage.

..It seems that at least from my jaw to my neck is safe so I was able to be relieved about that.

What happened to the Bazu and other Worakku that I was using {Ice.Cone} on until just now?

In a panic I looked over there and the Bazu had already changed to stone while the Worakku was covered in injuries and on the verge of death.

It was desperately trying to use healing spells on it's larger wounds.

I should kill it now while I still have the chance.

However, I still don't have enough composure to use spells.

In regards to just injuries I had confidence that I could use it no matter how great they were but that dizziness and the ringing could break my concentration to this extent...

I don't have the time to worry about Angela for a short while so in any case I need to finish off that one first.

I glanced towards the top of the mountain.

Even though not much time at all has passed since it started flying it's already halfway here!

Though it didn't seem like it was flying directly over in this direction so it was just as it adjusted the direction it was going to over here.

Additionally, there was one more important thing I realized.

The usual lightning bolt cage.

A cage of lightning bolts that surrounds the outer wall of the 13th floor was completed.

There doesn't seem to be much of a problem with it from what I can see from here but from its end there's still the trees so it doesn't seem to

have discovered us yet.

However, I guess that huge explosion let it recognize the existence of enemies...

I shake my head and stand on guard with the spear.

"Uooooaa~!!"

I shout while charging at the Worakku.Dragonian that's frantically trying to use healing spells!

But, my legs are tangled so it's suspicious whether I was able to run straight.

The reason I shouted was because I felt like I would pass out if I didn't do it.

I had intended to shout with all my strength but I felt like I only let out a

pathetically weak voice.

Obviously I thought the other side would notice right away but it seems it doesn't have the composure while it focuses on the spell.

By the time it realized my spear was already in front of it.

Along with a crisp response the head of the spear was thrust through the center of it's chest.

The scales of the dragonians looked like metal so the spears effect of ignoring defense might have worked.

In any case, I let go of the spear with my hand and covered my head while jumping to the side to hide behind a nearby bunker.

I'm sure another huge explosion will happen after all.

I stuck my finger between the gaps in my helmet and blocked my ears while at the same time opening my mouth and rolling my tongue.

I remembered a short elementary level course I took in the military college in the distant~ past.

It's only obvious to hide behind whatever obstructions you can when

explosion happens nearby but you're also supposed to block your ears and open your mouth.

Blocking your ears is to directly protect your

eardrums while opening your mouth is also to adjust the pressure and

indirectly protect your eardr..I can't hear!?

I wasn't blocking my ears or opening my mouth when the first explosion happened just before.

Though I still had my helmet on, there's small holes in the sides of my helmet and it was that close of a distance.

That explosion was way beyond the level of the nostalgic firing sound from howitzer tanks.

I don't really know but wouldn't it be kind of like that where the explosion hits?

I guess not to that extent since I'm still alive.

Shortly after thinking that and I felt a pressure vibrate through my stomach.
It seems it exploded.

I recovered the spear.

Come to think of it..I suddenly got worried and used {Identify} on the spear in my hand.

If only magic weapons are effective then, it might have been dragged into the dragonian's explosion and broken!

{Spear.Of.Piercing}

Ork Wood.Iron

Condition: Normal

Manufacture Date: 23/11/7444

Value: 1

Durability: 6652

Ability: 190-240

Effect: Ignores the defensive capabilities of metal(for defense provided from other sources than metal including magic damage is applied normally).

The durability has decreased by quite a bit but if there's this much left then it should be fine.

Though it would be a problem if it takes another one of those explosions at point blank again.

I wonder how Angela is doing?

I can see flashes from a sword clad in flames swing around from the forest below the path.

It seems she's still safe for the time being.

Sorry, Angela, wait just a bit longer for reinforcements.

It's a bit too harsh without my five senses intact.

There's also damage other than that.

There should be a bit more time until that thing gets here.
I need to recover before that...

...

Alright!

With this I've completely recovered!

There's no pain remaining and, "Ah~ ah~" I can hear with my ears as well.

That thing is..it's already several hundred meters away!

It has a long and narrow body like a snake.

It's length probably exceeds 30 meters.

I guess the thickness of it's body is around 2 meters?

It has ferocious looking claws growing from it's strong forelimbs and hind limbs.

There's two bat-like wings that are small to the point where they don't match up with the rest of it's body.

And then it's black body color that almost seems transparent to where you can see through to the other side of it's body.

Rongaruzamuryuzorufaren

Male/25/7/6443.Shadow Dragon

Condition: Normal

Age: 1004 Years Old

Level: 24

HP: 11446(11446) MP: 335(335)

Strength: 128

Speed: 75

Dexterity: 179

Endurance: 186

Special Skill: Infrared Vision

Special Skill: {Magic.Resistance 100}

Special Skill: Low-class Magic Negation{Minor.Globe.Of.Invulnerability}

Special Skill: {Energy.Drain.Breath}

Special Skill: {Hiding.In.Shadow}

Special Skill: {Howl.Type III}

Special Skill: {Fear.Aura.Type II}

Special Skill: Earth Magic Lv. 8

Special Skill: Water Magic Lv. 8

Special Skill: Wind Magic Lv. Max

Special Skill: Void Magic Lv. Max

Th..There's..no way to win..against this...

I was about to be overwhelmed by despair but if I'm defeated then everyone will jsut be eaten by that guy.

Escape?

How?

There's several things I'm curious about but I don't have the time to look at the sub-windows.

Ah, the name was probably attached at some point after someone continued calling it that.

Almost like "Pointed.Rock".

My remaining MP is about 7,000.

I guess my advantages are my level and that I can use all elemental magics at a high level...

How unreliable~

But, first strike wins.

First off I'll shave down that hindrance of a {Magic.Resistance}!

{Stone Light Catapult Missile}!

I aim at it with eight warheads.

Obviously it hits!

The reason I used a spell equivalent to level 6 is out of caution for that {Minor.Globe.Of.Invulnerability}.

Just as expected the remaining uses of {Magic.Resistance} decreased.

It seems that putting aside it's flight speed it's mobility in the air isn't all that high just like the dragonians.

"Gyagoooo~~n!!!"

The Shadow Dragon {Howled} in irritation.

Different from up until now since I was hit by such a frightening roar at this close distance I reflexively flinched but I was just reacting to it's loud voice.

I continue firing off {Stone Light Catapult Missiles}.

I'll hold out to the limit with this!

My spell warheads continue to hit it.

It's {Magic.Resistance} continues to get shaved down by that.

However, the distance between us is already only about double it's body length.

We're less than 100 meters away from each other.

I meet eyes with it's orange colored eyes filled with hatred that almost seem like flames.

I guess it's only obvious towards someone who didn't just intrude on it's territory but killed it's subordinates the dragonians.

The Shadow Dragon twisted it's body in the shape of an S about 30 meters in the air and seemed to suck in it's breath.

A breath attack!?

Don't mistake the timing!

The Shadow Dragon spit out it's breath!

Wind magic against my back!

I've heard from Miduchi.

Most breath comes in the shape of a cone.

Even if that's not the case the other portion is supposedly in a straight line so it's easiest to evade by rushing at an angle towards it or straight towards it.

But, I don't know what kind of breath the Shadow Dragon uses so I tried to move at my maximum speed.

"Guauu!!"

My body is blown forward at a speed that causes all of the bones and joints in my body to ache.

I fire off a {Stone Light Catapult Missile} while jumping.

There's no time to confirm the state of the ground.

"Ga!!"

I plunged into the ground and rolled.

In the air above the Shadow Dragon stopped it's breath to look around I guess because it lost sight of me.

But, on the verge of plunging into the ground I saw that all of my attacks hit it!!

I'm wearing armor so I'm protected against scratches but I must have hit my leg when I hit the ground.

There's some intense pain coming from my right leg.

I guess I broke the bone.

But, I put off healing it and fired off another {Stone Light Catapult} while still laying on the ground.

After firing it I use {Cure All} on my right leg.

Once more.

And again one more time.

Alright. The pain has completely disappeared.

It was without missile attached but all eight of the {Stone Light Catapults} hit it in the stomach.

"Goru.byugu.geinderu.buru.dakuto.de~!!"

The Shadow Dragon started speaking some words I can't understand in a loud voice.

It feels like my ears will break.

If it can speak words then it might be possible to communicate with it.

But, since it's a floor guardian there's probably not meaning in it.

I'm sure it'll just end after the dragon takes whatever information it wants.

There should be 36 more uses remaining on it's {Magic.Resistance}.

Something like this another five times..can I endure it?

But, even if it's impossible~ I've got to do it or it's all over.

The Shadow Dragon realized I was below it's stomach and stopped flying as it started falling down!

Does it intend to crush me with it's stomach!?

Since I was already kneeling down I escape my jumping to the side!

At the same time as it crashed down I thrust forward with the {Spear.Of.Piercing}!

It pierces in deep.

After pulling it out and bright red blood gushed out.

I used {Identify} on it's tail while running and, HP: 11058(11446) MP: 330(335)!

OOh!! As expected this spear is amazing.

Even though it was against a massive monster that's easy to hit, the damage from that single hit was big.

It's completely different from my bayonet and long sword!

Though I say that, it's still nothing much.

But, if it's this then..thinking that I smile.

The Shadow Dragon begins to coiling up as if to try and capture me.

If I get caught it'll all be over.

Considering the size.

"Nuo~~!!"

I leap with all of my strength and jump over the trunk of it's body to evade.

At the same time I fired off {Stone Light Catapult} again!

Hit!

However, I didn't notice the end of it's tail stretching out from outside of my vision.

Bashin!

I was hit by the end of it's tail and flew into the forest.

The direction I was sent flying was below the hill.

There was no way I could wind magic because of the impact from being hit.

Along with snapping sounds the branches of trees and bones in my body broke until I finally rolled on the ground.

"Ah..gu..gabo"

I guess my broken ribs are stabbing into my lungs as I spit blood up from my

mouth.

Calm down!

Recovery!

Bang!

A gunshot rings out.

It seems Angela was safely able to finish off the dragonians without my support.

Alright, earn just a bit more time!

I consecutively use {Cure All}.

"Gwe..gobu"

I hit my chest and spit out the remaining blood from my trachea before finishing my revival!

By the time I realized it Angela was standing a bit of distance away from me reloading the next bullet into her rifle while covering for me.

"I'm already fine, continue with the backup fire!"

I call out to Angela and dash past her side.

The Shadow Dragon crawled down the hill towards us.

"Genzu barufa byuma bore?"

It's saying something.

But I don't bother with it.

{Stone Catapult Missile}!

The movements of the Shadow Dragon when it's crawling on the ground are

incomparably faster than in the air.

However, as expected with that huge body it couldn't evade my attack spell with missile added to it.

They all cleanly hit it!

Bang!

I hear the gunshot from Angela's backup fire from behind.

It seems the bullet hit close to the dragon's eye.

A hole opened up in its scales..the hole closed right away!?

I guess this is what I heard about, "not being injured except by magic weapons"!

"Angela! Switch to the magic bullets!"

"Ha!!"

During that time I need to earn some time!

"Over here, you snake bastard!"

I use wind magic against my back again and jump forward at a high speed while firing off an attack spell.

Partway I used wind magic from the side to change my trajectory.

The attack spell didn't have missile added so it seems to have evaded it.

Although, even if I had added missile I wouldn't have been able to control it.

"This annoying insect! I don't need a slave like you!"

Don't be misunderstanding! This snake bastard!

However, it's huge.

Thinking about it's close to 2 meter in diameter body and one size larger head at the top and in the worst if I were to be swallowed...

But the head isn't like a snake right.

It's almost like a crocodile, iguana, and the dragons that used to come out in legends in Japan added together, around the back of it's neck(?) I

can see several protruberances that seem to be horns.

On the top of it's snake-like body it's almost shaped like a shark with a lot of huge triangular dorsal fins going along it.

Gou~!!

Everything in front of me went pitch black!

It feels like all of the strength is leaving my body.

However, I somehow endured it and used wind magic to move from there.

Shit, I was hit with the breath!

I'm sure my level was decreased.

But, there doesn't seem to be any damage other than that.

Even if I get hit by it consecutively, I should be fine as long as my level remains above this guy right?

"Master!!"

Angela's scream entered my ears.

I wasn't sure if it completely understand until now but with this it's definitely realized that there's multiple of us.

Leaving me behind as I fire off spells at it the Shadow Dragon started charging towards the direction I came from where Angela is.

Ah~, damn it!

I stab the spear into it's body and cling onto it.

Pay attention over here!

Chapter 328 : Maurso.Angela

Year 7447, Month 12, Day 16

Gumwu~!!!

Relying on the spear I stabbed into it I was somehow able to cling to the charging Shadow Dragon.

While I'm stuck to you I'll rapid-fire attack spells!

That's what I thought.

With my right hand on the spear and my left hand holding it's dorsal fin, I clamped with both of my legs around it's body but it's body was too thick so there was no helping it.

I mean it's body is close to 2 meters in diameter after all, there's no way my legs would be long enough to get a hold on it.

It couldn't be helped so I tried to lock one of my legs on it's dorsal fins but the vibrations from it's movements were too intense so it was no good.

In the end, I was at my limit with just clinging to it with my arms so I'm not thrown off like goldfish poop.

Obviously there's nothing I could do about using something like the {Arrow.Of.Blindness} stuck in the back of my belt.

If I were to let go with either of my hands I'd be thrown off.

The vibrations are huge because it's crawling across the ground and as expected I can't concentrate to control my mana in this sort of

situation to attack use some kind of attack spell.

I'm positioned behind one of it's wings so at least the wing is knocking away tree branches.

After charging for a short while the Shadow Dragon stopped and started looking around the area.

Did it lose sight of Angela?

A chance!

Even though I'm stuck this close to it, if it's right now when it's not moving then..!

Since it still has remaining uses on it's {Magic.Resistance}, attack spells with fire normal bullets are no good.

I start controlling my mana for my certain kill attack spell.

But, in that moment the Shadow Dragon stopped looking for Angela and seemed to remember that I was clinging onto the middle of it's body.

I could tell the Shadow Dragon started curving it's body.

I guess it's trying to knock me off with it's tail.

No, it's not!

It flew up!

I frantically cling on it again so I'm not thrown off.

Obviously I cancelled the magic.

The reason why I can control mana while enduring pain or taking action in the middle of combat is because I'm consciously moving my body.

It's completely different from this situation where I have to adjust my body weight to match with it's movements and hold on so I'm not throw off without knowing which direction it'll move next.

About the only magic I could use is the basic elemental magic in it's base form.

But you know.

I thought something like this might happen so there's an incantation I desperately learned.

"Gafuto.mosurazuku.gevuanikkumiru.hakuzatorimi.miru.goru.kirumu.inremo~to

It's a spell to shoot five {Ice Javelins}!

..It seems it was no good...

I guess it was blocked by {Minor.Globe.Of.Invulnerability}.

After all level 3 doesn't seem to work...

If it's much higher level then the incantation gets considerably long.

Even then it's not as though I can't remember it and I actually have but I'll definitely fail partway through in this situation.

I was feeling pretty nervous about just failing the incantation just now while I was saying it.

I don't have any intention of calling it miraculous but in terms of failure and success it's about a 50/50 chance.

In order to use a higher level attack spell it requires chanting an

incantation about three times longer with a fixed rhythm in a

pre-decided period of time.

Impossible right.

Owa!!

I've been flipped upside down!

Maybe I should just let go of the spear and quickly use an attack spell then use wind magic to attempt a soft-landing...

Impossible!

Definitely impossible!

First I don't have any leeway in my altitude.

Right now it's at best 20~30 meters high.

It should be at least possible to fire off an attack spell while I'm

falling but after that before I can use something like wind magic I'd die from the crash landing.

Like I could survive being smashed into the ground from this height!

Even if I'm fortunate enough to have tree branches cushion my fall I'd be lucky if I just end up with heavy injuries.

I might be able to at least shave down it's {Magic.Resistance} but while I'm trying to control my mana to heal myself I'd end up being swallowed and it's over.

Using wind magic first to breakaway and then using an attack right after might be possible but there's no way the

Shadow Dragon would just quietly watch until I use the attack spell.

Either it'll bite at me or it'll use it's breath and my attack spell will fail.

The best I could manage is using wind magic once more and somehow aiming to land.

However.

I suddenly saw something being clutched in the front claws of the Shadow Dragon.

..That is!

A portion of rubber protectors!

A spaulder!?

Or is it a cuirass?

My rubber protectors are alright so I realized it naturally must belong to

someone else.

If it's not mine then there's no one else who it can be but Angela.

Worrying about her safety I looked up(ground) and saw a person collapsed on the ground.

It's not a dragonian.

It's Angela who's rubber protectors were torn off!

I guess her helmet was knocked off as well because her face is completely exposed.

Hidden in the trees I could only see her from above the chest.

But, there's no way I'd mistake my slave!

I felt like time had stopped.

Angela's eyes are closed and she's not moving.

Her retriever shaped ears looked appeared strangely vivid to me.

..Congratulations, master!..

The time when we discovered a {Magical.Weapon} when just the two of us were clearing through the dungeon and she made a pleased face with her tail waving as if it was about herself...

Angela's eyes are closed and she isn't moving.

Instantly I started to get pissed off.

This bastard, to Angela!

Angela looks as if she's dead.

But, I might still be able to save her.

Hurry! If it isn't instant death, if she's still alive I can save her!

In the first place if I keep holding onto this Shadow Dragon it'll just smash me into the ground.

I intend to aim for an altitude of 5~6 meters and use wind magic to escape.

After making up my mind I let go of the spear..!

"Uoooo~!!!"

I use wind magic and attempt a soft landing.

I somehow managed to land while getting caught up in branches.

With a furious dash I run towards the direction Angela is...

Ange..laaaa~~!!!"

I shout her name with a loud voice while running.

Don't die on me yet!

Bang!

At almost the same time as I shouted I heard a gunshot..from a bit behind me.

Eh? A gunshot?

She was alive!?

I was relieved.

"Yes!!"

Angela replied from behind me..Huh?

Dooooo~~n!!!"

Along with an earth quake the Shadow Dragon threw itself against the ground.

If I had remained holding onto it I would have been flattened about now.

Putting that aside why...

The one hiding behind a tree trunk is the Angela laying over there.
I can see the side of her face.

"Did you call for me, master!"

The one who came running over towards me from behind is Angela as well.
There's two Angelas....

"Ah, Eh? Over there..."

I point to the collapsed Angela and after arriving by my side Angela saw it and
swallowed her breath.

"Ah..No way, what's collapsed over there should be a monster! I just finished it
off! It isn't me!"

Ah, I forgot to use {Identify}.

The Angela in front of me has the same info as usual.

And then the collapsed Angela is...

..

Female/19/6/7440.Seibaku.Dragonian

Condition: Death

Age: 7 Years Old

Level: 18

HP: -23(139) MP: 24(36)

Strength: 32

Speed: 25

Dexterity: 21

Endurance: 23

Special Skill: Clone Body

Special Skill: Earth Magic Lv. 3

Special Skill: Water Magic Lv. 3

Special Skill: Fire Magic Lv. 3

Special Skill: Void Magic Lv. 5

So it was a dragonian.

It must be the special skill {Clone Body}.

"..It's fine as long as you're alright. Hide and move while continuing to fire, go"

"Yes!!"

However, for me to be so upset that I would forget to use {Identify}.

Rather~ even though she's supposed to be an disposable combat slave what in the world was I doing...

Angela started making some distance.

The Shadow Dragon has already realized I've separated from it and is holding it's head up to search for me.

I was found right away.

Shortly after a breath is flying..or not, it's an attack spell!

I use wind magic to dash in a direction I had decided on beforehand and..it's got missile attached, shit!!

It was my limit using {Anti-Magic Field} to offset the {Stone Trebuchet(?) Missile}.

On the verge of it firing it's attack spell I caught a glimpse of the

{Spear.Of.Piercing} still stabbed into it.

Ah, I forgot to tell Angela to leave behind {Flame.Tongue}.

The only weapon I have now is my knife but..I had the {Arrow.Of.Blindness} as well.

In any case I'll stab this into it!

The one magic arrow that I had in the back of my belt.

I hold it properly in my right hand and head towards the Shadow Dragon.

The Shadow Dragon has started firing attack spells consecutively.

Because of that I was at my limit using {Anti-Magic Field} to offset them so I couldn't move forward much at all.

Not to mention this dragon, it's considerably used to using magic and doesn't even need 1 second to concentrate.

Particularly it's usage of attack spells it's considerably proficient.

It hasn't used a single shot with the method of just aiming for firing it over the shortest distance.

It's making full use of the fact that missile is added to them.

A huge stone spear was fired from the brow of the dragon.

I can't tell if it's got missile added this time but I still have to deal with it.

However, it wasn't a missile.

I shift my body from the line of attack and this time for a sure counteratta..no good huh?

In the intervals between using attack spells the dragon is crawling around with it's large body and knocking down trees so the footing is getting worse.

There's trees collapsed on each other in the directions it's easy for me to escape.

It couldn't be helped so I dashed in the opposite direction and thinking to evade

a blow with it's tail I cancel my {Anti-Magic Field} to use wind magic.

Of course even I'm firing off several attack spells into it in the time between.
There should only be 4 remaining uses on it's {Magic.Resistance}.

If I use one of my more proficient attack spells with multiple bullets then it should come with some change after shaving it off.

Angela is backing me up with the rifle as well.

With several seconds in between gunshots ring out and there's gradually injuries increasing on the dragon's face.

Of course damage as well.

HP: 10622(11446) MP: 142(335)

Roughly 100 damage per shot.

Though it's enchanted with magic, in the end it's just a small bullet.

A pea-shooter I guess.

If I don't do a lot more damage then I can't break it's concentration to use magic.

Judging from the damage I guess it feels kind of like having a needle stabbed into your face.

It seems to be pretty irritated.

And then I managed to succeed in getting it to consume quite a bit of MP in the battle up to here.

Come on, use even more!

A gunshot rings out.

Luckily it seems to have hit right when it was in the middle of concentrating to use magic.

Nice Angela!

Also, it seems Angela has taken quite a bit of distance.

Alright!

With this I can use magic without hesitation.

Until now Angela was around so I didn't even consider it.

Earth magic, level 9 MAX!

In any case I put the highest priority on the speed of manifesting it so it was impossible to specify the range or shape.

Of course I didn't specify a multiplier either, or rather even the short period of time it takes is a waste.

I simply started creating dirt centering from in front of my open hand.

Even that was just sending out huge globes and flying dirt centering around with my hand.

However, the amount is the amount you know?

Even if it has {Magic.Resistance}..!

Shortly after thinking that the dirt appeared in the air almost like a half spherical carpet it started to scatter as it fell.

Level 9 MAX earth magic is amazing.

The radius of the dirt that appeared was over 60 meters!

Though I don't think much of it has appeared behind me.

But, with this amount no matter how fast it is as crawling along the ground it can't run..What..

The moment the first pile of dirt falling touched the Shadow Dragon..all of the dirt disappeared!

Is this, {Magic.Resistance}?

It can't be {Minor.Globe.Of.Invulnerability} right?

It's level 9 MAX magic after all.

In a hurry I use {Identify} and it was {Special Skill: {Magic.Resistance 3}}.

Ah, I'll shave it with this, no, I guess it's just a matter of time before it's buried

to death.

Then one more shot!

Without a moments hesitation this time I used water and fire magic to freeze it! Since it's crawling along the ground the water welling up from below should quickly make conta..shit, it flew.

But, I don't know if the water came into contact with it or not because the ice didn't manifest.

I guess it succeeded in shaving down it's {Magic.Resistance}.

It can't be helped if it flies.

Next time is earth magic once more..Wh~ut!?

The Shadow Dragon used it's characteristic super speed flight to escape from the effective range in no time at all.

Let alone burying it just scratching it's tail was the best I could manage.

Though I'm not sure if I actually even scratched it or not.

Ah, since the dirt spewing from the air has disappeared so I guess it scratched it.

So my specialty burial is no good either...

Just from judging with my eyes it seems to have gone to a distance about 3

km away from here in less a minute so just as expected of boasting it's high speed, burying it seems impossible whether it be dirt or ice.

Honestly speaking I thought it would take more time to accelerate but I guess I was too naive.

Of course, it doesn't seem like it suddenly reach it's top speed either but I'm in awe over it's motorbike-level of rapid acceleration.

Even though I intended that to be a certain kill move.

The Shadow Dragon started twisting it's body while still flying and with an abnormal speed switched directions.

A short moment of stiffness.

An attack spell!!

Bang!

A gunshot echoed out.

No~ Angela, that was really nice timing!

I use {Stone Light Catapult Missile} towards the dragon that just had it's spell cancelled..

Shit, it's breath!

Using wind magic to blow myself away and evade it is first.

I cancel my attack spell and..Eh...

I thought the Shadow Dragon shortened it's body for a moment to spit it's breath but, it seems it was different.

After returning it's body and it came flying over at a furious speed like a spring!

And to a different direction from where I am!

This is bad, so it's aiming for Angela!!?

"Gwau!!"

The Shadow Dragon bit into Angela with the end of it's mouth.

With it biting around her stomach, her legs and upper body are sticking out from both edges of it's mouth!

..Umm, master. This, it's insignificant but..No, since I happened to profit..that is, it's a bit of my feelings of gratitude..

The sight of Angela smiling at me flashed through my mind.

Like I'd let my allies get killed right in front of me!

A consumable?

Like I care!

"Maruso!!!"

Chapter 329 : Counterattack

Year 7447, Month 12, Day 16

Dwo~~n!!

The Shadow Dragon which charged into the ground to try and bite Angela to death lost a lot of it's momentum from the ground.

And then it quickly changed directions while still biting Angela and it ended up facing off against me.

My vision narrows to the point where you'd think my eyes are going bad and I can only see Angela being held in the Shadow Dragon's mouth.

The Shadow Dragon leisurely raised it's head.

Angela is laying face up with her head on the right side from where it's biting and there's no spaulder on her left shoulder from where I can see.

It's probably the one it was holding in it's claws earlier.

She, must have dodged the charge of the dragon with a paper thin difference.

Angela is moving as she's still being held in it's mouth at a height of about 6~7 meters.

She's still alive!

I use wind magic against my back and rapidly accelerate towards Angela.

Rather than an attack spell I need to use a healing spell while she's still alive and

probably {Cure All} or {Regenerate} is necessary.

I don't have the time to take off my left glove so right before using wind magic I used fire magic to burn it and expose my hand.

I'll burn my hand like that?

It's just for a short while so it's nothing big, it doesn't matter at all.

A burn of this level, it's nowhere near an obstruction to my mental concentration!

I activate {Identify} to check her condition..Eh!?

Angela used her free left hand to pull out {Flame.Tongue} which she had on her left hip!

"Emeron!"

Angela shouted the command word.

The blade of the sword was surrounded by flames.

At the same time she thrust it into the tip of the shadow Dragon's nose!

But, in the first place why was she able to pull out the sword?

It seems to have been firmly biting down on her.

No, she is being bitten down on.

Her waist? No, it's fangs are stabbing into her stomach and she's completely bleeding out!

The Shadow Dragon didn't seem to falter from the blow with {Flame.Tongue} and started putting more power into it's jaw.

However, I don't know why but it doesn't seem to be able to close it's mouth beyond a certain point.

Another 20 meters ahead until I reach Angela.

Ah..is she using the rifle to block it's mouth!?

She's holding that and propping it up so she can't use her right hand!?

I guess from the dragons point of view it's like having a metal toothpick stabbed into it's mouth...

But, that itself can't be considered fatal.

The {Flame.Tongue} the prey in it's mouth is swinging around is considerably more lethal.

In that case it should just spit her out..I guess that's my hopeful thinking.

Another 10 meters.

"Gaha!!"

Angela spit out blood and continues swinging the sword with a smile on her face for some reason.

But, she can't seem to gather any strength so it's just like she's punching it with it.

Ah, I guess rather than hitting with it she's trying to stab {Flame.Tongue} in further.

Ah!!?

Seeing that I was charging over the Shadow Dragon didn't make the mistake of just waiting for me as it tilted it's head just before I was about to reach Angela and had me fly past.

Since I was flying I was trying to concentrate as much as possible to use the spell {Regenerate}(I'm not used to it so it takes some time) as I used wind magic to adjust my position to touch Angela as best as I could.

But, it was too slow.

I passed her about 2 meters to the side...!?

"..You called me by my name for the first time!"

Angela shouted while hitting it with the sword.

Shit!!

Even then I used wind magic once more to try and touch Angela.

It seems Angela noticed me as she stopped hitting with {Flame.Tongue} and stretched her hand out to me.

She's gritting her teeth with a crying smile on her face.

I stretch out my hand towards Angela...

Crunchcrunchsnap!!!

The Shadow Dragon finally succeeded in closing it's mouth.

In front of my eyes Angela's upper body was bit in half from around the chest.

The right hand she had stuck further into it's mouth to prop up the rifle was bit off as well.

Most likely her lower body as well...

I stretch out my hands to Angela as she's falling and used wind magic once more to chase her.

In the past I've read something about it before.

Supposedly people are still conscious for a few seconds after being decapitated.

In that case, I should still be able to make it in time!

If I immediately use {Regenerate} on all of her vital organs including the heart, then consecutively use {Cure All}..!

Of course, since I have no leeway to use wind magic I'm sure I'll smash into the ground but if I skillfully cover Angela then as long as I don't fall head first I won't die instantly.

If I don't die instantly then I can manage it!

However.

Goa!!!

After reopening it's mouth the Shadow Dragon changed directions in the air and caught me.

Those large atrocious fangs that just split Angela's upper body and lower body in half caught me in it's jaw.

While I had my head facing downwards and was following after Angela I was swallowed feet first.

Angela continued falling to the ground while her blood and organs scattered around.

Shittt~~!!!

In front of my eyes it's jaw closes.

I reflexively grabbed out for {Flame.Tongue} which she had stabbed into it's nose.

Not just with the left hand I was stretching out but I wanted to secure the sword with both of my hands.

{Flame.Tongue} is still covered in flames.

My left hand touched somewhere on the sword and I felt the heat from the flames.

However, the jaw was closed and my left arm was bitten off.

No, I guess my right hand as well.

I heard the same sound of the ebonite armor being crushed as when it bit through Angela's body as it bit through the gauntlets on both of my arms.

Quite literally I had both of my arms bitten off from the middle of my arms. I barely have them remaining below the elbows.

An intense pain runs through them and at the same time everything in front me turned pitch black as the Shadow Dragon closed it's mouth.
Because of that I couldn't see where Angela hit the ground.

It's just fortunate that I didn't have my head bitten off but it's still a desperate situation.

..Or maybe not.

It hurts considerably but it seems adrenaline and endorphins are pumping so for me who practiced healing spells while injuring myself when I was kid it's not much at all...

..Though what hurts still hurts.

It's my first time losing a part of my body as well.

I'd like to start by using {Regenerate} but right now the first priority is escaping from here.

I can feel a lukewarm wet and at the same time rough unpleasant sensation on my face.

Conveniently the Shadow Dragon's {Magic.Resistance} should already have no uses remaining or at best be 1 or 2.

Guwu~tto I felt my entire body being raised up.

I guess the dragon raised it's head so it could completely keep me in it's mouth.

I can feel something like a tongue moving to try and swallow me and at the same time the muscles around my legs are tightening as if it's

trying to swallow.

The fact that I was able to get stuck on the remains of the rifle stabbed into it's mouth was of course thanks to my reaction speed but I think a large portion of it is also a luck and a miracle.

However, there wasn't much meaning to it.

The force of the swallowing was strong so it quickly came out...

But, if it's not going to open its mouth then I'll make it open with force!
Of course, I've already resolved for the first one or two shots to end up pointless.

{Stone Cannon}!

Since I don't have any hands I concentrate around my brow to activate the spell..I can't control my mana?

Calm down.

I'm just temporarily stunned after seeing that happen to Angela in front of me and unable to concentrate!

And there's the sharp pain running through both of my missing arms.

Once more!

In the first place, the pain I'm feeling should be nowhere near what Angela is feeling!

Swallowing me as I was trying to save Angela who was bitten in half, that I would experience the mummy-taker becoming the mummy in person.

..Though if things continue like this I'll be eaten as well.

I won't let that happen.

Alright, I start controlling my mana again.

Let's go!

I calm down and once more.

{Stone Cannon}!

..And just as I thought that it was cancelled.

Even if {Magic.Resistance} is remaining it's still possible to shave that down.

But, what's next after {Magic.Resistance} disappears is?

Obviously I use once more shot.

The spell bullets appearing from my head have a weak momentum at first. Though I say that they're still reasonably powerful so in the worst case I'll open it's mouth..No, right now it should be possible to tear it's

throat(?).

But at moment, what would happen to my head?

If I get stuck between the spell bullet and it's esophagus...

I still have my helmet on but it's not even a consolation.

In that case what about directly using elemental magic?

In the worst case, using earth magic, water magic, or maybe even fire or wind magic might work.

The amount of the element created is massive.

Whether it's a dragon or whatever else if that were to suddenly appear in it's body it should rupture right!

And then, my head will probably be crushed stuck between my magic and the inner barrier of the dragon.

..In the first place I can't see anything.

Even if I were to use it a small amount would appear and then it would end.

It's fine to use it after casting {Light} but sooner or later the amount I make will probably still crush me in the end.

There's also the possibility of wind magic but I feel like the pressure would pop my eardrums and crush my body which is probably weaker than the

dragon's organs first...

Using {Identify} to figure out it's weakness..!

I can't imagine any future other than suffocating while I'm reading it.

Wait!

Wind magic, air..if it opens it's mouth then it might not rupture but even if it

doesn't it should do quite a bit of damage, and I'll be able to breath..
Ah, on top of that..!

I immediately put in practice what I was thinking.

First off I used {Identify}, then after seeing the visor of my helmet with that I use {Light}.

After securing my vision I use wind magic!

Level 6 or so should be plenty.

I feel like it might be a bit too much but if it's blocked my

{Minor.Globe.Of.Invulnerability} then there's no meaning after all.

I resolved to abandon my ear drums.

I bent my raised arms to try and make the space in front of my face even just a bit bigger.

Alright.

I use wind magic.

Bago!! along with a sound like that my ears popped.

I closed my eyes the moment I use the magic so I don't think there was much damage to them.

But, it doesn't do any significant damage.

It must still have some {Magic.Resistance} remaining.

I check it and with this the remaining uses is 0.

Alright, let's go!

I use wind magic again this time.

But, you can slowly use elemental magic you know.

In the past, I made ice slowly fall out in front of Kuro and Mary before and you already know about when searching for pitfalls on the 3rd floor I would slowly create water using water magic right?

Gugwutto the entirety of the esophagus swells up.

I inhale the dry air while creating more air at a fixed speed.

It's esophagus gradually swells up as it becomes necessary to spread my legs to support myself.

And then that time came along right away.

Goooe...and the Shadow Dragon burped.

Immediately the air pressure dropped.

I look up and see a small amount of light other than my {Light}.

But, even then I don't loosen my hand.

I thought about using {Air Blade} but I remembered something like that won't kill it unless I use it a number of times so just as originally planned I made more air.

Since it has it's mouth open it doesn't seem like it's esophagus will expand anymore than this.

I slowly take a deep breath.

I continue my wind magic and crouch over with both of my legs almost horizontal.

The entire body of the dragon is largely tilted so I can feel the fall.

It must be painful.

I felt that it landed right away.

Now!

I stop using wind magic and started controlling my mana to use a different spell.

Gu...

I practiced it quite a bit but it still takes close to 5 seconds to complete.

Additionally there's the pain and physical shock from both of my arms being

severed so it feels like it's taking forever for this kind of complex spell to complete...

Jakin!

With my head as the center several tens of magic sword appeared!

The {Blade.Barrier} that I just learned from Mila-shisho several months ago let's out a roar as it revolves and begins cutting through the pink

colored wall of flesh in front of me.

Die!

Chapter 330 : Battle Is Over

Year 7447, Month 12, Day 16

Zaku!!

Zakuzaku!!

The magic long swords let out a roar while revolving around my surroundings. At first I thought that several of the swords would get caught in the

esophagus and felt chills for a moment thinking they would stop.

But, being sliced consecutively by several tens of long sword the wounds were gradually cut open.

Even the long swords that were blocked from spinning gradually seemed to regain their power as they switched to attacking again.

The attacks from the magic long swords turned the Shadow Dragon's esophagus into tatters in no time at all.

The Shadow Dragon is roaring in pain so loudly that I want to block my ears. Of course I don't have any arms below the elbows so I can't block them though.

And then soon after the muscles and nerves further in it's esophagus as well as it's trachea and such were all cut apart in no time at all.

The roaring of the Shadow Dragon gradually got smaller together with that and finally it went silent.

"Aaaaaa~~!!!"

Along with that momentum I cut off it's neck or body or whatever that was torn to pieces.

I quickly wanted to use {Identify} to confirm that it was dead but if it isn't dead it would be bad so I continued to attack the opening of it's wound until the duration of {Blade.Barrier} ended..

Huh?

The magic long sword stopped attacking the dragon.

This spell, was supposed to automatically attack though...

Ah, so it died!

There's still some time remaining on the effect but I cancelled the {Blade.Barrier} and used {Identify} to confirm it's death.

I look around the surroundings.

It seems we moved a bit away from where I was swallowed.

"Angela~~!!!"

I shout my loyal combat slaves name with a loud voice.

"Where are you~~~!!!"

I didn't even have the composure to confirm if the lightning bolt cage had disappeared at that time.

Well, it had disappeared though.

Before I realized the lightning bolt cages from both the 12th and 13th floors had disappeared.

I don't know how long I searched.

I'm sure it wasn't long before the pain in my arms returned me to reality though.

I sit on the ground and calmly used the spell {Regenerate}.

First off is my right hand.

A dark red lump starts protruding out from the cross-section where my arm was bitten off.

Most of my arms length had returned.

But, it's still not done.

I use {Regenerate} even more.

My right hand which was like a flesh club gradually became flat.

And then every time I use the spell something like small flesh sprouts grow outwards.

In the end I was able to confirm that all of my fingers grew back.

When I was about to switch to my left hand I realized I had already used quite a bit of my concentration.

If it's during combat then I'd do it frantically but since I'm a lot less tense I somehow was still able to manage it several tens of times.

But, I guess from losing the tension with the lack of threats in the

surroundings, it becomes even more difficult to concentrate and use it

consecutively.

When I was a kid I tried various things to use a lot of MP all at once but this was the reason for it.

..Even then I was able to grow all five of my fingers back on my left hand as well.

On my right hand even the regeneration of the skin is finished and there's a bit of hair growing out so it's recovered to where you can't tell it apart from the previous one.

Without waiting for the recovery of my left hand I stood up and started searching for Angela again.

I found Angela shortly after.

"Angela.."

No matter how I look at it she's dead.
She doesn't have anything below her chest.
Her right arm was bitten off from above the elbow.
But, there's not a scratch on her face.

Even though she fell from that height...
I guess because her body weight is several times less...
Or maybe thanks to her helmet.

I fall to my knees by her side and closed her eyes while taking off her helmet.
She still has a bit of warmth remaining in her body but it's clear she's beyond that point where I can do anything.

"Angela..You did a good job. You fought well. You are.."

I suddenly stop.
There's a bit more remaining on the left side of the wound to her chest and I can see something what looks like her magic stone.
If I were to carefully carry her like this it might fall out along the
way. I checked the surroundings and found her lower body, there was
still a knife on her thigh.

Since my knife disappeared off to somewhere I took out her knife and carefully took out her magic stone.
Strangely I didn't shed any tears.

After finishing up to there I suddenly noticed my own appearance and made a bitter smile.
I'm way beyond worn out as I'm covered in the dragon's blood and saliva.
It's truly annoying but I should at least pour some water over myself.

I pour some water over myself with my armor still on and wash away the saliva. Losing my mental vitality while my arms have been restored every time my heart beats the pain from them being bitten off causes me to feel dizzy.

Ah, I guess I should cast healing spells on them...

I still have quite a bit of MP remaining but I wonder about my HP?

..78 remaining I guess. It's been a while since I was pushed this far.

Ah, my level went up.

Hn? Since I was hit by {Energy.Drain.Breath} in the end I guess my level went up by 2...

It had a mountain of HP and it's level was high as well after all. It even had a lot of special skills and above all for it's magic skills to be

MAX...

I guess it doesn't matter.

First off is recovery.

After that, I need to return to where everyone is...

It's troublesome but I want to do something about this pain.

I use healing spells consecutively and completely erased the remaining pain.

And then I put Angela's magic stone into the survival kit I have attached to my waist and stood up.

Ah, that's right.

What about that dragonian that had become Angela's corpse?

I searched around the area and after going back to the mountain climbing path I found the naked body of Angela that caused me to misunderstand
the first time.

If I remember right it was a Seibaku.Dragonian.

..After all that was the case.

The {Special Skill: Clone{Dead Body}} let's it take the shape of either the person who killed it or the last person it killed. The duration is the same number of

hours as it's level.

Furthermore, I figured out that when the dragonians die they either turn to stone, melt into poison gas, or in the worst case blow up.

What troublesome things...

Ah, that's right.

I need to return to where the dragon was again...

It would be good if I can at least get a hint on how to escape from that panic though...

And I need to recover {Flame.Tongue} and the {Spear.Of.Piercing} as well...

.....

"Hie..hie~"

When I returned to where everyone was Miduchi was still in a state of panic sobbing to herself as she had her sword drawn.

Even after realizing that I was the one approaching she didn't let go of the scimitar tightly gripped in her hand.

After hugging and talking to her she seems to have calmed down a bit and finally sat down.

Everyone else was more or less the same, I had no way of helping them.

I guess it helps just that they barely didn't recognize me as an enemy.

You could say Miduchi was a bit better off just being able to stand on guard with her sword.

Incidentally, when I read it from the status of the dragon it seems that it stacked

{Special Skill: Howl.Type III} on top of {Special Skill: Fear.Aura.Type II}. According to that even the faster people(higher level) to

recover would take at least almost a full day. The slower ones(lower level) could take up to a day and a half so I had no choice but to leave them like this.

Eh? Of course, I tried doing everything I could. But, none of the spells I know were effective.

Since the {Identify} window that appears in my eyes is written in Japanese all of their {Condition} fields say {Panic}.

If it was in English or the {Common.Language} then I feel like it would be written in a different way.

Since the {Condition} of {Fear} is strange in Japanese after all... It must be grouping both {Fear} and {Panic} together as {Panic}.

I checked the time on the clock Zenom was holding and it's only been about an hour since we first heard the {Howl} of the dragon. I feel like I was fighting for a lot longer but I guess that's about it.

It couldn't be helped so I went back up the mountain again and froze the dragon's head in a large piece of ice that wouldn't melt very easily. Next I checked inside of it's body and searched for Angela's abdomen. The crushed and broken rifle I shot into pieces with {Stone Cannon} and threw away.

In regards to the dragonian's corpses I gathered what I could together and then froze them so they wouldn't rot as well.

Since they explode, turn to stone, or become poison gas it was too

troublesome to search for the magic stones so I just left them alone. Additionally, I discovered my right hand but it's not like there was anything I

could do with it after collecting it so I just burnt it using the spell

{Flame.Thrower}.

I wanted to give Angela a burial on the surface so I recovered all of her remains and froze them.

I thought about returning above to where Giberuti was waiting but it would take several hours to make a round trip and in the worst case if monsters attack during that time then I feel like even a single goblin could wipe everyone out.

It couldn't be helped so I continued to wait near everyone.

.....

Year 7447, Month 12, Day 17

Close to the evening Miduchi, Zulu, Zenom, Ralpha, Toris, and Bel regained themselves in that order.

Each of them came to apologize for being useless.

But, it couldn't be helped so even if it bothers them it's troubling.

"It can't be helped so even if you let it bother you at this point there's no way of recovering from it. Rather than that, I'd prefer if you level up so nothing like this happens again."

After I said that they made apologetic faces.

I just told them not to worry about it but I guess this can't be helped.

"Where's Maruso?"

Miduchi asked.

I lowered my head with my legs still crossed and let out sight before taking Angela's magic stone out of my survival kit and just replying, "She's here."

Everyone was shocked at this and kept silent.

Miduchi and Ralpa stretched out their trembling hands to check the status of the magic stone.

"Dear..that hand..."

Miduchi was surprised after noticing that my hand seemed unnatural. It seems everyone noticed it.

"Yeah, it was bitten off by the dragon. Soon after that I used the spell {Regenerate} to restore it so there's no problem. Though my gauntlet is already completely useless.."

I replied while putting away Angela's magic stone and gave out a new order to everyone who's probably shocked.

"Angela's corpse is frozen up there near the corpse of the dragon. Putting aside the dragon, there was a number of dragonians that are like the children of dragons and humans together with them so first gather the magic stones from them."

Even if it's insignificant I pushed a job onto them as it's necessary to focus on

something else.

Miduchi who was on her knees in front of me holding my hand stood up and said, "Everyone, let's go."

..Yeah, I leave it to you.

Shortly after the six of them went up the mountain Kamu, Rokko, Gwine, and Basutorial started to wake up from the panic as well.

Just the same they came to apologize for being useless but I drove them away saying to quickly go up and help with gathering the magic stones.

..Putting that aside, exactly how many hours are they going to take to gather the magic stones from the dragonians?

I put them all together so they stand out so there's no way they could have missed them.

Since Miduchi is there it shouldn't have taken much work for her to remove the ice as well.

Though a bit of it was shaved off with the {Howl} she's long since recovered all of her MP.

Kuro and Mary regained themselves.

In terms of time it's already close to midnight.

The surroundings are the same brightness as usual though.

"Al..Sorry."

"I'm sorry.."

The two of them are embarrassed about being useless today so they came to apologize to me.

Just the same as the others I told them that we lost Angela so there's probably that as well.

However, that~ wasn't their fault.

It's no one's responsibility other than my own.

If I think back on it now I'm glad I had left the {Loincloth.Of.Daring} for evaluation.

If he still had that then there's a good chance I would have even lost Zulu.

In that sort of meaning you could say we defeated the dragon with the least sacrifice.

..Gaining the title of {Dragon.Slayer} in exchange for a single combat slave isn't that great.

Right~ Angela...

..Damn it.

Several tens of minutes after the three of us started going up the path. We ran into everyone who was in the middle of working.

Everyone was praising the dragon for it's size and the huge pure white magic stone they took from it.

The magic stone wasn't as large as I thought it would be.

The value when using {Identify} is 1,234,567 so even selling it's about 10,000,000 I guess.

It's outstanding for the value of a single magic stone but I feel like it's a bit of a disappointment as well.

But, judging from the numbers lined up there's no mistake it's the magic stone of a floor guardian.

..These fellows, so they were spending time tearing off the scales from the dragon?

Angela's corpse is still frozen.

I sat down by it's side and watched as they continued to peel off the scales.

Chapter 331 : Acquisition

Year 7447, Month 12, Day 17

The dragonian

that was disguised as Angela had changed back to the corpse of a dragonian before anyone realized it after a day. I guess that means it's disguise was peeled?

Everyone was working energetically.

They formed into small groups and were cooperating to pull the scales off from the dragon's corpse.

It seems you need quite a bit of strength to pull the scales off.

Just from watching I can tell it's quite the difficult job.

Everyone seems to think it's their fault they couldn't participate in the combat and because of that we didn't have enough forces so Angela died.

Whether that thought is correct or incorrect there's no way of knowing now.

Whatever the case it's something that's already happened so we can't turn back time.

Since I'm just silently sitting on a rock while looking at everyone with dispirited eyes they might be feeling pressured.

They're continuing with the work without saying a thing.

It was too troublesome to dig through Zenom's bags to confirm the time so I don't know exactly how long I was sitting here but shouldn't it be

about 2 or 3 hours?

I look at the ice to the side of the rock.

Angela has her eyes closed as if she's sleeping inside of a transparent and frozen coffin.

It's probably because I'm like this that everyone is giving off a depressing atmosphere.

Things are no good like this.

Ever since they recovered from their trembling state it's been over a full day since even the quicker ones have eaten anything.

I just let everyone eat the hardtack we had at that time.

Since they haven't eaten more than the bare minimum everyone is probably feeling considerably hungry.

"Hey, it's about time for us to eat. You're hungry right?"

I stand up from the stone and consciously speak with a cheerful voice.

Since I called out to them everyone gathered together and started eating hardtack.

I guess the fact that my atmosphere changed was conveyed to them or they're just paying mind to me, Zenom started talking to me in a cheerful way.

"Hey~ Al. It must have been a considerable challenge to take this thing down right? Tell me about."

I was waiting for it.

"Yeah, just listen. Angela was amazing. Even after being bitten by the dragon she still kept swinging the sword.."

I told them everything about defeating the dragon and put plenty of appeal on Angela's efforts.

The fact that I couldn't deal any major damage to the dragon with attack spells because they were blocked by it's special skill.

The fact that I stabbed it once with the spear while Angela shot it several tens of times with the rifle and blocked it's concentration every time

interfering with it's spells from activating.

Just like that she took the dragon's focus away from me and became the decoy herself.

..And then, the fact that she died in front of my eyes.

I wanted to tell them about how heroically she fought.

By the time my story was finished everyone was looking at Angela sleeping inside of the ice.

Jesu who pissed himself after just hearing the dragon's roar from the distance was even looking at her with reverence.

That's fine. Just keep up like that.

.....

After our meal we spent almost a full day to tear off all of the scales of

the dragon while fearing the respawn of the dragon and dragonians.

Miduchi was successfully able to collect the heart as well.

On my end with this I could say we were able to achieve most of the objectives but there's still things remaining.

There's two things we have to do before returning.

One of them doesn't even need to be said investigating the gathering terminal and denaturation device.

The other one is searching through the dragon's nest(According to Miduchi most dragons spend their time sleeping in nests and collect treasures centered on shiny objects).

Sorry for getting straight to the physical evidence but I decided to first try searching the nest.

Ah, so we didn't make the same mistake as last time we split up the scales based on the sizes and then froze them once more before placing them beside the dragon.

For the time being the only monsters we've seen on this floor other than the dragon are the dragonians which we believe to be the floor guardians for the 12th floor.

But, there's no guarantee that there aren't any others so we can't let our guards down.

It was just as everyone was getting excited and ready to run straight to the summit of the mountain.

Ralpa started talking to Miduchi.

Probably because the atmosphere was heavy until now so she was hesitating to whisper.

"Hey, Miduchi. Can dragons be eaten?"

"I've heard about things like dragon steak and such.."

Heh~ Well it does have the feel of a reptile so if you wanted to eat it should be edible.

"Oh! Steak is it. Cook a bit of it for me."

Rokko who had already stood up ran straight over towards the dragon's corpse. I guess he means to cut off a bit of meat and have Miduchi cook it for him.

"Wait just a moment, stop that. Something like dragon meat there's no way of knowing whether it's safe or not.."

Kamu told him off but Rokko continued cutting off some meat without minding it.

Miduchi glanced at me so I nodded once to her and then she approached to use

{Flame Thrower} on the meat he had stabbed into the end of his sword. Of course, when he cut it off and brought it over I already finished using {Identify} so I've confirmed there's no poison.

"Don't worry about it, first off let Rokko try eating a bit of it. It's true that we're lacking in food after all."

"I guess so. If half a day passes and nothing happens then it should be fine."

"Hey Rokko. Make sure you only eat a single bite."

Kevin, Jeru, and Kimu said as if it couldn't be helped.

The things they're saying are quite right as well.

It's obvious that it would take a decent amount of time for searching things. Thinking about our remaining food and we would need to return to the 11th floor

where Giberuti is waiting within the next half a day.

If we can eat the dragon meat then we wouldn't need to worry about food for a short while longer.

Since he wasn't going to eat more than a single bite it seems he cut a smaller portion.

It was grilled right away.

...

While everyone was watching with interest Rokko continued to move his mouth

as he chewed it.

"Hmm. It's not bad. But it feels light and doesn't have much of a flavor."

..If you don't use any salt or pepper then I'd say that's about right.

.....

We took about 2 hours to climb the mountain and found the mouth of a giant cave opened up just before the summit.

Incidentally, the gathering terminal is stabbed in on the other side of the summit from here.

Just in case I sent in Zulu and Jesu to scout things out.

After a short while of hiding in the shadows and waiting the two of them came running over.

"Master!!!"

"There's an extremely large gold nugget!!"

Hohou!

That is~ quite the harvest.

Since it seems there's no monsters hiding in the nest we decided to go take a look.

Lead by the two of them we all moved over to the nest.

The surface of the nest was round and has a diameter of about 10 meters. It was a huge nest the size of the dungeon's halls. And then about 100 meters inside there was a spacious 30~40 meter in diameter room.

Inside of there was, starting with large gold nuggets that could fill both of your arms, a large amount of all sorts of metal clumps sparkling in the light.

Just from using {Identify} at a glance there wasn't very much of precious metals like gold, silver, or platinum.

However, there was things like mithril, blue mithril, orihalcon, gemo.orihacon, adamantite which no matter how you think about it sound precious, as well as tungsten, titanium, gallium, aluminum, chrome, nickel, and molybdenum all of the silver minerals that I'm already familiar with it laying around.

"Oh~"

Someone naturally whispered.

In the next moment everyone raised their voices in excitement.

However, after a short while that quieted down.

There were two reasons.

One is because my combat slaves all said, "All of these treasures belong to master who defeated the dragon. Those who didn't participate in the

combat shouldn't have the right to a cut." and then while I was thinking of about to react Kamu, Kimu, and the other {Saviors} all started agreeing saying, "That's right that's right."

"But, we defeated a lot of monsters up to the 11th floor..And there's this much of it, I

won't even say half so shouldn't you at least split up 20% of it or so?"

And the one who complained like that was Mary but Kevin, Jeru, and Misura all said, "Stop, that's shameful! It's just as Zulu and the others said.

People who weren't able to do anything but trembling don't have the right to claim any of the treasure."

"This time that's the case so give up. There's no problem~ if you just work properly then you can still earn as much as you want."

After I said that taking advantage of Mary's acting and everyone agreed.

"It's just as everyone says, Mary. In the first place we just came together with them up to here. We haven't done anything to help defeat the dragon right."

After Kuro said that Mary reluctantly withdrew.

I wonder how many of them realized that Mary intentionally complained without feeling ashamed?

I can't tell that much but at the very least thanks to Mary everyone gave up on any shameful claims and accepted it on the surface.

I thanked her from the bottom of my heart.

The other reason is because everyone started checking the status of the ores that were sparkling from the {Light} spell.

All of the sparkling metals that were believed to be silver, gold, or platinum were mostly tungsten, chrome, and nickel, which aren't worth much money at all, those took up close to 90% of it, and the precious metals such as those worth money only made up 5% of it.

The remaining 5% was made up of magic metals that while the value on them is

high they take a lot of effort to sell.

"Toris, what's chrome?"

"It's a variety of iron."

"What about Molybdenum?"

"That's a variety of iron as well."

"Then..{Status Open}..Uwa..galli..um is?"

"I guess a type of mercury which is slightly more difficult to melt?"

Toris was saying whatever works. But, he still knows quite a bit so he's already obtained the position of someone who can be relied on.

"Hey Rodrick. Can this aluminum or whatever be sold?"

"It's not the extent of lead but it's a considerably soft metal. A

characteristic of it is that it's comparatively light I guess? It's not something worth very much~"

"That's boring..Oh!!? {Status Open}..Cheh..It's Molybdenum again."

"{Status Open}..Ah, this is platinum!"

"Oh!! It's huge!"

Rodrick was saying whatever as well. But his words felt a bit more kind than Toris.

Right now Miduchi is making a list of all of them.

While we were doing that a single {Magic.Item} was found.
It was an unrefined long sword.

{Dragon.Slayer}

Gemo.Orhalicon Steel

Condition: Normal

Manufacture Date: 15/6/6445

Value: 1

Durability: 278241

Ability: 130-200

Effect: Octuple damage when making attacks against dragons. Also, through using the abilities of the sword, it's possible to select 1 of the following

abilities up to 3 times per 1 month. 1. Negate all effects from any type of breath weapon within three meters of the sword(Duration 1 minute).

2. Negate any spells that attack the user(Duration 1 minute). 3. Gather the attention of all enemy creatures within 5 km of the user(Duration 1 hour). 4. Heal the wounds of the user(However, only applies to external wounds. It doesn't matter how many wounds there are but it only takes effect once).

The emblem of a floor guardian of Baldukk is engraved on the grip.

For some reason the blade is emerald green.

Seeing that Miduchi whispered, "Dorua**" or something like that.

I'm sure she was just trying to say dragon and made a mistake.

Incidentally the scabbard was laying around in a completely different place but the

scabbard had the same emblem carved into it so it probably originally a set with this.

..So this is the 13th floors..Just as I was thinking that.

"Oh!! This is..{Status Open}..Ooh!!?"

It seems Henry found something.

He respectfully handed it over to me.

{Utility.Ring}

Ruby.Gold

Condition: Normal

Manufacture Date: 19/6/6445

Value: 1

Durability: 30

Effect: Recovers 1% of HP every 1 hour. Also, deploys a spell-based defense

layer along the entire body of the user which reduces the penetration of all physical attacks towards the user by 20%. Furthermore the user

won't receive any negative influence from external temperatures. Finally it makes the user extremely difficult to root similar to the

{Freedom.Ring}.

Hmm. This is quite the impressive ring.

..Ah, this is probably the treasure from the floor guardian of the 13th floor

and the long sword is probably the treasure from the 12th floor.

Though I don't know if the dragonains brought along the {Dragon.Slayer} to

attack this floor on the year 6445, month 6, day 19 but in any case that dragon probably killed the dragonian that was equipped with the

{Dragon.Slayer}.

Though I don't know if it was in this place or not.

Judging from the dates, the dragonians probably left the 12th floor several days before that.

I'm sure they can't use the teleport crystal so they probably flew over...

Well, whatever.

Hn?

That is...

It was halfway buried under the metal ores so I didn't notice it until now but I'm sure it's a shrine.

Not to mention it's the huge type like the one on the 8th floor.

I'm curious what's inside of it.
Obviously I tried going beside it.
Though I don't know if the door of the shrine is open or not.
The metal ores are extremely heavy so I'm sure it wouldn't collapse.

I climbed up all at once and went to where the door of the shrine should be.
The door of the shrine wasn't open because the metal ores were in the way.

I called over Zulu and my combat slaves and had them move the metal ores.

There was a single gem-like object in the shrine.

Judging from the shape it almost looks like a magatama.
The size wasn't anything great.
At best about the size of a child's head I guess?
I gently stretched my hand out.

{Gem}

{Agate}

Condition: Normal

Manufacture Date: 16/12/7447

Value: 1

Durability: 10

Hmm.

Since it doesn't have an {Ability} or {Effect} field I guess that means it isn't a {Magic.Item}?

Just in case I tried using {Detect.Magic} but I couldn't feel any mana.

"What's that? Show me."

Ralpha asked so I handed it to her.

"It looks like a {Magatama}."

Miduchi, Bel, Rodrick, and Toris all checked the status and started debating as if they knew about it.

Incidentally the people from Orth just glanced at it and seemed to lose interest. The price of agate changes based on the patterns on it but there's a large difference in price.

However, it's still generally one of the gems with a lower value.

At best you could get a slightly better price for the same weight in base metals.

But, well, there's some room to think about it.

There's a lot of things that come out from shrines which seem to be a miss from a glance.

This is probably one of those as well.

But, it came out from this specially made large shrine.

It's said that George.Rombert the First founded his kingdom from the treasures he obtained in the dungeon.

There's no way you could suddenly found a country from gold, silver, and treasure just 10 people can carry back right.

Even defeating a dragon the amount of precious metal you get has it's limits.

It seems like there's a decent amount of it but even if we were to sell

all of the silver, gold, and platinum here it would at best about

1,000,000,000.

With just that much...

Until Rombert Kingdom was founded supposedly this area was flooded with self-governed territories run by small lords.

He must have found something that let him bring them all together.

.....

Year 7447, Month 12, Day 18

After that we continued searching and found a hallway further inside of the large room.

Since the hallway was buried in metal ores as well it took us a while to find it.

The size of the hall was at most 2~3 meters in width and height.

It zigzags further inside.

I had a combat slave hold a stone with {Extended Light} cast on it and investigate inside.

After all or you could say it's just as expected but about 100 meters ahead

there was a room and a teleport crystal enshrined there.

It seems we'll be able to carry back the metal ores without that much trouble.

Even then no matter how you look at it the amount is something we can carry in one or two trips.

In order to carry out everything here even mobilizing all of the {Slaughterers} it would probably take over 1 month.

The fact that we defeated the boss of the 13th floor, a dragon, is a secret for a short while.

I guess we'll slowly carry out the metal ores a bit at a time, the precious metals, and finally the dragon's head.

..After that is investigating the gathering terminal and denaturation device.

But, that, I wonder if you can get in from outside?

If I were that {Vampire Lord} I would have made it so you can't get inside.

The inside was still closed and there were a lot of doors we couldn't do anything

about.

Air-lock? Hatch? I don't know if it has them but if it's locked from inside then there's nothing we can do about it.

Even then it's necessary to investigate just in case.

We walked steadily through the forest and went nearby it.

Looking from outside it's almost like a giant building.

Incidentally, I couldn't use {Identify} on it.

Just as expected, we were able to find something like a hatch.

But, also just as expected we weren't able to open it.

Ah, nothing at all happened to Rokko after eating the dragon so while it wasn't very good we all ate the dragon steaks.

Miduchi said if we eat it there might be some kind of effect but nothing good or bad happened to anyone.

Chapter 332 : Ceremonial Bonfire

Year 7447, Month 12, Day 18

Now then, we've taken care of everything that needs to be done.
There's one more thing that needs to be done but...
Even without mention it's the 14th floor.
The walls of this teleport crystal room on the 13th floor are covered in
stone almost like sandstone and the floor piled with fine sand.
I remember back to the time I spent with Miduchi...

In the center of the room the teleport crystal is enshrined and it's
exactly the same as the other floors in how the surface has the
incantation "Return us" to teleport to the upper floors is blinking in
yellow light.
However, the teleport incantation for going to the next floor that usually flashes
in purple light doesn't appear on it.
Come to think of it the teleport crystal on the 14th(?) floor didn't even
have the incantation for teleporting to the upper floors on it.

..We tried holding, caressing, and hitting it but nothing happened.

I guess you can't get to the floor that {Death=Tyrant.Kin} is on from here?
Is the only way to get there from entering one of the wall pitfalls on the upper
floors?
There's only one pitfall where you can definitely get there.
Though in regards to wall pitfalls we've found easily over 100 of them.

Whatever, I guess it's fine.

If we have that much treasure then it's plenty no matter how I think about it. Something like the {Death=Tyrant.Kin} just like Miduchi previously said,

depending on how you think about it might more dangerous than the dragon.

I don't want to walk over anymore dangerous bridges than this.

I guess we'll just hold all the ores we can and return once.

Even after returning there's a lot of things to do...

First off is Angela's funeral.

Next is borrowing a warehouse to store the ores we've brought back.

I haven't taken them being stolen into consideration.

Since I don't intend to bring the precious metals and magic ores back until the end.

Even if a thief breaks in if they see the status there's no way they would bother trying to carry out the heavy and cheap tungsten and such.

When I find the chance I'll make ingots from these ores.

They seem to already have a considerably high purity but just in case.

And...I guess it's fine to worry about it after we get back.

I called out to everyone and said "we'll return once", then we all went outside to carry the dragon's scales into this teleport crystal room.

Also, I need to make the size of the ice with Angela's remains in it smaller so three people can somehow hold it with one hand.

If they don't have one hand open they can't hold on to the teleport crystal after all.

After leaving the cave we noticed a whirling fog in a place quite a bit of distance away from the entrance.

..Ah, so after all the dragon will respawn as well...

Let alone a full day close to 40 hours have passed since then.

Since we were focused on the work up until now and the fog is the same size

as the monster respawn fog up until now in an area covered in trees we

must have overlooked it.

It really doesn't seem like it would be able to cover a monster that will reach 30 meters long.

It's the same size as the {Scavenger Crawler}, {Ogres}, {Minotaur}, and such.

Putting that aside and the high level Minotaurs still haven't respawned so I

don't think the dragon will respawn right away either.

However, it's certain that it'll respawn again someday.

I refuse fighting against that guy once more.

Of course~ the experience points he gave were several 100,000s and it's also appealing that we were able to obtain it's scales.

But, even if it were to come to ambushing it since {Magic.Resistance} would

respawn with it then it would considerably difficult.

It probably even be difficult using the {Dragon.Slayer} I just obtained.

If right after respawning it holes up in it's nest then it might be

possible to rapid-fire spells from the gap between it's cave and

the teleport crystal room but for as long as we don't know how far the

guardians recognition stretches out, there's too many problems that

could come up.

If it's recognition doesn't reach right near it's nest then it would probably be fine but if it goes up partway there then the moment it notices us we'd be screwed.

If it were to use that {Energy.Drain.Breath} down the cave hall..just thinking about it is terrifying.

..In that case, there's no choice but to carry all we can out now.
If it's like this then the guardians of the 12th floor, the dragonians
have probably started respawning as well and considering their lower
levels they might have even finished appearing.

I roughly do some calculations in my head.

First, the smaller and lighter ores of the ones we obtained from the dragon's
nest were just about 10 kg.

The larger and heavier ones are easily over 100 kg.

There's a slight slope from the nest to the teleport crystal room with the
teleport crystal room being lower.

This is something Miduchi and Kamu said so it should be correct.

If I make rails of ice that go along this hall then we could roll or slide things
down with the minimum effort.

If we do it with 30 people then at most it should take about 4~5 hours.

Next up is the amount of time it takes to get the dragon's scales, frozen
head, and Angela's remains to the teleport crystal room but I think
these will take about 6~7 hours including the round trip.

Even including breaks about half a day I guess.

And then the amount of time it'll take to teleport everything to the teleport
crystal room on the 12th floor but...

The maximum weight a single person can carry in one hand when teleporting
depends on the person but on average it should be around 50 kg.

The
amount of time they need to be holding on to the luggage is plenty if
they can do it for 10 seconds, so it shouldn't be a problem to estimate
that much.

In regards to the things over 100 kgs we should be able to manage them in any way as long as 2~3 people hold it at the same time.

If everyone carries things then..it should be plenty to estimate it at roughly 10 round trips.

The thing that will take the most time to do a round trip for is..it

doesn't seem like there's any monsters on the 13th floor so if we just ignore the dragonians on the 12th floor then it should be fine to estimate it taking 5 hours.

If it just comes to moving things to the teleport room on the 12th floor then 50 hours..five days..No, if we rush it then three days should be fine I guess.

It'll be a harsh schedule but I want everyone to work hard here.

I looked around the area and order Zulu to carry over the metal ores I had my eye on a short while ago.

With a weight of easily over 20 kg it's a gold nugget that seems to have quite a high purity.

The light from the spell {Light} is reflecting off it beautifully.

Seeing that I could hear someone gulp.

"Everyone.

For another few days endure just eating the dragon meat for meals. It's necessary to carry out the items we obtained this time. It's different

from the usual dungeon exploration so I'll pay a special bonus just for carrying the items this time. When we get back we'll split this thing up evenly between everyone."

Everyone cheered.

Well, 30, no it's just 29 people.

Excluding me 28 people, with just that many, even excluding my combat slaves it's being split up among 23 people.

That'll come out to about a 1 kg gold nugget per person so I guess it's only obvious.

The value of it will no doubt be close to 4,000,000 ~ 5,000,000 Z.

Alright, first off shall we move all of the ores.

.....

After we teleported to the 12th floor, just in case we tried taking a look outside of the teleport crystal room.

And then just as expected the dragonians had respawned.

However, there's a different point about them from the floor guardians up until now.

These guys, they're moving all on their own without us doing anything.

Just from the range I can see I can only count 15 of them.

If I remember right there should have been over 20.

What should we do...

Of course, we're in the middle of going between the 12th floor and the

13th floor right now so there's also the option of ignoring them.

But when we're carrying things to the 11th floor we'll have to walk back to the center of the 12th floor from the edge again.

Going from our experience of defeating floor guardians up until now we can

expect them to stop respawning after the stock(?) runs out.

Additionally the equipment of the dragonians is considerably worn out so

they've

probably been killed by the {Shadow.Dragon} quite a few times.
I guess it would be best to reduce the stock as much as we can.

..No~ it sure is easy when you can use magic before the guardians can find you.

.....

Year 7447, Month 12, Day 21

Just like this we spent 75 hours and succeeded in carrying all of our spoils to the teleport crystal room on the 12th floor.

During that time we defeated around 50 dragonians.

I had expected that the dragon wouldn't repawn but even then I think we were fortunate that it didn't respawn.

Now then, the problem is from here on out but...

If we want to start carrying things from the 12th floor to the 11th floor
right away then I guess waiting for the timing right after we wipe out
the next set of dragonians should be fine...

If we return to the surface then the next time we come down we'll have to fight
against over 20 dragonians from the front.

As expected I can't say anything about that..it's not like we can't manage it.

Though thinking about the defense I think it'll be coming with the bare minimum of people including me.

But in that case, we'll have less people so there won't be very much meaning in carrying things right~

Though that's the case the dragonians have ones which specialize in magic so there's the worst case when fighting them with a large number of people...

I'd like to keep using the teleport crystal room as a cover to hit them with magic like now.

No, the respawn period is longer than any up until now.

If I were to use an extreme case, just me or together with Miduchi we could wipe out the dragonians.

After wiping them out we could return to the 11th floor and report that it's safe then all come back to the 12th floor again I guess.

If it's just me it's extremely~ annoying but this should be fine.

After we carry things to the 11th floor then it's fine if we just take our time carrying it back after that.

In any case, for now we should return to the surface and get some rest. Everyone's been working with the bare minimum of sleep so they're considerably tired.

We return to the teleport room on the 11th floor.

Of course we brought back Angela's remains, the {Magic.Items}, the dragon's head, scales, and as many ores as we could carry.

Since we were quite a bit later than planned it seems Giberuti was pretty worried.

It seems at first he made dinner preparations and was waiting but since we never came back no matter how long he waited they ended up being

wasted.

And then he started trembling after seeing Angela's remains.
I see..Sorry about that.

"Umm..Master..What in the world happened to Maruso..."

Giberuti asked nervously.

"Yeah..I hadn't told you about it...That dragon was strong in a difficult way."

I pointed at the dragon's head while talking to Giberuti.
Giberuti is still looking at Angela's face as she sleeps in the ice.

"Because of that we ended up having to defeat it with just Angela and I...I..I
won't forget Angela's final moments for the rest of my life..She was a
splendid combat slave."

I show Angela's magic stone to Giberuti.
Giberuti stretched out his trembling hands and gently caressed the magic stone.

His jaw was trembling.

"Sorry. Angela will be in my care until we finish the funeral."

"No, not at all! There's no problem with that at all."

"It's fine. After the funeral is over..you bury her."

I gave Giberuti a tap on the shoulder and then gave out instructions to
everyone that we'll return to the surface holding the ores this time.

In regards to the dragon's head I left it in a corner of the room still frozen in ice.

Even if we leave it be it shouldn't melt for at least a month.

The {Wyvern} still hasn't respawned so we just killed the pair of giant stag beetles for a tip when passing the 10th floor on the way and also defeated the seven Minotaurs on the 9th floor as well.

Those two high level Minotaurs still haven't respawned as usual.

.....

It was close to the evening when we returned to the surface.

Everyone's exhausted but I want to take care of Angela's funeral as soon as possible.

I had them go and borrow a two-wheeled wagon and we put Angela's remains on that until we got to the river side.

I paid an extra tip and express charge for the funeral stand.

I don't know how much it originally costs but I feel like I paid the bill at the asking price without feeling a thing.

Until the preparations were done we didn't have anything to do so we all stood on the river side spacing out.

Shortly after the funeral stand and a large amount of fire wood was carried over.

I erased the ice and carefully placed Angela's remains on the stand.

I took off the remains of her rubber protectors and everyone poured sotomu oil on her.

I guess because it's been a long time since we had the custom of pressing our

hands together to pray, not a single person did it.

"See you later, Angela.. You were a good combat slave."

I whispered that and lit the fire.

Thanks to the sotomu oil the flames spread to the entire funeral stand in no time at all.

After that it was fine for us to just add more fire wood in order.

We just, kept watching the trembling flames that were sending Angela to the heavens.

Partway through I suddenly realized that my vision was blurring.

I don't know if there was anyone else who was shedding tears.

I didn't intend to look at anyone other than Angela until this was over.

Finally we all took turns using a hammer to crush her remaining bones and then let them go in the river.

Just like that we helped Angela's body return to nature.

After sending off Angela for one last time I strongly held onto her magic stone and carved the sensation of it into my memory.

And then I handed Angela to Giberuti.

It was already pitch black outside.

"Now then, it's gotten late. Shall we go and eat? Is there anyone who wants to change before that?"

Several people raised their hands so we decided to return to our inns once and then eat after changing.

.....

Year 7447, Month 12, Day 22

The night passed.

I opened my eyes a bit earlier than usual.

After arranging my equipment while it was still dark and then going out in front of the inn quite a few people were already waiting.

""Good morning, master!""

I reply to the greetings from my 5 combat slaves and the 2 apprentices and then we start warm up exercises.

During that time the remaining members gathered together.

"Alright! Shall we go. Basutorial, let's sing for enthusiasm!"

"Yes! Nnn..hakkonenno yamma ha~~ tenka noken!.."

The reincarnated members who know the lyrics sing together with us while those who don't know them are singing along as they seem to have completely remembered them as well.

Come to think of it Angela would randomly sing along with us as well...

I made today and tomorrow days off.

I still need to borrow a warehouse so there's quite a few things to do after all.

The consecutive holidays will be reduced and all lumped together but I wanted to move at least the remaining ores to the 11th floor by the end of the year.

Just like this our Year 7447 ended.

Chapter 333 : Unrequited Love

Year 7447, Month 12, Day 29

This time going into the dungeon we were able to carry all of the luggage up to the 9th floor.

Also, we brought a portion of the ores up to the 8th floor where the Treant wood is left.

With this we can return to our usual activities starting next year.

It's fine if the {Saviors} just slowly bring the rest of the stuff out when we return from the dungeon to the surface.

Right now it's about 3:00 pm.

Shortly after leaving the dungeon we cashed in the magic stones from the monsters we defeated at the usual magic tool shop Danhiru.

"Everyone,

good work. Next year we'll start entering the dungeon again from January 6th. I want everyone to follow Toris's orders when I'm not around. Get some rest until then."

I commanded Ralpa and the

others as they were about to bite into some baldoggie from a cart and declared that it was the start of the New Year's holidays.

Tonight I've reserved out the high class restaurant Dorureon so we {Slaughterers} can have a year-end party.

I still haven't return to Boil Manor so I don't know if the caravan from Bakuddo has arrived yet but if it has then it's fine if they join us as

well.

Ah, the reason why Miduchi and I won't be around is because we're going to Lail Kingdom together.

We've finished the medicine for Miduchi's older brother after all.

Separate from that I also wanted to try visiting Lail Kingdom once as well.

We have the magic horseshoes from when we previously defeated the giant stag beetles so it's a great help that we should be able to move at a considerable speed.

For that reason, we've estimated that it'll take about one month to make the round trip to Lail Kingdom and back.

Also, it was necessary to split up the teams with the expectation that they'd be active on the 7th floor while we're gone but I decided to leave this up to Toris.

After returning to Boil Manor and the caravan still hadn't arrived. However, there was an unexpected message.

"Hey~ does anyone know a person named Logwood?"

Separate from the usual promotion letters from the masses there was a message

asking me to come to a restaurant called Barankusu in the evening if it's a Tuesday when we get back from the dungeon and to their room in Shuni(the largest inn in Baldukk) if it's a Monday.

That was the only thing written down so they didn't state their business or anything else.

Since today is Friday I guess they're in Barankusu.

I don't know why but for some reason it bothers me.

I tried asking the head clerk who received the message and it seems on

Monday of this week(the 24th) a young man in his 20s came to leave the message.

Incidentally, no one knew about the person named Logwood.

I

thought it might be a new type of promotion message for entering the {Slaughterers} so I considered ignoring it but the caravan still hasn't arrived so I don't have any plans in particular until night other than magic training.

Somehow it was bothering me so I decided to skip magic training and try going there.

"Al-san, I think you should avoid going alone."

Hearing about it from Toris said with a doubtful expression.

Yeah, I think thought so too so I was planning to bring along Zulu and another two combat slaves.

After saying that he was relieved and said, "In that case it should be fine."

I haven't done anything that would make anyone resent me but there's

still the worst case scenario so it might just be one of the attendants

of the King's illegitimate children that I can't remember.

Or rather, I think that's the most likely possibility.

But, I wonder if that sort of person would call me out without specifying the reason?

At this point for the first time I looked at the people who were looking

for the timing to start talking to me since I entered the inn.

In the

properly polished lobby young lady Noirura the daughter of Baron

Jibekuto was waiting for my return along with one of her attendant knights.

Young lady Noirura stood up from her seat and started

approaching me so I guess everyone was showing discretion as they quickly disappeared to their own rooms.

"I received investiture as a knight at the end-of-year ascertainment."

I see.

"That is..congratulations."

Well, she's the oldest one among the three of them so I'm sure there was also her pride.

"And then you know. I'd like to introduce Greed-sama to my foster father but.."

Why?

Look, hasn't Miduchi started glaring over here from halfway up the stairs.

"..What are you talking about?"

There's no what or anything else about it.

"Fufu. Oh Greed-sama you~ I was just thinking of starting with greetings."

Young lady Noirura made a refined smile with a fluffed-up expression.

She looks to be the quietest of the three of them but somehow recently

she's been the most aggressive one in trying to make contact with me.

It

seems since I saved her underling, otherwise known as subordinate, in

that one rescue play she's developed quite a bit of interest in me.

"If

it's in regards to that matter then I'm very sorry but I believe I've already turned it down before..and I have my company to take care of as well. It's quite busy during the end of the year so if your business is just that then please excuse me."

I forcefully ended the conversation and tried to return to my room.

"No way, please don't say such cold things. The reason I came myself like this was because I wanted to see Greed-sama's face in person."

I'm

sure she came to try and appeal that she's useful now that she's received investiture as a true knight but if it's my face she's already seen it so would she just go home already...

"Also, I've heard

that you lost a combat slave you've trusted and cared for over many years. I was worried that Greed-sama would be depressed so.."

Gu, mu...

In regards to the matter with Angela I just read something similar in the messages from the other two a moment ago.

However, this young lady Noirura went to the trouble of saying she came over because she was worried.

I don't know what her true thoughts on it are but at the very least I

have no choice but to recognize that she's given a high evaluation to Angela.

It couldn't be helped so I accompanied her in a conversation for a short while.

In addition to that I tried indirectly asking her about the person named Logwood but it seems she didn't know him.

Then who in the world is he?

After taking a shower and changing I took a break for a few minutes and while I was relaxing the caravan from my family arrived.

It seems brother was leading it this time.

"Oh, Al! It's been a while. Supposedly you defeated a huge wyvern since the last time I saw you!? It's unfortunate that I wasn't able to see it's head but I'm proud of you! Or did you just move it to some place? If we go to the capital can I still see it now?"

After the brat of Boil Manor informed me that brother and the others had arrived I went out and he quickly called out to me.

Nfufu. Something like the wyvern wasn't much of anything at all. I'm serious you know?

After all we defeated something way beyond that..Oh~

"Yeah. It's been a while."

I calm brother down while he excitedly praises me for defeating the

Wyvern and told him that that we'd be eating a restaurant for a year-end party tonight so he agreed to rest in Baldukk for today.

I then brought brother to my room as he happily brought up the topic of how I defeated the wyvern.

And then while sipping some bean tea Miduchi made in my room I started telling brother about how we conquered the dungeon.

"A dragon you say!? You're sure amazing!"

Brother was speechless as if he didn't believe it when listening to the story.
Miduchi glanced at me so I nodded.
Take out the sword and ring.

"This is the dragon's magic stone."

I took out the Shadow Dragon's magic stone and showed it to him.

{Rongaruzamuryuzorufaren's Magic Stone(Shadow.Dragon)}

is how it should appear.

"{Status Open}. It's quite impressive.."

My nostrils flare up.

Ueee~

"Also, these are the ring and sword we obtained after defeating the dragon."

Miduchi handed him the {Dragon.Slayer} and {Utility.Ring}.

"..{Dragon.Slayer} it says?..Amazing~!!"

Brother was shocked seeing the status.

"Well, we're still keeping quiet about the fact that we conquered the final floor of the dungeon and defeated the dragon. I'm sorry but please don't tell everyone about it yet."

"Why? You defeated a right, doesn't that make you a hero!"

Brother shook his head as if he didn't understand.

"Yeah, about that. The dragon's head is still frozen deep inside of the dungeon. That's why I was thinking of remaining quiet about it until we bring that out. I've already told everyone to remain quiet about it until then."

"Nn..Well, I guess it's true that it would be best to have something that makes it easy to understand."

.....

Later in the evening I left Miduchi to look after brother and left the inn. Just in case I equipped just the {Dragon.Slayer} and went towards Shuni.

At Shuni all of my combat slaves other than Zulu were gathered.
..Is Zulu at his woman's place?
Well whatever.

"Henry, Mekku. Sorry but accompany me for a bit."

I brought out the two former knights and went towards Barankusu.
On our way there I told the two of them there was a strange message calling me out and I was curious about it.

"And, you two, do you know a person named Logwood?"

"Logwood is it..sorry I don't..have any idea about him."

Henry replied.

"..Logwood..I feel like I've heard it before but also maybe not..But I know about that place called Barankusu. It's not a very tasteful place."

Mekku said.

Come to think of it I've never heard of the place called Barankusu either, even though I don't go there myself I didn't question the location.

I already knew the rough location.

Where had I heard about it again...

Shortly after we arrived at Barankusu.

"Master, first I'll go inside and check if there's anyone suspicious."

Henry said that and went into the place before I could reply.

"Even though it's fine not to worry that much about it."

I looked at Mekku with a bitter smile but he said, "No, it's only obvious since we don't know the identity of the other party." and stood by side with her hand on the grip of his sword while glaring around the surroundings.

..Umm you know~

I don't know about other places but there's no one in Baldukk who doesn't know me.

Additionally there's no way there would be someone in this town that would try to do something to me using violence.

Quite literally unless I'm ambushed I have confidence in cutting through just about anything.

"Ah, Greed-san. Hello~su"

Look, the representatives of unreasonable violence the yakuza who use the back alleys as their base are even lowering their heads to me.

"Hey, it's Greed-san! That person supposedly defeated an insanely huge wyvern you know."

"Yeah, I know. I even went to the capital to see its head."

"Was it as big as they say?"

"It was this~~~ big!"

"Uo! That's huge! If just the head is that big then how big would its entire body be.."

Some people I don't know the name or face of but they're walking along the opposite side of the street just like us five years back while talking about me.

However, this place called Barankusu, looking at how it's not only cheap but pretty tasteless no matter how I think look it doesn't match up to my tastes.
Where did I hear about it again...

The store sign that was once lit up with a flashy and venomous color has already worn out.

I was looking up at that and trying to remember where I had heard about it when someone called out to me from the side.

"Greed? You really came..."

The one who called out to me was a Dog-person male in their mid 20s. He had a normal and healthy looking physique but his face was pale as his cheeks were abnormally caved in and there were deep clouds under his eyes making him look unhealthy.

Just, the look he was giving me was a sharp glare.

"Hey, you, what business do you have with master?"

Mekku moved in between the man and I.

"I have no business with you."

The man squeezed out his voice in a low tone while glaring at Mekku but unsuitable for how unhealthy he looks it was easy to hear.
I don't know a person like this but could it be this is?

"Are you Log..foot-san? Certainly I'm Alan.Greed."

I intentionally said his name wrong while putting my hand on Mekku's shoulder and had him move to the side while I walked forward.

"..Kufu.."

Seeing my face the man made a creepy smile.

I reflexively used {Identify} but he's a slave named Besshiraizu.Logwood.
Something like slaves are so common if you throw a rock you'd hit one so that part doesn't really matter at all but I really don't have any ideas on who he is.

The moment I thought that!

"Revenge for Maruso!! Die~!!"

He quickly slipped a knife out from his sleeve and thrust that towards me!
His thrust without any preparatory moves was excellent but even I was already on guard from being called out without knowing the reason.

As I twisted my body to the side I knocked the knife out of his hand.
Almost simultaneously Mekku pulled out his sword and kicked the man in the stomach.
It's not the formal movements of a knight group but the movements of an adventurer fighting against monsters.

Ah, just in case I'll mention it but when their levels aren't all that different in most cases the formal swordsmanship that knights and squires use are overwhelmingly stronger than most adventurers.
There's no way someone who spent countless years learning the techniques of soldiers would be standing on the same ground as the average adventurer that's like a random jack-of-all trades with a bit more hair growing.
Although, when it comes to those considered first-rate among the adventurers then it's a different matter.

Ah that's right, come to think of it, I was just being attacked.

After dropping the knife Logwood's body was bent like the character for ku(<) as he vomited all over the ground.
I stopped Mekku who was about to finish him off there and waited for Logwood to recover from the damage.

"Hey, you. What did you say just now?"

There was something I couldn't overlook included in the words just now.

"I can't understand if you remain quiet right! You, just now said "revenge for Maruso" right?"

I guess he finished throwing up everything in his stomach, Logwood glared at me from the ground with yellow fluids coming from his mouth.

"Yeah

I said that. So what about it, you brute! Last week, I heard that Maruso died in the dungeon! You used her as a shield right! If that wasn't the case there's no way she would die!"

..This guy, is he an acquaintance of Angela?
But, he said something I can't overlook again.

"You, what are you to Angela? I'm her owner you know. Who in the world are you?"

I used Angela as a shield he says?
I don't care about anything else but just this is something I really can't overlook.
In the first place, even if I really did use Angela as a shield there's no reason I should be blamed by anyone for it.
Whether I boil or bake and eat her it's my choice as her owner.

"I am..I am the man who swore to be together with Maruso in the future! I'll take revenge for her!"

Ha?
I spontaneously opened my mouth.
Since the words he spit out were far too unexpected both Meku and I exchanged glances.

You, did you know about this?
No, I didn't know.

Oh~
I quickly returned to my senses.

"Don't screw with me, idiot. What's that about swearing to be together in the

future~!? Even if that was true you have no right to call me her revenge!"

I reflexively said back to him.

I guess arguing in front caused a disturbance, Henry came out from the door of the place.

After seeing our state he ran over.

"Master! What's going on!?"

"Yeah, Henry. It seems this guy is the one who called me out but..I don't really understand what he's saying."

"It seems he's claiming to be Maruso's man but.."

Hearing Mekku and I, Henry made a face as if he didn't really get it but he had already drawn his sword and hit Logwood with it.

An old man who came out after Henry came along and whispered, "Beshu, you..What in the world.." while in shock.

Is it the owner of this place?

Since it occurred in the evening on a road with a lot of traffic there's a lot of witnesses.

Since Logwood doesn't just have a sword held in front of him, we're not letting our guards down at all so it seems he can't attack us at all.

I

guess because we were causing a disturbance in front of the place the man who came out together with Henry regained himself and tried to lead us inside.

However, as someone who was just called out to this place and attacked I felt a bit against obediently following along.

I used that as the reason not to go inside.

The old man was the owner of this place and he introduced himself as Bagu while saying he was Logwood's owner.

And then he called a different slave from Logwood and had them tie up Logwood who was still crawling on the ground in agony.

I was told that I should relax since now Logwood can't move but since I can't put aside the possibility that this entire place is working together with him, I decided to listen to things outside.

Of course, he already tried to attack me so normally there would be no need to listen to what he has to say.

Let alone that while I'm at the lowest sub-nobility he still tried to attack a full-fledged noble which is without a doubt a major offense. It's

fine to hand Logwood over to the knight group and it's fine for me to cut him down on the spot in self-defense without any blame as well.

However,

since he brought up Angela's name and even said he was Angela's man, now that he's claimed to be getting revenge for her I felt it was only natural to listen to what he had to say.

I guess I'll give a simple summary about what I heard from him.

It seems it's true that Angela had reasonable relationship with this man called Logwood.

On her days off, it seems Angela would frequently visit this place and play with Logwood.

That's something that the owner of the place Bagu as well as those other than Logwood from the place personally witnessed.

Though it seems no one else knew about the matter of swearing to be together in the future.

And, it's not as if we particularly tried to hide the fact that Angela had died last week so there were quickly rumors about how one of the front line combat slaves of the {Slaughterers} died.

Obviously Logwood found out about that as well.

Logwood seemed to believe that Angela died from being used as a shield in the same way as the average combat slave.

Since that's usually the cause of death for the average combat slave, it's not unreasonable for him to think that way though...

In any case, Logwood believed that was the case and since him believing was the important point the actual truth didn't matter.

Well since he lost his future partner Logwood fell into despair about his future and started planning to kill me as revenge for her. Up to there was fine at least.

If you leave that kind of message then it's only obvious for us to be on guard when coming over.

Since he's a slave being used in a store the amount of free time he has is limited so I'm sure something like observing me until I'm alone was impossible.

There was the difference in the days he called me out but Monday was the weekly day he got off early it seems.

Since something like holidays don't normally exist for slaves after all.

The slaves being used by store work everyday from opening time until closing time.

About the only ones that have days off are quite literally combat slaves so calling me out with a message was probably the only method he had.

After hearing the reason there was nothing to it at all.

It's just a matter of him seeking revenge for driving his future family to their death right.

Though I don't know whether Logwood claiming that they would be family in the future is true or not.

In any case, we figured out the motive so I left Barankusu.

In the end I said, "My combat slaves aren't so cheap as to be used as disposable shields. It's the same as you having insulted Angela." while glaring straight into his eyes.

It would have been fine to beat him

down as well but if what Logwood was claiming about having sworn to be together with Angela in the future was really true then I just felt like

it would be unpleasant to kill him or hand him over the knight group.

Logwood's owner Bagu, the owner of the store just kept watching the color of my face as well so it made me feel unpleasant.

Incidentally, I thought Angela and Giberuti were in a good relationship so when I

tried confirming it with him later he said, "Eh? I've heard about that person named Logwood. Though I wasn't aware that their relationship was that deep.."

And then he also said, "Maruso and I weren't in that

sort of relationship. Just as I'm sure master knows, we've had that sort of relationship once but it seems I wasn't really her type.." with a lonely smile.

..Well, whatever.

Logwood, it might have been the right choice not to kill you.

.....

Year 7447, Month 12, Day 30

Today is busy.

In the morning I'm going to the castle together with brother and the others to make deliveries of the rubber protectors and after that I'll split up with them to visit Tukerin's clinic and meet up with all of our vendors.

Then at night Miduchi and I will return to Baldukk to go to Mila-shisho's place. And after that either tomorrow or the day after tomorrow we'll depart for Lail Kingdom.

In between moving and the appointments I need to buy the dried fish and various other things as well.

In regards to going to Lail Kingdom we already told Tukerin about it when handing him a late year-end gift on our days off last week.

Miduchi

said it as well but there's no problem with me going up to the entrance of where the underground city their capital Erurehei is located.

Well,

in addition to delivering the medicine I'll be greeting Godu.guru-san and I also planned to talk with the head warrior that is Miduchi's

superior. Also, if possible I'd like to make some connections with the elders and build up a friendship with them.

"Then, Al, we'll be heading back to the company once to have a break. Today we'll be staying at a random inn and then return to the village just like that. I'll come back again in the spring so make sure you show me the dragon's head at that time."

"Yeah, of course. Then I'll see you in the spring."

.....

Just as planned I finished up greetings at Tukerin's clinic and our various vendors.
Right now it's just before the New Year.
Miduchi and I carried the large amount of dried fish we bought in the capital while it was still daytime and went into the entrance of the dungeon.

It took quite a bit of time.

First off we need to quickly clear to the 2nd floor.

Chapter 334 : Ceremony

Year 7448, Month 1, Day 2

"Hey, are you bringing along Gwine again? What about me~?"

Just as expected Ralpa started throwing a tantrum.

"Hey Ralpa. Things are difficult without you around. You understand right?"

Bel tried to pacify her but it wasn't very effective.

"Ralpa, did you forget our disgrace when we were fighting against the dragon?

I

can't say anything about anyone else but we were a disgrace because our skill levels were too low right...You should enter the dungeon together with me everyday."

Zenom let out a roar saying that and Ralpa made an expression as if she realized and backed off.

It's recognized as the cause for Angela's death.

Everyone's expressions stiffened up as they lowered their heads after hearing Zenom's words.

However, I can see several people with something like a strong resolve in their eyes as well.

"..Toris.

Don't get impatient and overdo things. There's no such thing as an

absolutely safe place inside of the dungeon but even then..make sure you do your best to keep things safe."

I put emphasis on it several times to Toris who was making a face as if he was brooding over it.

Honestly speaking, in regards to the {Saviors} who are mostly all over level 20 I really don't think there's a need for them to earn anymore experience than this in a hurry.

Rather I almost wish they'd just stop entering the dungeon and focus on nothing but training.

Though I won't say anything like that because it concerns our income.

Generally speaking the people whose levels are in the double digits are generally

famous for being skilled and in over 30 years old. Let alone us who are barely 20 years old and our levels are 20 I've never seen anyone else like that.

Even among the knights who went to war and made great achievements there's no one this high of a level.

Baron Logan who was acting as the leader of the first knight group was only level 17. According to what I've heard when he was still young and had just received investiture as a true knight he was a member of Duke Zamu's knight group but back then around 30% of Duke Zamu's knight group were stationed in the Dirt Plains. Supposedly since he was a member of those stationed troops he participated in combat and made quite a few achievements there. Well, almost all of the people who enter the first knight group are like that so you could say just that place is the

exception among exceptions.

On the contrary you could say that

even though we're all around our 20s we've earned more experience points than those sorts of people.

In the first place, it's already about time for us to say farewell to the dungeon of Baldukk.

Eh? It's hard to understand? Then I'll get a bit off topic but is that fine?

..For example, in order to reach level 20 you need to earn over 1,000,000 experience points.

In order to earn just that many experience points then you would need to kill over 3,000 enemy soldiers in their late teens who are between level 5~6.

Of course this is just in the case if your opponent is a Hyumu

who hasn't gained very much experience, if it's someone who has the special skills of magic, from non-hyumu races, or someone who has a lot of experience and is a high level then the number would decrease even more from 3,000.

If I were to bring up one example then if the

ones you were killing are the same class of adventurer as the one I first killed back in Bakuddo then it would only take several hundred people to earn the same amount of experience.

Obviously if the

opponents level is even higher or they have special skills like magic or you focus on non-hyumu races then that number will be even lower but I don't think things will be all that convenient.

Though it would be a

different matter if high level creatures with a bunch of special skills like that dragon are all over the place.

Although, it's possible

to earn experience points from other methods than just training so this is limited to assuming you're earning experience points solely from killing people.

Even then it's not limited to people but killing living creatures with mana MP is the most efficient method though.

..Just as you can understand from this, level 20 is something like a super human. It's not something you can reach that easily.

Though if you have as much MP as sister then you could probably manage it if you wanted to do it.

Even then it's still probably impossible in just one or two battles.

It would probably need a much larger scale war.

No matter how much MP she has sister only has level 6 magic skills so they're still pretty inefficient.

As the magic special skill levels go up the efficiency in earning experience points towards it goes down.

That's one of the things that differs from earning experience points towards raising the body level.

For example, if there was an orc that earns 100 points of experience

towards the skill when using attack spells to kill things other than the normal experience points.

If the level of the elemental magic

skill that is being used is 0 then when the attack spell deals damage

it'll earn 100 points of experience towards the skill but as the level increases if they use the same method against the same opponent and deal the same damage then the amount of experience points they earn towards the skill will go down.

At level 8 one step away from the final level

you'll only be getting 20% of the experience points you gained when you did it at level 0.

Ah, just in case I'll mention this as well

but in order to use attack spells level 1 void magic is necessary. But in that case you can't deal much damage at all so it's normal to think you need over level 3 void magic. This is close to a fact unless they have excessive amounts of MP like sister and I so I don't want you to forget that it's still technically, "theoretically".

Putting that aside and it's about time to return to the matter at hand.

The ones going to Lail Kingdom are Miduchi, Gwine, and I.

I thought about bringing along some combat slaves as well but we didn't have enough horses so I gave up on it.

This time we'll be traveling in a hurry so I didn't feel the need to

increase the number of riders like when we went back to my home village.

Incidentally all of the members of the {Slaughterers} have ordered their own horses.

Horses are one of the top things to purchase that even if you have the money

to buy them if the timing doesn't match up it takes time to get them.

After all there's not a large number of them.

Since she was originally part of a merchant household and they owned horses in

the past Gwine was quick to get her own.

Above all else it's necessary to remember the geography so she can't afford to go without it right.

"That's right, just like that..here."

I was helping her attach the {Breeze.Horseshoes} to the legs of her horse. One of the goals of the journey this time is confirming the abilities of these {Breeze.Horseshoes}.

Whether they can really walk over rivers and swamps, if they can really run for half a day without fatigue, I wanted to check things like that.

Normally

it's a trip that takes over a month and a half to do a round trip but if the abilities of the {Breeze.Horseshoes} are just as they say we should be able to reduce the amount of time it takes to return by quite a bit.

It's a necessary journey to understand exactly how much time they can reduce it to and actually get a feel for it.

"Then we're heading off. I think we'll return by the end of the month. I'm leaving things in your care."

After saying short farewells to Zenom, Toris, Bel, Ralpa, Basutorial, and Cathy who came to see us off we left the town of Baldukk with a load full of baldoggies.

Ah, and about Mira-shisho and the others.

In the end they said they couldn't abandon the comforts of the fairy village. If you've lived there for hundreds of years and haven't felt it was very

inconvenient then I'm sure you wouldn't feel like moving right...

It seems like one of the reasons is also because it's a place the demi-god Lilus

prepared for them as well.

But well prior to that, if someone like me who doesn't even have much of a relationship with them asks there's no way I'd receive a good reply immediately right.

Well, it wasn't a matter that I had very high hopes for in the first place so it can't be helped.

Of course, while I'm saying that I still haven't completely given up.

.....

Year 7448, Month 1, Day 8

No~ this is crazy~ these {Breeze.Horseshoes}.
The horses were really able to run for a half day with a full load without any rest and no fatigue.
Even the rivers they were able to pass over them without a problem as long as the current wasn't fast or too many waves on the surface.
They even smoothly passed through a swamp area off the side from the road
The horses weren't getting tired so if we wanted we wouldn't even have to take any breaks.

Thanks to that we were able to arrive at Lail Kingdom in just a single week, seven days after leaving Baldukk.
That's on top of wasting time here and there testing out various things and

intentionally taking the round about path so we could avoid other people from seeing it, so if we were to have focused on just speed I think it would have been even faster.

After all according to Gwine on average we were traveling over 100 km a day. During the longer days we even went close to 150 km.

On our way back I planned to take a different road so it'll probably take a similar number of days though.

Incidentally, if the rider were to skip over taking breaks for drinking water while keeping the horse running then it should be possible to move close to 200 km in a day.

With a trot of about 15 km/hour it's possible to move for 12 hours after all. If it's during one the seasons with longer days and you don't mind letting the horse get a bit exhausted then you could probably go another couple hours.

Of course it's fine to go even faster as a speed close to the limit but if we were to try and ride for a long period at that speed our bodies wouldn't be able to endure it.

Even riding for half a day at a speed of 15 km/hour is exhausting.

If it were an emergency messenger riding forward without thinking about the consequences then it's not even a dream to go 400 km in a day.

If a single person rides with the bare minimum of baggage at the maximum sprinting speed then it can manage around 40 km/hour after all.

At speeds like that even excellent horses will only last a few minutes but if you use these {Breeze.Horseshoes} it's almost like you're riding on a race horse the entire time.

According to Gwine the distance from

Baldukk to the entrance of Lail Kingdom's capital Erurehei is just over 600 km in a straight line.

Previously Miduchi said it was about

1,000 km but that's after stopping at towns and villages here and there along the way so her sense of distance must have been thrown off.

In any case I was very satisfied with the performance that went beyond my expectations.

It was just when we were having lunch in a village at the base of Mount

Kinru~ when Miduchi proposed, "Let's switch the horseshoes with normal ones".

The reason was because it's unnatural for horses to not be tired at all after climbing up the mountain road.

That was certainly true so we decided to take off the {Breeze.Horseshoes} and switch them with normal horseshoes.

Since we weren't very used to re-attaching horseshoes it seemed like we were going to struggle quite a bit with it.

However, just as expected from Miduchi for suggesting it she was pretty used to readjusting horseshoes so it only took us about 1 hour to readjust them for all three horses.

And then about 2 hours after we started climbing the mountain roads.

The sun was still plenty high in the sky.

"Shall we raise the pace a bit more?"

Miduchi called out to us.

It seems there's still a ways to go.

Following Miduchi's suggestion we raised the pace by a bit.
And then an order echoed through my brain from {Party-ization}.

""Get up""

..Ah, a lookout is it.

We already discussed and decided this code on the way here.

"At earliest when were about halfway between the base of Mount Kinru~ and the entrance I think a lookout will start watching us. If you notice it then don't mind it. If possible it's best to act like you didn't notice them so the lookout doesn't get tense."

However, is there really a lookout?

I can't tell at all.

But, since Miduchi says there is one then I'm sure there is.

Hey, Gwine, stop looking around so much.

About 2 hours after that.

We finally arrived at the entrance when it was close to the evening.

Since we switched out the horseshoes for normal ones as expected the horses have started to get tired.

"I'll go a talk with them so wait a moment."

Miduchi got off her horse and walked while holding the reins as she went towards a male dark elf guard.

Gwine and I got off our horses and watched from behind.

Miduchi talked to the guard-like man about something for a bit then came back over to us.

"After all we can't just go in as we please. Sorry. Wait for a while longer."

It's something we originally heard about so we just nodded and waited.
The entrance to Erurehei is a building like a small fortress.
Gwine and I were on the outside of it's fence brushing our horses.

"I wonder what it's like inside of the underground city?"

Don't ask me...

Even I've never seen it before either.

"I've only heard stories about it after all. I don't really know. It's
supposedly dark inside but still better than the dungeon."

"That's exactly what Miduchi-san this morning."

It can't be helped right...

We continued talking about pointless things for another several tens of
minutes.

Finally Miduchi came back and just as expected we aren't able to go inside.
However, we got permission to stay in a room inside of this fortress.
It seems merchants that occasionally come along stay in them as well so I've
heard that there's several guest rooms.

After Miduchi told the leader of the guards that she got permission he
glanced at me for a moment and then returned to the underground city.

I

felt like it would give a bad impression to just lock ourselves up in
our rooms so Gwine and I decided to spend the time watching the setting
sun.

On a mountain about 1,000 meters high in the middle of winter.

We watched the bright red sun while trembling from the cold near the gate of
the fortress and drank hot soup.

The sun set in no time at all and then we ran out of things to do.

It couldn't be helped so we went back into the fort.

Gwine and I are in different rooms so we can't talk.

We were told not to pass by the decided areas inside of the fort so it felt a bit off to chat in the halls or dining room.

Of course, I wanted to hold back on going to each others rooms to talk until after I talk to the head warrior or an elder.

Just like that 2 hours passed and Miduchi finally came back.

She brought along her older brother.

I've covered things up by giving proper reasons for the journey up until now but honestly speaking the number one goal this time was to greet her older brother.

Her older brother was just as I heard, he has a considerably weak constitution and his body is weak as well.

Though I was a bit surprised when I was introduced to Miduchi's uncle, aunt, and cousin as they carried her older brother in on something like a stretcher.

I had heard about it but for him to be in this bad of a shape...

Supposedly he hasn't even been able to walk on his own over the past year or so.

Since I was sure Miduchi would ask about it later I checked using {Identify} and it was {Condition: Full Body Autoimmune Disease}, that sort of really troublesome sounding name.

Rheumatism is a difficult disease that costs a lot of money for treatment even in Japan...

However, he's clearly conscious and he can talk with a quiet tone of voice.

I politely greeted her older brother after he seemed to painfully apologize for greeting me while laying down.

I told Miduchi not to give him the medicine until I finish greeting and talking to him.

Of course, it's different if he was in a condition where there's no time to waste but it seems there was no need to worry.

"I apologize for calling you at so late in the evening. But I'm happy to be able to meet you."

"Don't worry about it, Greed-san. Since it seems Midu~~ritto is in your care everyday I'm grateful to you."

It was frail but even then he spoke in a firm voice.

There's a lot of common points between the Dyurou language Dyurorisshu and the

Ragudariosu language {Common.Language} so I can understand what he's saying.

Though when I asked about it afterwards it wasn't the Dyurou

language Dyurourisshu but just the way they speak the {Common.Language} in Lail Kingdom.

Now then..

Ah..I'm getting nervous.

"I'm

sure it will affect your body so I'll get right to the point in saying it. Chizumagurol-san please give your little sister, Midu~~ritto-san to me. I'll definitely make her happy. The reason I came today was to ask for permission from Chizumagurol-san."

It seemed that her older brother couldn't grasp the meaning for a moment but soon after made a surprised face.
I guess it was unexpected.

"Miduchi"! '%\$#')"?

It seems he started saying something to Miduchi.
Miduchi started replying something with a serious face.
Her uncle and aunt who were standing to the side participated as well.

..In my previous life, when I first went to greet Miki's parents I felt like this.
Even on the second time I can't get used to it.

If I were to speak honestly I don't really want to go the trouble of doing greetings as stressful as this.
Of course even on Orth it's considered important to obtain permission from your partners family to get married.
Particularly when it involves the successor of nobles.
Even in the case of commoners and Free People living in the same town or village it's the same.

However, there's countless people who can't do it even if they wanted to.
When it comes to purchased slaves let alone when getting married it's common to not even know where they are after all.
After the next child after the second leaves a noble or commoners household then they usually cut off contact there as well.
Until they die, no, even after they die it's not uncommon for them to next meet again.

Even if you know their location it's common to be unable to go and greet them because of the physical distance away and more-so Miduchi is a member of the dangerous warrior class.
It's not a joke but completely

serious to think that this might be the last time they meet in this lifetime when leaving Erurehei.

That's why Miduchi said there wouldn't be a problem even reporting about it to him afterwards.

Particularly when it happens between two adults it's not uncommon to report it to their families long after they're married.

But, I think it's something that's necessary.

It couldn't be helped if it was absolutely impossible but even if we

didn't have the {Breeze.Horseshoes} it wasn't impossible to come and greet them.

In that case I just need to do what I wanted to do.

Also, it's only human to want to get to know the family of your partner right.

I think this is something in common whether it's Orth or Earth.

And, they've sure been talking for quite a while...

Could it be, they're against it?

"Greed-san. Please take good care of my little sister."

...

A.

"Thank you very much! Brother-in-law-san!"

I only heard about it afterwards but it seems they were against it at first.

It seems since Miduchi's reputation in Erurehei went up quite a bit there were quite a bit marriage proposals for her.

Entrusted with a mission from her majesty the Queen and her position is equal to

an elder. And then since almost all of her need to worry about money has disappeared she was proposed to by a man from a considerably good

family.
Rather than some random foreigner from who knows where even
more-so of a different race it's obvious that as her older brother he
felt marrying someone of the same race would be better.
I can understand why he would be against it.

But, in the end I was able to receive permission so I guess we could say the
outcome was alright.

.....

Year 7448, Month 1, Day 11

In the end we weren't able to get permission to enter Erurehei but I was
able to talk with Fantodu and Zagurocchi, two of the elders. Also, I had
the chance to talk with the head warrior Zagerforu again.

I
think it was thanks to Tukerin making good reports about me that I was
safely able to discuss what I wanted to and proceed with negotiations.
Of
course, there's also the supply of baldoggie through Tukerin and the
investigation into the Dirt Plains which were all a plus for Lail

Kingdom, so I think that helped as well.

Also, they were very pleased with the gift of baldoggies that we brought along. Since we brought along an assortment of various flavors rather than the plain ones they always eat they were especially surprised and welcomed us. Miduchi's cousins were also full of smiles as they came to thank me for the baldoggie.

Furthermore, it's of note that the medicine for brother-in-law was completed and he started taking it so there's no more need to worry about passing away early.

Being seen off by the several dozen people that are related to Miduchi we departed Erurehei early this morning.

.....

"How nice~ Miduchi-san... My father and mother aren't around anymore after all.."

On our trip back Gwine said.

"It was my ideal for my father to reject the person I wanted to marry once. Even then they would continue to beg and finally get permission. Doesn't something like that sound so dreamy.."

And started saying something like that.

Something like that, isn't it a nightmare from the guys point of view.

Chapter 335 : Triumphant Return

Year 7448, Month 1, Day 13

"Eh? They disappeared?"

On our way back to Baldukk Miduchi said that while sitting on a bed in the inn we stopped at.

Yeah.

This morning before leaving the inn it was there when I was going through our bags.

Last night, didn't we just open a new one.

I properly tied the opening of the bag shut so the seaweed lotion wouldn't spill right?

"I don't know."

I know I had put it into my bag.

"But, it's not there right? Then, did you drop it somewhere?"

Was it when we were taking a break at noon?

"Isn't that the case? But, since we don't have any should we stop for today?"

...

Shouldn't around today be a safe day?

"Aren't you the one who said that you don't know whether it's the same as

humans or not."

...

That's true, but you, aren't a human right~ You're a dark elf~

Though I'm not a human either.

Supposedly it's a bit easier between reincarnated people but even then isn't it difficult to conceive between different races...

"That might be the case but you never know right? In the first place, aren't you the one who said we need to put into order the foundation of the territory before having kids."

..Certainly.

Even though they're my own words I'm very sad.

Can I endure it?

I'm sure I can.

..We only did it once.

But, we properly make sure to be careful so I'm sure it'll be fine.

Even when using {Identify} on Miduchi afterwards it was {Condition: Normal} after all.

I still have the experience of using {Identify} on sister-in-law Shani when she was pregnant.

It was a relief.

But, I remembered afterwards.

I only used {Identify} on sister-in-law Shani after her morning sickness started...

Morning sickness only starts around one month after getting pregnant I think it was.

I wonder if it's possible that I had gone a full month without using

{Identify} on sister-in-law Shani when she was training the village's squires back then?

I completely forgot about that.

Ah, well, in the end Miduchi didn't get pregnant this time though.
It was at this time when I ended up with the misconception that, "If the
condition shown with identify isn't pregnant then they're not pregnant".

.....

Year 7448, Month 1, Day 18

We took quite a few detours on our return trip but just as expected it was still fast.

In the end it didn't even take us three weeks to do a round trip.

Everyone who didn't know the exact distance to Lail Kingdom just said, "Aren't you back quite a bit earlier than planned?" and weren't very surprised. However, during dinner when Gwine discussed the distance and speed we were moving they were all shocked. It was so fast that Toris said he wanted to bring Bel home with him once, Rodrick wanted to return home once as well. Also, Misu and Jeru wanted to make a trip but these two aren't used to riding horses so it would be unreliable with just Gwine. I guess it would be fine to send Ralpa. Since she seemed to want to go after all. Obviously I received an immediate reply from all of them.

First off it was decided that Toris would go together with Bel to greet his family. Toris and Bel have used Miduchi and my horses so they're reasonably familiar with riding.

Their combat strength is also high so it should be plenty if I just send Gwine along.

After they get back Gwine can accompany Rodrick to his home town..Eh? It's in the place called Robamorusu that we passed when we came back?

Then

just as I was thinking it's fine if Gwine doesn't accompany him on that end they said it might be fine to try going down a different route so in the end Gwine will follow along with Rodrick and the others as well. Under Rodrick's guidance his combat slaves Denda and Karimu are learning horsemanship as well so Gwine can focus on grasping the geography.

After that, when Misu and Jeru go back to Misu's home town it'll take the shape of Ralpha teaching them how to ride so Gwine won't have much of a burden on that end either.

During that time everyone who remains in Baldukk will continue exploring the dungeon.

Of course, to earn money.

There would be nothing more to say if we can obtain more useful magic tools and magic items that go along with it.

Also, at the inn there was contact from various directions including Sandak Company.

It's about the {Invisibility.Ring} and {Loincloth.Of.Daring} that I left in their care. It seems that there's a high probability of the {Invisibility.Ring} with

charges remaining reaching a price of over 1,5000,000,000 if it's put up for auction.

It's expected that the one without any charges remaining will only be worth about 1,000,000 or so.

Also, the {Light.Saber} will easily sell for over 2,000,000,000 so that was quite excellent.

Incidentally, Sandak Company itself decided to buy the wristwatch for 8,000,000.

However, since the effects of the {Loincloth.Of.Daring} are still unknown it was written that the price will at best be around 30,000,000.

Hm~mm...

They most likely asked Marquis Dasurain the head court magician to look at it but I guess even using his so-called "special spell" it ended up with this conclusion...

Thinking about the price it was clearer than day that it'd be a lot better to just let Zulu use it.

The next day I went to Sandak Company in the capital and said we would sell the {Light.Saber} and wristwatch. Ah, also the two {Invisibility.Rings}. Putting aside the one with no charges left, the remaining one had lost 16 charges as well.

Aft hearing his expectations that they would sell by the summer I returned to Baldukk.

I have a lot of things I need to do after all.

There's organizing all of the ores we're carrying to the surface and some things I need to make using them.

I want to make some more guns in the dungeon as well.

I also need to decide what to do about Greed Company from here on out.

I've already decided most of it after sorting through the results of the information the dark elves and Kuro brought me but I need to start

planning the policies for the current time while thinking of whether I really want to decide on that place as my future territory.

Also, I need to order more slaves.

This isn't just me but Toris and quite a few others all want to purchase slaves as well.

If we were to order them all together I'm the madam from Ronslail would be pleased.

After that, it can't be helped thinking about recruiting immigrants from those above commoners before I've finished deciding my territory.

In regards to that I'm not actually bothering with it very much.

In the first place I have no intention of making some strange person into a squire so even if I were to actually do that it would just be in form.

For the next few months, I don't think I'll have any time to rest.

In some meanings this could be considered like my final holiday.

.....

Year 7448, Month 2, Day 14

Today is the 20th birthday of us reincarnated people.

Going off the common sense from our previous lives it's a day that should be celebrated.

But, since we've all long since adjusted to the way of doing things on Orth for us it's nothing more than a day where our age goes up one.

Even then we threw a pretty flashy birthday party. Obviously, we invited all of the other members as well.

Rokko was partying as he said, "It's nice and easy to remember all of you reincarnated people's birthdays because they're all on the same day". Certainly including myself there's 10 people, almost 1/3rd of the people are have the same birthday. We all exchanged looks and made a bitter smile but it's pretty late to bring up at this point right.

Ah, we've already told everyone in the {Slaughterers} about the fact that we had reincarnated. They were shocked at first just like Kamu and Kimu but soon after seemed to lose interest. Though it seems there's some that think it was a joke as well.

It's not like we particularly care if they believe it or not and it's not that sort of matter so we just mentioned it in passing and that was the end of it.

Of course, there were those like Misu, Hisu, and Ginger who were considerably interested in it so I responded to their questions as best as I could.

But, several days later all of our lives were on the line as we entered the dungeon.

Since there's no time to bother with things like that everyone stopped focusing on it.

Well, even if I were a pure Orth person and I heard about something like

this, I'd probably only be interested at first and sooner or later I'd just start to think, "So what?" I'd say that's about all there is to it.

.....

Year 7448, Month 4, Day 1

The royal palace got into contact with me.

It seems his highness Richard's portion of the armor made using the wyvern's scales was completed so they can put a price on it.

Thinking about how it will be several billions and I can't help but grin.

I'll be in attendance at the castle on Tuesday of next week. It's planned for April 8th.

I guess we should announce it around here.

In regards to the precious metals we obtained from the dragon, I've already long since paid off everyone's portion.

The remaining portion is stashed away in my safe at the shrine.

In regards to the other items we got anything that isn't being used in the dungeon is stored in my warehouse on the surface.

It's finally time to bring out the dragon's head, scales, and magic stone.

I entered the dungeon with Miduchi and my slaves and we went up to the teleport crystal room on the 8th floor.

Different from them it's been a month since I last entered the dungeon.

Though I never missed out on my training and running roughly 20 km a day in 2 hours so there was no problem with maintaining my stamina.

.....

Year 7448, Month 4, Day 8

"Master, as you please."

Zulu humbly knelt in front of the dragon's head frozen in ice.

"Umu"

I deploy an {Anti-Magic Field} and erase the larger portion of the ice surrounding the thick dragon's head.

With this it should be possible to carry it with the strength of a few people. It's only for a short period when teleporting so even two people should be fine.

We regrouped with everyone on the 7th and 5th floors just as previously planned and then made our triumphant return to the surface.

Different from when we carried back the wyvern, we chose to carry it back in the

early morning when traffic was it's peak and the streets were filled with adventurers and stalls.

Obviously we didn't do anything to try

and hide it so the moment we appeared from the entrance plaza a huge uproar started as if poking a bee's nest.

"Hey, that!"

"Wha!!?"

"What in the world is that..!?"

"Dra..gon?.."

"It's huge~!"

"Did they defeat it?"

"Of course they did."

"Amazing~!"

Muhihi. It sure feels good to be exposed to so many looks of shock, admiration, respect, and envy.

"Supposedly the {Slaughterers} defeated a dragon."

"Just how big~ is it!?"

"So..Something like that, how in the world did they defeat it?"

"Since just it's head is that big, what about it's body.."

"That is~ I'm sure it's huge right."

"I wonder how much the dragon's magic stone is worth?"

"Like I would know. But I'm sure it's worth quite a bit."

I feel like everyone is praising Angelas and my achievement seeing the dragon's head.

"..{Dragon.Slayer}"

"Yeah, quite literally they're {Dragon.Slayers}."

Naturally from the masses surrounding us people started to bring up the words "{Dragon.Slayer}".

Those words spread around the entire entrance plaza in no time at all before everyone was using them.

"Congratulations, Greed-san! You're quite impressive!"

Church-san who was acting as the guard of the entrance plaza today praised me.

"Is it alright to shake your hand?"

"Ya~ Church-san. Thank you very much."

I thanked him and gripped the hand he was holding out.

A large and sturdy hand covered in sword blisters firmly gripped my hand. But, his hand was warm.

"Uooo...A {Dragon.Slayer} has appeared from Baldukk!!"

"It's the {Slaughterers} who just brought down a huge wyvern a while ago!"

"As expected of Greed-sama! The number one adventurer in Baldukk!"

"Even among the top teams they're a full head above the rest~"

"Greed-sama! This time for sure, this time for sure let us Boton siblings join you!"

"I'll follow you to the depths of the abyss!"

"Gekudo-sama~! Marry me!"

In response to the cheers I waved my hand.

Half of these voices are for Angela.

I need to be proud of her portion of the achievement as well.

"Kya!! Kalstalan-sama~~! Face over here!"

"Rokko~! Come over tonight!"

"Iyan~ designate me!"

"What are you saying!? Rokko is my best customer you know!"

"Kimu! After all you were a good woman!"

"I wonder if it's just as expected and Firefreed-san finished it off in the end?"

"Isn't that obvious! He's so cool! I look up to him!"

After sevel tens of minutes passed the crowd finally split in the direction we were moving and a flower arrangement was made.

"However, that sure is~ amazing!"

"That's right, dragon's sure are huge."

"Gwine-cha~n! We've got a new beard grooming set!!"

"Karimu! The pride of Berosu Village!"

"Faruergaz-sama! Please let me serve you!"

"No, me! I who was once the second company commander of Viscount Yoraizu's knight group!"

"Ginger-san! We've got some good vodka!"

I walk forward standing at the lead.

I waved my hand at the surroundings and acted courteous.

"Kamu! After all you were first-rate, no super first-rate!"

"But, just as expected if you don't have this many people there's no way to defeat a dragon like this right.."

"I wonder how they regrouped?"

"Ruttso yo~!! Ehe the greaves you ordered will be done by this weekend!"

"That's the guy who created the baldoggie right? Saji was it, he's a genius!"

"Hey~hey~hey, Ralph!! Aren't you~ amazing~!"

"It's the triumphant return of the {Dragon.Slayers}~!!"

Zulu is following me from behind.

"Oh! Zulu! The star of the Laios!"

"Sanno! Pay your tab!"

"It's that dark elf right? She's supposedly an amazing magician."

"Not just that I've heard her skill with the sword and bow are impressive as well."

"She's a beautiful woman but a dark elf huh..."

"She doesn't look elvish right."

"Supposedly she's Greed's woman."

Behind that Henry, Mekku, Rubi, Jesu, Denda, and Karimu are carrying the dragon's head as they slowly follow along.

"Ransun! You're looking great again today!"

"Hey now~ do you want to get yourself killed by Jeru!? You're sure reckless with your life!?"

"Ge?..Jeru! So you were there."

"Just relax since there's no way he'd bother with someone like you."

"Hisu! As expected of the archer of the demon shot! Is it true that you don't have a man! Then with me"

"No with me!"

"No~no with me!"

The dragon's head being carried by six large men was sparkling as the light from the entrance plaza reflected off its scales and seemed almost like a portable shrine.

"Denda! Do you remember me!? It's me! Me!"

"Kevvin! Let's have a toast tonight! I'll treat you to a drink!"

"Bernadette-cha~~n! You're cuuu~te again today, so cuuuute!"

"That combat slave, he's called Henry right? Is it true he was a knight?"

"Let alone that the Laios opposite from him, the one named Mekku, it seems he was a knight as well."

"Amazing~ slaves right. According to what I've heard that fellow named Rubi is pretty impressive as well."

"Jeswu!! Come to big~ sisters place again today!"

Ha? Just now was..that bastard Jesu, even though he's just a slave...

Further behind us the other members all followed along carrying bags filled with the scales.

"I~ was expecting it right from the start, that the {Slaughterers} would some day

do something huge!"

"You, didn't you always say they were no good because they were just a bunch of brats?"

"Ha? When it comes a veteran watcher of my level I say things like that intentionally."

"Who was it that said they lost a lot of their combat strength since that female slave died?"

"I don't know, a conversation like that."

"You, are you not embarrassed saying that?.."

"Not really? It's fine if I just complain about whatever when it comes to that time as long as I enjoy myself."

Hn? Maru, Rinbi, and Cathy came to greet us.

Then I guess Cathy came over to Baldukk last night.

She's being dragged along by the crowd trying to get a glance at the dragon while waving her hand high up.

It took us quite a bit of time to regroup and arrive at Boil Manor.

.....

In the afternoon I arrived at the royal castle.

Obviously I'm wearing the {Dragon.Slayer} on my waist and I have the {Utility.Ring} on my finger.

Of course, I chartered a carriage so the dragon's head is here as well.

I covered it with some cloth when transporting it so it wouldn't stand

out but obviously they checked the luggage when I was passing through the gates of the royal castle.

It was just as I expected that there would be another huge uproar here.
It was even more than the time with the wyvern.
Nevertheless, after telling them my business I was let through into the outer citadel.

I was made to wait for a bit in front of the audience room of the outer citadel but after a short while I was allowed to enter.

"Greed. Raise your face."

Her highness Queen Morin gave me permission so I raised my face.
In the audience room other than her highness, the King, and prince Richard, there were several knights acting as guards.
And then to the side from the throne there was a stand for armor with magnificent set of armor hanging on it.

"Greed. Just look at it. This armor, it's amazing~"

Black Sky Scale

Pure Breed Wyvern Scales.Cowhide

Condition: Normal

Manufacture Date: 29/3/7448

Value: 1

Durability: 1625147

Ability: Body Restriction Rate: 7%

Ability: Average Penetration Rate: -38%

Ability: Armor-Protection Area Average Damage Reduction Rate: 69%

Effect: {Half Effect.From.Breath Weapon}

Effect: {Weight.Alleviation}

Effect: {Impediment.Minor.Magic}

..Well~well, this is quite impressive.

It has a penetration reduction rate on the level of splint mail and a higher defensive rate than full plate mail.

On top of that the body restriction rate is on the same level as leather armor.
The special effects are excellent as well.
Additionally, just as the artisan expected it has a unique name attached to it.

"Thus, this armor. About the price.."

I was given permission so I stood up and started acting as if I was using
{Status Open} while the King was putting on airs as he said it.

Ah, I couldn't help but be charmed by it.
..Gulp.

Chapter 336 : Promise

Year 7448, Month 4, Day 8

Now then, I wonder exactly what kind of price will be put on it.

"The estimate for this armor came out to be 3,620,000,000 Z per suit."

Hmm. Well I guessed about that much.

I returned to my original position and knelt down taking the retainer's pose.

Taking out taxes, bonuses, and wages then my income should be about 3/4ths..I guess roughly 5,400,000,000 for two suits of armor?

"You may raise your head...And also other than an amount of scales equal to one suit of this armor there's about 40% of the scales remaining. The

estimated price of these was evaluated to be 2,762,260,000 Z...This

before tailoring them into armor so they're expected to be made into a similar named item but because the effects of the magic attached to it are unknown. Also, I have no intention of making this portion into armor after all."

In other words..It's over 7,500,000,000.

However..No, I guess it's fine. It might be the place to settle on.

"But.."

"But?"

Even though it's rude I unintentionally asked back.

I wonder what he's going to say.

I can think of several things but it's probably that.

"..It's exceeded 10,000,000,000."

Eh? So it was that one.

Well I guess it's fine.

"Ha."

Looking strange at my eyes the King made a faint smile before opening his mouth.

"I said I wouldn't spit any lies. What should I do?"

Hmm. As expected the greatest matter of concern was that.

Though I guess you could say it's only obvious.

In the end something like armor is just equipment for an individual after all.

No matter how good the abilities are on it there's a limit.

"Well then, I present the armor and remaining scales this time to the Royal Family."

I wonder if he'll let himself be tricked?

I tried saying it with as honest an expression as possible.

Well, just in case.

"Hey now, just because I said it would be worth a bit over 10,000,000,000 Z
don't try to change it to paying in kind. As expected it's not worth
that much right?"

The King said while sneering.

Shit.

If he would have accepted payment in kind then I would have been able to go

without paying the 1,000,000,000 in luxury tax...

I thought there might be a chance but as expected I guess that's no good? No matter what I was underestimating him too much.

"So it's impossible.."

I made an expression like I was disappointed and looked up at the King.

"Right, this guy, you can't let your guard down? He tried to cover up the luxury tax."

So he saw through it.

The Queen and his highness Richard are both making bitter smiles on the side.

"No, not at all! There's no way I was trying to cover it up! I just thought that since it was worth 10,000,000,000 Z then maybe, nothing more! It's a misunderstanding!"

I said it as if I was flustered but all three of them relaxed their expressions.

"Look, Richard. It's just as Morin and I said right? This guy would definitely try to make the payment in kind."

The King made a triumphant face while looking at his highness Richard.

"Ha. Certainly. It seems I still need to cultivate my eyes for looking at people."

His highness Richard said to the King while laughing and looked at me.

"Greed-kun. I've already heard about the matter his majesty promised to you. However, I think it'll be quite difficult."

Yeah, I know.

I made an obedient expression while looking up at his highness the prince.

"Certainly the soil is good and it's easy to raise crops. There's almost no hills so I think as long as you can cultivate the land then there's no doubt you would have better harvests than anywhere else in the Kingdom. If you just think about that then 10,000,000,000 Z is an exceptional price."

Right.

His highness the prince changed his expression and tone of voice before continuing.

"However, a conflict always occurs in that area every couple of years. And it's only been about 100 years or so since people started settling there so there's a lot of monsters. No matter which land, other than the northern parts which aren't included in the Dirt Plains and are safe, are

dangerous areas to the point where you can't relax and live in them without guards."

That's why the army is stationed there, is what you want to say right?

"You understand that there's that sort of reason behind the price of 10,000,000,000 Z right?"

"Ha. That's something I've already resolved myself for."

His highness the prince looked into my eyes for a short while before nodding and backing off.

"Hmph.

Something like that, this fellow should have known it since long ago..Last year, several dark elves have been spotted wandering around the Dirt Plains. I'm sure it was this fellow having them investigate.

Right? Isn't that correct?"

The King said while making an expressions as if everything was on the palm of his hands.

Oh my.

It's true dark elves stand out after all.

I'm sure they only made some small talk for the sake of the investigation which is easy to forget about but it would still leave an impression

that they talked with a dark elf.

"So you already saw through it all.."

In that case there's no meaning in acting dumb.

"And? Which place do you want?"

"Well then, I'll state it without reservation...I wish for the territory farthest to the west, Count Riguru's territory."

I said it respectfully with a smile on my face.

"Hm~m.

I could have sworn you would pick the second territory from the east, Count Doresura's territory though...Can I ask the reason why?"

The King asked as if it was really unexpected.

Well, normally it would be as just as the King says.

It's going slightly off topic but let's go over a simple review of the Dirt Plains.

The northern parts of the Dirt Plains. In other words the southern side of Rombert is largely split into the territories of four Counts lined up with each other.

Going from the east they're Count Erasu's territory, Count Doresura's territory, Count Ranseru's territory, and Count

Riguru's territory.

First, the one further to the east Count Erasu's territory. It's said to be the territory with the narrowest

area. Additionally it's the territory with the lowest amount of area

that's a part of the Dirt Plains as well but every part of it other than the Dirt Plains are reasonably cultivated. There's 5 towns. 11

Villages. Among those 3 are pioneering villages. The portion of the

territory which stretches out to the eastern part of the Dirt Plains has comparatively sparse forests so it would be the easiest to cultivate the land. However, it's the one with the worst progress in cultivating.

I'll mention the reason later.

Next, the second territory from the east Count Doresura's territory. In the ranking for how much

progress has been made in the territories it's number two. Also, out of the four territories it's said to be one with the largest area. However, even if we say that the territory has been cultivated, the parts of it covering the Dirt Plains are covered in deep forests and because of the monsters living there not much progress has been made to spread it out.

The primary source of income is the crops from the cultivated portions of the northern Dirt Plains and the ores mined from the mountainous

area. There's 4 towns. 17 Villages. Among which 7 are pioneering villages.

Then, the second territory that spreads out from the west is Count Ranseru's territory. In terms of cultivation progress it's the highest and obviously the area which can be used for farmland is the largest as well, in the north of it there's a small mountain region that spreads to Count Doresura's territory in the east which copper and iron are mined as well. The number of towns is 5. 18 villages. Among

which 7 are pioneering villages.

Finally is the territory I asked for, it's Count Riguru's territory farthest to the west. It's third in terms of area of the territory. It's also third in the amount of area the Dirt Plains take up within the territory. Just like Count Erasu's territory this place has a decent amount of territory outside of the Dirt Plains as well. However, more than half of that is a mountainous

district shaped like a scrunched up bowl leading over to Viscount

Yoraizu's territory. The number of towns is the lowest at 3. 13

Villages. Among which 4 are pioneering villages. In the southwest of the territory there's a mountain called Mount Berosu which acts as the

border with Devas and in the north of that while it's only a bit it's the only territory among the four which is touching the sea.

Among these Count Riguru's territory and Count Doresura's territory are the ones with comparatively long terms of conflict with Devas Kingdom while Count Erasu's territory and Count Ranseru's territory have comparatively short terms of conflict compared to that.

Count Erasu's territory has the lowest amount of territory that's part of the Dirt Plains but almost all of the territory in the plains is covered in sparse trees so since it's the one that seems easiest to cultivate and the nobles that live on the Devas side of that are considerably ambitious and

belligerent that seems to be the reason.

Count Ranseru's territory has the most progress towards cultivating farmland and is abundant so it's easy for others to have their eye on it.

Therefore, first Count Erasu's territory and Count Ranseru's territory disappeared from the options.

Count Doresura's territory is the one with the greatest area and along with that it's obviously the one with the largest area in the Dirt Plains as well. On top of that there's an already developed mine in the safe

northern parts of it.

I thought this was the best candidate at first as well.

However, I changed my thoughts after seeing the results of the dark elves, Kuro, and Mary's investigation.

While the quantity is low for each type the mountain in Count Riguru's territory produces lead, mercury, sulfur, and various mineral resources. Of course, it also produces iron, copper, and brass as well.

In other words the Count Riguru's territory is more convenient to me from a mineral resource front than Count Doresura's territory.

And then there's another two more reasons.

One is a problem with the lords of each of the towns and villages. The territory with the highest proportion of indigenous lords is Count

Riguru's territory. In other words, you could say it's the one where I will inherit the largest number of low ranking nobles as well. Among our current members I intend to have several of them elevate to peerage but I'm sure it would difficult for them to suddenly be in possession of a village. The more low ranking nobles they have as seniors in the area the better.

Hn? What if I don't have enough seats? Isn't there as much territory outside of Rombert that I want spreading to the south? If it develops to the point of running out of seats then it's just a

matter of invading, stealing the territory, and splitting it up to them.

The other reason is close to a gamble. But, I think it's got reasonably good chances. Count Riguru's territory hasn't been the stage for conflict over these past 7 years. Most likely the next stage will be

here. It would be ideal if the conflict occurs before I inherit it then they split up it like usual. Well, for the time being after I inherit it I have no intention of going out from my side but in the case that they attack I'll use guns or gunpowder or whatever to repel them.

Now then, returning back to the discussion.

It was the reason I chose Count Riguru's territory.

"I'm sure your majesty already knows but I was born on the Jindaru

Peninsula. In order to do trade with rubber products Count Riguru's

territory which is the closest is the most convenient. Also, it's

strange saying this but another major reason is because the frequency for conflicts with Devas Kingdom seems low."

"I see...Hmm, well fine. Even if I leave it to you at soonest it'll take one year so I'm sure you're aiming for the next battle to occur during that time."

The King showed a bit of admiration but soon after changed his expression and stood up.

And then, stepped off from the throne and came before me.

"The only ones here are my family after all...Hey, Greed"

"Ha"

"This armor is quite impressive. Not only does it have a magic effect so you don't feel the weight but it's also got an excellent defensive effect as armor. To the point where a full suit of plate armor can't even compete with it."

"Ha"

"That's why this time I'll give you a big discount and permit paying in kind."

"Wa ha...Thank you very much!"

So he has a good side. Though it doesn't suit his face.

"And then..it was a promise. I'm sorry for making fun of your dream back then. It seems I was mistaken. Sorry about that, forgive me."

"..Of course there's no problem."

So he remembered?

When the King said that, hearing it her highness Queen Morairu made a faint smile while looking at his back.

Fufu...

I had to desperately resist my face loosening up while still prostrating myself.

"There's still the matter of withdrawing and taking over from Romiosu and his subordinates that I've appointed as Count Riguru. Starting in the summer of next year you'll be Count Riguru. Don't be negligent in your preparations until then.."

Count Riguru Alan.Greed is it.

There's still plenty more to go after this!

Chapter 337 : The First Seat

Year 7448, Month 4, Day 8

Before

excusing myself from the audience room I was told about the schedule for the next meeting and the elevation of my noble ranking. It seems it's next Wednesday, April 14th. I was ordered to make sure I'm available that day and then when I was told "it's fine to leave", his highness Richard started talking.

"Your majesty, there's one more thing to report"

"There's still something remaining."

"Hn?"

The King and her highness the Queen both made slightly curious expressions.

"Sorry about that, Greed-kun. Both his majesty and her highness had a different audience up until right before this one. I still haven't had the chance to tell them. Though I say that, I only just heard about it myself a short while ago...Now, tell us about it, your great achievements!"

"Ha...Well then, with all due respect please allow me to announce"

Sorry about bringing this up while you're excited over the Wyvern armor.

"The other day we were able to defeat the guardians of the 12th and 13th floors of the dungeon of Baldukk. It was determined at that time but we believe that the 13th floor is the lowest floor of that dungeon. We were unable to teleport into any floors lower than that."

"Ho?"

The King leaned forward from his throne in admiration.

"We obtained a sword from the guardian of the 12th floor. Also, we obtained a ring from the guardian of the 13th floor. Ah, I left the sword with the knights at the entrance of the castle."

"Hmph, I'm sure it's just that right, at best a well-made sword so there's no need to bother with that. However, it's the first time something like a ring has come out."

"Ha. I'm wearing it right now. Would you like to take a look?"

I took of the ring and presented it.

It's the {Utility.Ring} but obviously it has a reaction to {Detect.Magic}.

However, it's just a light reaction to earth, wind, and void magic. I don't think there's any easy way to investigate its effects.

If it's that imperial court magician, Marquis Dasurain's "unique spell"

then he might be able to figure out the details a bit better. However, after the matter with the {Loincloth.Of.Daring} I can more or less guess what kind of effect that "unique spell" has.

I think that "unique spell" or whatever is capable of detecting something like the mana waves(?) of the spell cast on the item.

In the case that he knows a spell with an effect similar to the one cast on an item then he probably can feel waves similar to that spell from the item.

And then he can make a guess about what kind of effect it'll have based on the spell he knows.

For example the {Ring.Of.Protection}, I think that's the reason why he was immediately able to confirm it was real and test it out.

After all that Marquis already had a ring with the same name.

I'm sure it wasn't exactly the same but he probably felt an extremely similar mana wave.

Also, the accuracy of that "unique spell" might not be all that high.

In comparison to the ring which he already knew the effects and mana waves, he didn't know any similar spells to the {Loincloth.Of.Daring} which mainly affects status so he probably wasn't even able to guess. Even

if he was able to guess the effects of it, I think he might only be able to that that it has an extremely weak(it might be that the effects are too weak that he wasn't even able to detect it, or even if he could detect it he could only tell it's even weaker than the effects of {Bark Skin}) defensive ability?

Things like HP recovery or damage reduction, those sorts of spells are pretty well known.

Putting aside HP recovery, quite frankly the spells which reduce damage are

barely usable. Something like {Bark Skin} is barely just better than nothing, or at least it feels like that, and even I don't feel like bothering to use it most of the time.

Well, even then precisely because it "supposedly" has a magic effect it still had the value of 30,000,000 Z.

"{Status Open}..Hm~mm.. I don't really get it but for the most part it still seems to be a {Magic.Item}.."

The King said with an expression as if it completely betrayed his expectations.

"Ha.

Just as you say. There's no way of determining the effects, the magic reaction is weak but I'm still thinking of making it into the heirloom of my family in commemoration for reaching the lowest floor."

"That's for the best."

Just in case he tried putting it on his finger, then after seeing it the King took it off and returned it to me.

"Then continuing on. About the guardian of the 13th floor but.."

"Yeah?"

"It was a dragon. Or to be more precise it was a {Shadow.Dragon}. Ah, it even arrogantly had a name such as Rongaruzamuryuzorufaren."

...
The King and Queen's eyes opened wide in surprise.
His highness Richard happily gazed at them.

"What was that? A dragon!?"

"Ha, this is from the guardian of the 12th floor, and this is the magic stone from the {Shadow.Dragon}, the guardian of the 13th floor. Also, today I brought along the head which we cut off as well."

I casually said with a refreshing expression as if I wasn't talking about anything important.

"A dragon you say! I definitely want to see it! Where is it!?"

Her highness spoke out in excitement.

No interest in the magic stone huh? Even though I went to the trouble of bringing it.

"Ha. On my carriage in the stables of the third outer citadel.."

"Richard! Bring it right away!"

After being ordered by the Queen, his highness Richard nodded before leaving the audience room in big strides and then said something to the guards in the hall.

The King is grumbling about something like, "Grrww..really a dragon..seriously..Shit" and whispering to himself.

They still seem to have no interest in the magic stone I'm holding. After a short while a messenger came to say that my carriage with the frozen dragon head on it was brought into the side garden in the second citadel.

After going outside right away and there was a large crowd gathered around

the carriage looking from a distance.

They must have heard rumors about the dragon's head being on it and want to attend it's unveiling.

However, when both the King and Queen appeared they all took the retainer's pose all at once.

"I'll open it.."

I went to the side of my carriage while putting on airs and slowly untied the string on the canopy.

""Oh~~!!""

Shouts in admiration were raised from all over the place.

The ice is giving off a gleam in the spring sunlight.

Inside of that was the head of a black dragon the color of shadows glaring at the surroundings.

"Uumu.."

The King approached to the side and stared at it while groaning.

"As expected, of a dragon huh? It sure is big~"

The Queen was blocking her mouth with a folding fan while looking at it from all sides with her eyes opened wide.

"For it to be this size.."

His highness Richard seems to have regrouped with one of his subordinates from the first knight group and is nodding with his arms crossed as well.

"Hn? This is..Hey, Greed. What made this kind of wound?"

It seems the King noticed something.

I guess it caught their attention but his highness Richard and his subordinate came over for a look as well.

The wounds the King is pointing at are the numerous small round holes around the dragon's eyes and head.

The gunshot wounds that Angela fired.

They ignored the stab wound from {Flame.Tongue} on it's nose.

Well, since the stab wound looks more exaggerated they probably think it's from an attack spell or something.

The surroundings scales of the holes where the bullets pierced through are cracked and the scales themselves were completely torn so we tore them off.

Ah, obviously we already removed the remainders of the bullets as well.

"Yeah,

that's an arrow wound. It was done by one of my combat slaves firing a crossbow. Though regrettably she lost her life in our fight with this Rongaruzamuryuzorufaren...It was precisely because I had her support that I was able to defeat it."

"Ho~ from a crossbow.."

Hearing my reply the King and Prince,

"Richard.

You said that even when the Wyvern's scales were unprocessed they were able to deflect quarrels from a crossbow right?"

"Yes. Certainly. I confirmed it with my own eyes."

"..For a moment I thought I made a mistake rushing with the Wyvern armor but that's a relief.."

"It seems that when it comes to the scales themselves the Wyverns are better than the Dragons."

"That seems to be the case."

And were whispering things like that.

It's a relief right?

When it comes to this fellow, I won't hand over this dragon.

After that I erased a portion of the ice so they could directly touch the head and let them check the status all they please.

Not just the King but all of the people in the surroundings lined up to touch it and check the status while raising their voices in excitement.

"However..it's certainly a dragon..Uumu, magnificent."

"Your majesty, the horn is splendid right."

The King and Queen are talking in front of the dragon's head.

Around this time the remaining Queens all gathered and were admiring it.

"For Greed to become a {Dragon.Slayer}.."

"I, just thought he was a simple rubber craftsman at first..Just as expected of Greed's younger brother right."

"I wonder if my little brother was together with them as well? Hey, greed...Eh? With your slave, just the two of you!?Cheh..that brat.."

"Well isn't it fine. But, for a {Dragon.Slayer} to appear in our country."

"Greed, you..It's amazing you were able to defeat this sort of giant monster~"

"Eeeh!!? You were swallowed by it once...That is"

"It seems that Greed is the number one adventurer in Baldukk."

"I see, then it's no wonder.."

After waiting for the conversation to calm down I took the chance to start talking to the King.

"Your majesty, there's one request I'd like to make."

"Hn? What is it? Try saying it."

"It's about the head of this dragon but would it be alright to leave it here frozen in ice like this for a short while?"

"I don't mind but why? I'd like to see the bones of it, so wouldn't it be best to stuff it?"

"Ha, as a matter of fact at the end of this month my family will be coming to the castle to deliver armor and saya. I definitely want to show them a true dragon."

"Greed has quite the cute side as well~ Isn't that fine, your majesty?"

Queen

Morin helped follow-up for me so it was decided that it would remain on display while still frozen to the side of the castle gates for the time being.

By the way, I don't know if it's because this dragon

matter came up but he didn't ask about those three illegitimate children today.

It would be the best if he could just give up on it though.

Whatever the case my elevation to peerage has been decided so I need to do what I need to do.

Incidentally, elevation to peerage is one variation(?) of naming ceremony that's

done at the shrine.
However, it's not much different than delivering your notice of marriage to the government office in Japan so it's nothing more than a required ceremony for the nobility.

The investiture ceremony is done properly in the castle on a different day. These past 20 years or so there hasn't been any upper ranking nobles born other than successors who inherited the noble ranking.

Well, it's something that's rarely performed to that extent so quite a few nobles will be in attendance at the investiture ceremony.

Though
there's also the matter of their circumstances so what would be the reception party of a wedding for the investiture ceremony will take place around the fall of this year.

On the evening of this day,
after returning to Baldukk I properly confirmed the remaining amount in my wallet and then went to do what needed to be done together with Miduchi.

It can't be done alone after all.

.....

Seeing me arrive at the castle the guard left me pass with just a simple body check.

After all right now my reputation is at it's peak.

Along with that it's to the point that considerably high ranking noble families are making marriage offers.

Though I've been rejecting them all saying while I'm a borderline noble it's still too much for a mere adventurer so we don't match up.

The frozen dragon's head is still hanging from ropes as it's displayed on the side of the gate.

The knight or squire or whatever who's acting as the guard was looking at me with admiration.

This morning I have a lecture which will cover all of the details that the King knows about Count Riguru's territory.

Of course, even if I call it a lecture there's not that much to it.

Things like the taxes these past few years, the organization of the local knight groups, how many low ranking nobles will withdraw when the transfer is done, and when that will take place, etc...

After that there's deciding the safety fee for when I become the Lord.

I tried negotiating to make it even just a bit cheaper but I was told that if I want to try and decrease it below the current safety fee of 30% of the taxes then they'll lower the number of stationed troops to match that so I couldn't do anything about it.

Eventually I'll have

to manage everything on my own but since I have to leave the stationed troops of the second knight group to maintain public security and

protect against invasions until then, there's no helping it.

Either way I'm sure I'll have to discuss the fine details of things like this sooner or later so it should be fine then right?

And then 10:00 am.

It was finally time for the naming ceremony required for the elevation to peerage.

I put on a plain but high quality robe that doesn't stand out and went together with the King wearing a hood low over his head as well as several knights from the second knight group to visit the shrine that's to the side of the castle.

It seems they've already made preparations with the shrine so we were able to perform the ceremony with zero waiting time.

"{Status Open}"

Alan.Greed/14/4/7448 Alan.Greed/8/4/7448

Male/14/2/7428

Hyumu.Count Riguru Family Head

Unique Skill: Identify(MAX)

Unique Skill: Gift of Natural Talent(MAX)

Special Skill: Earth Magic(MAX)

Special Skill: Water Magic(MAX)

Special Skill: Fire Magic(MAX)

Special Skill: Wind Magic(MAX)

Special Skill: Void Magic(MAX)

Certainly I was able to confirm that my association had changed.

Furthermore, in regards to the family name it's fine if I change it to match up later or there's no problem if I just want to keep using Greed as well. Noble ranking is normally something that comes attached to the territory you

rule after all.

Though it's not absolute since there's also nobles who don't rule any territory.

After returning to the castle this time I was pulled over by the chief of

emblems under the ministry of internal affairs and made to wait.

It's supposedly about my family emblem.

The current Count Riguru family emblem is what you could call "Two Hawk Feathers in a Circle".

It's confirming whether I'm fine with keeping it as it is now or if I want to change it to a different design.

The Greed family emblem is "Three Columns in a Circle".

Incidentally, the Kawasaki family emblem from my previous life was "???" which is

basically the Wisteria flower spreading out it's petals.

It's not anything that particularly needs to be hurried but it can't be helped worrying about something like this.

Though that's the case, it's what's going to be my flag so I don't want to decide it simply either.

I was told since I defeated a dragon and became a {Dragon.Slayer} what about a design that includes a dragon.

That sounded right but then I remembered my origins.

It's rubber.

That's why I decided on the rubber tree and made it the flower from the quasi-rubber tree.

It's a quasi-rubber tree shaped like a hanging bell with a lot of small yellow flowers blooming from it.

They have five flower petals.

As a matter of fact they're almost like tri-color bread shaped like three eggs stuck together.

I designed it matching up with that.

I guess it would be best to describe it as having three circles

overlapping with the flower of the quasi-rubber tree placed in the center of that?

Well it's a simple design but I was satisfied with it.

Before going back I thought about going to the tailor shop and ordering a flag.

Ah, I guess it would be fine to go right now as well.

I'm making Miduchi wait right.

It's just right so I'll go now.

After I told the director of emblems "I'll order a lot of flags from the

tailor and give you one when they're done" he finally let me go.

In addition to the order I said I would go and get some lunch before heading out.

However, in the afternoon I have a meeting with a different official.

I was told to come back right away.

It's expected that I'll be considerably busy for the next few months.

I took off on my horse from the castle and met up with Miduchi who was

waiting at the factory of my company and had a simple of lunch of

hotdogs.

And then we immediately went to do what needed to be done.

After

returning to the castle I was lectured by an official from the ministry

of internal affairs about Count Riguru's territory and it was evening

when the portion for today was finally over.

Just when I was about to leave the castle it seems his highness Richard was waiting for me as he called out for me.

It seems the King is calling for me.

Just as I entered the audience room the King threw a bomb at me.

If I hadn't been prepared for it before hand then I probably would have been at my limit avoiding an immediate reply.

"I thought about bringing it up next month but it's better to do things like this sooner rather than later. Hey, Greed. Just in case I'll listen to your wishes. Out of the three of them, which one do you want?"

So he's finally come.

This "three of them" is probably referring to his three illegitimate children.

"..What now? Out of the three of them? Whatsoever could you mean?"

"Don't play dumb. The daughters of Jibekuto, Refaisu, and Fokein. I've heard about it. You've already met them in person right?"

"..Jibekuto..Refaisu...Fokein? Ah, those.."

I replied while making a difficult expression.

"In regards to those three there was something I wanted to report to your majesty."

It seems my expression and reply were unexpected to him. The King leaned forward from the throne with a bit of interest.

"Hn? What is it? Try telling me."

"I don't know what the reason is but those three are frequently coming to Baldukk. Last year they entered the dungeon after asking some adventurers who I've had friendly relations with for many years to act as their guides."

"That's right. It was originally my idea after

all. Since in the future I'm sure they'll have to defeat monsters so I encouraged them to do it."

On the side of the King who was making a triumphant face his highness Richard was nodding to himself as well.

"..Judging from that state it seems you didn't receive a proper report about things."

"What?"

The King replied as if he was surprised.

"In accordance with their play acting as adventurer in Baldukk they caused various disturbances. As a result of that they weighed down the adventurers and caused several casualties. The original underlying cause was because they were unsatisfied with their campsite inside of the dungeon."

Since they couldn't stand the filth and stares from other adventurers inside of the dungeon.

Thanks to that they had to move their base camp.

And then that caused a large number of casualties including the leader of one of the adventurer parties.

Moreover they ended up becoming undead so I had to kill them with my own hands when I went to their rescue.

"..Hey, Richard. Did you know about the matter from just now?"

"No, I didn't know about it.."

His highness Richard was making an expression as if he had suddenly swallowed 100 bugs or so while replying.

"..I see."

Viruhaima's already dead so I'm sure Anderson wouldn't bother explaining the fine details at this point.

It seems the King has already regained his composure.

"However, what are you trying to say about that? Isn't it only obvious that there will be casualties inside of the dungeon?"

"That's right. It's obvious for there to be casualties. However, the problem isn't the fact that there were casualties. It's because there were casualties that normally wouldn't have been necessary. And the cause of that was the selfishness of those three."

"You bastard..Are you insulting my daughters?"

The King said with an expression of anger.

"No way! That's absurd. It's my humble opinion that the problem here is the environment they were raised in but how about? Your highness?"

I

requested the opinion of her highness Queen Morairu who's just been standing with no expression like a Noh mask and not participating in the discussion.

After having the discussion thrown to her Morin quickly changed her expression as if he realized and then smiled.

"Your majesty, do you understand the meaning of what Greed is trying to say?"

He's saying that they weren't properly disciplined and grew up getting

whatever they want because they're your children you know?"

On Orth, no, at the very least in Rombert Kingdom the treatment between genders is almost equal.

Women can inherit households and there's quite a few female soldiers as well. Also, just because they're nobles doesn't mean they're free to act as selfish as they please either.

Though in reality it's still pardoned to some extent, exactly like how it was for those three.

However, it's also because most nobles understand things like that they throw their younger generations into the army while they're still young.

In

that sort of way it's certain that those three entered the knight group

a lot later than the period most noble's children do(though it's not

the case for just the youngest one) even more-so in an environment where

their family's squires are already there to take care of them...

It's spoiling them too much right.

In any case, those three fail as someone you can leave a large number of subordinates to on the front lines.

I don't know whether or not they have political talent in the royal palace.

"Also, this time it was adventurers but please think about if that was

kingdom's knights. What would happen if the battle ends up at a

disadvantage because of their selfishness? What if a skilled knight or

squire loses their life? Greed is pointing out those sorts of points."

Her highness the Queen politely and kindly sad as if scolding a small child.

"Gu..Mu.."

"Ha, mother, that is.."

"I think so too..if they were..that's right more like her highness

Biagitte with great wisdom and deep prudence, a splendid lady then I wouldn't have had any reason to reject the marriage."

That's

right, something like an illegitimate child that royalty like you didn't raise, unless they're exceptionally skilled there's no way I'd be willing to put on those shackles. If you were to try and sell me a favor like that and put a collar on me then it would all be pointless.

"Is

that so~ It's said that Biagitte is too gentle but I guess for those who are looking they can see through it...However, it's already been 9 years since Biagitte married into Baguweru's place. Nobles can't divorce after all. Greed, unfortunately no matter how interested you are in her."

Her highness was pleased that the eldest daughter she gave birth to herself was praised.

However, her highness Biagitte..though she's already not her highness anymore..as expected that's raising her up a bit too high, she's not that intelligent. Though it seems she's a fluffy beauty but I've never seen her face before.

"Also, your majesty. It's more important

than anything else but..while they're just illegitimate children I think it would be a bit bad for appearances sake if I were to take your

majesty's daughter as my second wife.."

When I said that all three of them made surprised expressions.

"What? Second..you say?"

"You, were married?"

"Wh..when...?"

I've won in terms of speed.

On the night when my elevation to peerage was decided Miduchi and I got married at a shrine in Baldukk, since I wasn't a successor to anyone I became a commoner as the {Greed Family Head}.

And then today, after

gaining the noble ranking of Count Riguru, when I went to lunch with Miduchi we had them change or status again.

And conveniently just as the Queen said Rombert Kingdom doesn't accept nobles to divorce.

Since as the head of the Count Riguru family I Alan.Greed brought a woman to change her status to {Greed Family First Wife} and said, "I became a count so use naming to change my wife's status as well" then there's no reason why the priest would refuse it.

Furthermore it was still fresh in his memory that I had just formally become a count this morning.

There's nothing particularly wrong with being the second or third wife. However, in the average household it's common for the lower numbers to have more

authority so it's often the case where that's considered obvious.

This

goes the same for households with men as well, the third husband has less authority than the second, and the second has less than the first so it's common for the head of the household to put more priority on their opinion.

It's not like there's any particular reason it's just how it ended up as a culture though.

Since that's the case, I had a proper reason to directly reject the marriage with those three.

Happily ever after.

Now then, what happened next was...

.....

One night in the late 21st century.

Even after the usual time arrived there was no contact from AI.

It's the first time this has happened but I didn't panic. It's still too soon to panic. I'm sure he's busy after all.

With my mobile terminal connected to the charging cable I left it on the side of my desk and decided to start finishing up the work I brought home first. I'm sure there's days like this as well.

..However, after that day, over a week later and there's still no contact from AI.

I was already starting to panic quite a bit.

I thought I wouldn't be able to record the continuation like this.

It's already about time for me to stop panicking over it.

The contact is made through AI's spell and he said it was pretty close to the result of an accident.

We discussed quite a few things like the gaps between time and space, distortions and whatnot, but in the end we couldn't figure out the reason.

I can't find any abnormalities with my terminal.

There's no problem with calling my family, friends, or associates from work at all.

It's possible to both make and receive calls with no problems. Of course, there's nothing wrong with sending mail or checking the web either. I tried bringing it into the shop of the carrier I have a contract with but just as expected there was no problem.

I wonder if something happened to AI?

I was worried but I couldn't do anything other than what I was able to think of doing.

Grasping for straws I tried buying the exact same model of terminal and even tried changing my personal authentication.

However, just like usual there was still no contact.

And then time passed just like that.

I was busy with my own life and before long the number of times I remembered him decreased.

.....

After over 10 years had passed, one night when I was digging through the desk drawer in my house looking for something.

The mobile terminal I used in the past rolled out.

Huh? Ah, this...

It's the old terminal before I bought a new one.

It's long since run out of battery so just as I was staring at the mobile

terminal which can't be turned and I suddenly remembered the strange event that happened in the past.

Come to think of it, how many years back was that again...

For a while I even tried to think of it as just a dream.

However, the data that was carved into the octuple.level.self-flash memory(OLC)

through the voice recording function on my mobile terminal proves it wasn't a dream.

Back then it was such a strange occurrence that I even requested a record of where the signal came from I think it was...

In the end there wasn't anything suspicious about where the signal came from...

For the first time in a while I wanted to hear his voice.

I guess I'll try replaying some of the recorded data.

Where did I put the charger cable from back then?

I'm sure there's no way I threw it away.

Is it inside of the drawer?

Just as I held onto the mobile terminal to stick one of my hands into the drawer...

The mobile terminal in my hand had...

started ringing that it was receiving a call...

and shook.

Even though it shouldn't have any battery remaining...

On the display was...

"Receiving Call"

just that.

There wasn't any information on the other side's registered name, number, or

whether they're using a public line, just the words "Receiving Call".

I felt a shock as if I was hit by lightning and just stared at the display.

And then with my trembling fingers I tapped the "Pick-up" button.

..Yo~ sorry about yesterday..

The voice that was nostalgic for a period of time came out from the speakers.

"Is it AI!?"

..Yeah, it's me. Did you forget my voice after a single day?..

There's no way, there's no way I would forget it!

"Yo..You!! Al!! You were alright!?"

..Ha? Alright..What are you saying? I'm lively and well..

"Until now exactly..how many years do you think has passed!! It's been over 10 years since then!"

..Han? It's only been a single night since our last contact you know..

"A single night? What do you mean?"

..Like I know. But, I see. So that much time has passed....

It seems Al only missed calling me for a single night.

..Sorry~sorry. Various things happened on my end as well..

"You're still just as carefree as usual."

..That's why I apologized right. But, I see. 10 years is it....

All of the events that happened after the first night I was contacted by him flew through my mind.

I investigated his address from what he was barely able to remember at the time and found out that after the wife he left behind retired from the office she was working back then she returned to her family's house and died at the age of 97.

It was regretful that if I had received

contact from him another several months sooner then I might have been able to somehow let them talk to each other. Al seemed disappointed as well.

I don't think I'll ever forget the deep sigh and stifled

silence I heard from his disappointed voice through the speakers of the terminal when I reported it to him for the rest of my life.

I

started listening to the story of his second life and at first I couldn't believe it at all but before long I started to look forward to the continuation.

I wonder when exactly it was that I got his permission and started recording it. Before long recording his stories became a hobby of mine.

When that ended up being cut off I was considerably worried but I can listen to that continuation again...

..Hey, what's wrong? Going quiet. Are you listening?..

"Yeah, sorry. I was just remembering back."

..What is it? Ah, you did say 10 years have passed over there..I wonder why..

"Like I could know! In the first place isn't the cause on your side Al, since you're using magic!"

..Even if you say something like that..I can't even guess why..

"That's right wasn't it..But, that's right, it's been 10 years. I was worried you know."

There's already no meaning in questioning why one night over there was ten years over here so there's no choice than to put it aside.

..Sorry about that. But 10 years is quite long..Rather than how have you been? Did anything change over there?..

"Yeah, I got married and had a child."

..Ho~ then congratulations..

"Yeah, thanks. Also, I'm about to leave my company and go independent. Right now I'm in the middle of preparations for that. Though it might lose in comparison to you. Even then the reason I was able to put in efforts towards making my own business was because I heard your story. I've already got promises from several major clients. One day I'll definitely be in the Nikkei 225."

..The Nikkei 225 how many decades has it been since I've heard that..But, I see. That's quite impressive....

"Is that sarcasm? But, well, it's that. If you're a man..Right, if you're a man then you've got to aim to be the King right!"

Intermission Nel's Adventure 1

"Nel, after all you have a disposition that's skilled with magic. Normally there's no way to reach level 2 in this short a period of time."

The elf healer said with an amazed tone of voice but there's also probably admiration mixed in as well.

Level 2.

On this world of Orth reaching level 2 with an elemental magic skill holds an extremely important meaning.

After all it's the same as being able to use healing spells.

Once you reach that stage no matter what you do it's not easy to be troubled.

Nel nodded while making just a slightly satisfied face.

Her official name is Neilen.Nobufomu.

A girl who received her new life as the second daughter of the squire Nobufomu family of this Hattorizu village.

Today she came to report to the teacher and healer that taught her magic

shortly after she reached adulthood that her elemental magic level

reached level 2.

Honestly speaking, her elemental magic levels have all reached level 3 and her void magic is already at level 4.

On the first day she started magic training she learned void magic, then

within a mere week after that she learned two elemental magics,

furthermore the following week after that she had acquired the remaining

elemental magic skills as well.
And then, in less than a month her
void magic reached level 1 and then the next month after that all of her
elemental magics increased to level 1.

As expected even Nel was surprised by this pace and in order to avoid any
unnecessary jealousy

she decided to remain quiet about the levels of her magic special
skills.

After all, the healer who taught her magic is mature in both
age and wisdom in their 50s and both of their elemental magic skills
have only just finally reached level 5.

Well, in regards to magic

training once you've acquired the skill and learned how to use your mana
after that it's easy enough to do it all on your own.

The wide

variety of high level techniques that make use of combinations of magic
called spells aren't very important during the initial stages.

In any case, Nel was blessed in her mana amount.

If it's the bare minimum magic that just creates a small amount of an
element and the most minimal amount of mana like the spell {Light} then
if she wanted she could use it a considerable number of times.

She made effective use of her large amount of mana and just like this
within a year from when she started learning magic she's reached the
skill level of a full-fledged sorcerer.

Making use of her mana

that is several times greater than others she failed countless times and even reached the level of using attack spells.

Nel has hated farm work since the past.

It's plain and dirt, she wanted to avoid a future of spending from morning to night covered in dirt abusing her body no matter what.

For that sake, she put quite a bit of enthusiasm into the close combat that's an obligation of squire families.

If it was possible then she wanted to open up the path for entering a knight group in her future.

However, she was born as a gnome that wasn't blessed in body size, her abilities

when it comes to the spear and bow were somewhat average, and when it comes to using the sword or shield she's considerably low compared to others in the village.

She ended up giving up quickly that there was no helping it in that regard.

After all when it comes to close combat techniques as well, the training has to be continued not any less covered in mud or plain and difficult than that of farm work.

Something as troublesome as that, Nel got tired of it quickly and went to the point of almost throwing it down countless times.

Just, if she were to throw it down there then even at best her future would

be the bride of some squire family where she ends up doing farm work.

In the worst case she might have even been sent to be the bride of a slave and ended up entering the slave ranking herself.

No matter what she didn't want that, it was just that thought that kept her going with it.

Since the time she started close combat training was long before she started

learning magic, there was also the circumstances that no matter what she does in her future she wanted to gain enough power to directly overcome combat.

Even if she were to try and do business in the future there wasn't enough leeway in the finances of the Nobufomu family at that time to allocate it to helping her.

In any case, she was blessed enough in mana amount that it surprised even herself, so she was able to rapidly increase her skill with magic and in no time at all grew her abilities.

It was a feeling of relief to Nel.
If it's this level of magic skill then no matter where she goes she'll be able to find a job as a healer.
Since there's already two healers in this Hattorizu village it would be impossible to make a lifestyle here but there's any number of larger towns with a higher population or villages with few healers.

It's not all that bad of an idea to start traveling around searching for a place for her to settle down in the future while she's still young.
In the meantime, she planned on wandering around acting as an adventurer, doing escort jobs, or healing as she builds up her wealth and looks for a place that's easy to live.

.....

"Then, I'm going."

It's not going and coming back. The chance that this will be their last meeting in this lifetime isn't low.

Nel firmly embraced her parents, grandparents, and siblings as they said their farewells.

It seems that her uncle and aunt left the village just like this as well.

Her father said, "stay well" while patting her shoulder, and her mother

said "if things get difficult it's fine for you to return anytime" while

kissing both of her cheeks.

Her grandparents and siblings all offered her words for her departure as well.

The lord's family of the village came to see off her departure and offered her warm words as well.

It's a good village with a warm atmosphere but it's also certain that Nel had too many complaints to live here.

Negotiating with a merchant who periodically circles around the villages in this region with his caravan and having them hire her as an escort was Nel's first job.

When leaving the house the fortune that Nel was allocated

was used on some sturdy leather armor, a spear, a properly made bow, a rucksack capable of holding her belongings.

As well as some durable

boots made of several layers of thick pig leather. And then an amount of cash made up of gold Shu and silver that somehow adds up to around 1,500,000 Z in all was everything.

After this for the next 20

days, she'll be acting as escort until they reach the capital of this territory Hemudozu for the cheap amount of 100,000 Z. It seems that they'll reach Hemudozu after passing through five villages. There's no fixed number of days that they'll remain in each village but matching it up with the schedule of the distance it should be about 2 or 3 days.

Just like this Nel fundamentally started acting as the escort for caravans as she wandered here, wandered there, spending two years of time like that until she reached the spring of her 18th birthday.

Along the way of her escort jobs, she's experienced close to 10 attacks from monsters during these past two years.

It was just once but she experienced an attack from bandits as well.

During that time, Nel fortunately managed to repel all of those attacks without being injured even once.

Of course, it's not as if she was the only escort so it's hard to say that the achievement all belongs to just her but at the very least thanks to her spells she was able to escape dilemma a couple of times as well.

This achievement gave her confidence.

"Hmhmph. Even I'm a child that can do it if I try right!"

The merchants who hire adventurers as escorts often spread rumors around over the achievements of their escorts after jobs if they end up being attacked along the way.

It's not an obligation or anything else but it's that sort of custom like an unspoken rule.

I hired the adventurer, *****, and they magnificently chased off the Orks. ***** who I hired the over day managed to chase of a group of over 20 goblins with just four people. No way, ***** who I hired last year was able to overcome an attack from Harpies with just two people. That's the so called first-rate.

Just like that they advertise them.

However, that's only limited to cases of success.

In cases where an escort job fails it's often that the merchant them self never comes back and even if they were to have fled for their life the escort adventurers ending up in the stomach of the monsters is almost always a fact after all.

Even the adventurers who make their

living primarily from escort jobs would prefer being employed by merchants who pick safe courses and pay good money(In other words, merchants who have done steady business for many years are trusted just that much).

Also, they want to exchange information about the other adventurers they're doing jobs together with as well.

The fact that she was able to use magic skillfully ended up becoming a large advantage to Nel here as well.

If she shows her status then they can confirm she has multiple elemental magic skills, then on top of that she can show off a flashy attack spell..{Ice Bolt} and such..then it's often the case that they'll offer her even higher escort wages as well.

Since at the very least they

can confirm that she has water and fire magic at level 2 and void magic at level 3, even if it might take a bit of time it's actual proof that

she can use the spell {Cure Light} with water magic as a bonus.

Just by having her participate their ability to undergo multiple battles consecutively if needed increases by one grade.

Nel was in great demand among the adventurers no matter which town she visited.

As a matter of fact Nel's assessment wasn't just that.

She's extremely precise with time and she's never been late for a meeting time. Even if it's a job that starts several weeks later she won't mistake the date and time and properly appears.

It might seem only obvious from a glance but this is something surprising. Portable clock magic tools are reasonably expensive so there's generally no adventurers with them on hand and of course Nel doesn't have something like that either.

That's why, adventurers often gather in meeting places with leeway in time. Depending on the case they might even be waiting in the meeting place since several hours early or mistake the day they were supposed to be meeting, those types of things are a daily occurrence. However, just Nel was always precise with time.

"The scheduler is considerably useful."

She was able to gain the added bonus of being thought of as reliable.

It's not unreasonable that her heart was gradually grasped by the words she heard many times just like that.

"If you go to the dungeon while it's dangerous you can earn that much more. If it's Nel then wouldn't you be able to earn even more?"

It's

been just over a year since Nel started wandering around and has been active centering in the Miyoite region along the coastal areas of Duke Dantes's Territory, she's also built up a bit of confidence in her abilities as an adventurer as well.

After all since she's a reincarnated person if she does things she's a child who can get them done.

When she luckily managed to come across a caravan escort job going to the West towards Benkelish, she decided to go with the momentum and try going to take a look.

.....

One month later, Nel's figure could be seen in the town of Benkelish. This town is well-known as a dungeon town and she's heard its name countless times since her infancy as well.

The stories about adventurers who challenged the dungeon in this town and fortunately managed great success.

The founder of the neighboring Rombert Kingdom, it's said that their founder and King was also able to found the nation on the fortune obtained in a dungeon as well.

Other than that there was also a

female Tiger-people race who used the treasure she found in the dungeon

as capital to become a great merchant or the hero Kai.Raiza who was able to rise in the world from an average adventurer to the commander of the White Phoenix Knight Group, those sorts of legends are in great number centering around the dungeon.

Although, there's also countless

stories of those who left their home towns with great expectations and disappeared never seeing the surface again, that sort of average joe who boasted of being the strongest in the territory they lived, or the noble princess who was supposed captured in the nest of the living dead and is still wandering the dungeon after several hundred years.

If you were to ask, Nel also had a closer to image to that of the latter scary stories so she avoided it up until now.

However, since she was able to enter the ranks of a first-rate adventurer while still in her teens, for future reference she wanted to at least take a peek into that famous Benkelish dungeon as well.

Furthermore, if you can really earn that much then...

If it seems impossible then it's fine if she just gives up and tries going down a different path.

Several days after she started staying in the town of Benkelish.

Nel was able to enter a group centered around female adventurers with the team name Rabiusu.

Rabiusu is the name of the home town of the central members.

Since they had just had an opening for the position of a magician {Blast Back}, they were recruiting.

After confirming her skills with magic, she was downhearted after

unexpectedly being told she somehow managed to receive a passing point but she decided to be satisfied that she was able to join a party of adventurers with a considerable level of skill.

One of the reason she chose this party as also because there's only two male members as well.

Those two are also the combat slaves of the leader so it's safe.

It's not like she's particularly afraid of men but until she gets used to

Benkelish dungeon she wanted to reduce as many anxieties as she could.

And then, after undergoing several days of training her first day of challenging the dungeon.

Inside of the spacious dungeon.

It's common to feel the need to pee while in the middle of exploring.

Furthermore since it was her first day challenging where she was tense it couldn't be helped.

After putting in word with her party she lowered her pants and underwear while crouching down to go.

With Nel at the center her seven party members were on standby and the two male combat slaves were facing in the direction they came in up until now.

It was exactly as she had just started to go to the bathroom.

The party received an ambush from the front.

The two combat slaves who were on guard with their weapons at the rear started dashing to the front as well.

"Kya~!! Do..Don't come right now! Don't look!"

Nel reflexively raised her voice but the combat slaves didn't even glance at Nel

as she was feeling embarrassed.

They were running by with a frantic look in order to save their own master.

"Ah! It! It got caught and I can't put them on.."

Soon after the sounds of combat and roars of monsters echoed through the passage.

She couldn't tell if they were from ally or monster, or whether a weapon hit, but there's screams in pain being raised as well.

Around the time Nel finally somehow managed to finishing going to the bathroom the monsters had already been repelled.

"Nel. That's quite the good standing you have right."

"Even though we're being attacked for you to be leisurely going to the bathroom you have quite the thick nerves indeed."

"Well, it's fine since we won't so easily fall behind monsters on the 1st floor though."

As she couldn't help but feel like flames were going to appear from her face as she turns red Nel thought.

(U..Umm, I.. If..If I can..just..wear them.. I'm a child that can get things done! It's true!)

"I'm sorry.."

This day ended without Nel showing her abilities.

Intermission Nel's Adventure 2

It's been a bit over a year since she started to challenge Benkelish dungeon. Nel has reached the spring of being 19 years old. She's already completely gotten used to her conduct in the dungeon.

The party Rabiusu that she's a member of is ranked considerably high in Benkelish.

After they recruited Nel who wasn't used to it they were active on the 1st and 2nd floors of the dungeon but their true abilities were that of a half first-rate party that can deal with the 3rd floor and the foremost line of the 4th floor.

Today, just now they were finishing up a room boss monster from the 3rd floor. Since around 500 meters along the side of the hall ahead of here is a good place for mining silver ores, they couldn't avoid passing through this room no matter what.

The group of 12 {Gnoll.Silverheads} and 2 {Green.Owl Bears} was a powerful opponent even for Rabiusu.

However, while a few of their members were injured, they were able to defeat them without a single victim.

Members putting their weapons away and taking out their knives to gather the magic stones.

A member putting a water pouch to their mouth while taking a short break. And then, Nel who starts looking at the injuries of her allies from the intense combat just now.

If it's a serious injury then it's necessary to heal it with magic.

One person with a bone fracture in the thigh area.

One person with three broken ribs.

One person with an open break in their right arm.

One more person, she has some cuts that aren't very big along her arms and legs but since she's a magician as well it's necessary to heal her so

she can use healing magic as well.

The rest don't need to be healed right away and are fine to postpone.

First off is the spear using attacker who has an open break in his right arm.

"Please endure it for a short while.."

She carefully took off the leather armor of her upper body and rolled up

her sleeve to expose the portion of her upper arm that's broken.

She needs to return the bone that's exposed from outside of the skin to it's correct position to make it easier to connect together.

After confirming her injury she pulled on her arm and returned the bone all at once.

"Nnn!!"

The spear user Dog-people woman makes a frown from the pain.

After that she concentrates in order to use the healing spell.

Po...

The instant the blue spell light that came from Nel's hand touched the

affect part of the woman's arm, it quickly spread across the entire

affect portion.

At the same time the fact that the bone reconnected could be felt.

"Please try moving it."

The Dog-people woman who was running a cold sweat nodded at Nel's words

and slowly tried bending her fingers and wrist.

"There's no meaning if you don't try to move your elbow."

Seeing that Nel was a bit amazed as she called out to her.
It must be the first time this Dog-person has suffered a bone fracture.

"A, Ah. Got it..Gu!!"

She was properly able to bend it at the elbow. It seems she was able to heal the bone fracture without problem.

The Dog-person takes a breath while making a relieved expression.

One more time.

This time it's the muscle organization and skin.

Po...

The open wound in her upper arm closes in no time as you watch and the bleeding stopped as well.

"I think it should be fine with this."

Nel smiled at her.

In the next moment, an arrow stabbed into the face of the Dog-person in front of her.

"Eh?"

Nel raises her voice in surprise.

However, she can't afford to be standing around forever. She immediately rolled to the side.

After all it's not strange for anything to happen in the dungeon.

They've already been attacked by other adventurer parties twice before after all.

"Gwu!!"

However, it was only a slight bit faster for another arrow to stab into the side of her shoulder.

"It's an attack!!"

"Shit.."

"Ouch!!"

The Laios woman who acts as {Shield.Holder} held her large tower shield on guard while still kneeling on one leg as her thigh bone is broken.

The Hyumu combat slave who has broken ribs also holds his round shield while trying to deal with the arrows.

"Ora~!!"

"Di~e!!"

The attackers all shout uncivilized things while charging at the members of Rabiusu.

The one charging at the front is a Tiger-man with a large build wearing black polished leather armor, a long sword, and a kite shield.

"Ei!!"

The skilled leader of Rabiusu, a female Bunny-person fires off an arrow with her bow.

However, the arrow ends up futile as it just stabs into the kite shield.

The moment Nel thought "A" the leader Bunny-person was stabbed with the long sword the man was holding.

"Sani-sama!!!"

"How dare you!!"

The male combat slaves the leader Sani.Ramyuru owned charge at the Tiger-man.

(Fl..Flame Javelin!)

Nel starts concentrating so she can use attack spells to protect herself while enduring the pain.

However, the pain from the arrow stabbed into her back is intense and she can't seem to materialize the spell.

(Ah! It's completely impossible to use magic! If..If I just had more time!)

It was the moment Nel strongly, very strongly thought that.

The flow of time surrounding her, No, the flow of time for just her changed!

The expansion ability of Nel's Unique Ability, Clock 【Time Lord】 from reaching level MAX activated.

For a number of seconds equal to the square root of her body level, just

Nel's movements and actions are multiplied by the square root of her body level.

Currently Nel's body level is 9.

In other words, for just 3 seconds it makes it possible for her to take action at a speed 3 times faster.

Obviously the MP used is no more than a mere 1.

Incidentally, there is a penalty.

For just the time you've used it and moved during usage your body gains that additional time as age.

If it's the current Nel then every time she uses it her life span shortens by 9 seconds.

It's only obvious but she doesn't know about this.

(! This is! The 【Clock】 Unique Ability!?)

In the usual location of her upper right field of sight, the scheduler and alarm menus that she's set ended up being displayed below.

And then, on the upper left side some new green characters similar to the time display appeared saying "Remaining time 2.87 seconds Currently Moving At 3.00 Times Speed".

She noticed right away that the members of Rabiusu and the attackers were moving strangely in slow motion.

The instant she recognized the display she intuitively felt "It's my Unique Ability!" while Nel quickly stood up.

By that point there was already 1 second remaining.

Another attacker who noticed Nel stood up was yelling "Uo~~~~~ra~~~~~" with a really stretched out voice as they charged at her.

Nel quickly drew her knife from her waist and used her Unique Ability again. The display of the remaining time returned to 3.00 seconds.

She ignores the pain in her back and runs towards the attacker holding a buckler and hand axe.

The male attacker swinging the hand axe in his right hand and buckler on

guard in his left hand looked down on Nel as just a slender young girl. Of course, he also just saw her try to use magic just now but since he

also saw the moment the arrow hit her in the back magic wasn't anything to be afraid of.

Rather, unable to use magic, he came at her underestimating her because she was a wounded and easy to take down opponent.

The movement she stood up was so fast he couldn't imagine that she was injured and the speed she pulled out her knife was that of a master.

However, Rabiusu is a party that's close to first-rate.

If it's a member of there then it's not strange for them to do manage that feat.

The man gathered his resolve for just a moment before doubting his own eyes.

The young girl stepped in at a speed that was completely unbelievable and

was already within range of attacking him in no time at all!

No matter what it's too fast!

"Gu!!"

He spontaneously let out a grown while raising the buckler in his left hand to hit the head of the young girl.

Pan, and just as the man felt the inner part of his left arm brushed away he felt a burning sensation and pain from his neck.

"Ge!!"

He drops his hand axe and almost reflexively brought his hand to his neck.

As the man crouched down a bit the last thing reflected in his eyes was the glint from the blade of a knife.

Just as he thought "a" his consciousness was cut off.

.....

Zee..Ha.....

The deep breathing of Nel echoes through the dungeon room.

While Rabiusu put up a struggle, since they were suddenly ambushed shortly after combat with power monsters they ended up being wiped out leaving just Nel.

Also, all of the other adventurers that made up the attacking party turned into corpses as well.

"U..Ow..."

While enduring the pain from the arrow as well as the pain from overworking her body she pulls out the arrow in her back.

After that, she spent an exhausting amount of time trying to concentrate, and was finally able to use the spell {Cure} on herself.

In reality, let alone {Cure Light} she really wanted to use the more powerful {Cure

Serious} but because of the pain she couldn't maintain her concentrate long enough to use that complex of a spell.

Just in case, at the point she finished sealing her wound Nel checked to see if there was any survivors among the members of Rabiusu but in the end it was a wasted effort.

Since it couldn't be helped she started concentrating again to heal the rest of her wounds.

"U..Gusu..."

Nel sobbed while using her knife to stab into the corpses of the members of Rabiusu she was close with as she gathered their magic stones.

It

was just the feelings that she didn't want to leave them alone in this place where the sun doesn't reach that kept Nel moving.

Of course,

she also understood that if she gathered the magic stones of the attackers they could be sold for money but since she didn't want to bring them out to the surface where the sun shines she just decided to ignore them.

After she gathered the magic stones, she ate as much of the dried food as she could fit in her stomach, then gathered all

the money she could from the attackers as well.

She tied up all of the equipment she could gather with a rope and carried it with her.

After confirming the contents of the map case that the leader had on her waist she put it on her own waist.

Obviously she confiscated the map the attacker side had as well before gathering them into one and putting it in the map case.

Even though the attacking side is gone, it's not as if she was able to secure her safety.

Also she has just enough mana amount remaining for it to naturally recover

but it's most likely only a couple percent of her maximum amount, so

she's on the verge of exhausting it.

Since she doesn't know when monsters could approach, she can't wait around here for long.

..I need to move right away.

Nel holds back her feelings of wanting to rest here on the side of everyone while standing up.

For at least another few hours she has a harsh path ahead which she can't relax.

Intermission Nel's Adventure 3

Nel returned to being alone but she was able to sell the equipment she brought back from the dungeon and change it into money.

Since the equipment of her allies was considerably high quality, she obtained quite a bit of money all at once.

Since she was planning to bury the magic stones of all the Rabiusu members in their home towns, she decided to make it into funds for that.

Among

them there was the combat slaves of the leader whose origins she didn't know but she decided to bury those together with them the leaders.

.....

Last night, she not only got lost but it was quite regretful Nel even ended up having to camp in the forest.

While she was looking over the campfire to keep it from going, she couldn't help but start falling asleep.

Although the reason for that is because she's been walking all day long and her stamina was quite exhausted but even then it's quite the careless story.

Nel got arrogant after realizing that she could accelerate for just 3 seconds. On her travels up to here from the town of Benkelishu she's entered combat

with monsters several times but she managed to cut her way through all of them with her Unique Ability Time Lord.
Her genuine close combat skills are only at the average level but since she can move at three times the speed, her combat abilities in close combat can easily exceed even that of a master.

Even if there's multiple opponents I'll be fine.
After all I'm a first-rate adventurer.

That self-assessment itself isn't completely mistaken.
In actual fact if it's one on one or even if she's losing a bit in numbers she's easily been able to overturn things.
Also, the experience she gained as the magician {Blast.Back} in an upper ranking part of Benkelishu dungeon gave even more backing for her confidence.

Certainly if you just look at her combat power she's not lacking to call herself a first-rate adventurer.

However, that's only when she has free control over her body.

If a number of people sneak up on her when she's dozing off, even if she can move at three times the speed there's not much meaning to it.
She

was held down and had several of her fingers broken at the same time, she ended up laying flat on the ground unable to concentrate enough to even properly use magic.

The man in front of her covered Nel's mouth with his large hand probably in order to prevent her from raising her voice.

Since she's got such a small build it even ended up sealing her nose so she

couldn't properly breathe.

"If you want to scream then feel free to raise as many as you want. It's not like there's anyone nearby after all~"

The man who was holding Nel down made a vulgar smile while saying that. Nel nodded a number of times while tears gathered in her eyes. However the man took that, he removed his dirty hand from blocking her mouth and nose.

One reason for that was Nel's face was obviously in pain from seeking air but there was certainly enough time in between for the words to be taken into consideration.

It seems the man who was holding Nel down was the same Gnome race as her. They're the same in the small build they have but the fact that they both only have four fingers on each hand is another sign he's a gnome.

And then, he cut through Nel's clothes to her lower body all at once.

Nel's lower body was exposed and as her skin showed through her torn clothes the men raised cheers.

There's already no time!

Her broken fingers hurt so she can't use magic!

Her only way of escaping this situation is her Unique Ability~~!

She uses her skill Clock consecutively in order to think three times faster.

"It hurts so let go of me. It's not like I can use magic anymore already..And, if we're going to do it let's enjoy ourselves."

Nel endures the pain while desperately trying to make as seductive of an expression as she can.

"Ehe..That's how things need to be.."

The gnome man nodded to the two men holding Nel's arms to the ground. The thick blonde bear that's even grown to his cheeks gives off a strong color reflecting in the remaining campfire as it's about to go out.

The man continues to make a vulgar smile while loosening the belt on his pants himself.

"Hey, I'll call out everyone's names while doing it. {Status Open}..{Status Open}.."

Nel confirms the status of the Elf and Dog-person who were holding her down.

"Heee. You sure say some cute things..This kinky bitch..let go of her. Oh~ properly confirm if she has any weapons."

The gnome man said while lowering his pants grabbing Nel's chin with his hand. The knife she had at her waist was pulled out by elf and thrown away.

"Fufu..{Status Open}"

Nel confirms the status of everyone.

Fortunately none of them had any magic special skills.

And then, she immediately uses her Unique Ability.

In order to use her Unique Ability there's a necessity for her to know the

other persons real name and have confirmed their status.

First off, the man in front of her showing off something dirty.

Johnson.Rukasu huh?

She uses the Unique Ability Time Lord.

She sets the alarm on Johnson.Rukasu to go off 5 seconds later.

The duration it will continue is the maximum of 5 minutes.

The sound of the alarm will be..the cry of Godzilla she saw in a movie in

the past, also the sound of a large dinosaur like creature's footsteps. Obviously on the loudest volume!

Next is the Dog-person on the right, Hamiru.Esuta.
The alarm on him is set for 3 seconds later.
And then the Elf on the left, Kakuriddo.Imisuteron.
The alarm is set for 1 second later.

Finally three times the speed!

""Uwa~!!""

The three men raise their voices loudly surprised at hearing a tremendously loud sound.

Suddenly the loud cries of a monster they've never heard before echoed out right near their ears.

Simultaneously they heard the loud thuds of a giant creature running towards them.

"What is it!?"

"Is it a monster!?"

The men go into a panic as they try to pull their pants back up and look around the surroundings.

Obviously Nel didn't miss that chance and starts taking action.

She rolls from the spot with all of her power and grabs one of the burning pieces of wood in the campfire.

A sharp pain runs through her broken fingers to her entire body.

The pain was so intense she felt like everything in front of her was turning bright red.

But, she doesn't have the leeway to take the pain in her fingers into consideration right now.

Just like that continued rolling and stood up in a hurry.

She increases her speed by three times again.

"Iya~~~!!"

She ignores the pain from her fingers while raising a loud voice and charging at the men!

Her speed was almost like lightning!

She goes to defeat the Dog-person who noticed her and went on guard first!

Zubu!!

She stabbed the burning wood into the Dog-persons right eye with all of her power.

Zukin!!

The impact of that causes pain to run through Nel's entire body again.

"Ugu!!"

"Guaaa!!!"

Nel couldn't hold back letting out her voice in pain while the Dog-person screams in agony.

Zubotto the burning wood is pulled out.

The burning wood gives off a sizzling sound and white smoke.

The elf raises his arms to block while moving to avoid Nel's attack.

Nel's hand moves almost like a snake through the gaps in the elf's arms as the burning wood stretches out.

The end is still covered in the blood of the Dog-person as it gives off a burning heat.

Nel's aim is the almost shaped eyes of the elf.

"Ugoaaa~!!"

The elf lets out a scream and rolls around.
She extends three times the speed once again.

"This bitch!!"

Seeing his two allies taken out in no time at all Johnson felt an instinctive fear while pulling out his knife.

The speed he pulled out his knife was that of a veteran but to Nel the speed wasn't all that different from an inexperienced child.

But, what let Johnson block the burning wood piece Nel tried to stab him with twice was purely his skillful technique.

However, there's a limit to even that.

Around the second time he blocked the thrust from the woman, a kick came in to

the back of his knee from the side at a frightening speed.
The strength in his knees disappeared as he staggered.

"Yaa!!"

While yelling a voice several times louder than just now, the gnome woman stabs at him with the burning piece of wood.

Even when with his posture collapsed Johnson frantically tried to move his body to avoid the fatal attack.

The burning wood hit Johnson's cheek.

"Gya!!"

The burning wood which still had plenty of heat remaining burns Johnson's cheek along with the beard he has there.

Johnson didn't miss the opening in her defense during the time she was

thrusting at him.

He uses the knife in his right hand to move it around the woman's back as if embracing her and goes to stab!

But, at a speed he had no way of comprehending the burning wood was drawn back and thrust it into his eye socket.

The burning wood leaves the hand with a broken ring finger and thumb(Gnomes have no middle finger).

While leaving the burning wood still stuck in the man's eye stock Nel extends her speed by three times once again and endures the pain as she jumps for her own spear.

Nel hatefully looks at the men rolling around on the ground in pain and bleeding while enduring the pain from her fingers as she stabbed them to death one at a time.

After confirming the death of the men, she collapsed in place. Every time her heartbeat rings out a sharp pain runs through her broken fingers.

"Ouch..I need to heal it.."

She desperately starts concentrating and kneading her mana in order to use the spell {Cure}.

But, not just the pain from her fingers but her entire body was giving off a creaking ache on top of being considerably exhausted as it begs for rest.

Every time she tries to use three times the speed consecutively this happens. There's no choice other than enduring the pain of the bone fracture for a short while.

She overworks her exhausted body until she can somehow find her knife and by the time she found it Nel sighed seeing her broken fingers and hand swollen up like a glove.

In order to escape the pain and fatigue she just wants to go to sleep.

But, no matter how hard she tries it doesn't seem like she could. It's the same for the pain but the stimulation of just being attacked and killing her attackers wouldn't let her fall asleep.

Around the time night ended, she was finally able to concentrate enough to use a healing spell.

She spent around one hour and was finally able to heal one of the bone fractures.

After stuffing her mouth with portable food and satisfying her hunger, she continued concentrating again.

Furthermore, while Nel herself still hasn't noticed it but she was fortunate there were no "nameless" among the attackers.

.....

Around the time over another six months had passed.
Nel had turned 20 years old.

It was only just one week ago when she had finally finished traveling around to the home towns of all of the Rabiusu members.
Now she's on the route to return to her home town once.

She still has plenty of money.

In all it's just below 5,000,000 Z but if she has this much then it's plenty to start as a healer somewhere.

She can't hope for a place facing the main street of a large town somewhere but if it's a used house in the back streets somewhere then she should be able to purchase one.

Where should she open up business?

She thinks about all of the places she's visited, the towns, and villages she's stayed as she steadily walks down the road.

This area is the western part of Devas Kingdom, in other words a small territory in the southern parts of the Dirt Plains.

The formal name is Count Kamuraushu's territory.

The location the road stretches out to is a village called Namin and the lord of it is called Viscount Bofitto.

Since it's considerably to the south of the Raheru River which is for convenience sake considered the borderline between the conflict zone with Rombert Kingdom, the chances of war reaching to Namin village are unlikely.

Nel had heard at least that much before so that's why she chose it for her trip back.

Nel arrived in Namin village just before evening and first walked to the place in the center of the village that seems to have quite a few people.

The population of this Namin village is over 1,000 people and it's considered to be in the larger category as a village so she thought it might even have an inn.

In order to stay the night in an inn she asks a person wandering down the road the place of it.

"Umm, excuse me. Where is the inn?"

"Hn?"

The man who she asked looked at Nel's face for a short while but without saying anything in specific told her the location of the inn.

Around two hours after she got a room in the inn.

After wiping her body clean with the hot water she bought and getting refreshed it was just as she was biting into some dried meat.

Knock-Knock.

She heard a knock on the door.

After answering it and it was the voice of the inn owner she just talked to a short while ago.

It seems she has a visitor.

Since Nel had no knowledge of any acquiescence in this village she hides a knife in her left hand behind her back while staying on guard as she opens the door.

In the past, ever since she was attacked, she's stopped letting her guard down. Or rather, it would be more accurate to say she's too afraid and is unable to let her guard down.

After opening the door and other than the owner of the inn there were two armed men who seem like squires of the lord standing with tiresome

expressions.

When the two men saw Nel's face they nodded to each other.

"Ah, you. I'm sorry when you've only just gotten relaxed but I want to ask you some questions. When is your birthday?"

"Eh? Why..."

Nel let out her voice at the unexpected question of suddenly being asked her birthday.

"Umu.

It's not unreasonable for you to think it's strange but I'd definitely like for you to answer the question. Ah, we don't particularly have any intention of blowing it up into a problem or anything like that..Sorry about that. This is one of our duties as well."

"..Please check."

Nel stretched out her right hand.

She thought it would be faster to let them check her status then saying it herself.

"Then please excuse me, {Status Open}..Mu! Hey, it matches!"

After confirming Nel's status the squire nodded to his partner squire.

"Here, just in case. {Status Open}..He~ so they really are out there."

While the two squires were nodding to each other Nel was making a face like she had no idea so they started telling her about it.

It seems that it has some kind of relation to an official notice sent out by the

Crown Prince of the country.

If it someone who has black hair and eyes and their birthday is Year 7428, Month 2, Day 14.

Furthermore, if they can answer the question provided with no hint then it seems

they're to be recruited for the imperial guard of the crown prince.

Nel had no idea what it was about at all.

However, that's the same for the two squires as well they didn't really get it either.

"In any case, since your birthday matches up then..the lord, sir Viscount Bofitto is calling for you. Sorry about this but could you please come with us to the lords mansion?"

It seems like they don't mean any harm to her.

They say the noble who rules this village wants to meet her and ask her some kind of question.

If she can answer the question then she'll be able to become one of the imperial guard for the Crown Prince.

Somehow it's really suspicious.

But, she doesn't have the courage to reject the calling from a noble either. Since it couldn't be helped she had them wait for a moment while she gets ready.

Just in case she wanted to make sure at least her wallet with her money in it was still on her body.

While being lead by the squires to the mansion of the lord, Nel tried to think about what the situation was regarding but couldn't think of anything.

However, she understood the moment she saw the figure she was showed by Viscount Bofitto in the lords mansion.

Somehow it's Weird.

It's strange.

Why is the map of Japan...

She was quite troubled maintaining her expression without showing the surprise on her face.

"Eh? This..Is it fine for it to be this sort of simple question?"

Nel said answering his question with another question while looking up at the tall Hyumu Viscount Bofitto.

"Ho? Do you know what this is!?"

The Viscount leaned forward a bit excited.

Overwhelmed by the force, Nel replied while shrinking back a bit.

"Square, Triangle, Square, Square...Wun, you could say it's a square, right triangle, and two rectangles as well."

Hearing Nel's answer the Viscount openly made a disappointed expression.

"As expected the second one, I guess things won't go so that easily

huh..No..you, Nobufomu-kun. Do you not know any other ways of saying it?"

The second one? Different ways of saying it?"

Nel answered his question with a question again but Viscount Bofitto didn't criticize Nel for her rudeness and replied to her.

"Umu.

Just the other day, we sent off one young man from this Namin village who had the qualifications for becoming one of the imperial guard for the Crown Prince. However, if you can't reply then it can't be helped. Sorry about going to the trouble of calling you. It's fine for you to leave already."

"Eh? Is it just this?"

"That's right. It's

just this but since you couldn't give the right answer it's unrelated to you. Ah, I can't teach you the right answer. It would be bad if you replied with it in a different town or village after all."

Having been told that there was nothing more Nel could do. There was no choice but for her to obediently back off.

But, she was able to obtain one interesting piece of information.

A Japanese person in this world of Orth is?

The distance past which for some reason she still hasn't been able to

forget, the experiences from soon after she was born appear in her mind.

Victims of the accident.

Reincarnation.

She vaguely believed in it but since it was far too unbelievable of a story she couldn't completely bring herself to accept it.

However...

They've already sent out one person who met the conditions from this Namin

village?

Come to think of it she remembered she still hasn't tried visiting the capital Randogurizu yet.

She decided to put off returning to her home town.

That's right the capital, let's go.

Intermission Nel's Adventure 4

Arriving at the capital Nel was surprised by it's size and splendor.

The shelves of the stores lined up along the main street were all filled with a mountain of food items and clothing.

If you walk into the street stall area the merchants will call out energetically trying to sell their products and you can't help but stop and listen to what they say.

The town of Bankelishu was quite

something as well but it still falls several levels in comparison to this capital of Randogurizu.

After all the population is definitely over 100,000 people and depending on who you talk to they even say it's close to 200,000.

She buys some fruits, confectioneries, and unusual foods being sold in stalls and takes a room in an inn.

Her first night there ends and while ordering porridge with the option of honey at a restaurant she thinks, now then, what should I do from here on out.

Nel doesn't particularly have any interest in Japanese people and it's not like she really wants to meet or talk to them.

After all it's been 20 years since she was reborn.

Since she's lived her life up until now with no relation to Japanese people, regardless of what someone from where she used to live in the past does

at this point doesn't matter at all.
Rather than that what interested her was the movements of trying to gather former Japanese people and
make them into that imperial guard or whatever.

Fortunately or

unfortunately, she's already obtained enough funds to open up her own business as a healer in a remote place somewhere.

Just when she

thought of finally starting up the new life she was longing for, since she heard some very strange information it's only obvious to investigate it.

She took up a position in a restaurant that lets her observe the main street leading to the front gate of the castle Gamuroi and

decided to watch if anyone that seemed like a Japanese person passes by on it.

If there is one then she'll tail them on their way home and confirm their house.

After that is..she'll decide on it later.

She wants to check the level of their lifestyle.

If they seem wealthy then it's fine to try approaching them from her side and talking to them.

If that doesn't seem the case then the treatment of those imperial guard

might not be very good, in that case not having the fetters, and living a slow life as a healer would be better.

If it comes to that then she'll start business in a place as far away from Randogurizu as possible.

If possible then a place in another country where the Crown Prince's official notice won't reach might be best.

Fortunately Nel is of the commoner social standing so she can move around freely within the country.

Since it's possible for her to move as close to the border of another country within Devas as possible, it should be possible as long as she makes sure she's not seen by anyone when crossing the border.

Something

like walking a path without a road for a few days should be nothing at all for a first-rate adventurer and member of Rabiusu like her.

This time she'll properly remain careful.

Otherwise it might be good to slip in as the escort for a large company's caravan that does business outside of the country as well.

If she does that then she should be able to openly walk along the road into another country.

After that if she just hides her whereabouts in an adequate town, there's no way they'd bother spending the time and money just to find a single escort brat.

Since her status has just Nobufomu Family Second

Daughter written on it, if she just falsifies her birthplace as an appropriate remote town in the country she ends up as long as they don't seriously try investigating it she won't be exposed as a foreigner either.

In the worst case, she could marry a random man as well.

Since they're not a noble she can even get a divorce.

If she gets married twice then it's possible to erase the display of Nobufomu from her status as well.

Nel started watching the main street while thinking things like this.

And then several hours later, just around the time when the sun was setting she finally succeeded in discovering someone who seemed like a Japanese person.

There's two people.

One is a considerably good looking

guy with his hair grown out in a half-assed way and another is a man with a frivolous looking expression and his hair tied up behind his head.

Nel confirms the appearance of the two men and the clothes they're wearing from under the hood of her robe.

Since she heard that one of the searching conditions is black hair and eyes she purchased a large robe with a hood since then.

"Hmph..I guess their clothes are pretty decent.."

The self-proclaimed first-rate adventurer Nel started following the men while maintaining a reasonable distance in order to avoid being noticed.

.....

"Ku...Well, I guess it's only obvious they'd go different directions.."

A mere several minutes after she started tailing them.

When the two men arrived at a certain cross road they raised their hands and split up in different directions.

Now then, which should I continue following...

She decided to give up on the frivolous looking one and follow the one good looking one simply because his face matched her taste.

It's only

obvious but he wasn't paying any caution to being followed so even with Nel following about 10 meters behind he showed no signs of noticing.

Around 20 minutes after she started following him.

The good looking guy opened the door to a single house in the residential area. In comparison to the size of the house just the gate seemed a bit large.

The construction of the house itself doesn't seem particularly extravagant but it's not so terrible that you could call it dilapidated either.

It looks to be the same construction as the other houses lined up along this street.

The hedges surrounding the perimeter of the house are high and thickly grown out but they don't seem to be very well maintained so it's like

they were just ignored from being trimmed.

However, while it's small there's a lawn as well and unexpectedly there's even signs of horses.

"Horse? He owns a horse? Not to mention two of them!?"

Putting it simply horses are assets on the level of super expensive foreign automobiles.

The treatment of these imperial guard might actually be pretty good. However, it might just be something he originally owned.

She's spending time to investigate things like that.

The good looking guy opens the gate and enters the door of the house a short distance inside.

It seems the door wasn't locked.

In other words, he doesn't live alone huh?

Until she heard things from Viscount Bofitto in Namin village, she had completely forgotten that all of the reincarnated Japanese people had the same birthday and black hair and black eyes but now she's remembered.

Reincarnated people can't forget the first information

that was sent direction into their heads(if they try to remember then they can remember it vividly) but the other information they heard from the conversation with God after that is just the same as normal memories, if they don't remain aware of it then they can forget it.

"20 years old..It's not strange for him to be married and have children, huh?"

If he has a family then there should be a lot of information that can be gained from the level of their meals and the content of their conversations as well.

Also, if she can see the clothes of the family and the furniture in the house then she should be able to figure out even more details.

She tried searching for a gap in the hedge but couldn't find one.

Also, since it hasn't been maintained, it's not low enough to be jumped over. If she pushes herself she might be able to do it but it's easy to draw other people's attention and she'll end up making noise as well.

What should I do, and while she was thinking that she ended up passing by the front of the gate.

She killed time while passing through to the next block of the town.
And then, after the sun had completely set she returned.

It's something she noticed after getting close but there's also light shining from the windows of the house.

The light she can see from the gaps of the windows is exactly the same as the surrounding houses and no flicker can be seen to it so it means they probably own a lighting magic tool.

It can be thought that they have a reasonably good level of lifestyle.

There's an old house on the verge of collapse standing in a place around 10 meters from his house.

It's been neglected for a number of years, surrounded by the hedge almost like a thicket. She thought there might be some vagrants living in it but as expected it's a location with pretty good public order and the fact that the roof has completely fallen made it so there was no traces of anyone living in it.

It seems like no one has stepped foot in the grounds there for quite a while.
It's suitable for observing that house.

After confirming that far, she decided to stop the investigation this day.

After that for several days.

By sneaking into the decrepit house without gathering any attention and observing his house there's some things she's learned.

There's at least three people living in that house.

Japanese people, probably a pair of twins and then one Orth person, probably a slave or something.

Since she hasn't seen anyone else entering or leaving she's confident there's no other people than that.

Just, it's not like she's seen all three of them at the same time either though...

Particularly when it comes to the twins, one morning when one of the twins who seems

to be an imperial guard left to go to the castle she noticed it.

Just the same as usual several hours after a man with a Japanese person

looking face left the house and before he returned home, no matter how you look at it another man with the exact same face left and went towards the stable.

He must have been lured out of the house by the

neighing of the horses demanding food but thanks to that she was able to realized there's two people with the exact same face.

At first she

thought she just didn't notice when the man who left in the morning had returned but after seeing the man who returned in the evening his clothes were the same as when he left.

Even more strange than that was the fact that one of the twins and the slave would alternate days they looked after the horses.

On the days the slave looks after them, he brings the horses out for a

walk, goes shopping and outside pretty often, but on the days one of the twins looks after the horse it's completely incomprehensible but not even the slave comes out.

Also, while occasionally the slave and one of the twins will go out together, they

never go out with all three
of them or just the twins.

As expected Nel was thinking that it was her misunderstanding since they were twins.

However one morning, shortly after one of them left for work she saw another one use magic to fill a bucket with water to give it to the horses. It was a timing that was completely impossible for them to return without Nel noticing.

It seems that one of the twins is a hikikomori.

It's unusual for someone who lives in a city, they almost never go outside to eat. Even on the rare occasions when they go out to eat it's only when one of the twins is believed to be remaining in the house.

Therefore it would be difficult for her to get into a position where she can peek in through the windows of the house while they're all outside.

However, she was able to understand the general level of their lifestyle. It seems they're able to live a lifestyle above the normal and there's occasionally times where the ingredients used for one of the twins are reasonably high class.

It seems they're paying plenty in wages to the slave as well and his appearance is considerably good for a slave.

One such night.

While hiding herself inside of the decrepit house with weeds growing through the rotting floor continuing her boring stakeout as usual.

One of the twins who left in the morning returned to the house. And just when she thought that, they came back out right away. Along with the slave.

I guess they must be going to eat?

In that case it might be a good chance to listen to their conversation so she stood up in order to start following them.

However, she ended up seeing it.

The slave locked the door of the house.

Is that house uninhabited right now?

If it's uninhabited even if she can't sneak inside she intended to hide in the back near the stable while waiting for them to return.

Since

they'll turn on the light when they return, when they do that she might

have a chance to observe things inside through the gaps.

After that if she just waits until everyone is asleep it's fine if she quietly sneaks out.

It's almost been close to 10 days since she started observing this house.

She's already gotten tired of it and it's plenty.

Nel had decided to end her investigation here today and switch over to the other frivolous looking man.

If he's living a similar level of lifestyle then that would be it's very

possible that the imperial guard are living a slightly better lifestyle

than a healer in a remote town.

She still needs to carefully take

into consideration whether it's worth the trouble and anxiety acting in service to the royal court but it's better to have more samples.

In the end she thought to just peek into the house a bit and confirm the furniture and such.

It's extremely boring but she decided to wait for what seems to be one of the twins and the slave to return from their meal.

After checking the surroundings she quietly moved close to the house and checked things.

She had already identified that there was no lock on the gate.

The hikikomori must already be sleeping because there's no light on inside of the house.

She quietly hid herself in the back of the stables.

Just like that after around 2 hours passed.

One of the twins and the slave came back.

The paper-lantern the slave is probably holding stopped in front of the gate.

Including Nel, just because you can use magic there's almost no one who uses the spell {Light} right and left.

It's certainly convenient but who would willingly go through the effort of deeply concentrating every 5 minutes when the spell duration runs out.

"Fui~ I drank~I drank."

"You did drink quite a bit, big bro."

It's her first time hearing Japanese!

She tried listening in on their conversations while tailing them during

meals up until now but because of the distance she wasn't able to hear them at all.

I already knew about it but after all they're Japanese people..But, big bro?

She felt like tears were welling up from how nostalgic she felt.

But, the fact that she heard some unnatural words when one of the twins isn't around helped Nel hold them back.

And then she continues listening in even further.

"I mean, starting tomorrow you're going to Benkelishu with Ren right? If I

don't drink today I won't be able to drink for a short while."
"That is true.."

It seems they unlocked the door for the house.

The door opens and she could hear the sound of it closing.

Gakon, and she heard the sound of a latch being lowered.

Different from the simple locks which you lock from outside, if someone is inside

it's common to use the large latches instead of the locks.

Nel

pushes her ear up to a portion of that wall that seemed thin which she

had already planned on before hand and confirmed she could hear sounds

from inside.

She hears the footsteps of people walking.

It seems they're still talking about something but she can't tell what they're saying.

Chi..and she quietly clicked her tongue before approaching the window which opens upwards and looking through the gap.

There's light in the room.

It's a narrow gap but she can see reasonably well inside of the room.

The furniture in the room doesn't seem very high class and is normal stuff you can find anywhere.

"Do you intend to extend it?"

"Nn..That's fine as well but since I was drinking alcohol after all. It's a bit unpleasant but I guess I'll return before the morning when the alcohol disappears."

What are they saying?

"Ogu!! Gugugugu~gi~~"

The slave suddenly started groaning in pain.

It seems he continued suffering for about 1 minute but one of the twins

just watched that with his eyebrows raised a bit and sat down in a chair

as if not paying any mind to it.

And then, Nel almost reflexively ended up raising her voice.

She saw the slave that had been holding it's body with both arms from the pain as it suddenly raised it's face.

That face was that of a man she hadn't seen from anyone in the house up until now.

Suddenly she noticed but his height and build seemed to have changed slightly as well.

What?

What in the world, is that?

Cosmetics or a disguise..it's absolutely not on the level of that!

Nel struggled to suppress her excitement while making sure she wouldn't

miss a single word as she carefully focused all the nerves on her eyes

and ears.

Intermission Nel's Adventure 5

The bizarre happening that occurred inside of the house.

One of the twins who didn't even flinch seeing his sibling (?) suffer that much in front of his eyes.

No, are they not twins?

Nel couldn't understand what in the world was happening at all.

There's one cause for why she was stunned at the shocking scene that suddenly played out in front of her eyes.

However, thanks to that you could say it was good luck that she didn't even have the time to remember her Unique Ability.

"Oh~ Atatata...Just this is painful.."

"Rather than something like that big bro, how are the preparations for tomorrow?"

"Something like you say..."

"Didn't you say you were used to it because you do it every day?"

"That's true but even if I get used to it things that hurt still hurt..I said

it right? Also, after all being myself is the best. I can't help but

feel this discomfort."

"Rather than something like that the

preparations for tomorrow, are they already finished? If they aren't

done then I'll do them starting now.."

"Things are already perfect on

that end. The maintenance on the armor is already done and I've

properly bought up some food as well. I brushed every inch of the horses

and double checked the harnesses as well."

Come to think of it they were saying something about going to Benkelishu tomorrow morning with someone.
It must be the preparations for that.

"Then it's fine. Also you know, this, look at it."

"An? Sandals? Is there something wrong with that?"

One of the twins took a pair of sandals out from the bag on his waist and showed it.

No, since they don't seem to be twins I guess I should just call him the little brother.

Nel looks at it as well but...

"Don't you think something is strange about it?"

The little brother handed a sandal he took out to his older brother.

"..This! Rubber!? Isn't it a good sandal!? Where were they selling it?"

"I found it when I was out today shopping in the Damuru district with

Nabasukasu-san. They said it was made in Rombert. They only had that one pair remaining. It cost 220,000 Z but don't you think it's amazingly~ good?"

"Expensive! But, this is nice. I want some too."

If you mention 220,000 Z then it's enough to stay for a month at a decent inn

and eat three decent meals a day and still have some left over.

It's on the level of the monthly salary of an artisan who's been working for several years.

In Nel's home town it's an amount equal to a year of wages for a four person family of slaves.

It's a lot of money.

There's no way Nel could pay that much money for just one pair of sandals.

"Isn't it nice? I'm wearing these when we go to Benkelishu tomorrow."

"..You said it was made in Rombert right..So you can get rubber in Rombert huh.."

"That seems to be the case."

"Rubber can be made by just drying out the sap. But the quality shouldn't be this good with just that. Also, this color.."

"An?"

"It's a manufactured product, this. Isn't it close to yellow-brown? It's got sulfur mixed into it. Furthermore the precision is pretty high. Even the soles as well have two..No, there's three different types of rubber in them. Something like this, if you don't have machinery you can't make it.."

"Eh? Machinery?"

"Yeah, the production of rubber involves

the sap of rubber {latex} and mixing it with sulfur, carbon..charcoal and things like that. If you just have the willpower it's something that can be done with human power as well but look at this surface. It's smooth right? Furthermore the cuts are close to perfectly uniform. I think something like a large-scale cutting machine would be needed for this."

"..Big bro.."

"Hn?"

"Big bro always forgets right away~

Isn't it magic? The other day Ren showed it to you as well right? If it's {Air Cutter} then it should cut pretty smoothly and in the first place if you just make a mold and pour it into there shouldn't it take the same shape as well right?"

"Ah..I see..Magic huh..But, even so it's strange that they would have

manufactured rubber."

"Is it strange?"

"Yeah, it's strange. This, I'm sure the one making it is a reincarnated person just like us.."

"Ah, that sort of thing. But didn't we already predict something like that? Isn't it only obvious at this point."

"That's true as well but this sort of case is a first."

"What's the first about it?"

"We, No, unless it's a high ranking noble like Alex and Sel it shouldn't be so easy for someone to be making things like this."

"Futami-san, wasn't he making eyeball balloons?"

"Idiot, don't compare it to something like that."

"Then, even we were able to make black gunpowder. Even when it comes to guns,

while it's just a matchlock, but we were able to make a prototype."

"It's close to that. But, try thinking carefully about it. Both the black gunpowder and gun were the result of everyone gathering their knowledge. It took us a considerable amount of time as well and above all else it used up quite an amount of money. If we didn't have Alex and Sel then at best we would have only been able to make gunpowder."

"That's only obvious right."

"This rubber is in some meanings an industrial product. Just like you said I'm sure they're using magic for it but..the fact that it's even circulating over to a foreign country like this means that they should have succeeded in mass producing it. It means they're probably profiting in a considerable amount of money as well."

"I see that sort of thing. But you know, isn't it not strange for there to be someone like that?"

"That's right. There's nothing strange or weird about it. That itself is fine.

It's a matter of there being a high probability of someone who's

succeeded quite a bit in Rombert or if that's not the case a high ranking noble of the same class as Alex. This is a problem you know?"

"What is?"

"You should use your head a bit more. Do you really think someone capable of doing that wouldn't gather Japanese people?"

"Ah..I see. I guess that's true. If it's something like that then obviously.."

"Yeah, it means there's a limit on how far our recruitment of Japanese people will go. We don't know how many more it will reach. We might not even gather one more person than this."

"Nn..Me, big bro, Alex, Sel, Myulu, Tsetto, Ren, Aluko, Kris, also Futami-san. 10 people huh..Whether that's a lot or few.."

"Since it's this sort of world, it wouldn't be strange for there already to be people who have died after all, I think it's decently high number. But, if there's someone like this in Rombert then..if we don't have double this number there's no room to relax."

In other words there's another force out there gathering Japanese people than them huh?

Nel quietly removed her face from the window and leaned with her back against the wall while thinking.

The force on this side of Devas Kingdom has members who are considerably high ranking nobles included in it.

After all they're the imperial guard of the Crown Prince.

And then, it seems there's one more force(?) in Rombert Kingdom as well.

It seems there's someone who has a reasonable position in that one as well but it still hasn't left the realms of speculation.

However, we were able to tell that it seems they're making rubber and selling it spaciously.

It's hard to say which side seems the best.

Nel lets out a small sigh and lifts her body back up while moving her face close to the window.

"Nn..Come to think of it you know, it seems that one invasion plan will be around the fall. They decided on it today."

"Hmn, so they decided on it huh? It seems they're putting quite a bit of fighting spirit into it. Th~at, Baron Denbiru is the general right?

Putting aside Tesetto as the sub-commander, it seems they put quite a bit of effort into the maneuvers forcing that idiot old man Denbiru in as the commander.."

"Yeah, it seems they went through quite a bit of trouble to make it so that our side wasn't the one that recommended him. Things in that area are probably Sel's achievement. Well, regardless of what it is we need them to properly succeed. It will connect to the foundations for us being fortified as well...It seems Myulu is a commander of 10 just the same. What should we do big bro? Should we both go? If we're together with Ren then I'm sure we'll be fine after all.."

"Hn~

Even if it's as Ren's escort it's unnatural to go to a battlefield with the face of a slave..It might be fine to take the face of some random person but adjusting the timing on the duration in the middle of a war is just a bit..I want to reduce the chance of increasing the number of people who know my face..Putting us aside, that Nasukasu was it, Well whatever, Futami-san? We need him to do at least the bare minimum leveling up as well~after all.."

"It's not Nasukasu. It's Nabasukasu..Well whatever. Futami-san isn't a bad person. I've only had him help me out in the past."

"I don't think he's a bad person either. Well, putting aside leveling up it's necessary for him to be able to use magic. For his own sake as well."

Things like an invasion plan and human resources maneuvers suddenly a suspicious sounding conversation has started up.

Nevertheless I wonder if an imperial guard really has a job that's this closely related to the backbone of the country?

Even since her past life Nel has never bothered to think very deeply about

the background details of politics, war, and such so she only ever

thought, "that sure does seem like a job with heavy responsibility".

However, she can at least understand that they seem to be talking about a matter of great importance.

After all the discussion is about the next invasion plan.

Plans for a war are on the level of a national secret right?

"But you know..Futami-san's Unique Ability, that

{Rotten.And.Drain.Tolerance} was it..It sure is useless right..About the

only one happy about it was Myulu."

"That isn't Futami-san's fault so it can't be helped right?"

"But you know.."

"I get your feelings but stop trying to tie every little thing into secret

maneuvers and combat. It's certainly convenient on that front, and easy

to understand. However, don't try to rank people on whether they're

useful or not based just on that. In the first place wasn't Futami-san

your senior? You were in his care right? Isn't just that enough of a

reason to look after him for the time being?"

"Nn~ Even if you say that it's already a story from decades in the past after all.."

"That might be true. But, do any acts of kindness you can. Compassion doesn't

exist just for the sake of people, you know. Those sorts of favors are

something the person who received them don't forget. It's fine if you

just think of it as something that will eventually work its way back

around to you some day."

"Chi...Big bro is a teacher the same as usual. Preaching has become a habit."

"Fu~

Something's wrong with you feeling something like this is preaching.

Even though we've done things over from brats again, you should grow up a bit.."

Somehow I don't really get it.

It seems they're talking about looking after someone though.

However, since the words Unique Ability came out Nel was able to understand how his appearance changed.

That should definitely be that man's Unique Ability.

In other words, he's being called big bro but they're not definitely twins.

But, judging from their faces it's very possible they might really be siblings.

"By the way about the war in the fall, but was schedule decided on yet?"

"Yeah, three months later until the end of August in..What did they say it was

again..That's right, they'll gather the invasion troops in the town of

Bondai. One month for training on the organization and deployment. Then

in the middle of September they'll invade just like that. And, at latest

within two weeks they'll approach Komin village. And then they're

making maneuvers for that thing to reach the unit with that timing."

"Hmn~Hmn~, a discharge letter from Alex huh?"

"That's right, also it will include orders to execute the Baron and promotion orders for the sub-commander."

"Illegally selling the food supplies of the White Phoenix Knight Group was

it..Putting aside a different knight group that's seriously bad for the

White Phoenix knight group right?"

"Yeah. And, we, or rather, that's where Ren comes into play. For that sake up until then we need to endure a poor diet though."

"I wonder if Ren will agree with that?"

"That's the problem isn't it right. Well, if an official letter of discharge on

top of order for his execution come up then, furthermore if it specifies her name in a flashy way to execute him then I'm sure Ren will have no choice but to do it. After all it's the corruption she hates and our meals up until then should be nothing but the oatmeal porridge she really hates. And above all else it should be a good appeal for her, if they know there's a magician of that high of a level with us then it will raise the morale of the unit as well. Though persuading her over things on that end is the job of Myulu and I."

"Do you intend on

telling her it will show off the effectiveness of magic and make it easier for her to gather students for her national magic school or something like that?"

"I think there's no choice but to think about things like that when the time comes to it."

"I guess that's true."

"In any case, after Baron Denbiru is executed Tsetto will take over command. And, then we'll have Ren make full use of her magic and quickly capture Komin village. If additionally we can even capture Wakka village even further in it would be the best."

It seems somehow

they're intending to murder someone in the White Phoenix Knight Group and make that into the achievement for their acquaintance.

"And, Tsetto and Myulu will get a promotion huh?"

"Yeah."

"I wonder if things will go that well?"

"It's a method that even big bro approved of right? For that sake we've had Baron Denbiru illegally selling food supplies since a several years back

after all."

"I don't mean that part. I'm sure there will be no problem on that end. What I want to say is about the war. It's fine that Tsetto is taking over command. He's done well in studying and I've also heard he's got quite a bit of popularity in the knight group as well.

However, it's his first battle as the commander of the overall forces."

"Big bro has been worrying about that since the start right."

"That's only obvious right..If you were to ask me, I find it strange that including you no one else is worrying about it."

"In that regard Myulu is acting as an assistant right, putting aside big bro but since Ren and I will be there I think things will go fine.

Losing even though Ren is there that itself is impossible right. It seems that "Black Witch" of Rombert is quite something as well but look, there's no way there's a magician greater than Ren out there right?"

"Nn..Certainly that's true. I guess things will be fine if Ren is there huh?"

"That's right. Also, it seems that "Black Witch" appeared in that last battle as well so she most likely won't appear in the one in fall."

"..Well,

we were aiming for the gap when that "Black Witch" wasn't around after all..It seems like it would be best for me to come along as well."

"If you think that way then come along. After all it's the first war for both Ren and I."

"I guess so."

In other words they tailored up a noble who's corruption they had hold over as the command and their ally as the sub-commander.

Just before the combat starts they arrest the commander under the charges of corruption and after executing them make the sub-commander into the temporary commander.

And then immediately after that the plan is to

let their allies achieve victory in combat in grand way after that to get promoted.

"Well, in any case we have to get up early tomorrow. Let's get to sleep pretty soon."

"Isn't it still early evening? Big bro is the one who's still a brat."

"..It's fine. Let's just sleep already."

"I get it~ I get it~"

It seems they intend to sleep pretty soon.

Even if he says early evening it's already about a good time.

Right now...What..time..was..it..?..

23/4/7448 20:12:59 appeared in the top right of Nel's vision.

"Hn?"

The little brother who was just about to leave the living room made a surprisingly serious expression and turned around.

"What is it?"

Overawed by his look, the older brother questioned in confusion.
Nel thought it was strange as well.

"Big bro.."

The little brother whispered something into the older brother's ear.

"Eh.."

The older brother raises his voice in surprise.

".."

After something was whispered to the older brother he ordered something of the little brother and reached out for the handle of the sword hanging on the wall.

Nel instinctively felt the crisis and immediately tried to increase her speed by three times while retreating from that place.

She turns around and dashes!

She tried to forcefully climb over the hedge.

It was there that she finally realized it.

The display for 【Time Lord】 isn't floating up in her vision!
In other words, she's not moving at three times the speed!

"Eh?"

She tries to increase her speed once more!

..Usually the multiplier speed and remaining time would immediately appear in the

top left area of her sight. On the upper right there's the date and time display, and below that the scheduler menu is floating.

Up until just mere moments ago, when she confirmed the time there was no problem...

Ban!

A loud noise comes from the window as it was violently opened and the man sticks his face out.

"They're here! Over there!!"

The reason is unknown but they've noticed that she was peeking in!

And then, the reason for this is unknown as well but she can't use 【Time Lord】 to increase her speed by three times!

Nel desperately jumped over the hedge and ran towards the main street.

She doesn't turn around to look behind.

Along the way, fully aware that it would lower her speed a bit she ran in zigzags a number of times.

Of course, being careful of attacks from magic or arrows.

Since it seems that they've lived for quite a while in this Randogurizu, they also have the local advantage.

She didn't do something like running directly towards her inn.

The only belongings she left there was her bow and arrows, spear, and some daily necessities like changes of clothes.

They're nothing expensive, just completely normal goods but both of her weapons cost several hundreds of thousands of Z.

If you were to say it's regrettable then that's true but you can't replace personal safety.

She walks around with all of her money on her.

Since she's already heard that kind of conversation no matter how she thinks about it, things will end up badly.

Thinking that Nel was overcome with fear.

Nel ran, ran, and ran as if she thought her heart might burst.

Even after leaving Randogurizu she still couldn't relax.

And then, when she thought she had already gotten quite a bit of distance away, she nervously turned around.

The road she ran down was just illuminated by the moonlight of Karutari and Neitari and there's no sign of pursuers.

She quietly tried using 【Time Lord】.

In the upper right area of her sight 23/4/7448 22:16:32 appeared.

.....

"It wasn't Tsetto right?"

"Yeah, it looked a lot more slender than that. It might be a woman.."

"A short woman and Japanese person huh.."

"I felt it when they used their Unique Ability. It's true."

"Don't get into a panic I'm not doubting you. Hmn..if it's not someone from this side then that's still better."

"I wonder how much they heard?"

"Today, it would be best to think they heard everything since we returned back to the house I'm sure. Rather than that.."

"Yeah, in regards to big bro, I guess they realized?"

"If it was a Japanese person then I'm sure they'd understand the conversation so it's best to think they realized."

"What about the Transformation?"

"I don't know that far. It might have been seen."

"I wonder if someone else was sheltering them like big bro?"

"..I wonder about that?"

"Wouldn't things become troublesome if that's the case?"

"Nn~ I think it would be troublesome but in our case, we can make up excuses for it after all.."

"Yeah, that thing where in the worst case you can act as the body double for Alex or Sel?"

"That's right. In that case, it would be difficult to take their place without being found out though.."

"If someone was sheltering them I wonder who it was?"

"I can't really that far either..but, if we think about the possibilities then it's probably impossible other than Alex."

"That guy, I wonder if he'd really go that far?"

"I really doubt it. But, now that it's been seen once.."

"Shit!! This much trouble.."

"In any case it seems it would be best to discuss things with Ren tomorrow."

"Yeah."

"And also.."

"Hn?"

"It might be good to reveal things about me to Futami-san as well."

"Yeah, we need him to become an ally."

"Yeah."

"Tomorrow when we meet up with Ren we'll discuss it with her right away. If on the way to Benkelishu some pursuers sent by Alex and the others come for us or there's some kind of contact then we'll clearly know their identity."

"If that isn't the case then..."

"I can think of

several possibilities. First off, regardless of whether he knows about me he's letting me swim. But, as expected that's too unnatural even though he's putting so much effort into gathering Japanese people."

"That's true."

"In that case the possibility of it being someone we had no relation to at all up until surfaces."

"Wun. I wonder about that?"

"Why?"

"Don't you think it's unlikely for them to be in Randogurizu without knowing about the official notice? Then why didn't they come forward?"

"They might not have any interest in the gathering of Japanese people or it's

possible they're suspicious of it as well."

"Certainly..Even when it came to Futami-san he said that if he can't bring along his

wife and kids he absolutely won't and can't cooperate after all~"

"Yeah, that official notice, the one place it was lacking is that it doesn't

make any reference in regards to their family. I forgot about it as

well. It didn't even cross my mind that someone as young as us would be

married and have kids..I'm still plenty young myself."

"Returning to the conversation but, wouldn't that mean they're simply a person that hasn't made contact with anyone yet..

"Yeah, that would be the most optimistic and relaxing way of looking at it. In

that case, at worst it just reduces the chances of one Japanese person

from becoming an ally after all."

"It doesn't mean the possibility has disappeared?"

"It's not like we've completely become enemies yet right. We've only just

noticed that they were eavesdropping. There shouldn't be any problem

with trying to pursue a suspicious intruder who entered our property

right. If we explain that itself then I'm sure they won't so easily get

angry or rather can't."

"Then what can we do for now?"

"Nothing.

Although, we should remain careful with our conduct tomorrow but..even

in the off chance that it's someone Alex was sheltering, it's not like

we were talking about anything that would make him into an enemy after

all. It's nothing more than the fact that you were sheltering me was

exposed. Also I doubt they would try to do something like suddenly

trying to kill a Japanese person."

"Certainly.."

"..Nothing will start from worrying about it. Let's go to sleep."

